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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE**

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 13th September 2022



Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past month our Secondary students have been preparing for their interhouse drama competition. The theme of the competition is the adventures of St Paul. The students have written their own scripts based on various chapters of St Paul's life from the Acts of the Apostles. The drama competition will take place in the College Hall starting 12:45pm. All parents and friends of the College are welcome to attend, but we ask you to please sign at the College Reception as per usual before proceeding to the College Hall.

This week we celebrate two important holy days, namely the feast of the Holy Cross, 14th September and also the feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady 15th September. Both feasts speak of the cross and suffering as the royal road to greatness. *Palma sub onere crescit* is an ancient saying found on many royal coats of arms. It translates to "If we put a weight on a palm tree, it grows all the better under the weight."

I do not know if this ancient belief is true, but I know that a strong person will not break under trials but by the grace of God, uses them as steps on the ascent. Here's a classic example from antiquity: Julius Caesar (100-44 B.C.) landed in Africa. Stepping out of the boat, he stumbled and fell to the ground. His superstitious entourage see a "bad omen" in it. Caesar keeps his presence of mind and makes the most of the situation by crying: "*Amplector te, Africa! Africa, I embrace you!*"

He turned his fall into success. Struggle and deprivation is not merely "trouble," but a source of heroic virtues. As the wise saying goes, "In every crisis there is an opportunity." Students too often only see the crisis. It takes a wise parent,

teacher or mentor to show them where the opportunity lies.

Dear parents, don't be afraid of imposing high expectations on your children. If there is no trial, there is no perseverance. If there are no mistakes made there will be few lessons well learnt. Whoever fights becomes stronger. Fr Toth wrote beautifully on page 58 of his book [The Young Man of Character by Tihamér Tóth | Goodreads](#) "Dante wrote his great work, *Divina Commedia*, in exile, in virtual poverty. Schiller wrote his most dramas while painfully ill. Mozart finished his Requiem in painful illness. It would not be good for a river if all the fish eggs turned into full grown fish; it would not be good for the garden if every flower turned into a fruit; and it is not good for a student to succeed in everything he or she starts. Lack of success teaches humility, whereas success makes one

proud. Man can survive everything except continual well-being: 'Everything in the world can be endured except a long period of good days.' (Goeth) Because ease breeds disease!

I wish you all the blessings of the Feast of the Holy Cross, 14th September and also the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady on 15th September.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Andrew Cranshaw
 Principal



VIRTUE THIS WEEK

ORDERLINESS

Keeping oneself physically clean and neat and one's belongings in good order

COLLECT - 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Keep, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy Church with Thy perpetual mercy: and because without Thee the frailty of man is wont to fall, save it ever by Thine aid from all things hurtful, and lead it to all things profitable to salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



Instaurare omnia in Christo
 To restore all things in Christ

From the Deputy Principal

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As we move toward the end of Term 3, for many, hopefully, the end-of-year examinations come into focus.

From Year 9 through to Year 12, over the coming months students will be required to complete exams in one or more subjects. Our current VCE students commenced this process by undertaking the General Assessment Test (GAT) last week on Wednesday, 7 September.

Preparing for these assessments takes time. It is important for students to start exam preparation early, to give themselves the best chance of retaining the information they need and giving it the meaning that will help them excel.

I was recently fortunate to be privy to some advice from some of our State's leading Universities. It is worth noting that students achieving the highest results in VCE studies report that they spend 3 - 4 hours per night, and up to 6 hours over the weekend on studying. They also identify that they complete as many practice exam papers as possible, with an average of 5 practice papers per subject.

As I have articulated in previous Chronicles the College has a structured homework policy that sees time spent on work outside the classroom scaffolded across a child's journey at the College. Parents should expect that children are coming home and undertaking this independent style of study.

Upon returning from holidays, students will be provided with a 'Tips for Exam Preparation' handout to review and implement during their respective exam phase.

With Term 3 coming to a close, interim reports will be opened at the conclusion of this week and the booking process for Parent-Teacher Interviews is



open. Upon receiving the interim report, please take the time to sit with your child and discuss the faith, academic, social and emotional learning that has taken place this term. When we engage in these conversations we place a value on learning. This value is recognised by students and can contribute to the attainment of success.

This week we provided the 2023 aspiring Student Leaders with an insight into the process or the selection of the College Captains and Vice captains. There was a sense of optimism in the room as students sought clarification and shared their own stories with each other on their view of what it means to be a leader.

A reminder that the College has a social media presence on Instagram and will use this as a platform to showcase some examples of what is taking place across a range of areas within the College.

I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and look forward to returning to what will no doubt be a very busy yet exciting term.

Kind regards,

Kieran O'Dwyer (*Deputy Principal*)

ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
To form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic



**ENROLING
NOW**

Please contact the College:
Ph:5629 2500 office@stac.vic.edu.au



25th Anniversary Celebrations

It was lovely to see many parents join us last Friday for the Principals' Address which was then followed by a tour of the school. Thank you so much for taking the time to attend.

The next day (Saturday 3rd Sept - Feast of St Pius X) a Solemn High Mass was celebrated at Corpus Christi Church. Afterwards, a wonderful night was enjoyed by many at the Cannibal Creek Winery.

Pictured on the right is Fr Themann (SSPX District Superior), Fr Elias (on left) and Fr Cranshaw on the right.



Alliance Francaise Year 11

Year 11 French students Julian Hovens and Ethan Ward are to be congratulated on their efforts in preparing for the state -wide Alliance Francaise Oral competition during the holidays and this term. They have used this exceptional opportunity to develop their linguistic skills. After 2 very difficult years this was a very challenging but most rewarding achievement.



Bravo!

History of the College all in one book

A 25th Anniversary book has been recently published and is now available at the College Office. It is \$20 and can be paid for by cash or by credit card. Simply enquire at the front desk.

The book covers every year from 1997 when the College opened right through to 2021 with every year having a feature page. All head boys and girls of every year are included. It makes for an excellent keepsake.



New School Fee Management Partner



The College is very excited to announce that we have just partnered with a specialist provider called Edstart to make managing your school fee payments easier. Edstart offers an easy, flexible and zero-cost way for you to pay for your child's education in periodic instalments that suit your family budget, with no credit checks. This new payment option will allow you to spread your fees into weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments over 12 months, with the ability to choose your preferred day for when payments are made. The school will pay the service fees on this account ensuring the service is free for you to use.

With your child's highest outcomes at the heart of what we do, parent fees are crucial to the school's sustainability. While we put our resources into the highest quality education, growth and continued new initiatives, Edstart are the experts in their field and are best placed to assist our families moving forward. From next year, all school fee payments will be made via Edstart. We are always here to help with any concerns and will work closely with Edstart for a smooth transition. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

SECONDARY REGION ATHLETICS

On Tuesday 6 September our college sent our top 10 boys and 4 girls from Years 7-12 to the Joe Carmody Athletics Track in Newborough (near Moe) to compete in the School Sports Victoria Gippsland *REGION* Athletics meet. These students qualified by placing 1st or 2nd in the West Gippsland *DIVISION* Athletics meet held at the end of August. Of the 14 students we sent, half of them placed 1st in at least one event which has booked them a spot to compete in the Victorian *STATE* Athletics championships held at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park, Melbourne on Monday 17th October. Congratulations to all our athletes, and thank you to Mr Bell for helping on the day.

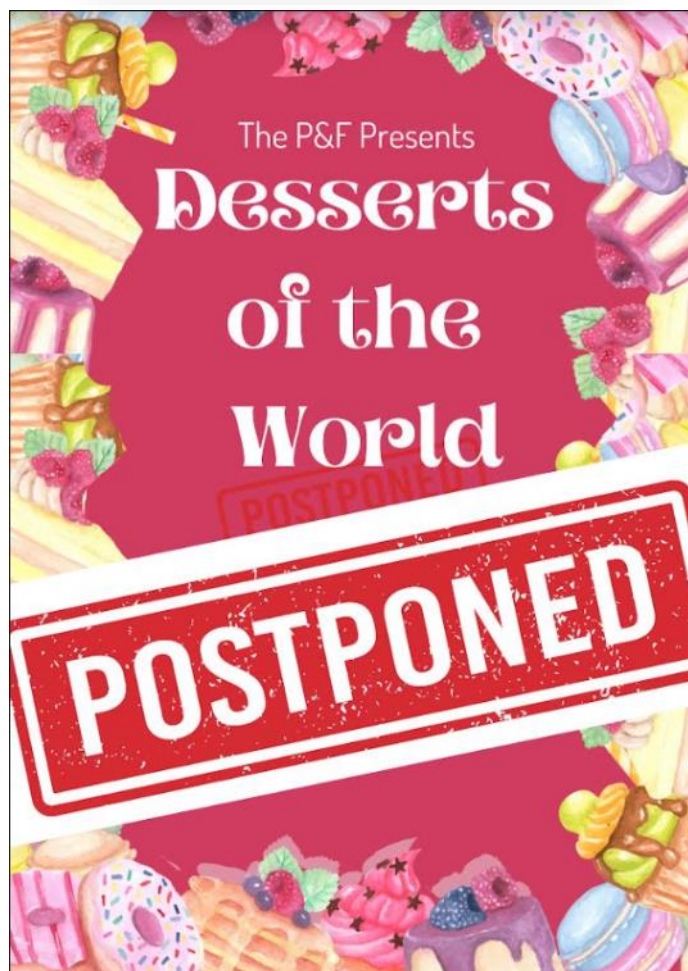
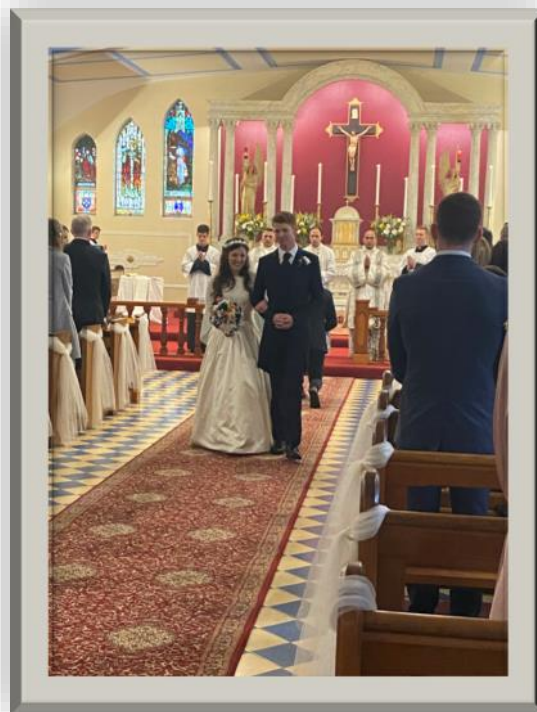
The Gippsland *REGION* results are listed below:

Chara Wangkaew	High Jump = 1st Long Jump = 1st Shot Put = 1st 15B RELAY = 1st
Jacob Smit	Hurdles = 3rd High Jump = 5th 400m = 5th
Joseph Zaccari	Shot Put = 2nd Discus = 6th
Joachim Hayward	15B RELAY = 1st
Samuel Mitchell	Shot Put = 3rd Javelin = 4th
Deffy Wangkaew	Discus = 2nd 15B RELAY = 1st
Louis Ward	15B RELAY = 1st
Aaron Braaksma	High Jump = 5th
Isaac Braaksma	Javelin = 1st
Theodore Zaccari	Participated
Judy Abraham	Javelin = 3rd
Madeleine Hovens	200m = 3rd
Rebecca Fitzpatrick	Javelin = 4th Shotput = 1st Discus = 1st
Josephine MacDonald	Javelin = 1st

WEDDING

Our congratulations to our teachers (both are past students of the College) Mr & Mrs Vincent & Eliza Van Strijp who received the sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday 10th September at Corpus Christi Church.

We wish you both all the very best for the future.



Secondary Girls	Secondary Boys	Primary
<p>MODESTY</p> <p>Monique de Castella, Genevieve McLean, Keva Perez-Melei, Zuri Perez-Melei, Josephine Soefting, Philomena Sprowell, Isabelle Taylor, Bethany Verleg, Emily Houston, Emily Morgan, Lucy Armstrong</p>	<p>MODESTY</p> <p>Mark Obrador, Santino Tommasi, Sebastian Hayward, Andrew Higgins, Tony Nagaraj, Dorian Hicks, Daniel de Castella, Joseph Hardiman, Maarten Braaksma, Myles Youngman, Thomas Davis, Joseph Hovens, Hugo Ward, Chara Wangkaew</p>	<p>MODESTY</p> <p>Hosanna Reagan, Brennan Hayward, Majella Verleg, Sandra Malaty, Annabelle de Castella, Sebastian Upston</p>
<p>Respect</p>	<p>Respect</p> <p>Mark Obrador, Santino Tommasi,</p>	<p>Diligence</p> <p>Holly Wesa, Patrick Hardiman, Leo Mandarano, Luis Obrador, Sophia Borg, Olivia Fitzpatrick, Maverick Friehe, Ryder Youngman, Christopher Freriks, Helena Soefting, Jack Lewis, Tiffany MacDonell, Gemma Verleg, Annabelle de Castella, Leo McLean, Joseph Obrador, Allegra Pravidur, Sebastian Hau Kautai, Emmaline Hayward, Karas Mikhaeil, Joseph Reagan, Marius Zaccari, Elizabeth Davis, Samuel Soefting, Jenna Lewis, Faith Mascarenhas, Noah Taveira</p>
<p>Perserverence - Primary</p> <p>Verity Gallagher, Charlie Lewis, Hunter MacDonell, Annabelle de Castella, Joseph Obrador, Emmaline Hayward, Karas Mikhaeil, Jacey Perez-Melei, Louis Nivet, Marcel Ward</p>	<p>Responsibility - Sec. Boys</p> <p>Ignatius Attard</p> <p>Iniative - Sec. Boys</p> <p>Ignatius Attard</p>	<p>Iniative - Sec. Boys</p> <p>Ignatius Attard</p>
<p>Responsibility - Primary</p> <p>Cristina Mandarano, Timothy McLean, Mark Falts, Adrian Soefting, Annabelle de Castella, Joseph Obrador, Sebastian Hau Kautai, Emmaline Hayward, Karas Mikhaeil, Jacey Perez-Melei, Louis Nivet, Jenna Lewis, Faith Mascarenhas</p>	<p>Leadership - Primary</p> <p>Sophia MacDonald, Carmella Nivet, Evangeline Nivet, Annabelle de Castella, Joseph Obrador, Marius Zaccari, Faith Mascarenhas,</p>	<p>Iniative - Primary</p> <p>Thea Attard, Gus Alexander, Joseph Obrador, Allegra Pravidur, Karas Mikhaeil, Joseph Reagan, Elizabeth Davis, Samuel Soefting</p>

**Secondhand Uniform Shop
Operating Hours**

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am

Monday 2:45pm - 3:30pm

If you have items to donate or sell please drop at uniform shop during these hours.

The office no longer accepts items therefore please drop at the shop on a Monday or contact Michelle on 0468 438 404.

LOST PROPERTY

This Friday afternoon all lost property will be set up on tables out the front of the office. Please make the time to check if anything belongs to your children or to your household. We have such an array of items including even a sleeping bag from the Girls Camp.

All unclaimed uniform items will go to the Second Hand Shop for resale. All other items will be donated to a local charity shop.

The SEVEN SORROWS of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(15th September)

The Church twice commemorates the sorrows of its heavenly Mother. The Friday of Passion week, since the 15th century, has also been dedicated by the universal Church to

Her *Compassion*. Why is this so? To understand this double liturgy, we must know that Mary is also the Mother of the Mystical Body. The present feast was instituted by Pius VII after his return from his captivity and exile, which lasted from 1809 to 1814. Christ no longer suffers, and for Our Lady also, all suffering as we understand it has ceased. Nonetheless, the prophet Jeremias in his Lamentations, asks: "To whom shall You be compared, O Virgin? Your affliction is like the ocean." A mother who is happy in her home weeps just the same over the sorrows of her children. The statues and pictures of Mary all over Europe wept before the Revolution in France, and Her statues weep again today, in many places. The Passion of Christ continues in His elect, in particular in His Vicar on earth, from whom He does not separate Himself, and against whom the force of hell is deployed unceasingly. The



mysterious *compassion* of the Mother is forever acquired for the Mystical Body of Her Son, which must reproduce the divine death in its human nature, elevated above its natural condition by the superhuman power of grace.

Mary's great sorrows began at the prediction of Simeon that a sword would transpierce Her heart. Soon afterwards, She was obliged to flee with the newborn Infant, already object of a fatal search. She lost Him in the temple for three inexpressibly painful days; She met Him on the road to Calvary, and the sight indeed pierced Her heart. She saw Him die, heard His final cry, and witnessed the opening of His side with the effusion of His last drops of blood, mingled with

water; She received in Her arms the inert body of the most beautiful of the sons of men. Finally, She was obliged to depose Him in a tomb, leave Him there and return with Her adopted son, John, to a deicidal Jerusalem.

The Queen of Martyrs has never ceased to encourage Her children on earth to bear their own crosses, which complement the Passion of Christ. He suffered first the ordinary contradictions of life; for three years He was taunted and regarded as a menace by those who should have recognized Him and His mission. He knew hunger, cold and fatigue; He slept so heavily in a boat amid a tempest, that we can only suppose He was exhausted. He knew what it was to be abandoned in need and to lose, to the empire of various passions, followers He had called His. Christ is our forerunner in all human sorrows and difficulties. Mary, as His Mother, offered to God with Him all the afflictions of His earthly life, and She continues to offer those of the Church, for its sanctification, for the souls in Purgatory and the salvation of souls.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
12 Sep	13 Sep	14 Sep	15 Sep	16 Sep - Term End 1pm Drama Comp
3 Oct Term 4 commences Yr 12 Mock Exam - Ancient History / VPE	4 Oct Yr 12 Mock Exam - Psychology	5 Oct Yr 12 Mock Exam - Biology 3:30pm P/T Interviews	6 Oct	7 Oct Feast of the Holy Rosary
10 Oct	11 Oct	12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct Yr 12 Mock Exam - Religion
17 Oct	18 Oct Yr 12 Final Day	19 Oct Yr 12 Mass & Breakfast	20 Oct	21 Oct
24 Oct	25 Oct Yr 11 Exams Commence	26 Oct VCE English Exam	27 Oct	28 Oct All Saints Parade VCE Biology / Further Exams

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

TERM DATES

2022

3rd Term: 19th July - 16th September
4th Term: 3rd October - 9th December

2023

1st Term: 30th January - 5th April
2nd Term: 26th April - 23rd June
3rd Term: 18th July - 15th September
4th Term: 2nd October - 8th December