

Important Dates

Pupil Free Day (No School)

Thursday 14 December 2023

Pupil Free Day (No School)

Friday 15 December 2023

Term 1, 2024 begins

Monday 29 January 2024

From the Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have come to the end of another year, which continued with surprises right to the end with unseasonal weather interrupting a number of our final year events like Sports Day and our Christmas Carols. Thank you for your understanding around changing these events around to fit in with the weather. We were blessed with a small window of opportunity to hold Sports Day on Monday of this week, with soaking rain and wind immediately prior to and immediately after the event. A big thank you to Mr Morgado and the staff for organising a great day. The children had a wonderful time and competed with effort, teamwork and respect. Congratulations to McAuley who were fortunate to win the Sports Cup and the Spirit Trophy. Congratulations also to the 100m winners, Rahwa and Callum and the 800m winners, Rahwa and Najma (tie) and Moses. We will look to have Sports Day in Term 1 next year, although that doesn't necessarily guarantee good weather!

In this season of Advent, we are full of anticipation and expectation as we recall the birth of Jesus more than 2000 years ago. Why do we remember him specifically, when we don't necessarily remember many other people from his time? This simple carpenter from Nazareth has had such an impact on people, all around the world, for all this time. I think it is because he challenged the people of the times and his message, his Gospels, still challenge us today to think differently, to love and care for everyone we meet. My hope is that our students learn about and live out our 'Mercy' values of Compassion, Courage, Hospitality, Justice, Respect and Service. By doing this they will continue the example that Jesus has given us. I can not think of a single reason why we would not want our children to live out these values every day. It is your job as parents and our job as a school to nurture and encourage these values in them. Congratulations to the Coolock team for winning the Mercy Cup today, based on displaying the Mercy values throughout the 2023 school year.

You would have received your child's school report on Thursday and details of their teacher(s) for next year. I would like to congratulate your children for their efforts this year with their learning and with the relationships they have developed. I offer a heartfelt thanks to our committed staff who do such an amazing job, every day, in caring for your children and carrying out their professional duties of teaching, supporting and guiding those placed in their care. It is such a challenging yet rewarding position to be in and I admire the way they front up every day with a smile on their face for every child. Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank each one of you for the contribution you have made to our school this year, no matter how small or large. I would like to especially thank and farewell the following staff and students who will be leaving our school to begin the next step in their particular life journey:

Sebestyen Maglai, Janie Gosling, Sameera Sekhon, Cloe Bowman, Elizabeth Iliev, Austin, Callum, Callum, Felicity, Janzen, Rahwa, Tahnay, Taneesha, Tayler, Kaysha, Kirah, Harrison, Rayan and Dylan. May God's blessing be upon each one of you at this time and into the future.

Please remember that St Thomas More School offers Vacation Care for those families who may require that service. We do have some application forms available in our Front Office if required.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the holiday time with your children and stay safe if you are travelling. Thank you for your friendship and for entrusting your children to us this year. Please remember that school resumes on Monday 29 January!

Kind regards

Peter Mercer

Head of School

'Shaping our future together'

Recent News

From the APRIM

Liturgical Calendar Information

Special celebrations that we focus on during classroom and whole school prayer throughout term 4 and those that come up in our liturgical calendar include:

3/12 1st Sunday of Advent

10/12 2nd Sunday of Advent

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

Last week we celebrated our end of year thanksgiving Mass. Students shared:

'Today we celebrate that we will soon come to the end of the school year for 2023, and we want to celebrate by giving thanks to God for all that has been. We give thanks today with joy and gratitude for our families, friends and staff who have guided us, inspired us, challenged us, and encouraged us to be better people this year.'

During our celebration, Fr. Santosh blessed our Year 6 students and wished them well for the next part of their educational journey.

The Season of Advent

Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered. It is a season of joyful expectation. We take this time every year to practice how to receive Jesus every day, of our lives. We remember the call of Jesus to his followers to make our world a peaceful and loving place. As you move through the Advent season and prepare for Christmas you might like to consider the following:

First Week of Advent

How can I be ready for Jesus?

What can I do to be prepared?

Second Week of Advent

Who do I know that shows by the way they live their lives that Jesus is an important part of their lives.

What is it about their lives that I admire?

Can I live like that?

Third Week of Advent

How do I continue the healing work of Jesus today?

Sports Day 2023!

Thank you to all our staff, students, and families for your contribution to an amazing Sports Day.

Congratulations goes to McAuley (Red Team) for achieving the highest number of points and winning the House Cup and also the The Kath Platten Spirit of Sport Trophy, demonstrating the school values and excellent sportsmanship across the day. We would also like to congratulate our Fred Platten Trophy 800m winners Moses Kwizere, and both Rahwa Habtesilasie and Najma Azimi.

We would like to thank the teachers, co-educators, parents, and students who helped throughout the day. The House Captains Janzen Abella (Fitzpatrick), Tina Vorabouth (Coolock), and Callum McCafferty (McAuley) who did an amazing job and dedicated hours of practice for our Team songs, health hustle, setting up early in the morning, as well as supporting teachers at events during the day.

We saw our school values and participation in abundance, and we are so proud of all our students.

Kind Regards,

Cristian Morgado





**THE COMMUNITY HUB WILL
BE CLOSED FROM
12th DEC 2023 - 30th JAN 2024**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO MADE 2023 SO AMAZING!
HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON
AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!**



**THE COMMUNITY HUB TEAM
Kerryn, Sarah, Diana, Elizabeth, Tanisha and Belinda**

COMING IN TERM 1 - 2024

***LIMITED SPOTS
AVAILABLE
*Register
Now!**



FREE 6 WEEK PROGRAM FOR ADULTS - FREE CHILD MINDING PROVIDED



NESTTM
**NUTRITION EDUCATION
& SKILLS TRAINING**

-  **HEALTHY EATING**
-  **EASY COOKING**
-  **BUDGET FRIENDLY
LIFE SKILLS**

NEST also stands for nice
easy simple tips!

**ST MARY MAGDALENE'S SCHOOL - KITCHEN/YARNING PLACE
SAVE YOUR SPOT - CONTACT KERRY: 0437 609 976**















Little Maggie's Playgroup



TUESDAY MORNINGS

*DURING SCHOOL TERMS

RETURNING 30TH JANUARY 2024

9am

Please
Bring a Snack
and
Water



Located at 82 Fairfield Road, Elizabeth Grove 5112

