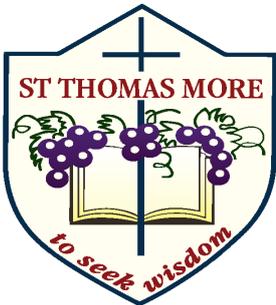


30th April 2020

Issue 10

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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The Vine



Principal's Report

God our Father,

We know that you love and care for us with an everlasting love.

We pray for your blessing on each one of us as we begin this new school term.

Open our minds to the possibilities that this new term holds.

Open our eyes to the wonder of each new day.

Open our hearts to the love of your Spirit.

Lord, hold us in the palm of your hand, keep us safe

and help us grow in mind and body.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome Back!

We welcomed back about 75% of our students yesterday for the commencement of Term 2 and it was wonderful to see their smiling faces again. I appreciate the decision parents have made as to whether to send their children back or not, but please be assured that the staff and I will continue to work with families and support them in whatever ways we can. It was great to get back to a bit of normality and see the children interact with one another. The children quickly got back into their routines and it was fantastic to see the way they swiftly got onto their learning.

During the next three weeks, Catholic schools will continue to offer one mode of delivery through our remote learning packages. Students working from home can either pick these up or access it through a device. Students attending school will work through this with their classroom teachers. It is expected that regardless of whether a child is attending school or not, that they will continue to be provided with rich and engaging learning opportunities. Teaching staff will continue to be in contact with families and we will work to maintain open communication as best we can. If parents should have any concerns regarding the ongoing learning for their child, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher.

Should any families be experiencing financial difficulties, I encourage you to contact me for a confidential conversation about how we may be able to assist. I remind parents that every child's place at our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial situation. Information regarding fee relief and details of the Health Care Card Discount Scheme have previously been provided to you, but feel free to contact the office for further information if you wish.

Easter

Despite it feeling like Easter occurred ages ago, it was a strange celebration this year, with Catholics not being able to attend Easter celebrations during this most holy of times. I hope families were able to reflect on this important time and celebrate the true meaning of Easter with their families.

Continued over

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ANZAC Day



Our Head Boy, Kobi Walton, was able to lay a wreath, beautifully made by Mrs Mia Fox, on behalf of our school community in celebration of ANZAC Day. I thank Kobi for his time in so reverently doing this in respect for those who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

School Access

I would like to thank our parents for respectfully following the rule of not coming onto the school grounds at this time. We will continue to assist children entering and exiting cars and deliver items to cars in the Drive Through as needed. If a child needs to be collected from school, please phone ahead and we will bring your child to you in the Drive Through. Please continue to refrain from coming into the school during this time. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Community Connections

It was wonderful to see so many parents drive through the school with their children on Tuesday morning. The staff were super excited to see the kids and to say hello. We hope this small act helped put a smile on many faces!



Administration of Schools (AoS)

Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) has committed to a new Administration software platform that has been a work in progress for the last couple of years. We will be implementing this platform in our school from 18th May. There will be several changes for our families, particularly in terms of fee statements and new BPAY reference numbers and the access of SEQTA Engage. Please look out for further information about this.

Winter Uniforms

A reminder to families that we have moved to wearing the Winter uniform as of this term. By the start of Week 3, it is expected that all children will be wearing the correct Winter uniform. A special thank you to Mrs Rita Willmott for all her work in ensuring parents can be provided with these uniforms with her 'drive-thru' service!

I wish everyone a week ahead and pray we come through these uncertain times quickly. Continue to stay safe and well.

Peace and best wishes.

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal News

Welcome back to Term Two. We are so excited to welcome many students back to school. In this unprecedented time, we truly missed seeing every one of you, your smiles and your friendliness! We are so grateful to the teachers, staff and parents here at St Thomas More who have been agile and committed to their role of educating each child to the best of their ability. We are blessed with an amazing community.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day this year was a day that will go down in history as being different due to the corona virus pandemic. We had to do things differently to commemorate and honour our veterans and service members this year. We thank our Head Girl, Arrabella Lawrance who had to stay at home but kept the ANZAC Spirit alive from the safety of her own home and our Head boy, Kobi Walton who laid a wreath at the Margaret River memorial on our behalf. Thank you both for your dedication and service to our community.

Prayer for ANZAC Day

*God of love and liberty, we give thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy,
which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.*

*We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,
but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come.*

*That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known
in all the nations upon earth.*

*This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*



Fourth Sunday of Easter – Sunday 3 May

John 10:1-10

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

Some of us may be able to identify with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers this week, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their shepherd because they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child.

Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd.

Keep safe and well.

God bless,

**NICOLLE ACHMAD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Thought of the Week

TODAY IS NOT
JUST ANOTHER DAY.
IT'S A NEW
OPPORTUNITY.

Community Health Nurse

My name is Karen Bryen and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school. I work with a team of School Health Nurses (Jill Rogers, Serena Robinson, Rochelle Mead and Danielle Marsden).

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.

If you have a concern about your child's health or development, please contact me on 9753 6476 or

Email: WACHS-SW.NaturalistePrimarySchoolNurses@heath.wa.gov.au



Monday 4th May
6.30pm Board Meeting

Sunday 10th May
Mother's Day



Important Dates

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://stmcps.wa.edu.au/> and go to the Communication tab to select Online Absentee.

You can also ring the school on the Absentee line on 9758 8042 and leave a message of the child's name, class and reason for absence and then send a note in with your child when they return to school.

Uniform Shop

For the next three weeks 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.

I will send the uniforms home with your children on **Tuesdays**.

Thank you!
Rita Willmott

