



Upcoming Events

Student Free Day

Date: Monday 28 April -
Sunday 28 April

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

Term 2 Calendar

Date: Thursday 10 April -
Wednesday 30 August

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

Year 5 Camp

Date: Monday 12 May -
Tuesday 13 May

Time: 8:00am

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

Mother's Day Stall and Morning Tea

Date: Friday 9 May -
Monday 30 November

Time: 9:00am

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

Student Free Day

Date: Tuesday 10 June -
Friday 7 March

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

From the Principal



With the beginning of this new term we have already enjoyed a number of wonderful community events. It was fabulous for us all to come together during the first week for an Easter Mass celebration and then last week we enjoyed a whole school assembly led by Year 1 classes with a special focus on Mother's day. It was lovely to see so many Mums join us on Friday for morning tea and I hope that you all were treated to a special day on Mother's Day. Our children certainly enjoyed shopping at the Mother's Day stall and we extend our gratitude to the P&F who coordinated and supported this valuable experience for our community. Last week also saw our Year 5 students attend an excursion to Mercedes college following an invitation to join their whole school community for a Mass celebrating their Mercy tradition. Following Mass, our students joined together with their Year 5 classes for a small craft activity before returning back to school. What a wonderful experience for our Year 5's to visit one of our neighbouring Catholic Schools and share some strength of spirit in Mercy tradition with them.

Last week we also celebrated with the joyous news of the election of Pope Leo XIV.

We remember his Holiness Pope Leo XIV in our prayers as he begins this new ministry of communion, with a special intention to bring peace and unity to our world as leader of the Universal Church. Catholic Education Week begins this week with a theme of 'Shine With Open Hearts' where all Catholic schools this week will be highlighting in a variety of ways how we 'shine brilliantly'. At St Thomas we are inviting all our family members to join us for morning prayer in classrooms this Friday. So please come along if you can, begin your day with coffee in the Workshop, followed by prayer in your child's classroom at 9am.

Following on from our very successful Gala in March, we gathered our Gala Committee and Stall Holders late last term for a 'Thank You' event. We were delighted to share with them the wonderful news that our Gala brought in just over \$31,000! Of course, we have expenses to take into account, but with these funds we will be able to purchase new replacement Ipads for our Junior Primary classrooms. These will be very well received by both students and teachers.

Last week we welcomed two new staff members to our team: Ms Loretta Gagliardi, our new Marketing and Communications Coordinator, replacing Mrs Liz Wright who finished at the end of last term. We also welcomed Mrs Marie Smith, our new Canteen Coordinator. Marie has been working tirelessly to get our new canteen up and running, with many of our students already sampling the delicious pasta lunch last week. We will be very excited to launch the new canteen this week, with a start-up menu while we are in the midst of our community consultation process. It has had a sparkling new renovation and is looking very fresh!

We wish our Year 5 Classes a very successful Camp at Mylor over the next two days. I am sure they will have a fantastic time, experience some new activities and hopefully learn more about themselves and each other in doing so.

For the last part of this term I will be on Leave, with Paul Mensforth filling the Acting Principal role, and Mrs Melissa Canil as Acting Deputy Principal. I congratulate them both and wish them well for this time. During my time away I feel very fortunate to be travelling to Europe to visit family, then participating in an educational tour and spiritual pilgrimage coordinated by Catholic Education South Australia. I look forward to attending a Leadership Conference in London on Catholic Identity and Mission, visiting some London schools and visiting some Religious Congregations in Ireland. A visit to Catherine House and the Mercy Congregation in Dublin is sure to be a highlight! I look forward to sharing more with you upon my return.

Wishing you all a great term ahead!

Belinda Burford

Principal

From the Acting Principal



As Term 2 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect with deep gratitude on the many moments of joy, learning and community spirit that have shaped our journey this term. From the many Assemblies, Community Prayers and Masses, which have held wonderful celebrations of our diverse and inclusive community; to the wonderful excursions and classroom experiences, for which we are grateful

to have such a dedicated staff.

Last week, we celebrated with a special group of our students who had prepared for and celebrated their Confirmation as part of the Emmaus Catholic Parish Sacramental Program. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan lead the liturgy and showcased an incredibly comprehensive knowledge of saints and feast days. We look forward to being part of the final part on their journey through the Sacraments of Initiation, when they celebrate their First Communion.

We have also been blessed with the amazing sounds of our instrumental students at our Semester One Instrumental Music Concerts. We hit a new record, with the highest number of students performing in the concert series!

This week, student reports were released, offering a snapshot of the learning and growth that has taken place across our school over the last six months. These reports are a celebration—not just of achievement, but of effort, curiosity and progress. While the grades held in the reports can offer insight, what matters most is how we use this information to discern the next steps in each child's learning journey—together in partnership. I encourage families to engage in rich conversations with their children about what they've learned, what they're proud of, and where they hope to grow next. These conversations will prepare students well for our upcoming Learning Conferences, especially our Year 3-6 students who will lead this conversation with their teacher and parents/caregivers. I encourage families to book-in using the links found on Audiri.

This week, we were also privileged to host an incredibly successful Preschool Professional Learning event, which served as a pre-gathering for the National Reggio Emilia Conference beginning in Adelaide this week. Early years educators from across the region, and across different sectors, gathered to hear from our very own Adam Christie (St Thomas Preschool Coordinator), alongside esteemed speakers Professor Alma Fleet and Anthony Semann; both with whom Adam has recently published the book 'Re-defining Planning and Assessment: Seeing Children Through Pedagogical Documentation.' Their insights into rich assessment and child-centred documentation reaffirmed our commitment to seeing and celebrating every child as a capable, competent learner. (You may be interested in finding out more about the book on the Pademelon Press site: <https://www.pademelonpress.com.au/product/redefining-planning-and-assessment-seeing-children-through-pedagogical-documentation/>)

Another highlight of this week was our celebration of St Thomas Feast Day. The day began with a beautiful liturgy, followed by joyful activities in House Teams that brought students together in fun and aimed to inspire in them an even deeper sense of community. The day was also focused on our support of the Vinnies Winter Appeal. We were deeply moved by the generosity shown through gold coin donations, food items, and clothing—all of which will support our local Vinnies conference and the broader Vinnies Winter Appeal. Your kindness will make a real difference in the lives of those in need in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Toby Priest the best of luck on his next chapter in the world of politics. Toby will be taking leave for the remainder of the year and the beginning of the next. It has been officially announced, that during this time, Toby will be running a campaign as a new Labour candidate for the seat of Morphett. While Toby is on leave, Mr Sebestyen Maglai will be teaching PE. We wish Toby all the best for this important work and will watch closely over the next nine months. (To find out more, please see the South Australian Government press release: <https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/media-releases/news-items/labor-unveils-candidates-for-five-key-seats>)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the all-amazing Mrs Melissa Canil for her compassionate leadership as Acting Deputy Principal over the last five weeks. Melissa's dedication and commitment to students, staff and families has truly been a strength for our community during this time. We wish Melissa all the best on her next adventure as Acting Deputy for Semester Two at St Mark's College, Port Pirie.

We look forward to hearing all the stories of Belinda's adventures upon her return at the beginning of next term. And as we head into a well-deserved break for our students and staff, I want to thank each member of our school community—students, staff and families—for the energy, care and commitment you bring to our shared mission. May the holidays offer rest, renewal and time with loved ones.

(And, don't forget to read every day to enter our Holiday Reading Challenge!)

Go gently,

Paul Mensforth

Acting Principal

From the REC



Dear Students and Families,

On behalf of Caritas Australia, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students who participated in our Project Compassion

initiative—whether by returning their donation boxes, submitting Water Challenge slips, or making contributions through the QR code.

Your generosity and compassion have made a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most, and we are truly grateful for your support.

If you still have charity money at home, you are welcome to return it at any time during Term Two. Every contribution—no matter how big or small—helps us continue our vital work in supporting vulnerable communities around the world.

Thank you once again for your kindness and commitment to creating positive change.

As many of you know, I will be taking long service leave in Term Two to visit my, and my wife's remaining family in Hungary.

I deeply appreciate all the support and contributions you've offered throughout the term—through liturgies, Masses, fundraising events, the Sacrament Program, and especially the Holy Week liturgies.

I look forward to reconnecting with you all in Term Three.

Warm regards,

Sebestyen Maglai

REC

Ecology and Community News: Small Steps, Big Impact!



Our Ecology team has been buzzing with activity lately as the *war on waste* charges ahead here at St Thomas! Earlier this term, most of our Ecology leaders had the fantastic opportunity to visit the KESAB Education Centre, where they dug deeper into clever ways to reduce our waste and lighten our environmental footprint. Adding to this, Lee from KESAB paid us a visit to check out our current bin systems. Thanks to his insights, we now have a solid launch pad to fine-tune our waste systems even further — a win for both the environment *and* the school budget!

Next on our agenda is a focus on household education, clearer bin signage, and ongoing learning here at school to help make bin contamination a thing of the past. We can't wait to share our progress with you next term and inspire eco-friendly habits at home too.

Meanwhile, our *Market Shed* and *Goody Two Shoes Café* have been shining stars this semester! Through your incredible support, we've raised money to continue to give back to our school community and local charities. Exciting new additions include a washing machine for the Market Shed for freshening up soft furnishings and lost property items - and brand-new aluminium soccer goals for our Seniors next term. Our Seniors have been wonderful helpers in the café each Friday, serving our community with gusto.

A special highlight this term was welcoming 30 APRIMs from across Adelaide, which sparked a feature in *The Southern Cross* about our generous families whose pre-loved uniform donations help fund our ongoing ecology and community projects. We will send the article out once it is published next month.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We can't wait to welcome you back to the café next term and keep making a difference together!

Nick Mezzino

Ecology and Community Engagement

[View this article online to read more](#)

Camp Australia



Please access the link below for the latest news from Camp Australia

[View this article online to read more](#)

Oliphant Science Awards



Oliphant Science Awards – Get Involved!

We're excited to invite our students to take part in the **2025 South Australian Oliphant Science Awards!** This is a fantastic opportunity for curious minds to explore science in fun and creative ways.

Registrations are due to the school office by May 11th. Entries are due later in the year.

All information, including project categories, due dates, examples and the registration form are available on the [Oliphant Awards website](#).

The cost to enter is **\$11 per entry**, payable via the **school app**. (Students need to register separately. Payment is not registering)

Please note: **Parents will be responsible for dropping off and collecting projects at the event venue.**

We can't wait to see our students' amazing scientific creations!

Chris Rampazis

[View this article online to read more](#)

Daily Reading - the secret to success!

So, we all want our children to be successful, to be achieving their potential and going above and beyond in their learning. There are many ways we can support and encourage our children on this journey. This week, I wanted to write about one of the most powerful things parents can do which can boost learning across all curriculum areas- and that is **READING! A DAILY DOSE OF READING!** This is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to support children's learning.

As parents, it is essential that we take the time to read to our children EVERYDAY. This could be the bedtime story shared or the book shared on the couch after school. Whatever or wherever it happens, this time of modelled reading is essential in developing strong literacy skills and a joy for reading. Children learn how a book works, the direction of page turning, the importance of illustrations, the power of repetition and rhyme and the life lessons from how the characters make decisions.

As parents, it is also essential that we take the time to listen to our children read EVERYDAY. This could be readers supplied by their class teacher or books borrowed from the library. Whatever or wherever it happens, this daily reading practise is essential in developing literacy skills. Once students know how to read, continuing this daily practice of reading aloud then develops greater fluency and

expression. So yes- even our Year 6 students need this daily practise!

Reading to and listening to children read significantly increases their exposure to new words and builds their vocabulary. If we can increase the amount of WORDS that children are exposed to and need to navigate, we increase their skills and knowledge of language. Take Child A vs Child B...

Child A is read to or reads for 1 minute every day. Let's say they experience 50 words per minute.

Over 1 week, they will engage with 350 words. In a term, they will engage with 3,500 words and across a year they will engage with 18,200 words! From Preschool to Year 6, Child A will engage with only **145,600 words during this home reading time!**

What if this time is increased...

Child B is read to or reads for 20 minutes every day. Let's say they experience 50 words per minute.

Over 1 week, they will engage with 7000 words. In a term, they will engage with 70,000 words and across a year they will engage with 364,000 words! From Preschool to Year 6, Child B will engage with **2,912,000 words!**

The cumulative effect of engaging with an increased number of WORDS while reading at home plays a significant role in developing literacy skills and building vocabulary.

Now imagine Child C, who never has the experience of reading at home. Imagine the short fall they experience across Preschool to Year 6; that is 3 million less words!

As parents, we need to decide what we want for our children. Will we offer the daily reading diet of Child A, Child B or Child C? What we offer is our decision and can't be the responsibility of our children. And the decision we make now will impact on their future success in learning!

So in light of the cumulative effect of daily reading, **let's take on the 20 minute daily reading challenge!** We want to see all our St Thomas Learners experience the benefits of 20 minutes of reading EVERYDAY! Both being read to and being listened to!

And follow this link for strategies to support your child's reading development at home, especially in the Early Years....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=korfvEOQb14>

Holiday Reading Competition

To encourage our learners to read every day, we are holding a Holiday Reading Competition!

Students are encouraged to fill in the 'raffle ticket' for every day they read in the holidays. These tickets go in the raffle draw for great prizes!

See the information sent home with students or on Audiri.

Let's continue to grow strong, capable readers at St Thomas School and Preschool!

Kind regards,

Laura Donnellan

Leader of Learning

View this article online to read more

Term 2 Extra Curricular Sport Wrap Up



It's been a busy term with winter sport, carnivals and SAPSASA success!

Aussie Rules

Congratulations to Jesse (Yr 6) & Xavier (Yr 5) who were selected to represent the Adelaide South East District in the Australian Football SAPSASA State Carnival, held over 3 days in May. They competed in Division 2 and came a commendable 4th with a mix of wins & losses, but most importantly they had a great experience, shared with 18 other boys from neighbouring schools. Well done Jesse & Xave!

Cross Country

A number of students competed in the SAPSASA Cross Country trials at Kensington Reserve in May. Congratulations to all the competitors and special mention to John (3rd, Div 2, 11 & Under) and Jesse (2nd, Div 1, 11 & Under). Jesse was selected in the Adelaide South East SAPSASA Cross Country Team and competed at the State Cross Country Day at Oakbank Racecourse in June where he came a commendable 47th out of 170+ racers.

Soccer

Once again we have over 80 students playing soccer for St Thomas in the Southern District Junior Soccer Association on Saturday mornings. This wouldn't be possible without our wonderful parents who volunteer to coach, manage teams, or be a referee/linesman so a shout out and thankyou to Jonathon, Vijay, Lucas, Nick, Kelly, Warren, Michael, Carmel, Claudia, Danielle, Louise, Nathan & Marcus and many others who give up their time on Saturday mornings to support our soccer stars. All teams are also involved in a Night Carnival which is always a fun event!

St Thomas also competed for the first time in a SAPSASA Soccer Carnival held at West Beach. We had 2 teams compete and it was a fun day out for the Year 5 & 6's who attended. Thanks to Nathan Munro, Hoda, Harry, Tamika & Romina who volunteered and supported the students on the day.

Congratulations to Anna (Yr 6) who has been selected in the Adelaide South East Girls Soccer Team and to Keanu (Yr 5) who has been selected in the Adelaide South East Boys Soccer Team to compete in the Soccer SAPSASA State Carnival in August.

Well done Anna & Keanu!

Netball

We have 5 netball teams across Year 2, 3 & 4, 5 & 6 competing in the Life Be In It competition on Monday afternoons. We are very appreciative of our fabulous parent volunteers who coach our teams – thankyou to Sarah, Sophie, Holly, Louise, Deborah, John & Kristy for their weekly efforts to ensure our students can participate in the competition. We have a number of boys competing with the girls in these teams which is fabulous to see with netball growing in popularity amongst boys!

SAPSASA Netball Carnival

St Thomas also competed in the SAPSASA Netball Carnival. Two teams were involved in the carnival and it was a great day out for the Year 5 & 6's who attended. Thankyou to Kristy & Kara for coaching and all the parents who volunteered and supported the students on the day.

Basketball

Basketball continues to be a popular sport – this winter season we have 3 teams competing. Our Year 2 girls are playing in the Year 2 competition at Life Be In It whilst the Year 3/ 4 and Year 5/6 teams play at the State Basketball Centre.

We were also lucky enough to have some Sports College SA students attend St Thomas in Term 1 and run basketball clinics. We hopefully will run more clinics later this year.

Term 4 Extra Curricular Sport

Nominations for Term 4 sport will be open mid-Term 3 so please keep a look out to register your child – Cricket, T-Ball, Netball & Basketball will all be offered in Term 4.

Volunteers



Volunteers play an important role in the education of our children and we are very grateful for the significant part that all St Thomas volunteers play in this. We often find that parents are keen to attend excursions and events, but as they are not registered St Thomas volunteers, are unable to attend. It can often take 2-4+ weeks for Working with Children Checks to be processed so if you are not a registered volunteer but would like to be involved, please contact Megan Phillips - mphillips@stg.catholic.edu.au for further information.

View this article online to read more



FEE INFORMATION

Finance

Term 2 School Fees were due 31st May.

Prompt payment is appreciated.

To request a copy of your fee statement please email accounts@stg.catholic.edu.au

Jodi Jansons

Business Manager

accounts@stg.catholic.edu.au

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The Workshop



We Are Open This Friday!

8:30AM - 9:30AM

GREAT COFFEE, FRUIT SMOOTHIES,
TOASTIES & PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS





CABRA
Dominican College

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD
CURRENTLY IN YEAR 4?**

**We are now accepting
enrolment applications
for Year 7, 2028**

Applications close Friday 19 September 2025

cabra.catholic.edu.au



Enrolment applications will close at the end of **Term 3, Friday 19 September 2025**.

Principal's tours are held at the college each term, we encourage families who may be considering Cabra Dominican College, to join us on a college tour. More information including tour dates and the registration link can be found [HERE](#)

If I can be of assistance with any questions, please feel most welcome to contact me at

e: registrar@cabra.catholic.edu.au or phone: 8179 2429.