

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



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Absentee Number: 9758 8042

The Vine



Principal's Report

Dear God,

Throughout this first week of Advent, help us remember that we are your people and that you are our God.

Help us get our priorities right and put the most important things first: loving God and loving our neighbour.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week so that we choose to do what honours our God and what shows our love of others.

Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for the many gifts and talents you have given to all the people on earth, to our family and friends.

Lord Jesus, we wait in joyful hope for you. Come into our hearts so that when the time comes we will be prepared to join you in everlasting joy.

Amen



Dear Parents and Caregivers,



Year 6 Camp

I was lucky enough to attend Rottnest with an amazing bunch of Year 6 students last week. They not only represented our school incredibly well, but I witnessed examples of determination, compassion, inclusion and great manners. I was proud to say what school we were from and watch our students interact so positively with others on the island. Camps like this really provide an opportunity for our students to develop some independence and finish the year in a positive manner. A huge thank you to Mr Thomas McDonald for organising this wonderful experience for our students and to Mr Idris Achmad, Mr Jay Wynd, Mrs Andrea Campbell and Mrs Mia Fox for coming along and assisting with the camp.

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Year 5 Leadership Speeches

This morning, along with the Year 3, 4 and 6 classes, I listened to the Year 5 students present their Leadership speeches today. I was extremely impressed with the time and effort these students put into sharing why they think they would make a great leader in our school next year and congratulate them on putting themselves forward for these roles. I look forward to meeting with the Year 5 students individually and discussing why they feel they would be a good leader in our school next year. 2022 Leaders will be announced at our Year 6 Graduation and School Awards night on 9 December.

Annual Community Meeting

Thank you to all the parents and staff who came along to our ACM last night. It was great to see so many come and support our school and hear about all the wonderful things that have happened over the past year and what is planned for the future. I would like to thank our School Advisory Council for their support and in always so carefully reflecting on what is best for our school in the decisions that are made. A special thanks also to Fiona Guise and Nicolle Achmad for all their work in ensuring the Sundowner was set up and well catered for.

I will include a reduced version of my Principal's report that was presented last night:

We welcomed 15 new families at the start of the year into our Tommy More community, with another 10 joining us over the course of the year. It has been truly wonderful to see the way our small community has continued to grow to become such an excellent school of choice in the Margaret River region.

Through the goals specified our School Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan, we continue to move forward positively and take our school in a direction that allows each child to develop and grow. There has been a focus on further developing our Catholic Identity, with a new school prayer written, students leading the school community in Whole School Masses and celebrating important events, such as St Thomas More Feast Day, Holy Week and Advent. I believe the relationship with the Parish has continued to grow, with Fr Mat truly becoming part of our community and a real sense of school and parish working together for the benefit of all and I would like to thank Fr Mat for all his work in assisting to develop the faith and understanding of our students. Our Year 3, 4 and 6 students attended retreats at Lumen Christi church in Augusta, as part of their preparation in learning about the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation, with a total of 32 of our students receiving a Sacrament over the course of the year.

St Thomas More continues to offer a range of opportunities to develop our students not only academically, but also spiritually, emotionally and physically. There has been a strong focus on developing wellbeing, not only for our students, but also our staff. While we try to implement opportunities of our students to develop their own sense of wellbeing each day – through meditations, prayer, healthy eating, movement and connection – we also made this a highlight with our Wellness Week. This week really promoted the opportunities for wellness with many community members sharing their knowledge with the students as to how to better connect with others and themselves. We were able to have the likes of doctors, experts and community members lead the school community in developing practices that will hopefully stay with each of the children throughout their lives. We were able to offer our Year 3-6 students the opportunity to participate in our Clubs program, which included the chance to learn to surf, skateboard, mountain bike, cook or crochet, just to name a few. Our support programs continue to operate under the leadership of Mrs Nicolle Achmad, with both a Gifted and Talented program operating, alongside a remedial program called Macqlit.

Our students were given the opportunity to represent their school at a number of functions, including our Year 6 leaders at a Leadership day in Bunbury, the Shire's Youth Summit, Destination High School and both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. They also competed against other schools in a variety of Interschool competitions, including Athletics, Football, Netball, Cross Country and Tennis. We will also be having students represent St Thomas More in a Debating competition next week.

Our pedagogy continues to develop in the classrooms with the introduction of a K-2 phonics program called Letters and Sounds, a Year 3-6 Spelling program called Soundwaves and staff development in the use of technology in the classroom, Mathematics, Religious Education and Literacy. Both the Year 5 and 6 camps provided an opportunity for these students to develop a new range of skills and experiences.

A Peer Support program was introduced this year, where our Year 6 students led students to develop skills of resilience, developing friendships and having a positive self-image. Our 3 Year Old Kindy has continued to grow and the Before and After school care service, operated by Bluebird, has also proven to be successful.

A maintenance program was implemented to ensure our buildings remain in good condition for future years and new shade sails were installed, along with the development of an Aboriginal Sensory Garden – which is still in works to be completed and the market garden and chicken area has also continued to be developed.

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I would like to thank our amazing P&F for all their hard work and their amazing achievements this year. Through their support, they were able to provide many resources and opportunities for our school and their determination to persevere is a testament to just how wonderful they are. Our parent body has been the biggest advocate for our school, constantly positively promoting it within the community and I believe has assisted in our school developing a strong reputation for providing a high-quality education, but equally with a strong focus on community values and student care. The P&F did an amazing job in promoting the positive Tommy More community, in their assistance at our Interschool Athletics carnival, our beginning year Sundowner, the Mother's Day function, the Father's Day Colour run and Sundowner and of course our Spring Fair. This coupled with other fundraising and friendraising opportunities have really allowed many great resources and treats for our students. I would particularly like to thank this dedicated team, led by Elle Lawrance, in all that they have accomplished for us over the year.

I would like to thank the School Advisory Council for their continued trust in me and their ongoing support. Our meetings always have a focus of the best interests of our students and school and I believe all members have worked hard to keep this focus. I would especially like to thank our School Advisory Council Chair – Joel Lawrance, for his time, energy and constant vigilance in ensuring the Advisory Council is doing everything in its power to provide the best school possible.

Along with Nicolle Achmad, our Assistant Principal, I look forward to continuing to develop our school into the future. I believe we have one of the best school communities and I will continue to work to support and develop this in the best interests of our children. Our amazing team of teaching staff work tirelessly to ensure all children in their classrooms get the best education possible, and I know through their dedication, they aim to provide an education that is tailored to each individual student.

Staffing 2022

Principal	Russell Wylie
Assistant Principal	Nicolle Achmad
Pre Kindy	Meg Ryan and Taryn Bradford
Kindy	Jane Wolf and Rachel Hassall
Pre Primary	Jennifer Morrison (M-Th) and Brittany Becker (F)
Pre Primary Teacher Assistants	Renae Cummins (M-W) and Fiona Guise (Th-F)
Year 1	Merridith Newman
Year 2	Terri Ross
Year 2 Teacher Assistants	Melissa Browner and Bianca Harding
Year 3	Michael O'Brien
Year 4	Kristie Chapman (M-W) and Cameron McRae (Th-F)
Year 5	Nicole Teague (M-Th) and Jemma Shoppee (F)
Year 6	Thomas McDonald
Year 3-6 TA	Lee Russell
School Chaplain	Laurissa Knowles
Literacy Support and LEAP	Nicolle Achmad
Students with a Disability Coordinator	Nicolle Achmad
Music	Michael Goodwin (M & W)
Physical Education	Cameron McRae (M & T)
Visual Art	Felicity Pascoe (W-F)
Indonesian	Myfanwy Walley (T & W)
Library Aide	Rachel Hassall
Admin/Finance Officer	Karien Rollinger (T-F) & Catherine Chilton (F)
Admin Assistant	Rita Willmott (M & Th)
Groundsman	Andrew Lindsay (M-Th)

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End of Year Events

There are a number of events coming up as we move towards the end of the year that I would like to make parents aware of:



Volunteer Thankyou Morning Tea: We invite all parents who have volunteered their time in some capacity over the course of the year to come along to a Thankyou Morning Tea at **9:30am** on Friday **3rd December** in the library.

Music Concert: The Year 4-6 students will be performing a range of songs on **Monday 29th November** commencing at **5:30pm** at the Margaret River HEART. All parents and family members are invited to come along and watch our amazing students showcase some of what they have learnt this year in Band.

Whole School Thanksgiving Mass: We will conclude our year with a Praise and Thanksgiving Mass on **Thursday 9 December** at **9:00am** in the Church. We invite all families to come along and celebrate the end of the year with us at this Mass.

Year 6 Graduation and Awards celebration: We will farewell our Year 6 students and present the Year 1 to 5 class awards and the Year 6 awards on **Thursday 9 December** at 5:30pm. The Year 6 leaders for 2022 will also be recognised and presented with their badges. All families are invited to attend this Graduation and Awards evening.

End of Year Excursion: We will come together as a school community and celebrate the end of the year with a lunch and excursion to the Heart to watch Tom & Jerry the Movie.

I invite all families to come along to our Year 1 assembly tomorrow morning, commencing at 8:45am. Have a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

RUSSELL WYLIE
PRINCIPAL

Parish Masses

St Thomas More Catholic Church - Margaret River

- Saturday - 6.00pm
- Sunday - 10.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church - Augusta

- Sunday - 8.00am



VacSwim



Enrolments are now open for VacSwim swimming lessons during the summer school holidays. VacSwim offers fun lessons at beach or pool locations. They are a great school holiday activity and they teach valuable safety skills to help keep your child safe in the water.

Enrol at education.wa.edu.au/vacswim

Assistant Principal News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



This Sunday is the **First Week of Advent**. Advent is a period of waiting for Christmas. Advent is a very special time, because it recognises that Christmas is the celebration of Christ coming into our world.

The Advent wreath is a circle that has no beginning or end. The Advent wreath represents that God never had a beginning and will never have an end. It helps us to remember that God's love for us is eternal.

This week, we light the first candle, which is violet. The first candle represents **hope**, specifically the hope of the people of Israel that someone would come save them and our hope for God's salvation to come.

YEAR TWO LITURGY

It was wonderful to celebrate with our Year 2 students and listen to their amazing reading and beautiful singing at their Liturgy on Wednesday morning. Thank you to Mrs Ross for preparing the students so well and to the family members who were able to attend.

KINDY AND PRE-PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our beautiful Kindy and Pre-Primary students will be performing their annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday 1 December at 9.30am. We look forward to seeing lots of parents, grandparents, family and friends attending.

VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA

Throughout the year, we have many parents who volunteer their precious time and resources to help at school. We'd like to recognise this and thank parents who have volunteered throughout the year in any capacity with a morning tea at school in the undercover area at 9.30am on Friday 3 December. I will be bringing my ground coffee machine so there will be fresh coffee available too.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

You should have received a letter from your class teacher about the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Christmas for many of us is a time of happiness and celebration as we gather with our family and friends sharing meals, laughing, and chatting as we open presents, however for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage Christmas can be a challenging time. The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal encourages us to rethink our priorities at Christmas time by helping to give joy and hope to those who need it most. We are seeking the support of our community through the donation of non-perishable food items. This will enable St Vincent de Paul to provide the families and individuals who turn to them with quality hampers so they too can share the joy of Christmas.

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead.

Peace and best wishes,

Mrs Nicolle Achmad
Assistant Principal

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.

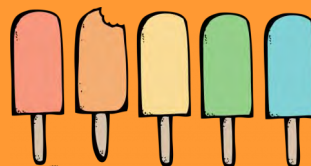
Forms can be downloaded off the school's website.

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

Thank you!

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

All items are \$1.00



Thought of the Week



Congratulations!



School Merit Award Winners

Term 4

Week 6

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| Year 2 | Mara Laught |
| Year 3 | Paige Hayward |
| Year 5 | Oliver Webb |

Friday 26th November

8.45am Year 1 Assembly



Monday 29th November

5.30pm Music Concert - at the Heart

Tuesday 30th November

11.00am Year 3 Reconciliation

Wednesday 1st December

9.30am Kindy/Pre-Primary Christmas Concert

Friday 3rd December

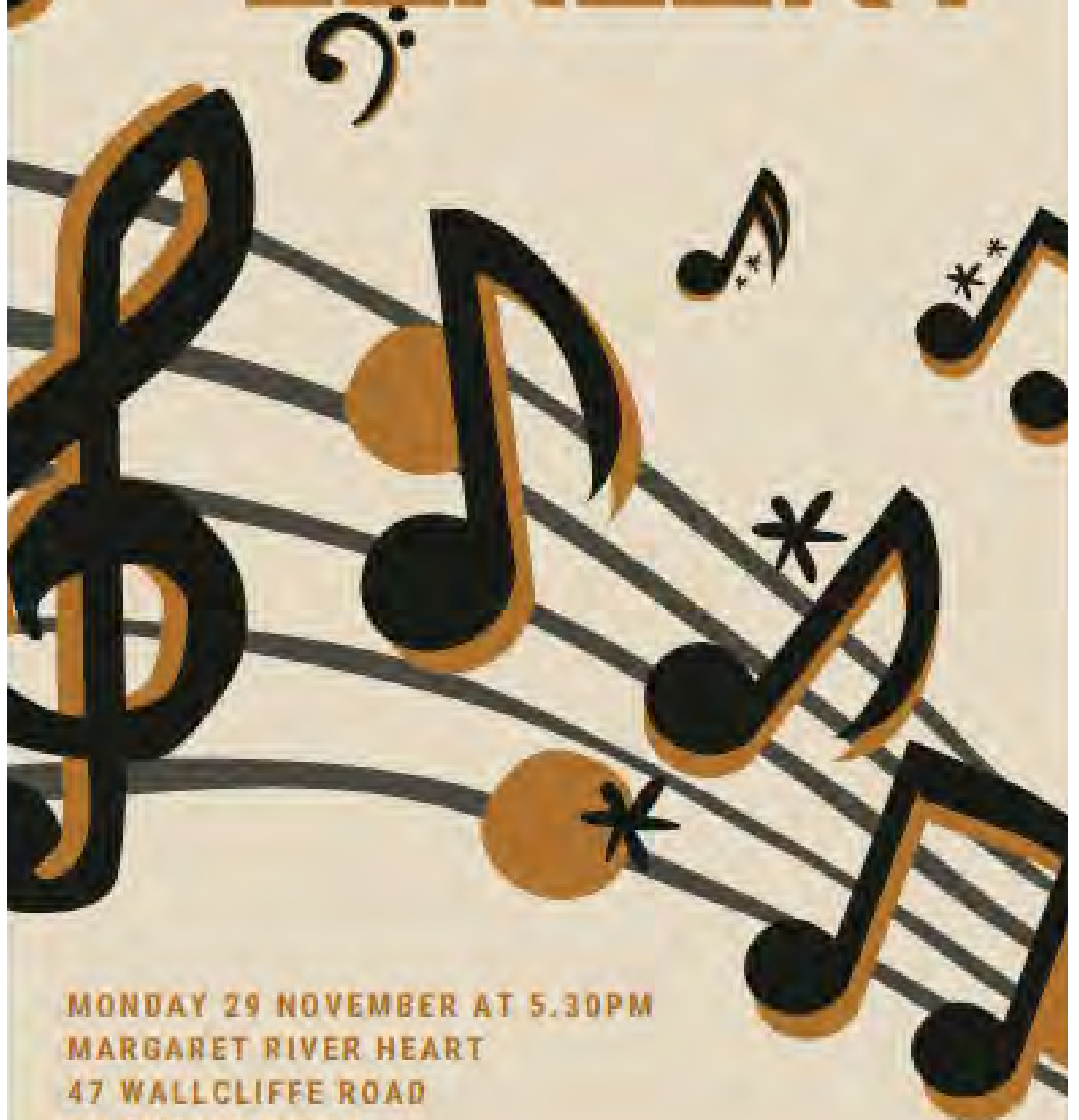
8.45am Year 6 Assembly

9.30am Volunteer Morning Tea

Important Dates



MUSIC CONCERT



MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER AT 5.30PM
MARGARET RIVER HEART
47 WALLCLIFFE ROAD
MARGARET RIVER