



Upcoming Events

Student Free Day

Date: Monday 28 April -
Sunday 28 April

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood

Save the date - Gala 2025

Date: Saturday 22 March

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Venue: St Thomas School -
Goodwood



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our staff, students and families.

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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



SO MANY THINGS TO CELEBRATE!

It has been a great term, with many great learning opportunities and experiences. It has been wonderful to welcome back Melissa Canil to our St Thomas Team, in her role as Acting Deputy. With her great compassion, care and dedication, Melissa has already rebuilt many

connections with our learners and families!

There are truly so many things to celebrate at St Thomas!

We can celebrate the wonderful excursion and learning experiences which have taken place this term. Including our Year 2 classes visiting the Unley Museum; our Year 6 students participating in the Unley Council Anzac Day and Reconciliation Week Ceremonies and visiting Cabra to see their 2025 musical; and of course our Eco-Warriors attending the recycling plant in order to develop ways of enhancing our waste management practices. There are a few more excursions planned in the coming weeks. Our great Assemblies, Community Prayers and whole school Masses have been wonderful moments of community celebration.

We can celebrate our great staff, their work and our shared professional learning journey. Our teachers are in the midst of compiling our Semester One Reports. This is certainly a labour of love and a process which takes many hours of dedication and care. The creation of the semester's report is an opportunity for teachers to delve deeply into the journey of each learner, celebrate their successes and consider the next steps for growth. Our ESO and Admin staff have also continued in their dedicated work in supporting students and families. Every day we witness these skilled and generous members of our community make such a difference.

Our staff have continued in a number of learning journeys as part of our shared professional learning this term. We have continued developing our understanding of the SEARCH Framework, as part of our Visible Wellbeing Project. In fact, as part of our upcoming Student-Free Day, next Tuesday 10th June, we will be attending a Visible Wellbeing Expo at Stella Maris Catholic School. All schools who are part of this project will be sharing their learning and the unique expression of the SEARCH Framework alive in their school. Our staff have also been continuing their professional learning in the Writing Revolution, High Impact Teaching Strategies, PBIS and Numeracy Progressions.

We can celebrate the contribution of staff who are leaving us and staff who are joining our team. We have farewelled Sophie McLeod, who contributed greatly to our Year 3/4 teaching team since the beginning of the year. We hope to help Sophie welcome the new baby McLeod into the world when the day arrives! Rita Giannakakis and Chloe Harford have created a smooth transition for the Year 3/4 class; and we welcome them both back to our team. Marie Smith, our new Canteen Coordinator, has achieved amazing success in kick starting our new menu and supporting students and families. Marie's warmth and dedication have been an absolute blessing in our school community. Our new Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Loretta Gagliardi, has been working hard on the revision of our strategy and our St Thomas profile. Over the coming weeks, we will farewell Sharon Rigoni, our Enrolments Officer. Sharon has been a dedicated member of staff since 2022, supporting and welcoming new families to St Thomas. We thank Sharon for her great work and wish her all the best. To continue this great work, we welcome Leanne Hickman to the St Thomas Admin Team. Leanne brings a wealth of knowledge of schools, administration and marketing. Please make her feel welcome.

We can also celebrate the anticipation of newly designed play spaces at St Thomas. The amazing minds of Grieve Gillet Architects and Wax Designs have worked in collaboration to revise the outdoor play space design in our Master Plan. The new design includes an undercover court (to be built along the western fence line), new entrances to Angus and Rushton Streets, diverse natural play spaces and an expanded playground featuring a basket swing and monkey bars. We are seeking feedback from families over the next week to support the refinement of this design, with a scheduled start date, we hope, by the end of this year!

As we conclude the Easter Season, with the celebration of Pentecost this coming Sunday, we can truly celebrate the Holy Spirit's work in and through our school community. The Holy Spirit breathes life into all things and is our gentle helper and guide.

There are truly so many things to celebrate at St Thomas!

Go gently,

Paul Mensforth

Deputy 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

Finance



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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Our Yr 4, 5 & 6 cricketers had an interrupted but fun cricket season. Thanks to Matt Gale, Kyle Kucharski and Claudia Pace for coaching and organising the team each week. Our cricketers displayed great sportsmanship and cricket skills for every game they managed to play!

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Emmaus Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASSES

6.00pm - St Therese, Col Light Gardens *incl nativity*

6.30pm - Our Lady of Dolours, Kingswood *incl nativity*

7.30pm - Holy Cross, Goodwood - **OUTDOORS : Please bring a chair.**

12 midnight - Holy Cross Church *(with choir music from 11.30pm)*

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

9.00am - Our Lady of Dolours, Kingswood ONLY

THERE ARE NO CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES at ST TERESE OR HOLY CROSS

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY, 2025 - NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

9.30am - Our Lady of Dolours, Kingswood

The Emmaus Parish invites everyone to their Christmas masses please see times and venues above.

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Library Book Returns



Please return all library books ASAP

School Office Closure



Season of Creation 2024



Please [click here](#) for more information.

Principals of the Day



At St Thomas we have Principals for a Day. These are creative and driven students that sent in an application and got chosen to be Principal because of their display of our 5 Learner Dispositions. Brave, Connected, Gritty, Reflective, and Creative. Our names are Georgia and Felicity, we are the Principals for a Day this year.

I'm Felicity, my application was an essay. I listed how my personality and work ethic fit into all of the values we have here at St Thomas. Not only did I list my character strengths, I also listed some of my ideas like reading out the roll backwards sometimes or having a short art session at the end of each day.

I'm Georgia and my application was a video. It was a P.O.V from the Learner Dispositions. They were arguing about who was the best and why they thought that they were the best. I also included my accomplishments such as ballet performances and awards or Tournament of Minds.

I'm Felicity, I really wanted to be Principal for a Day because it is my last year at St Thomas before high school, and I wanted to take every opportunity to go out of my comfort zone this year. It also seemed really fun to not go to class and be a Principal for a Day!

I'm Georgia, I think I wanted to Principal for a Day because it's a chance to show some leadership. Especially because it's so close to the end of the year and I'm going into Year Six next year. I also wanted to be picked so that I could show my creativity through my application; and I did get to do that.

We had a great time as Principals and we are so grateful for this opportunity. So we would like to encourage everyone to try and send in a application next year because it is an awesome time and also thank you so much to Ms Buford and Mr Mensforth for letting us steal their job!

Felicity Welch and Georgia Banytis

Congratulations Chelsea



Congratulations to Chelsea (Yr 5) for her successful entry into the national Young ICT Robotics Competition for 2024! Chelsea was awarded 1st Prize for SA entries and 2nd Prize for Australia-wide entries in Year 5-6 division. Chelsea was inspired by an idea from Gardening Australia and cleverly designed a prototype of an automatic mixing bin with a timer, voice recordings and motion sensor and robotic mixing stick. This project took Chelsea around 3-4 months to complete and we are so proud of her for this fine achievement!