

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Principal's Report



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Absentee Number: 9758 8042

The Vine



*O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.
The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and holy days,
The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,
All have come forth from your hand.*

*While we trust that your purposes have always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate
Just what you have been up to in our school.*

Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.

Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.

*Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion, And bless us, according to
your will, With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams.*

*Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead and guide
each day as you have done this past year.*

Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.

*May we continue to grow In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives. Amen*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have made it to the end of another year. It came with its challenges, but we managed to finish really well with lots to be thankful for. Thank you to all our amazing parents and community members who have provided such great support over this past year. You make my job easier and allow so many great things to happen for our students on an everyday basis. I think the kids have done an amazing job this year and I have seen lots of great learning taking place over the course of the year. Well done to everyone!

Praise and Thanksgiving Mass



This morning we celebrated a wonderful end to our school year by giving thanks and praise for all we have received and experienced over the past year. The amazing Year 2 class farewelled our Year 6 students with a special blessing and we were able to reflect on the friendships that have been formed over the year and why it is important to show love to one another. Our Year 5 class helped us reflect on the important numbers found in our faith and how we can live more in the light of Christ. Thank you to all those parents and parishioners who came along to celebrate with the school community. Also a big thank you to Mrs Achmad for her work in preparing this celebration.

Continued over

Principal's Reportcontinued from Page 1

Graduation and Awards Night



Tonight, we will be presenting some Year 1 to Year 5 students with class awards, farewelling our Year 6 students, giving awards to some of our Year 6 students and our current Year 6 leaders will present the 2023 leadership badges to some of the Year 5 students and our Whole School Awards – the Anne Power Award and the Daniel Botha Award. Commencing at 5:30pm in the Church, it will be an opportunity for our school community to offer our Year 6 students our best wishes as they move to Secondary School next year. We have no doubt that they have been very well prepared and we ask for God's blessings on each of these students. Students are asked to wear their Summer school uniform to this event. We look forward to all families attending this celebration.

School Mural



The amazing artist Misty Shipway has been working with Mrs Noble and the students to come up with a design for a new mural in our Undercover Area. The students began working on this yesterday and we look forward to seeing the finished piece next year!

Staff Farewells

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and farewell Mr Michael O'Brien as he leaves our community at the end of this year. Michael started at St Thomas More in 1997 and has taught in his classes over 650 students during this time, not to mention the countless other students he taught during his time as the Physical Education teacher and throughout the school. He has really touched the lives of many families and a little piece of the history of St Thomas More will be lost with his departure. I wish Michael all the very best in his new role at St Mary MacKillop College, where he will be teaching High School students – perhaps many who have come from St Thomas More! Thank you Mike for all your energy, initiative, dedication and time you have given to St Thomas More over the years. I wish him every success in his future.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr Andrew Lindsay and Mrs Terri Ross who will be taking 12 months leave next year. We wish them a wonderful year away and look forward to seeing them both return in 2024.

End of Year Excursion – Friday 9 December

To finish the year, our Pre-Primary to Year 5 students will be attending an End of Year excursion tomorrow to the HEART to watch a movie – Minions: The rise of Gru. The P&F will also kindly put on a Sausage Sizzle lunch for these students – so they will not need to bring lunch on this day. Any children who have dietary requirements are kindly asked to bring their own rolls or vegan sausages (if required). Gluten free sausages can be provided on request. Our Year 6 students will be attending a canoeing excursion together, celebrating their last day as a group.

Term Dates for 2023

Please find below the listed Term Dates for St Thomas More Catholic Primary School for 2023.

Included with these are the scheduled Pupil Free Days for the year.

- Term 1 - Wednesday 1 February – Thursday 6 April; Pupil Free Day Tuesday 7 March
- Term 2 - Wednesday 26 April – Friday 30 June; Pupil Free Day Monday 24 April
- Term 3 - Tuesday 18 July – Friday 22 September; Pupil Free Day 17 July & 21 August
- Term 4 - Tuesday 9 October – Friday 8 December; Pupil Free Day Monday 9 October

Continued over

Principal's Reportcontinued from Page 1

Christmas Wishes



As the school year concludes, and everyone prepares for some relaxing family time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year. I pray that God blesses you and your family over this Christmas period, and that it is a joyful time spent with your loved ones. May the love, joy and hope of our newborn Saviour, Jesus Christ, be yours over the course of this Advent and Christmas Season. I pray that 2023 is a year filled with much love, joy and happiness (and not Covid affected!).

To those families who are leaving us, I wish you all the best in your future. To those families returning, we will look forward to welcoming you all **back to the start of school on WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2023**. Have a safe and relaxing holiday with your loved ones and may the blessed love of Jesus remain with you over this Christmas period. I look forward to seeing everyone for another great year in 2023! Merry Christmas!

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This Sunday is the **Third Sunday of Advent**, traditionally called **Gaudete** Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for joy or rejoice. If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're halfway to Christmas.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to our families for generously supporting our community through the donation of non-perishable food items to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We have been able to create eight large hampers to donate from our school and John from St Vincent de Paul will pick them up at tomorrow's assembly. These are sure to help the families and individuals who turn to St Vincent de Paul share in the joy of Christmas.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

We joined together as a school community this morning in celebration and thanks for the many blessings we have been given this year. We celebrated the many friendships we have developed, the knowledge we have received and the spirituality we have nurtured as a result of being a part of this special community.

I specifically wish to thank all those who have contributed to our school this year – our Principal Russell, our teachers, staff, parents, Fr Mat, the School Advisory Council and the P&F for the time and resources they have generously given, the love we have shared, the trust we have placed in one another and the way we have grown together.

We think of our Year 6 students and all those who are leaving our school community at the end of this year and send our best wishes with them as they move into the future. We pray that they will be blessed in everything they do and know that God is with them to lead, encourage, protect and love them, now and always.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

Peace and best wishes,

MRS NICOLLE ACHMAD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Thought of the Week



Congratulations!

School Merit Award Winners

Term 4

Week 8



Pre-Primary	William Watson Nathan Green
Year 3	Estela Robins Summerveer Boparai
Year 4	Hunter Mann
Year 5	Kai Reuben
Year 6	Brodie John



Thursday 8th December

5.30pm Year 6 Graduation and Awards Night

Friday 9th December

Last Day of the Term for Students
 End of Year Excursion - at the HEART for Pre-Primary to Year 5 Students
 End of Year Excursion - Year 6s are heading to the Rivermouth to go canoeing

Monday 23rd January

9.00am to 3.00pm Uniform Shop Open

Monday 30th January

9.00am to 3.00pm Uniform Shop Open

Wednesday 1st February

Term 1 commences for 2023

Important Dates

Christmas Mass Times

ST THOMAS MORE CHURCH - MARGARET RIVER

Children's Mass	24th December	6.00pm
Midnight Mass	24th December	11.30pm
Christmas Day	25th December	10.00 am
Christmas Day	25th December	6.00pm
New Year's Eve	31st December	6.00pm
New Year's Day	1st January	10.00am

LUMEN CHRISTI CHURCH - AUGUSTA

Christmas Day	25th December	8.00am
New Year's Day	1st January	8.00am



UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS - MONDAYS FROM 1.30 - 3.00PM



Please email your Order Forms through to
rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au
 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

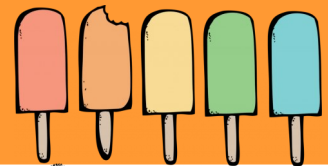
The Uniform Shop will be open for your convenience before Term 1, 2023 commences on the following date:

Monday 23rd January - 9.00am to 3.00am

Monday 30th January - 9.00am to 3.00am

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 website!

There is an easy online form that can be completed and it is directly emailed to the school. Too easy!

Visit our website <https://stmcps.wa.edu.au/> and go to the Communication tab to select Online Absentee.

Christmas Carols *in the Park*

Friday 9th December 2022, 7pm - 8.30pm

Margaret River High School Oval
Bussell Hwy, Margaret River

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Everyone is welcome!

Please bring a rug.

Candles available for sale on the night.

*Featuring: The Margaret River Concert Band,
Margaret River Community Band, Community
& School Choirs.*



Coordinated by: Surfside Church, Margaret River. www.surfsidechurch.org.au

Artwork by: Visual Contrast Printing by: Margaret River Print

THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

Alexandra Bridge

CHRISTMAS TREE

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Alexandra Bridge Hall
1252 Brockman Hwy, Courtenay

COMMENCING AT 4.30PM



FREE FACE PAINTING
FIREY'S BBQ - HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS
& SOFT DRINKS - CASH ONLY PLEASE

**5:30PM VISIT FROM
THE BIG MAN HIMSELF**
FREE BOUNCY CASTLE AND BUCKING BULL
RAFFLES - LOTS OF AMAZING PRIZES
FREE CHRISTMAS MOVIE

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Present drop off at Nillup store or Karridale Agencies
by Thursday 15th Dec.

Please put your child's name on presents