

23rd February 2023

Issue 4

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



## Principal's Report

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.*



Dear Parents and Carers,



### Ash Wednesday and Lent

Yesterday, the school community gathered with parents and parishioners to celebrate the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Mass. The Year 6 students led us beautifully and it was wonderful to see the students participate so reverently and prayerfully. Fr Mat challenged the students to try to do 'something good' each week for the period of Lent, meaning they will do seven good things. I have upped that challenge and have asked the students to do something good each day, meaning they could, at school, do 35 good things – something I think is achievable for every student at St Thomas More!

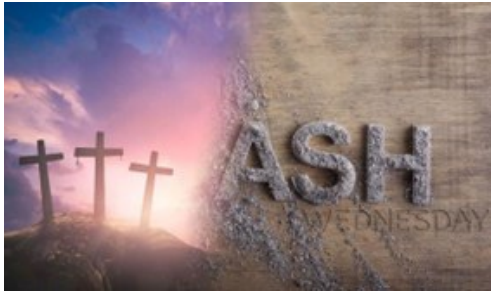
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The Vine



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Margaret River WA 6285  
Phone: 9757 3544  
admin@stmcps.wa.edu.au  
www.stmcps.com

Absentee Number: 9758 8042



Lent is a time for repentance and forgiveness. It is a time for fasting and prayer. The students were asked yesterday to write some Lenten Promises. Some that I saw included making their bed each day, giving up ice-cream, not fighting with siblings and watering the garden. If the children do keep these promises, there should be some really happy parents out there!! I encourage families to discuss these with your children and help them keep these promises. We need to remember that if we are choosing to do something this Lent, it needs to lead us to a positive change, which in turn has a positive effect on the people around us.

Lent is also a time for strengthening our faith, a time to reflect on who we are and where we are going. It is a time for quietness, a time for penance and meditation, a time for reflection on how the Church gives us the opportunity to address the important elements of our life in a practical way. Lent provides many opportunities for people to choose to do renewing activities, such as visiting someone who is lonely, remembering to pray regularly, attending Mass again, choosing kindness over anger or telling people you love them more often.

### Term Focus - Compassion

As a school, we have a focus each term to help us think about others and our duty to show compassion, understanding and grace. We then try to link this focus to an outreach program to assist others in our community. As in previous years, this term's focus is Compassion. We encourage the students to show this to each other, to forgive and try to understand different points of view, circumstances and backgrounds. Often there is a lot more to someone's story than is visible on the surface and we encourage the students to try to remember and accept this.



Project Compassion boxes were sent home with each family yesterday and we encourage families to fill these boxes over the Lenten period and donate to help not only people within Australia, but also those struggling in other countries. These boxes will later be collected and forwarded onto Caritas Australia so they can help people both in Australia and other countries of the world.

### School Fees

School fees were sent home yesterday, and we ask families to complete the form that was attached indicating how fees will be paid over the year, which will assist with our budgeting. We strongly encourage families to set up a direct debit, which spreads the fees out over the course of the year. Please return these forms to the office as soon as possible so Karien can set up these direct debits. We appreciate your assistance promptly paying fees.

### Farewell Mrs Cummins

Mrs Renae Cummins will be leaving our school for the remainder of the year to spend more time supporting her family business. Whilst we are sad to see Renae leave, she knows she is always welcome back. Ms Taryn Bradford will be replacing Renae in the Kindy classroom. I truly wish Renae all the very best.

A reminder that there will be a Student Free Day on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March following the Labour Day Long Weekend as staff undertake some Professional Development.

I look forward to seeing parents come along to our Assembly on Friday at 8:45am.

Peace and best wishes,

**RUSSELL WYLIE**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

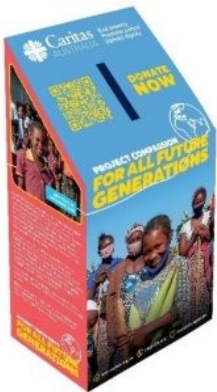
### Lent

Yesterday marked the beginning of Lent. This was recognised by our Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church led by Year 6, who did a wonderful job. Ash Wednesday begins our forty day season of Lent that leads to Easter. Like the people of the Old Testament, when the people strayed from God's law, prophets called them to repent, to turn away from their sin and have a change of heart. So too are we encouraged to **repent**.

Jesus also teaches us about the importance of **prayer**. Jesus prays many times in the Gospels; he prays during critical events in his life, and he prays before ministering to people in need.

During Lent, we are also encouraged to **fast** or give up something during this time. By fasting we make a sacrifice: the thing we choose to give up might be something we really like, perhaps chocolate or looking at social media too much. This can also remind us of Jesus' sacrifice when he died on the cross for us.

Lent calls us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.



### Project Compassion

The beginning of Lent also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This year's theme is *For All Future Generations*. The message being that together, we can create lasting change for people living in some of the most vulnerable and low income regions in the world.

Yesterday, students were sent home with a Project Compassion box, donations can be received through these boxes (which will be returned to school prior to Easter) or online at <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/>

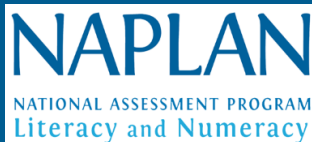
### Sacrament of Reconciliation

A reminder of some important dates for our Year 3 students and families celebrating this Sacrament:

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm      Parent/Child Workshop
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am      Commitment Mass
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm      Sacrament of Reconciliation

Peace and Best Wishes

**MR CAMERON MCRAE**  
**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**



## NAPLAN 2023

NAPLAN for students in Year 3 and 5 will commence in Week 7.

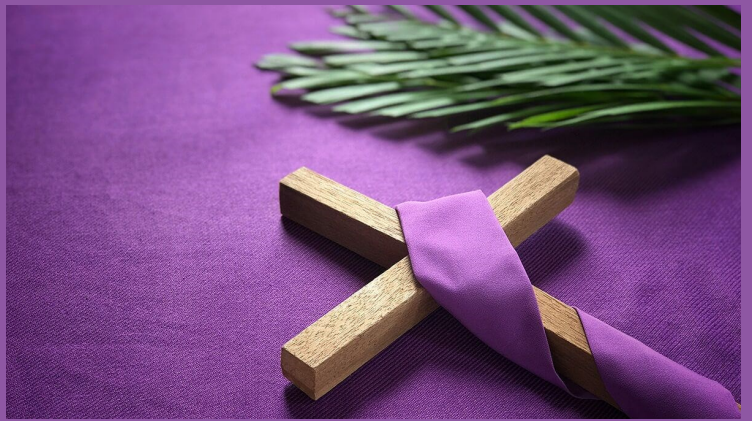
Dates for NAPLAN tests have been scheduled for:

- Wednesday March 15: Writing
- Tuesday March 21: Reading
- Wednesday March 22: Language Conventions
- Thursday March 23: Numeracy

Thought of the Week

# Lent

a season of  
Faith, Hope and Love



## Congratulations!



**School Merit Award Winners  
Term 1 - Week 3**

Pre-Primary	Cooper Franca
Year 2	Darcy Burges
Year 3	Kallum McIvor
Year 4	Jax French
Year 5	Toby Bautista
Year 6	William Ryan

**Friday 24th February**

8.45am Merit Assembly  
9.30am Station of the Cross - Year 5

**Tuesday 28th March**

5.00pm iPad Meeting for Year 3  
5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation - Parent/Child Workshop

**Monday 6th March**  
**Labour Day Public Holiday**

**Tuesday 7th March**  
**Staff PD Wellness Day - Pupil Fee Day**

**Tuesday 28th March**  
Faction Sports Carnival

**Monday 3rd April**  
Interschool Jumps, Throws and 400m

**Wednesday 5th April**  
Interschool Sports Carnival

*Important Dates*

## Sport News

### Congratulations

Firstly, I would like to congratulate two former students on their success at the recent South West Sports awards. Ella Roberts (AFLW) and Ashlee Jarvis (Hockey) were both recognised for their outstanding achievements in team sports. Well done!

### Athletics Carnival dates and Information

- STMCPs Faction Carnival **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**
- Interschool Jumps, Throws and 400m (Augusta) **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**
- Interschool Sports Carnival (at STMCPs) **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Students are currently practising and fine-tuning their skills in preparation for our Athletics carnival. Jumps and Throws are being conducted and measured during PE lessons. Winners of these events will be recognised and awarded, prior to our Faction Athletics Carnival. These results will count towards Individual Championship and Faction points.

This year our carnival will be organised into two sections:

From 9.00am: Pre-Primary, Year 1 and Year 2 will be involved in events focused on fun and participation, with sprint events still counting towards Individual Championship and Faction points. Kindy will be joining us to participate in at least one event!

After Recess: Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will be participating in 400m (optional), flag relay, ball games, individual sprints and relays. These events will count towards Faction and Individual Championship points and help decide who will be representing our team in the Interschool Carnival.

All students will return for presentation of awards and trophies at the conclusion of all events.

Before school training will begin next Friday at 8.00am and continue in the lead-up to our carnival. All students from Year 1 to 6 are welcome to join in. Year 6 sports leaders will assist with running activities.

### Parent Help

Thank you to the parents who have already indicated that they are able to assist on our sports day. We will also need a couple of helpers for the interschool events. If you are able to help out at our Faction Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March or at the Interschool Carnivals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April please get in touch at [cameron.mcrae@cewa.edu.au](mailto:cameron.mcrae@cewa.edu.au) or on 0419 0296 46.

Kind regards

**Cam McRae (PE Teacher)**



**Parish Masses**

St Thomas More Catholic Church - Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church - Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



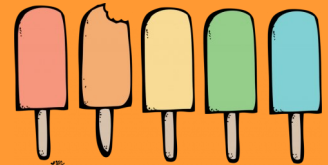
**Please like the St Thomas More Catholic Parish’s Facebook page.**

**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS - MONDAYS FROM 1.30 - 3.00PM**



Please email your Order Forms through to [rita.willmott@cewa.edu.au](mailto: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!

**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.



REGISTER VIA PLAY HQ

**SEASON STARTS TERM 2, 2023**

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: FRIDAY 17TH MARCH, 2023



**2023 NETBALL REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN**

**Divisions:**

- U8's – born 2015 & 2016
- U10's – born 2013 & 2014
- U12's – born 2011 & 2012
- U14's – born 2009 & 2010
- U18's – born 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008





**Online**  
REGISTRATIONS  
NOW OPEN

# FOOTBALL MARGARET RIVER

2023 Soccer Registrations

Register online [www.playfootball.com.au/register](http://www.playfootball.com.au/register)

Enquiries [registrar.fmr.6285@gmail.com](mailto:registrar.fmr.6285@gmail.com)

2023 Junior Fees

Miniroos - \$175

FIFA - \$225

Registrations close 10 March

**EAT  
SLEEP  
SOCCER  
REPEAT**

Is your child eligible for  
up to \$150 towards club fees?

Find out and apply online  
[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/kidsport](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/kidsport)



**KS KIDSPORT**



[www.footballmargaretriver.org](http://www.footballmargaretriver.org)

PRESENTED BY MARGARET RIVER BOOK SHOP

# MARTIN RINGER

THE COLLECTIVE SPARK  
BOOK LAUNCH



**\$10**

**March 2, 5.30pm**

**Margaret River HEART**

**47 Wallcliffe Rd, Margaret River**

Includes a glass of wine (red/white) or soft drink. Margaret River Book Shop will kindly donate \$5 from every book sold to Mindful Margaret River.

**Tickets: [artsmargaretriver.com](http://artsmargaretriver.com)**



## Fundraiser event for Mindful Margaret River.

Hosted by Rosi-Moore-Flander. Held in the Foyer, Margaret River HEART.

Doors 5.30pm, Talk and Q&A from 6.00pm. Talk is followed by book sales and signings.

Putting together a collection of clever people does not guarantee the creation of a clever team, group or committee. That's because there are many layers to thinking-together that are in addition to the processes involved in thinking as individuals.

On the other hand, humanity has achieved amazing advances in medicine, literature, the arts and many other fields through collaboration. That is through thinking together. How then can we understand this apparent contradiction?

Join lead editor and contributing author, Martin Ringer as he discusses his book, *The Collective Spark* which explores the fascinating and sometimes complex dynamics that underpin the capacity of groups of people to think together. Some practical principles are also outlined that can be used to help guide and increase group liveliness, productivity, effectiveness and of course, maybe help find that ever elusive 'collective spark'.

