Dear Parents,

**Staff List**

- **Principal**: Jenny McKeown
- **Assistant Principal**: Louise Jongejan
- **REC**: Yulanie Harris
- **Co-ordinator release**: Talin Ekmekjian
- **Co-ordinator Release Yr 6**: Jessica Francis

**2015 Class Teachers**

- **KB**: Lisa Sullivan
- **KY**: Carolyn Reed
- **1B**: Peta Herschderfer
- **1Y**: Kate Iacono
- **2B**: Liana Stella
- **2Y**: Talin Ekmekjian /Jessica Francis
- **3B**: Howard Dahdah
- **3Y**: Yulanie Harris
- **4B**: Anne Ryan /Louise Jongejan
- **4Y**: Peter Marando
- **Yr.5**: Liz Maguire
- **Yr.6**: Renee Theilbeer

- **Learning Support**: Lorraine Hall
- **Teacher Librarian**: Judy Weinand/Maureen Thompson
- **Teacher Assistants**: Bernadette Grant
- **Sport**: Courtney Statos
- **Music/Band**: Fi O’Shaughnessy
- **Office**: Debi Orrick /Julie McLaughlin

There is a lot of information to impart in today’s newsletter but first I would like to share some great news about the recent mathematics assessments teachers conducted. We have noticed that Kindergarten children who have a sibling who was in the St Thomas EMU programme, over the last two years which aims to build number concepts for at risk learners, commonly scored higher than their peers.

We believe that this may be due to the number concept development games played for homework by the EMU children which were shared with their siblings. Remember it takes 200 hits for a new piece of learning to be established. The take home message from that is – Keep playing the ‘handful game’ and ‘snakes and ladders’. Fluency with numbers and their interrelationships is the key to strong mathematicians.

**MEET & GREET**

Next week we will be holding our annual Meet & Greet appointments with parents. This is a chance for you to tell your child’s teacher all about your child. There will be other opportunities for your teacher to tell you about how your child is going as the year progresses.

The appointments are only 10 minutes long and we ask that you stick to that time limit. If a longer time is needed that can be arranged at another time. Please go online at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) Event Code: VNW44

**DIARY DATES**

- **Sun 8 Feb**: Opening School Mass 9.30am
- **Tues 10 Feb**: Chess Club Starts
- **Wed 11, 12, 13 Feb**: Year 6 Camp
- **Year 5 AFTRS**:
- **Fri 13 Feb**: School Banking talk
- **Thu 19 &20 Feb**: Year 6 AFTRS
- **Fri 20 Feb**: ISDA debating
- **Sat 7 March**: Welcome Night 7pm

School Email: stw@dbb.catholic.edu.au
School Phone: 9958 7308     Fax: 9967 2143     Parish Phone: 9958 8846     Fax: 9958 0438
PRIVACY & its impact on you

Usually we would ask parents to notify us if they did not wish their details to be shared with the parents in their children’s class for communication purposes but now we must ask if you want to be included.

The following class parents are happy for you to contact them to be included in all class communication. Just click on the link and say include me please. The parents will then add you to the list. This is tiresome I know but it must be done.

Class parent list with contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KB</th>
<th>Jess Smith</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fleur Sullivan</td>
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<td>KY</td>
<td>Kirsty Kempen</td>
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<td>Nic Wales</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Sally Williams</td>
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<td>Sophie Bacic</td>
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<td>1Y</td>
<td>Liz Kassis</td>
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<td>Jude Southon</td>
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<td>2B</td>
<td>Simona Sardelic</td>
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<td>Mireille Carey</td>
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<td>2Y</td>
<td>Tara Matzen</td>
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<td>Paula Stamatis</td>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>Kristie Tannock</td>
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<td>Lisa Newton</td>
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<td>3Y</td>
<td>Sarah Croall</td>
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<td>Sam Skyring</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>Susi Willis</td>
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<td>Caroline Reid</td>
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<td>4Y</td>
<td>Phillipa Campbell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cherie Pittman</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Emma O’Connor</td>
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PICTURE BOOKS

Publishers have really gone out of their way to produce exquisite picture books with the enhanced emphasis on visual literacy in the new English Syllabus. When I was selecting the book prizes for our awards ceremony at the end of last year I felt like a pig in mud. The books are so rich in meaning and many are aimed at older children with sophisticated visual humour. My favourite is Lion in Paris by Beatrice Alemagna. This is one of the pages:

BASKETBALL COURT BOOKINGS

This year I have been inundated with bookings for the basketball court. Each form has been looked at in turn. Every attempt has been made to meet at least the second preference for each booking. Please work with the other teams to use the school playground space cooperatively. Much can be achieved by doing drills on the front playground or using the goal post near High Street. This morning there were five teams using all of our playground space in a rotational pattern, for drills and part games. It was very impressive.

Jenny McKeown
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

School Calendar for term one

Welcome back and if you are joining our school community here at St Thomas’ welcome! Everything is in place for a fabulous 2015. Today, our school calendar for term one will come as an attachment with the newsletter. As you would appreciate we are confirming the last few dates for the year and the full calendar will come to you with the newsletter in coming weeks.

St Thomas’ is a KidsMatter school

Did you know that St Thomas’ is a KidsMatter school? Being a KidsMatter school means many things. Kids Matter equips school to implement evidence-based strategies to ensure that ensure that children stay connected to school and families as well as continuing to develop the necessary social and emotional skills to manage on-going challenges and build health relationships with others. The initiative also provides staff and parents with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the mental health and wellbeing of the children.

One of the ways that we will communicate some of these strategies will be through our newsletter. This year there will be regular information provided to assist us all in building our children’s wellbeing. I would encourage you to take a moment to read is information and consider its impact on your actions and interactions. I know that for me each time I read something in this area I am always given food for thought.

So, what is social and emotional learning all about?

According to the KidsMatter resource booklet:

*School is not only about reading, writing and arithmetic. It’s also about making friends, learning how to work with others, and knowing how to be more responsible for yourself. Knowing how to manage feelings and get on with others are important skills for everyone. The kind of learning starts in early childhood with parents and carers as children’s most important first teachers.*

*Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.*

~William A. Ward~

Peace,

Louise Jongejan
Assistant Principal
Welcome to 2015 – a new school year! I hope you had a safe and enjoyable break from the routines of school.

As we start the year I am reminded of the story of the journey to Emmaus from Luke 24: 13-24, 28-35 Did not our hearts burn within us? It is Easter time and there are two disciples walking to Emmaus fearful as Jesus has just been crucified. They meet a stranger who walks with them and talks to them and finally eats with them — they recognise it is Jesus with the blessing and breaking of the bread. Our challenge I believe is how do we treat others on our own journeys? Do we recognise Jesus in each other?

As we journey together at St Thomas, staff, students, families, and community, we leave impressions of ourselves along the way. Our impressions are more lasting than a footprint on a path. We constantly impress on others. We are remembered for what we do and say and how we respond to others. Our impressions are there even when we have travelled on. Others hold the impressions we make – both good and bad – in their hearts and minds as they remember us. Jesus’ lasting impression changed the lives of his followers 2000 years ago and the strength of his message is so strong that it continues to change lives today. How do we impress the message of Jesus on our fellow travellers by what we do and say? Let us travel forth together bringing the Joy of the Gospel to our communities.

Please remember you are all invited to our Monday morning prayer circle run by one of our parents (Natalie Bacic). It starts just after Monday morning assembly and takes about 10 minutes. It is there to encourage you to pray in community and to provide support for one another. All parents (mums and dads), caregivers, grandparents, visitors are welcome. Please do come.

Peace
Yulanie Harris

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**SPORTS NEWS**

**2015 St Thomas Carnival Dates:**
- Cross Country: Wednesday 1st April Willoughby Oval/Park
- Athletics: Friday 7th August Ryde Athletics Centre
- Swimming: Tuesday 1st December Lane Cove Aquatic Centre

**Cluster Swimming Carnival**
The North Shore Cluster Swimming Carnival is on Tuesday 3 March at Hornsby Pool. The St Thomas Swimming team will be selected from the Swimming Carnival which was held at the end of 2014. Student’s names have been placed on the sports noticeboard and these students will be notified shortly once we have received final details about the carnival.

**Northern Suburbs Tennis Association Primary School Challenge**
Tennis players from St Thomas are invited to play in the Term 1 NSTA Primary Schools Tennis Challenge on Saturday 7th March from 5:30pm-9pm (approx). The Challenge is played at Forestville Academy of Tennis.
You enter as a pair. It is a graded round robin doubles competition and each pair would play 4 or 5 matches. Closing date is 27th February. The cost is $27.50 per player which includes pizza/sausage sizzle and a drink. **Players must be able to serve over arm most of the time and keep score.** The Primary School Challenge is a fantastic introduction to competitive tennis for players of all standards.
If you are interested in playing, please see Mrs Statos for more information and an entry form.

Courtney Statos

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**LIBRARY LINES**

Welcome to the Library in 2015!
Thank you for encouraging your children to bring library bags and to borrow frequently.

**Parents are needed** to help with Kinder on Wednesdays from 1:45 till pickup, or Mondays—Wednesdays at any convenient time to help with shelving.

Are you good at contacting books? Mrs Thompson would love some assistance on Mondays.

Please email me to let me know your availability via the school office or pop in after 3pm.

**Library Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>KY</td>
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<td>1Y</td>
<td>KB</td>
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Congratulations to **Senior Australian of the Year**, author Jackie French. We have many of her books in our library. Year 5 students have already borrowed some of her books this week!


Judy Weinand
School Banking 2015
School Banking resumes this Friday Feb 6th.
Remember to bring deposit books in for collection in the
class grey bags.
Any students who are new to banking are also welcome to
bring in their deposit books and they will be added to the St
Thomas’ database.
*Every new account that is added to the database, earns $5
for the school.
**Each deposit made through the school earns a 5% com-
mission for the school.
The CBA representative will be at the school on Friday Feb
13th from 2:30pm onwards (next week), for an ‘Account
Opening’ afternoon. On that afternoon a table will be set up
on the verandah outside the school office so that parents
can join their children up on the spot. If you are interested in
opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your
child please bring along your current driver’s licence or an-
other form of photographic identification. No identification
is required for your child attending school, as the school will
confirm their identity. Alternatively, you can open an ac-
count at any branch, by calling 13 22 21, or online if you are
an existing Commonwealth Bank customer
2015 has an Outer Space theme in School Banking. The re-
wards for term 1 will be a Planet Handball and an E.T. DVD.
Simply make 10 deposits and then you can choose your re-
ward!
Any questions, please write us a note to be included in the
class grey banking bag. Alternatively, email Madeleine: mar-
kandmad@optusnet.com.au
Madeleine, Alison, Rachel, Kirrily
Banking Coordinators

St Thomas Netball Club
Wednesday, 11 Feb Year 4 Netball Grading 3.45-4.45pm
Wednesday 18 Feb Years 5/6 Grading 3.45-4.45pm
Grading for Year 4 netball teams will take place next Wednesday, 11 February from 3.45-4.45pm. Grading for the Years
5/6 teams will take place the following Wednesday, 18 February from 3.45- 4.45pm. Both grading sessions will be held
on the outside courts of the Willoughby Leisure Centre. Please ensure your daughter has a water bottle with her. If you
have any questions please contact
Lee Nelson or
Caroline Purtell

CHESS!!
Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at St Thomas’ Primary School (Willoughby) is held on Tuesdays from
12:50pm – 1:35pm. Term 1 lessons will commence on 10th February, 2015.
Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concen-
tration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess
board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.
Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess play-
ers strive to develop.
If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or
email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on
(02) 9745 1170.

BIRTHDAYS
Sae Min F (3Y)  Charlotte W (KB)  Oliver J (1Y)
Emilia S (KY)  Abby B (1B)  Charlotte D (3B)
From The Executive Committee

Happy New School Year!

For those that are returning to St Thomas this year, welcome back and for those that are starting as a new family at the school WELCOME!

By way of introduction, I have been involved at the school for 6 years and I am excited about my second year as P&F President. For those who are unfamiliar, I have set out an overview of the role and function of the Parents and Friends Association of St Thomas (P&F). The P&F aims to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and the wider community for the benefit of their children’s overall development and learning.

It represents the interests of the whole parent body, helps parents actively engage with the school and the education of their children, and works to support the school.

The P&F endeavours to do this by:

- organising social functions to maintain a friendly and welcoming school community through our Social Committee. Our first parent function for the year is on Saturday 7 March, so please keep this evening free.
- providing pastoral support for parents and carers at times of personal and family need through our Pastoral Care Committee.
- facilitating a second hand uniform shop run by our Uniform Committee.
- assisting parents and carers who choose to supplement their children’s school education with extracurricular activities through our newly formed Extracurricular Activities Committee.
- raising funds to provide resources and opportunities to enrich the learning environment of the school. Our annual Art and Craft Show is a well-known community event; and essentially the sole source of fund raising. The Show raises significant funds for the school, is run purely on volunteer help, and fosters huge parent camaraderie to bring it all together. There are many ways to get involved and your help is always greatly appreciated.
- And finally by providing opportunities for parents and carers to gain insights into the life of the school and current developments in education, with a focus on Catholic education. We do this by holding a general meeting each term.

If you are going through a difficult time, or you know of someone else who might need a hand, please feel free to contact us. Alternatively, just leave a note in the pastoral care folder in the school office. Discretion is assured at all times.

Thank you for your support.

Tony Harris
President P&F

From The Social Committee

Tissues & Champagne

A big thanks to all of the parents who joined us to celebrate the start of Kindy 2015 at the Tissues & Champagne event on Monday. There are many returning families plus some new families to welcome to the school. Many thanks to Caz Taylor for opening her home to us and hosting the event. Much appreciated.

Jen Davis
Narelle Cooper

From Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a wonderful example of the generous and supportive community at St Thomas’. Thank you to those who have supported for many years. The pastoral care team aims to offer practical assistance to school families going through difficult or happier times such as a new baby, often in the form of meals or home visits or assistance with pick-ups and drop offs.

With the recent changes to privacy requirements, we have to start the volunteer list from scratch. Therefore, we ask that everyone who would like to be on the volunteer list please contact either Fleur Sullivan or Sophie Bacic with your email and mobile number. Historically, almost every family is part of the roster and you would therefore only be called upon once or twice a year.

If you are going through a difficult time, or you know of someone else who might need a hand, please feel free to contact us. Alternatively, just leave a note in the pastoral care folder in the school office. Discretion is assured at all times.

Thank you for your support.

Sophie Bacic
Fleur Sullivan

From The Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open next Tuesday 10 February at 8.30am to 9.05am as a bonus back-to-school opening. The uniform shop is located in the music rooms across from the school gate on Horsley Avenue. Any donations of school uniforms gratefully received at the School Office.

Please "like" us on Facebook to keep up with our latest updates.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Thomas-Uniform-Shop/1507904502803161

Felicity Jay
Kirstie Smith
**Executive Officers 2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Held by</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tony Harris</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Samantha Skyring</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jacqui Shanahan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Robyn McKegg</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Helen Lamont</td>
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**Sub-Committees 2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art &amp; Craft Show</th>
<th>Sky Hunt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Convenor</td>
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<td>Extracurricular Activities</td>
<td>David Nelson</td>
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<td>Pastoral Care</td>
<td>Fleur Sullivan</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sophie Bacic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Club</td>
<td>Jen Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Club</td>
<td>Narelle Cooper</td>
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**From the Safety Officer**

As we return to school it is important to remember some simple Road Safety rules.

- Use an appropriate child car seat
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in school zones
- Look out for buses and the flashing wig wag lights which indicate a child has got off the bus
- Always park and turn legally
- Always give way to pedestrians
- Use out school designated drop off and pick up areas (on High Street)
- Use on the school side of the road
- Remember it is safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road

**Walking together to and from school:**

- Plan your trip and use pedestrian crossing
- Always hold your child’s hand

**Uniform Shop**

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**St Thomas’ School & St Thomas’ parish**

- **Principal**: Jenny McKeown
  - 9958 7308
  - jenny.mckeown@dbb.catholic.edu.au
- **Assistant Principal**: Louise Jongejan
  - 9958 7308
  - louise.jongejan@dbb.catholic.edu.au
- **Parish Priest**: Fr Rex Curry
  - 9438 1011
  - rexcurry@the.org.au

**FIRST RECONCILIATION 2015**

Reconciliation Information & Registration to enroll your child please attend:

**Compulsory Parent Gathering**

(One parent must attend on one of the dates below to register their child):

- St Thomas Church - Thursday 12 February at 3.30 PM OR 7.30pm at
- OR
- St Phillip Neri Church - Sunday 15 February after 9.00am Mass

Reconciliation Ceremonies (4 to choose from):

St Thomas’ - Wednesday 25 March at 5pm or 7pm
St Leonard’s - Thursday 26 March at 5pm or 7pm.

For further information please contact Ericka Carlino at the parish office on 9958 8864 or via email sacraments@LNS.org.au

Many thanks in advance and apologies for the last minute request.

**Ericka Carlino**  Sacramental Coordinator
Catholic Parish of LNS
Phone: 9958 8846/email: sacraments@lms.org.au