



St Thomas More School NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 1 Thursday 31 January Website: www.sttmore.catholic.edu.au Email: info@sttmore.catholic.edu.au

Upcoming Events

Friday 1 February

Whole School Assembly
Welcoming new
students to the school.
All welcome
9am Jubilee Hall

Tuesday 5 February

Principal Tour 10am

Kids Connect Playgroup
9-11am Room 18

Wednesday 6 February

Early Learning years
program 3-5 Yrs old
9.30 -11.30am

Wednesday 13 February

Mass 3/4 G
10.15am Jubilee Hall all
welcome

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.

Principal's Report



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

Welcome to Term 1! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. The students appear relaxed and excited to be back at school and it was great to hear some of their holiday stories. Holidays are always a great opportunity for everyone to recharge their batteries and Term 1 looks like being a very exciting and busy term!

We welcome Kyle, Bior, Chelsea, Blake, Kuol, Jada, Madeline, Chika, Zadakia, Domenic, Silas, Vung, Achok, Hinea, Ethan, Molly, Myles, Allison, Behzad, Zavia, Dylan, Chase, Hunter and their families. We hope their association at St Thomas More will be rewarding and an enjoyable experience in our school/parish community.

St Thomas More School

Principal

Mr Chris Platten

Acting Deputy Principal

Mrs Sonia Kilmister

Acting APRIM

Ms Leah Williams

Telephone: 8255 1699

Fax: 8287 0241

OSHC: 8255 1626



Principal's Report

We also welcome Molly Jeffreys who will be our Year 4 class teacher and Sarah Boraso who will be teaching in both Year 5/6 classes. We trust that their time at St Thomas More will be richly rewarding.

In other news, changes have been made for the 2019 School Year. Shaun O'Leary will be Acting Principal at St Joseph's School, Ottoway for Term 1. Sonia Kilmister will be Deputy Principal and we welcome back Leah Williams as Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM) for Term 1. Megan Pollard will teach Italian together with The Arts program.

2019 CLASSROOM/TEACHING STRUCTURE

Reception/Yr.1: Connie Carter

Reception/Yr.1: Ashlee Stanley

Year 1/2: Lisa Crossley

Year 2: Anne Mannella/Marie D'occhio

Year 3/4: Janie Gosling

Year 4: Molly Jeffreys

Year 5/6: Fabian Chevalier/Sarah Boraso

Year 5/6: Jess Jenkins/Sarah Boraso

APRIM: Leah Williams

Deputy Principal: Sonia Kilmister

Principal: Chris Platten

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Italian/The Arts: Megan Pollard

Physical Ed: Fabian Chevalier

English as an Additional Language: Jess Jenkins

Inclusive Ed: Sonia Kilmister

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Chris Platten and I am very familiar with the Elizabeth area. I grew up in Elizabeth Grove with my parents and 8 siblings, most of whom still live in the area. I went to primary school at St Mary Magdalene's and secondary school at Thomas More College.

I have worked in Catholic Education since 1993 when I began my teaching career at St Augustine's Parish School, Salisbury. My involvement in Catholic Schools as a teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal has seen me work in a number of Adelaide schools, with my last position being at St Joseph's School, Ottoway where I was Principal for 7 years.

My wife, Anne-Marie and I have two sons, Nick, 19, and Jack, 17. Jack is about to begin his final year of school in Year 12 and is busy getting ready for the year.

I am really looking forward to working with you all at St Thomas More. This will be my second experience at the school; in 2006 I held the position of Acting Deputy Principal for 6 months before I went on to work as Deputy at St Augustine's for the next 5 and a half years. I have already met the staff and some of the students and am looking forward to getting to know all members of the school community as the new school year begins. I encourage you to come and introduce yourselves with your child, or children, as this will help me to connect families and students and begin to learn everyone's names.



Principal's Report

ADJUSTING TO THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL

Back to school can be a very emotional time for children. For first-time students, being away from parents, adjusting to a new environment with new people, and adapting to a new routine can be overwhelming. You can help by talking about the positive aspects of school. Tell stories about your happy, funny and enjoyable experiences at school. Talk to older siblings about ways they can help so they don't tell scary stories.

- Establish regular bedtime and wake-up routines. Children, including teenagers, need plenty of sleep. They may be more tired than usual and need time to relax. You may find that rather than becoming more grown up, young children might regress or become more difficult or defiant, in response to the stress of the new routines.
- Celebrate the start of school with a special meal or outing. Make the experience as happy and positive as you can.
- Children normally shed a few tears when they part from their parents. Try not to extend your stay because it can prolong and intensify the child's reaction. This behavior may last a few days or weeks. Teachers are prepared to handle the situation and if alerted that a child may react to separation, they can give the student a special job or a partner in the class to help with the adjustment period. Even if children have been to school previously, they might still find their initial weeks a period of change.

I would like to thank the many people who have made me feel welcome at St Thomas More School community. I have already met with the students and am looking forward to meeting families. I certainly have a great sense of excitement and optimism this year and beyond.

Staff and I have had lots of meetings and it is because of their passion and enthusiasm that the planning for 2019 should be smooth.

There is much to celebrate and to recognise the rich heritage of our past, the gifts of the present and the vision for the future. It is a great privilege to be Principal of St Thomas More School and I look forward to being part of this community. I encourage you to be an active member in our community and take up every opportunity possible to be involved in your child's education.

Working in Partnership,

Chris Platten



Deputy Report

Dear Families

Welcome

I would like to welcome all new students and families to St Thomas More School and I look forward to seeing all the familiar faces from our school community again this year. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and some time for rest and relaxation. 2019 promises to be a great year, with the courtyard area nearing the completion stage. I am sure the students will love utilising this new space. Welcome our new Principal, Chris Platten and Leah Williams who returns to us this term as APRIM.

Acting Deputy Principal

As you may be aware, I will once again take on the Deputy Principal role for this term whilst Shaun is Acting Principal at St Joseph's School at Ottoway. I look forward to working with Leah Williams, who will take my place this term as Acting APRIM. Leah was with us last year for two terms in the role of APRIM and made some wonderful connections with the community. I also look forward to working with Chris Platten, our new Principal.

The Positive partnerships Program

The Positive Partnerships Program, focussing on students on the Autism Spectrum, will continue this year in the form of a parent support group, initiated for parents to meet on a regular basis with the aim of a casual catch up and chat and general support for each other and a staff committee group, designed to work with and support staff with any strategies relating to students on the Autism Spectrum. If you are a parent of a child on the Autism Spectrum and you would like to meet up with other parents, please contact me through the office. A meeting will be scheduled in the first half of this term and I will contact all parents who may be interested with the date and time.

Peer Mediation Program

This year as for previous years, we will run the Peer Mediation Program for our seniors, Year 5/6 students, who will be trained as Peer Mediators to assist younger students in the yard who may be experiencing minor conflict, to resolve it peacefully. The Year 5/6 students will be trained in the upcoming few weeks to take on this responsibility.

Regards

Sonia Kilmister

Acting Deputy Principal



School fees and school card

Fees

A reminder that School Fees are billed at the beginning of the year and payable over the first three terms, unless payment is organised by instalments over the school year. (This can be done through the school office).

Many families choose a direct debit from their chosen account or Centrepay to be able to pay the school fees over the course of the year.

If you have any questions about how to set this up please see Sue in the front office.

School Card Scheme

The School Card Scheme administered by the Department of Education and Children's Services is a scheme to provide assistance for low-income families towards the cost of school books, stationery and other basic school requisites. Families are required to apply for School Card discount at the beginning of each school year.







This decision is made by the Government, independent of St Thomas More School.

School Card Application Forms are now available and can be obtained from our school Front Office or online at :

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/school-card-application-form-a.pdf?v=1547006889>

Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  laptops & tablets |  lessons & activities |
|  uniforms & shoes |  books & supplies |
|  sports fees & gear |  camps & excursions |

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*




Contact
your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone or SMS
your name and postcode to
1300 610 355

Email
SalisburyPlayfordSP@
thesmithfamily.com.au

Online
saverplus.org.au

Find us on Facebook 



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.



Instrumental Music Lessons
On School Campus!



Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit PMI's website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus – with lessons typically during school hours
- Only \$16.95 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

P: 1300 362 824 E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au



ELY

Early Learning Years Program



**St Thomas More
Primary School
Elizabeth Park**

**Wednesdays
9.30 - 11.30am**

**Catherine McAuley
School Craigmore**

NEW

**Tuesdays
9.30 - 11.30am
Wednesdays
9.30 - 11.30am**

FREE Pre-School program for 3-5 year olds.



Through a combination of discovery learning and structured activities, our ELY program provides opportunities for children to develop some of the key developmental skills, prior to starting Kindy and School



To book your place or make an enquiry, please
contact: eccp.hello@gmail.com
or Jo Williamson: 0427 996 352
www.elizabethcommunityconnections.com

playford
communities for
children
ANGLICARESA

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



School Newsletter

Posted on school's webpage at the following link:

<http://www.sttmore.catholic.edu.au>

OR

St Thomas More Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreElizabethPark/>

OR

Provide your email address and a copy will be sent each fortnight (see slip below)

OR

Request printed copy (see slip below)

**PRINTED COPIES OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE
DISTRIBUTED IF REQUESTED**

Please return to the Front Office

REQUEST FOR EMAILED COPY OF NEWSLETTER

I / We would like an emailed copy of the Newsletter provided to:

Email address:

.....

Student's Name: Class:

Signed: Date: / / 2019

REQUEST FOR PRINTED COPY OF NEWSLETTER

I / We would like a printed copy of the Newsletter provided to:

Student's Name: Class:

Signed: Date: / / 2019

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