

17th March 2022

Issue 7

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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The Vine



Principal's Report

Prayer for Lent

Jesus, you came to help us see what you could see in the world.

Your love for the poor was enormous.

*During this time of Lent, lend us your eyes, your heart
and your mind so that we may see, feel, and think as you do.*

*May we be always generous in our resolve to help the poor,
for they are the ones who are dear to you, Lord.*

Amen.



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Covid-19 Update

As communicated on Tuesday, we have been made aware that one of our students has tested positive to COVID-19. Fortunately, no close contacts were identified and the student was not present during break times. It is a timely reminder for us to remain vigilant in monitoring for symptoms and wearing masks where necessary. Please remember that if your child is unwell, they should stay at home and get tested.

I really want to thank our amazing parent community for continuing to be supportive and understanding during this time. I do appreciate that this can cause some anxiety for some parents and children and remind you that we do have support services available at school should you require further assistance. A letter with further information about Close Contacts is also attached to this newsletter.

I have included below some information from Michael Grose, who is one of Australia's most respected experts on parenting and some suggestions of ways to talk to your child about this:

- **Be available** – let your child know that it is ok to talk about what they think and feel.
- **Build on what children know** – casual conversations can help process what they already know. Younger primary-aged children may need a more direct approach addressing specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them
- **Check your own thoughts and feelings** – try not to communicate your own anxieties, which could make it difficult to maintain a healthy state of mind.
- **Stay informed** – educate yourself about the virus itself and how to stay safe from trustworthy sources.
- **Answer questions truthfully** - answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.
- **Initiate positive action** - involve children in planning and preparation for their personal safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control.
- **Find refuge in rituals** - Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change.
- **Look outwards** – establish a sense of connection and community spirit.

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Harmony Day

This week is Harmony week and to celebrate, we invite all children to dress in traditional clothing or wear orange tomorrow. We recognise this day as one that celebrates inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. The children will participate in a number of activities where they will reflect on their culture, heritage and the multiculturalism of Australia.



P&F Footy Tipping

Don't forget to get involved in our school Footy Tipping this year being run by the P&F. Although the first game was played last night, there is still time to join. \$30 entry with lots of great prizes to be won! Search STM_margaretriver on www.footytips.com.au

Athletics Carnival

Traditionally St Thomas More holds an Athletics Carnival in Term 1. Given the current restrictions placed on schools, particularly around classes not mixing and parents not being able to gather on school grounds, makes it difficult to host such events. However, we are going to forge ahead and still plan on having a Faction Athletics Carnival. It will be in a different format this year, with a Junior carnival in the morning and then a Senior carnival in the afternoon. Children will sit in class groups, rather than Factions and not mix year levels for team games. Points will still be awarded for individual events, so a Champion can still be awarded for the different divisions. We will also plan on trying to record all events, so families can watch these later together with their children.

We understand this is disappointing for parents to not attend, but feel it is still in the best interests of the children to allow this to proceed and appreciate your support and understanding with this. The Faction Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 28th March and more details will come soon.

I wish all families a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

A Note from the Community School Health Nurse

Hello.

My name is Chey Peters and I am the Community School Health Nurse for your school this year. School Health Nurses work with schools to promote healthy development and physical and emotional wellbeing. We are a good contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessments, health counselling, parenting support and referrals as needed. Our service is free and confidential.

I am part of the Healthy Country Kids Child Development Team, alongside other School Health Nurses and Allied Health professionals, such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Dietitian, Social Worker and an Enuresis Nurse.

In response to increasing cases of COVID-19 in WA communities, our services to schools will very likely be disrupted in 2022 and will be delivered according to priorities, and in negotiation with School and Health leaders.

If you have any concerns about your child's physical or emotional health and well-being, or growth and development, please contact me on 9753 6480 or email WACHS-SW.NaturalistePrimarySchoolNurses@health.wa.gov.au



Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



Third Week of Lent

(school week beginning Monday 8th March)



We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Oliva, a 22-year-old woman from Tanzania. She did not have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. As an adult, her business was losing money because she couldn't add up her money and give the right change to customers.

Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes are growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.'



Approximately 260 million children don't have the chance to go to school (un.org)

We have been raising money this term for Caritas Australia with our weekly 'Hump Day Cheesies', our cake stall and our Easter Egg guessing competitions. Thank you to our Year 6 student leaders for establishing these fundraising initiatives and to our parents / guardians for your support of these projects.

Soccer Clinic

Our Year 3 and 4 girls participated in a soccer clinic with Luke Johnson from LJ Soccer on Tuesday. The girls enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in learning the skills involved in the game of soccer and develop some interest in playing soccer together. The session was aimed at girls specifically because the Australian women's team, The Matildas, are playing in the soccer World Cup here in Australia next year. I thank the girls for their enthusiasm and for displaying fairness, respect and a sense of fellowship with their classmates.



Peace and best wishes,

Mrs Nicolle Achmad
Assistant Principal

Thought of the Week



Parish Masses

St Thomas More Catholic Church
Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church
Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



Congratulations!

School Merit Award Winners

Term 1
Week 6

Pre-Primary	Blake Harrison
Year 3	Alex Price
Year 4	Maurice Samantila
Year 5	Neve Fox
Year 6	Hugo Enright

Friday 18th March
Merit Assembly over the PA System

Tuesday 22nd March
11.00am Year 5 Reconciliation

Friday 25th March
Merit Assembly over the PA System

Important Dates

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS - MONDAYS FROM 1.30 - 3.00PM

Due to Covid restrictions please email your Order Forms through to me at rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au or alternatively complete an Order Form and send it in with your child with details of your order and credit card.

Forms can be downloaded off the school's website.

Uniforms will go home with your children on **Mondays**.

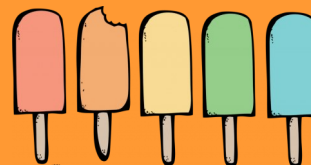
Thank you!

Rita Willmott



**The School Canteen is open on
Fridays at Lunchtimes selling Icy Poles.**

All items are \$1.00

**Absentees**

A reminder to parents that there is a simple way to let us know your child is absent from school, while providing a note at the same time. Jump on our app or website!

There is an easy online form that can be completed and it is directly emailed to the school. Too easy! Either download our school app – **Connected** (password is **Wisdom6285**) or visit our website <https://stmcpss.wa.edu.au/> and go to the Communication tab to select Online Absentee.

Thinking about playing hockey?

Junior Teams - Games start after April School Holidays

New training turf - opening soon

Gloucester Park, Margaret River

www.margaretriverhockey.org.au

Registrations Now Open for all Teams!

Pre-Primary - Year 2

Boy/Girls Years 3-5

Years 6-8/ Years 9-12

Seniors

All Abilities





Friyay!!!



4pm - 5pm

AGES KINDY, PP, YR1 & YR2

**REGISTRATIONS
ARE NOW
OPEN!!!**



GRADINGS 23/3 AND 30/3
TEAM TRAINING 6/4
GAME 30/4



MRJUNIORFOOTBALL@GMAIL.COM
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



REGISTER NOW!
 Registrations open from
 23rd February to
 31st March 2022



NETBALL SEASON 2022

Divisions
 U/9
 U/11
 U/13
 U/16
 U/20

Visit thr MRNA Facebook page for registration links
<https://www.facebook.com/MargaretRiverNetballAssociation>
 Email: margaretrivernetball@gmail.com

Margaret River Netball Association

Registrations are now open for the
2022 Netball season.

There are 6 divisions this year:
Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 16s,
Under 18s and Under 20s.

Registrations can be done through PlayHQ
and searching

Margaret River Netball Association,
or by following the links on our website or
Facebook page.

For any queries,
contact

margaretrivernetball@gmail.com

MARGARET RIVER JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

Interested in meeting new friends?

Would you like to try a new sport?

Margaret River Junior Gropers Rugby Club
could be for YOU!

Pre-Primary to Year 7.

Training starts: 23rd March

For more info, contact Abi: 0490 764 427

or Stephen: 0422 902 199



Little Wonderers

Nature play for little ones with additional needs



Dates: Wednesdays (16th, 23rd, 30th March & 6th April)

Time: Between 10am - 12pm

**Where: Locations vary.
First session at Memorial Park,
68 Willmott Avenue, Margaret
River, 6285**

No cost: Places are limited.

Registrations are essential, this will ensure activities are suitable for your child. If you would like to join the group or have any queries, please contact Aisling at aisling@nature-nurture.co

The Little Wonderers is a group for children aged 0-4 years with additional medical needs and their parents.

It's a space for children and their carers to be supported to explore nature play and make new friends.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Aisling Wallace (Occupational Therapist)
and Deb Mitchell (Physiotherapist)
are experienced paediatric therapists in
Margaret River.



Wild Child

PHYSIOTHERAPY