



**St Thomas More  
School**

# Newsletter

29 May 2020: Term 2, week 5

50 Yorktown Road,  
PO Box 2002

Elizabeth Park, South Australia,  
5113

(08) 8255 1699

info@sttmore.catholic.edu.au

www.sttmore.catholic.edu.au

## Principal

Mr Chris Platten

## Acting APRIM

Mrs Robyn Mercer

## Leader of Teaching, Learning & Wellbeing

Ms Leah Williams

## Out of School Hours Care Daily

6:30am to 8:45am

and 3:00pm to 6:00pm

**Wednesday** 2:30 to 6:00pm

(08) 8255 1626

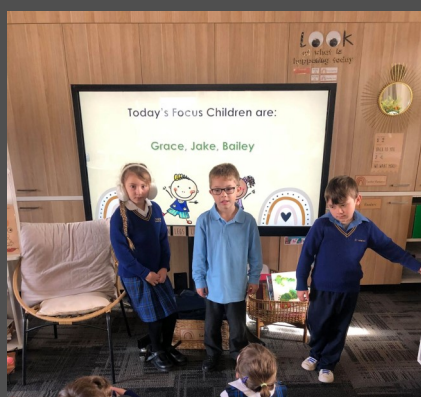
0409 551 699

# R/1 JEFFERYS

In R/1J we just love INVESTIGATIONS. It's our favourite time to learn, grow, interact and use our imagination to create and through all kinds of different experiences. We have focus children, a reporter and a photographer. The Children are presented with different stations.

**Including: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Sensory, Tinkering and Dramatic Play.**

Materials are set up for children to manipulate, wonder and explore.



## FOCUS CHILDREN

3 children a day are  
the children  
of focus, they're given special roles  
and responsibilities throughout  
the entire day

## INVESTIGATIONS

### REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER

Each day two children  
are given the  
role of reporter and  
photographer, at  
the end of investigations the  
children work on their  
oral language  
skills by reporting  
their findings  
back to their peers

### NUMERACY

In the Early Years it is essential for  
children to engage in kinaesthetic learning  
experiences to gain an understanding of  
mathematical concepts

### LITERACY

Children develop literacy skills when they are  
exposed to oral and written language. Children learn  
as they build on prior  
knowledge language  
experiences through a variety of hands on experiences



St Thomas More School recognises and acknowledges that we are living on traditional Aboriginal lands and we offer our respect and appreciation to all Aboriginal people.



## DRAMATIC PLAY

Dramatic play allows children to accept and assign roles, and then act them out.

It is a time when they break through the walls of reality, pretend to be someone or something different from themselves

## SCIENCE/ SPECIAL INTEREST

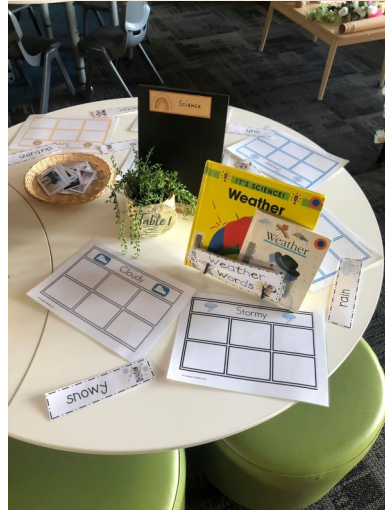
Science helps children to develop key life skills, including an ability to communicate, remain organised and focused, and form their own opinions based on observations

## TINKERING

Tinkering allows children to experiment with tools to engage their curious minds to understand the mechanics and mysteries of how things work around them

**I like investigations because I like playing with my friend**

- Grace



**I like investigations because I like to play with nature**

- Hine

## SENSORY

Sensory play stimulates a child's 5 senses; touch, taste, sight, sound and smell. It facilitates the exploration of senses as the children play

## COLLAGE

Creative play is a vital part of childhood and child development.

Through creative play children can grow and express themselves in various ways

## RESETTING

The children are responsible for resetting their classroom. They work together to ensure the classroom is reset ready for learning time

**I like investigations because it gives us the opportunity to learn through new experiences**

- Ella



**I like investigations because I get to make stuff**

- Ethan



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and friends of St Thomas More,

As we come to the end of the fifth week of term, classes are in full swing with our students seeking to build on the success of Term One. From the beginning of the term we have continued to develop our emphasis on a strong learning culture where everyone strives to achieve their personal best.

While our teachers do a remarkable job in staying abreast of latest educational trends and implementing them into their daily practice, your assistance is also vital. You can never underestimate the impact of parents in developing a learning culture.

### THE GREAT TIME OF PENTECOST

This Sunday Christian communities, of all denominations, in all parts of the world, celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is the Church's birthday! It is the time we remember that God's spirit was given to the disciples so that they could continue the work of Jesus. This happened thousands of years ago and continues to happen today in our time and place in the lives of people who are inspired to live with generosity, joy, kindness, patience and goodness.

The Catholic Identity of St Thomas More's School and the focus of our Religious Education programme is always an invitation to live a life inspired by these 'Gifts of the Spirit' and the we see the fruits of this Spirit when we experience and live out the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control that Jesus lived and taught.

We are all invited, every day to look for signs of this 'Spirit' in our school...we can choose to see these as insignificant events or we can choose to see them as 'sacred moments' that remind us of what is most important and open us to the mystery of God....saying hello to someone we don't know, offering to help when we see someone in need, being grateful to those who work hard for the good of our community, using positive language rather than finding fault or criticising....these are all ways that Christians believe we experience the presence of God's spirit.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

The recent weather has been quite inconsistent and it can disrupt the children's sleep patterns at night. I know how difficult it is to function the next day if I don't have a good night's sleep. Getting a good night's sleep often comes down to routines. It is important to avoid late-night technology use such as computers, mobile phones, and iPads etc. Recent studies have found that adolescents used multiple forms of technology late into the night, including gaming systems and as a result they have difficulty staying awake and alert throughout the day. Any factor that decreases the quality or quantity of sleep will lead to difficulty with school performance and poor behaviour problems. When children stay up at night texting in bed or playing computer games, they are increasing their risk for neuro-cognitive problems. According to research, having a regular bedtime was the most consistent predictor of positive developmental outcomes in four year olds. In a sample of 8000 children, language, reading and maths scores were higher in children whose parents enforced regular bedtimes. The number of night sleep hours required by children varies by age. In general, five-year olds should get 11 hours of sleep, nine year olds need 10 hours and 14 year olds require at least 9 hours.

## FORTNITE GAME AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Fortnite game continues to be a topic of conversation amongst, staff, students, parents and many psychologists. As a school, we have been reflecting on how we are seeing this game affect our children and their ability to solve conflict restoratively, treat others respectfully and behave in socially acceptable ways. The recommended age to use Fortnite **is 13+**, this means that it is not only inappropriate for most primary aged children to play but also does not comply with the U.S. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Following are some excerpt from psychologists across the world who are now querying if this game is in fact, changing the minds of our children;

***"The American Academy of Pediatrics **has concluded** that games "in which killing others is the central theme" – a good summary of Fortnite – "are not appropriate for children." Incidentally, "children" here means "humans under 18 years of age." In their guidelines, the Academy advised that "Video games should not use human or other living targets or award points for killing" and that parents should not allow their kids to play games which violate this guideline. In case you haven't seen it, Fortnite is a game in which the object of the game is to kill other humans." Psychology Today***

***"You must have the courage to say: This is not a good thing. Kids need to learn face-to-face social skills. They need to be physically active, preferably outdoors. They need to get a good night's **sleep**. A kid obsessed with Fortnite is less likely to be doing any of these things." Psychology Today***

***"..... Games like Fortnite are designed to exploit the brain's vulnerabilities in the same way poker machines do" Professor Yucel is a clinical neuropsychologist***

***"I could see this aggression starting to form, he started being rude and I was, like, oh my God, this game is going to drive me mad!" Parent***

Our school teaches and values respect and kindness, we are working daily to develop self-esteem, growth mindsets and relationships, how does Fortnite enhance the personal, social and psychological development of your child? Fitness is a key holistic element of well-being, strongly correlated with positive outcomes such as success in school, better sleep behaviours, and reduced stress. When we move more, we are happier and healthier. If you wish to discuss gaming and the possible effects on your child's learning please speak to your Class Teacher, Leadership or our School Well-being Counsellor.



As well as Fortnite, we have had further discussions with students about social media and cybersafety. Our compulsory curriculum, Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum, has specific teaching on keeping yourself safe online. This is much more of a need at the moment due to the increased usage of computers/phones during isolation. During these discussions with students, there are a number that talk about Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Tik Tok as well as Fortnite. This is where some bullying is occurring outside of school hours and on weekends. We wish to inform our learning community the following things to keep our students safe and promote wellbeing practices.

You MUST be 13 years and older to have your own account on Facebook, TicToc, SnapChat, Instagram and for online games such as Fortnite due to their level of maturity and resilience which can affect their ability to have positive experiences on social media and respond appropriately to harassment, bullying or privacy concerns. This does not necessarily mean that the site is unsafe but it is in compliance with the U.S. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). We encourage supervision and cybersafety discussions to occur. For further information visit: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

### CHILDRENS SAFETY AT ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

At St Thomas More School safety of our students and community is one of our highest priorities. We provide a secure environment that allows the students to move safely around the school. Staff are clearly identified by the badges that they wear. As our school is fully secure, with fences around all areas, visitors must enter through the Front Office and sign-in upon entering the school. Safety in the yard encourages our students to play actively without fear. Each teacher on Yard Duty, wear a florescent vest and carries a bag that contains a first-aid kit for the treatment of minor injuries in the yard whilst more serious injuries are dealt with promptly in the sick room by staff who are trained in Senior First Aid.

St Thomas More School is situated on a main road and in a suburban street, which can make the movement of traffic difficult during peak school drop off and pick up times. To ensure that the students are safe during this time teachers are on duty at the school's front, ensuring the safe use of the school crossing on Yorktown Road and safely crossing Shillabeer Road.

**Please ensure children are dropped at the front gate or office if arriving after 9am to sign in to ensure they enter their class safely.**

### PLEASE OBSERVE THE 'NO STANDING' AREAS AND 'YELLOW LINES' AROUND THE SCHOOL.

These areas are to help provide a safe environment for the students. We **ask and expect** that all members of the St Thomas More School community follow the road rules associated with the 'School Crossing' (on Yorktown Rd) and all road signage (both Yorktown Rd and Shillabeer Rd) stringently. They are also monitored by the police and council.

#### 2020 TERM 3 RECEPTION ENROLMENTS

**Places are available.** If you have or if you know of anyone who has a child **turning 5 before October 31, 2020**, please complete and lodge an enrolment form at the Front Office.

#### 2021 RECEPTION ENROLMENTS

**Places are available.** If you have or if you know of anyone who has a child **turning 5 before May 1, 2021**, please complete and lodge an enrolment form at the Front Office.

#### 2021 TERM 3 RECEPTION ENROLMENTS

**Places are available.** If you have or if you know of anyone who has a child **turning 5 before October 31, 2021**, please complete and lodge an enrolment form at the Front Office.

Working in Partnership,  
Leadership Team



## *Remembering the Gift of Mary*

This week (May 25<sup>th</sup>) the Catholic church family celebrated the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Catholics living in Australia have a special place in their prayers and hearts for Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In Australia, in 1844 she was given the special name of Mary, Help of Christians. More recently she has been named Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians. We honour Mary because of the special role she had as the mother of Jesus. In her life we see an example of a woman who trusted in God and lived a life of faith, hope and love. People feel close to her and name special places after her (even school buildings!!!). Some people say prayers that remind them of the special role Mary had in bringing God's love to the world.

In RE lessons over the last few weeks students have been learning about why Mary is an important person in the Christian story. Some students created pieces of art that express what they see as the qualities of Mary and the important aspects of her life.



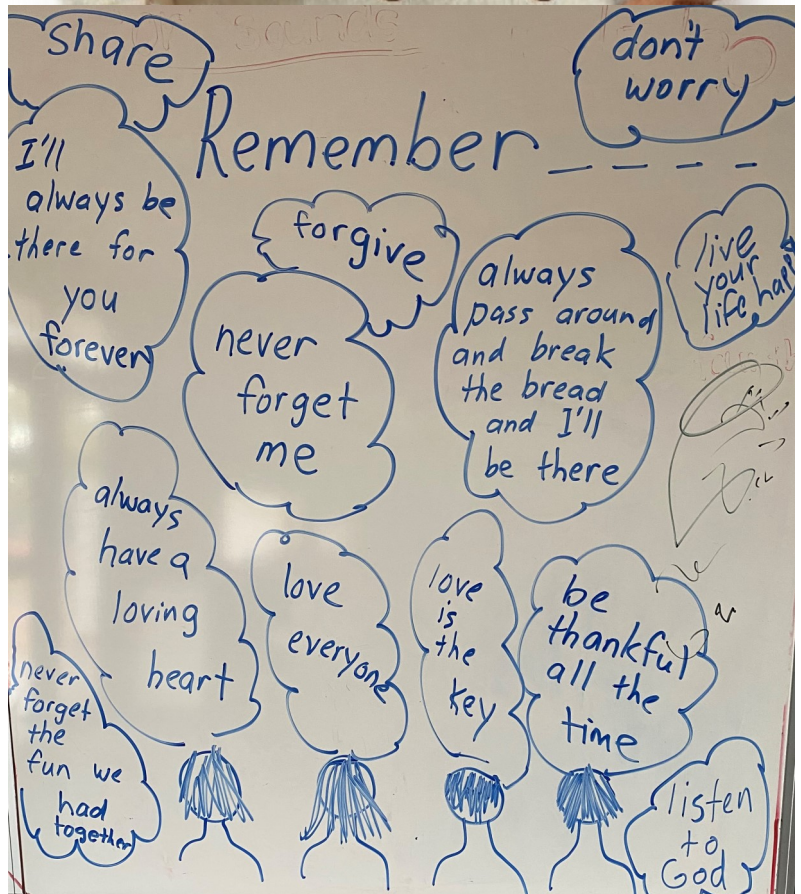


This week (Sun May 24<sup>th</sup>) the Catholic Church family celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus. We remember that Jesus asked his friends to continue his work of bringing God's love to the world. He asked them to remember everything he had told and shown them. He promised them God's Spirit would come to them and give them the strength, courage and love to continue spreading the Good News. And then he was gone....and they could no longer see him and touch him in the way they could before.

After listening to the Ascension story (told in the language of Godly Play) the students in 2/3MD were asked to wonder about what words and messages they thought the followers of Jesus remembered.

## THE ASCENSION

*Remembering the Gift of Jesus*







## GOOD NEWS!

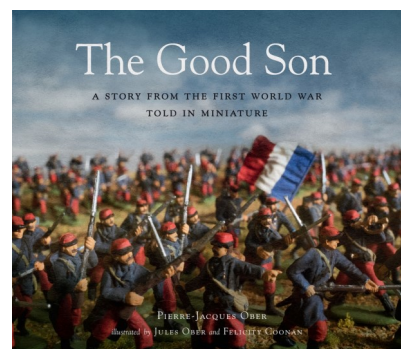
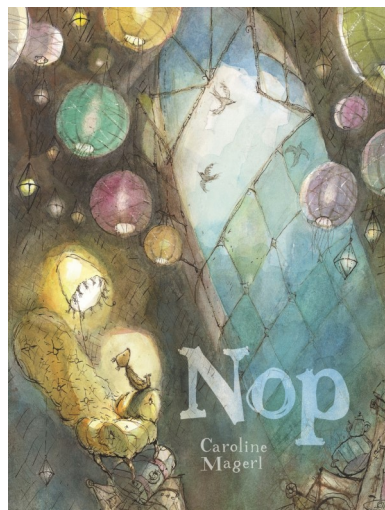
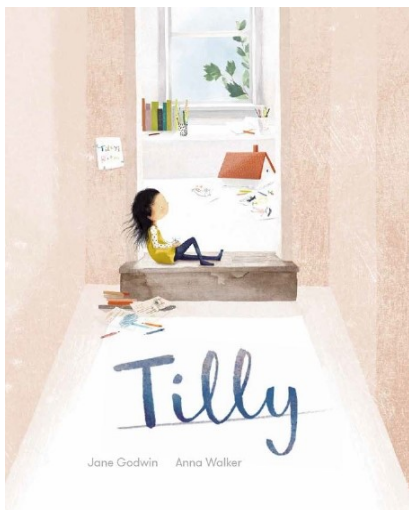
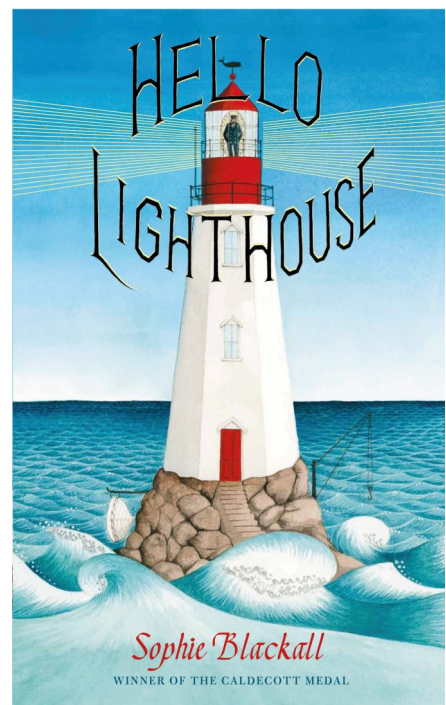
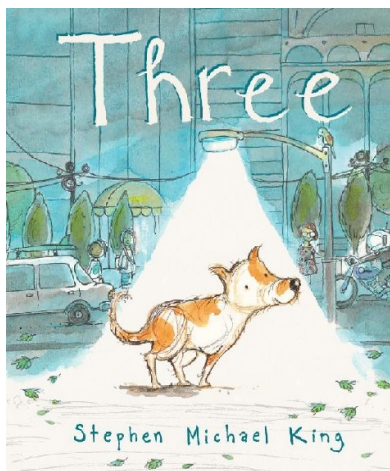
**CBCA Book Week 2020 will now be held in October on the following dates: OCTOBER 17-23 2020**

These later dates will apply in 2020 only, recognising the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**ANNOUNCING THE 2020 SHORTLIST FOR:**

# PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR

Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and Illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through Illustrations. Ages 0-18 years (NB. Some of these books may be for mature readers). Note: Picture Books are listed by the Illustrator, followed by the author.



Week 7 Newsletter: **BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD** shortlist



# RECONCILIATION WEEK

STREET BANNER PROJECT 27 May - 3 June

2020

"IN THIS TOGETHER"

Artwork: © 'Gooniyandi Riwyu' by Tee Jay Worrigal 2018



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

On Thursday May 28 staff participated in the Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for Cancer research. Thank you to Ms Crossley for organising the event, to all staff that donate the lovely food and their generous donations to a worthy cause.





## CAN YOU SOLVE THESE REBUS PUZZLES?

age beauty

E  
N  
I  
L

T  
V  
M  
E

LIP  
LIP

*the it's bag*

l o n g  
d u e

60min. 60min. OPEN

S  
L  
O  
W

**Week 3 Newsletter answers:** Lean over backwards, Spaceship, Notice, Told you over and over again, A point in time, Who's on first?  
Wash up before dinner, Sunny side up.

## View our home from yours

Another level of education, Year 7-12

**Principal's Virtual Tour** Thursday June 11, 4pm



Experience our new Faulkner Centre

Book online [tmc.catholic.edu.au](https://tmc.catholic.edu.au) | Limited places 2021 | Finalising applications 2022



# Wednesday Lunch Specials - Term 2, 2020

WEEK 2 / 6 May



Mild Butter  
Chicken with  
Rice

WEEK 3 / 13 May



Macaroni &  
Cheese with  
Bread roll

WEEK 4 / 20 May



Chilli Con  
Carne with  
rice

WEEK 5 / 27 May



Chicken  
Schnitzel &  
Chips

WEEK 6 / 3 June



Lasagne with  
garlic bread

WEEK 7 / 10 June



Chicken Yiros  
with lettuce,  
cheese,  
tomato & sauce

WEEK 8 / 17 June



Sausage and  
Mash Potato  
with gravy

WEEK 9 / 24 June



Tuna Mornay  
with pasta

WEEK 10 / 1 July



Bacon & Egg  
roll with  
wedges

## All Specials \$5

Please place order through the QKR app or the classroom lunch order box by 9am.  
All other menu items are still available on Wednesday special day.

**Canteen is closed on Mondays**

## Advance Notice

### Every Tuesday

Parent Coffee/Tea chat 8:30am Jubilee Hall -

**Postponed**

ECC Playgroup 9:00am-11:00am **-Postponed**

**Principal's Tour (first Tuesday of the month) 10am -**

**By appointment only**

### Every Wednesday

School Banking **-Postponed**

Early Learning Years (ELY) 9:30am-11:30am -

**Postponed**

### 31 May

Pentecost Sunday

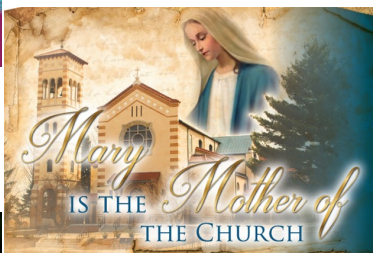
### 27-3 May/June

National Reconciliation Week



### 1 June

Feast of Mary, Mother of Church



### 5 June

World Environment Day

### 8 June

Queens Birthday - Public Holiday

**School Access Term 2**

**8.30am to 8.50am**

Access via main front courtyard gate at the school crossing.

**8.50am to 2.45pm**

Access via green front pool gate in front of administration building. You will need to lift the pool lock at the top of the gate to open and please ensure the gate is closed securely.

**2.45pm to 3.15pm**

Access via main front courtyard gate at the school crossing.

**Children dropped off before 8:30am and children not collected by 3.15pm will be sent to OSHC and parents will be invoiced for the service.**



### Liturgical Events

Unfortunately, as the COVID restrictions are still in place for large worship gatherings, there will be no Masses celebrated at school until further notice. Classes will continue to have liturgies in class groups but parents are unable to attend. Teachers will include families by sending photos, iMovie's or copies of the class prayer service via seesaw.

There is no love without forgiveness,  
and there is no forgiveness without love.

