

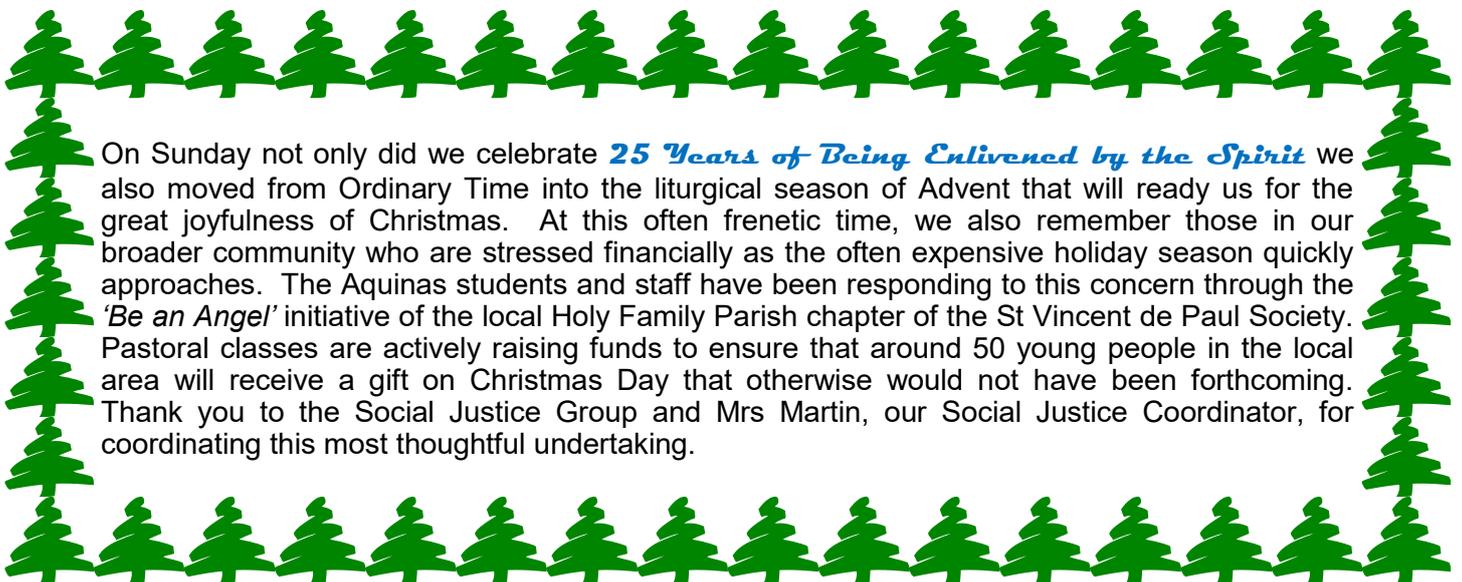


AQUINAS CATHOLIC COLLEGE MENAI NEWSLETTER

4th December, 2017

Vol.25.No.35

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

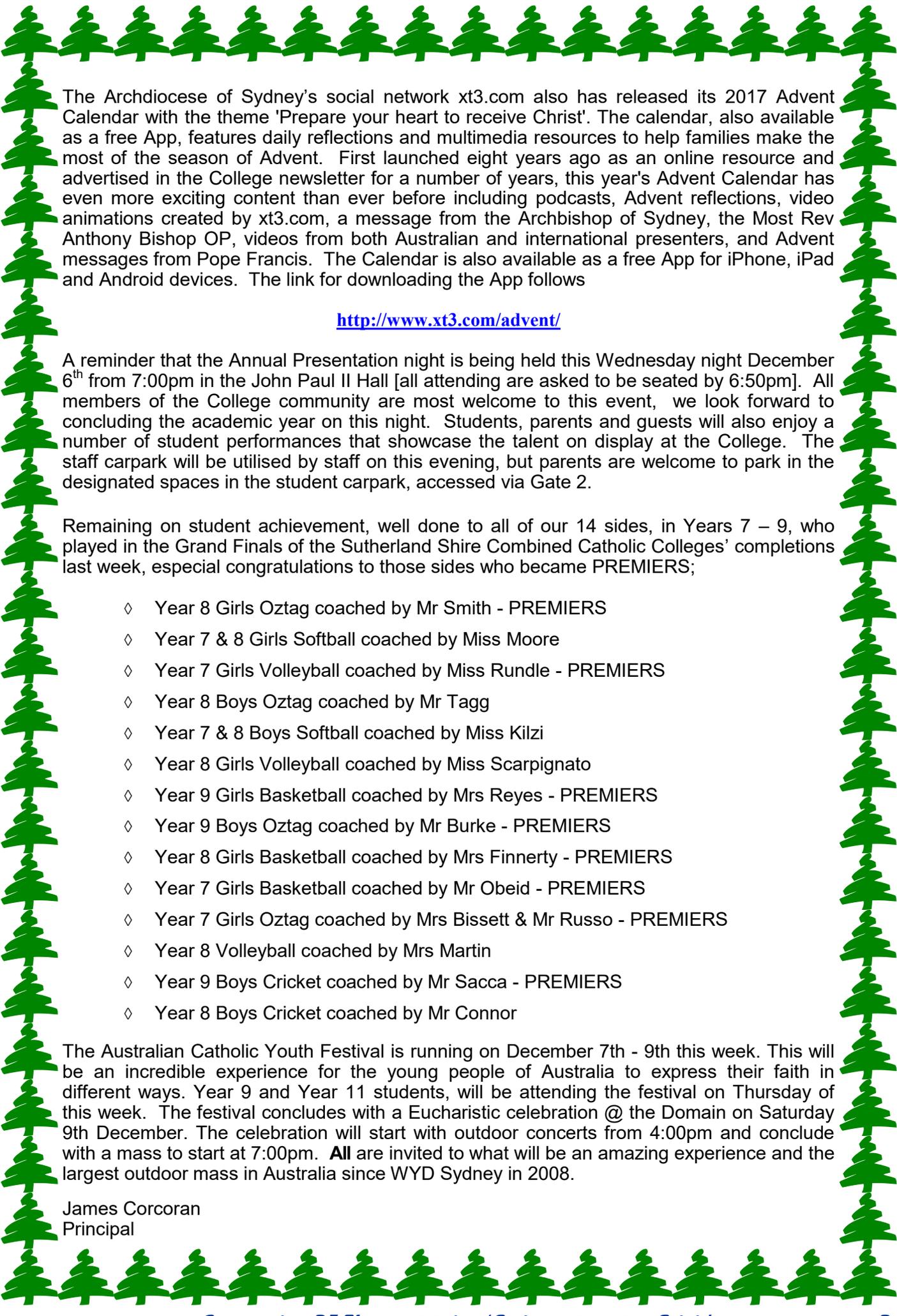


On Sunday not only did we celebrate *25 Years of Being Enlivened by the Spirit* we also moved from Ordinary Time into the liturgical season of Advent that will ready us for the great joyfulness of Christmas. At this often frenetic time, we also remember those in our broader community who are stressed financially as the often expensive holiday season quickly approaches. The Aquinas students and staff have been responding to this concern through the 'Be an Angel' initiative of the local Holy Family Parish chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Pastoral classes are actively raising funds to ensure that around 50 young people in the local area will receive a gift on Christmas Day that otherwise would not have been forthcoming. Thank you to the Social Justice Group and Mrs Martin, our Social Justice Coordinator, for coordinating this most thoughtful undertaking.

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Celebrating 25 Years of being 'Enlivened by the Spirit'



The Archdiocese of Sydney's social network xt3.com also has released its 2017 Advent Calendar with the theme 'Prepare your heart to receive Christ'. The calendar, also available as a free App, features daily reflections and multimedia resources to help families make the most of the season of Advent. First launched eight years ago as an online resource and advertised in the College newsletter for a number of years, this year's Advent Calendar has even more exciting content than ever before including podcasts, Advent reflections, video animations created by xt3.com, a message from the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev Anthony Bishop OP, videos from both Australian and international presenters, and Advent messages from Pope Francis. The Calendar is also available as a free App for iPhone, iPad and Android devices. The link for downloading the App follows

<http://www.xt3.com/advent/>

A reminder that the Annual Presentation night is being held this Wednesday night December 6th from 7:00pm in the John Paul II Hall [all attending are asked to be seated by 6:50pm]. All members of the College community are most welcome to this event, we look forward to concluding the academic year on this night. Students, parents and guests will also enjoy a number of student performances that showcase the talent on display at the College. The staff carpark will be utilised by staff on this evening, but parents are welcome to park in the designated spaces in the student carpark, accessed via Gate 2.

Remaining on student achievement, well done to all of our 14 sides, in Years 7 – 9, who played in the Grand Finals of the Sutherland Shire Combined Catholic Colleges' completions last week, especial congratulations to those sides who became PREMIERS;

- ◇ Year 8 Girls Oztag coached by Mr Smith - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 7 & 8 Girls Softball coached by Miss Moore
- ◇ Year 7 Girls Volleyball coached by Miss Rundle - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 8 Boys Oztag coached by Mr Tagg
- ◇ Year 7 & 8 Boys Softball coached by Miss Kilzi
- ◇ Year 8 Girls Volleyball coached by Miss Scarpignato
- ◇ Year 9 Girls Basketball coached by Mrs Reyes - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 9 Boys Oztag coached by Mr Burke - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 8 Girls Basketball coached by Mrs Finnerty - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 7 Girls Basketball coached by Mr Obeid - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 7 Girls Oztag coached by Mrs Bissett & Mr Russo - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 8 Volleyball coached by Mrs Martin
- ◇ Year 9 Boys Cricket coached by Mr Sacca - PREMIERS
- ◇ Year 8 Boys Cricket coached by Mr Connor

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is running on December 7th - 9th this week. This will be an incredible experience for the young people of Australia to express their faith in different ways. Year 9 and Year 11 students, will be attending the festival on Thursday of this week. The festival concludes with a Eucharistic celebration @ the Domain on Saturday 9th December. The celebration will start with outdoor concerts from 4:00pm and conclude with a mass to start at 7:00pm. **All** are invited to what will be an amazing experience and the largest outdoor mass in Australia since WYD Sydney in 2008.

James Corcoran
Principal



Assistant Principal

Year 7-10 End of Year Parent, Teacher, Student Interview Bookings

The website for online bookings is: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/>

End of Year Parent, Teacher, Student interviews (optional) booking code is: **mtqm8**

Bookings will only be open for two hours from 9am to 11am on Wednesday 13th December.

All interviews will be conducted on **Thursday 14th December from 9:00am - 10:30am** in the Mackillop Learning Common. Please note that there will be no formal classes on these days. Students are expected to be dressed in full school uniform.

Students will need to assist their parents/carers in selecting the teachers they intend to make an appointment with. Interviews are limited to 5 minutes, any additional time for an interview can be organised with the teacher by calling the College Office on 9543 0188 and arranging a suitable appointment time during school hours.

This Week	
Event	Date
Aquinas Catholic College Silver Jubilee Celebrations	Sunday 3 December
Year 10 - Mock Interviews	Monday 4 December
Year 9 Science Incursion - Forensic Science	Tuesday 5 December
Year 9 Mass - 8:20am	Wednesday 6 December
Year 7 Science Incursion - Taronga Zoomobile	
Year 10 Excursion - Jamberoo (Last day Year 10)	
Aquinas Awards Evening	
Senior Constable Dean Perkins - Cyber Safety (Year 7 & 8)	Thursday 7 December
Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney (Year 9)	
Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney (Year 11)	Friday 8 December
Next Week	
Event	Date
Year 7 Excursion - Italian (Green)	Monday 11 December
Christmas Liturgy - Period 5 - Holy Family Church	Tuesday 12 December
Years 7 - 9 Picnic Days	Wednesday 13 December
Last Day Years 7 - 9	
HSC Results Released	Thursday 14 December
Optional Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews - 9.00am - 10.35am	
ATARs Released	Friday 15 December

Damien Kerr, **Assistant Principal**



You are invited....

....to join us at Holy Family Parish for a night of Sing-a-long

Christmas Carolling!

On the evening of December 24th from 8:30pm, we bring in the joy of Christmas with an hour of Christmas carols followed by our ***Christmas Vigil Mass*** at 9:30pm. We would be delighted if you could lend your voices and join us in this celebration of Jesus' birth to bring in Christmas with your family and fellow parishioners.



YOU ARE INVITED TO
AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST CATHOLIC
MASS
SINCE WORLD YOUTH DAY SYDNEY 2008

The Domain, Sydney

9 DECEMBER 2017
www.acyf.org.au

Image © Denise Boyd



1 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you in regard to our ongoing preparations for World Youth Day XXXIV Panama. To date there has been significant interest in WYD Panama 2019.

Indicative Pricing

We are aware that cost is a significant factor for families in confirming their interest for WYD and in deciding upon a preferred pilgrimage option. As mentioned at the information nights, the costs for Panama are more expensive than previous WYDs. Until recently, Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) has not been in a position to publicised these costs as we have been working with the travel provider (Cosmos) in order to reduce them.

By now, schools may have communicated indicative prices since their release late last week, however, at this point in time I feel that it is important to bring these costs to your attention.

- Panama via Washington DC: \$8,918
- Panama via Mexico City: \$9,245
- Panama via Peru: \$10,492

These are indicative costs, and we have been advised that it is highly unlikely that they will increase.

The costs outlined above are largely due to two significant factors. Firstly, air pricing is unavailable until 11 months prior to travel, which has meant that the tour operator has had to provide an estimate of 'flight costs'. This estimate is a 'worst case scenario'. Secondly, hotel accommodation is the only suitable option for Australian pilgrims travelling to Panama.

Next Steps – Confirmation of Interest and Deposits

Due to the challenges in confirming indicative prices, Cosmos has revised the deadline for when a commitment of 'final' numbers is required. Confirmations of Interest will now be due on **Monday, 26 March, 2018**, along with a \$500 deposit. In early March, prior to deposits being due, updated indicative pricing which includes flight costs from airlines will be made available. Sydney Catholic Schools is accountable for the 'final' numbers committed to Cosmos, therefore deposits paid become non-refundable from Monday, 26 March, 2018. Confirmation of Interest forms will be available from the beginning of Term 1, 2018.

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 EASTERN REGION 43 Banks Avenue Daceyville NSW 2032 • Ph: (02) 9344 5000
 INNER WESTERN REGION 3 Keating Street Lidcombe NSW 2141 • Locked B99 83 Lidcombe NSW 1925 • Ph: (02) 9643 5600
 SOUTHERN REGION 300 The River Road Riverley NSW 2212 • Ph: (02) 9722 7000
www.syd.catholic.schools.nsw.edu.au



Sydney Catholic Schools

At the time of deposit, systemic school students will receive a \$500 subsidy off the cost of their pilgrimage on behalf of Sydney Catholic Schools. This subsidy is not available to students from congregational schools attending WYD.

WYD Raffle

Sydney Catholic Schools is committed to supporting families in journeying towards WYD Panama. In early Term 1, 2018, the WYD 2019 Car Raffle will be launched. This is the major fundraising initiative offered for all schools across the Archdiocese to support students who wish to attend WYD Panama 2019. Once students have paid their deposit they will be able to start selling raffle tickets and fundraising for WYD. At previous WYDs there have been many cases where students have raised over half the cost of their total pilgrimage through the sale of raffle tickets. Local fundraising strategies are also encouraged at a school level.

Post-school Pilgrimage Group – Year 12, 2018

Students graduating Year 12 at the end of 2018 will have the opportunity to attend WYD as a part of a dedicated post-school pilgrimage group. This group will be lead and facilitated by Sydney Catholic Schools. There will be one dedicated pilgrimage option offered to this group, Panama via Mexico City. These students will follow the same registration and payment process as all other student pilgrims. This post-school group will also have the opportunity to access fundraising through the car raffle, they will however not be eligible for the \$500 subsidy.

Further information regarding World Youth Day and its associated pilgrimages will be communicated in early Term 1, 2018. If you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school's Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Neylan
WYD Panama 2019 Pilgrimage Coordinator
Sydney Catholic Schools

Learning and Curriculum Matters

Year 12 Holiday Schedule

As the HSC is now well underway for Year 12 students, they move into the summer break with a number of preparatory and revision tasks to ensure that Term 1 begins in the smoothest manner possible.

Every student should be in a position to finalise their HSC notes for their first modules/topics/units of work and they will also have an extensive reading list to complete for their English courses. In addition to this, each subject will have allocated specific tasks to be completed over the school break. The best way to go about these tasks is to begin early and to allocate a few hours each morning to school work, leaving the rest of the day for holidays and relaxation.

Students return in Term 1 to assessments and **examinations in Weeks 8 and 9**, so timely preparation is key to success and to minimising stress.

In short, no HSC student will have 'nothing to do' across the January break. A combination of school tasks, work, family/friends and exercise time will ensure that the 2018 HSC year is as personally successful as it can be for each student.

This Week's Assessment Tasks

Year	Subject	Date
12	Business Studies	05.12.2017
12	Mathematics	05.12.2017
12	Mathematics General 2	05.12.2017
12	Mathematics Extension 2	05.12.2017
12	Ancient History	06.12.2017
12	PDHPE	06.12.2017
12	Industrial Technology Timber	06.12.2017
12	Drama	06.12.2017

Annual Presentation Night

The Presentation night for Years 7-11 students will be held in the John Paul II Hall tomorrow (Wednesday 6th December) night at 7pm. All award recipients have been notified via emails sent to both parents and students.

Lisa Mirabello
Leader of Teaching and Learning

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Congratulations to Benjamin Capovilla of Year 10 who recently received the Lions Youth of the Year Award.

Many organisations rely on volunteers and couldn't function without them. Volunteers like Benjamin exemplify the principle – selflessness. Students and people volunteer for the benefit of our society and local communities.

Benjamin was involved in the Recycle for Sight/ Eyeglass Recycling Program where he collected unwanted glasses for disadvantaged communities enabling them to lead productive working lives, support their families, attend school and advance their education.



Dominic Ritchie
Pastoral Care Coordinator

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Club Central Menai and Woolworths Menai have joined forces to make Christmas special for struggling families by collecting donations of non-perishable food items.



These will be used to prepare Christmas hampers that will be distributed by St Vincent De Paul in the Menai District in December.

About the campaign:

- Donations of canned or non-perishable food items will be accepted from now until Friday 15 December
- There are drop off points at Club Central Menai in the foyer, or at the Woolworths Menai store
- Examples of appropriate donations include: Christmas cake/puddings, fruit mince pies, tinned ham, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, long life custard, lollies, chocolates, biscuits, chips etc.



2018 Migration from SEQTA to Compass

In 2018 Aquinas Catholic College is undertaking a new student information system called Compass. It is a cloud based program that will be implemented in all Sydney Catholic Schools, over the next 3 years. At the beginning of Term 1 next year we will be opening the Student and Parent Portals and you will have access to parts of Compass. Throughout 2018 you will be sent instructional guides and information about Compass via the College newsletter.

The Compass Parent Portal is an integrated, online portal that allows you to access up-to-date and meaningful information about our school and your child's progress. Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Communicate with your child's teachers
- Update your family contact information
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- Monitor your child's homework and assessment tasks
- Download and view your child's Semester Reports and Progress Reports
- Book Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

You will initially be able to view your child's attendance and provide reasons why your child is absent or late. Parents will also be able to see any relevant Aquinas Catholic College News items, a school calendar, assessment dates and school documentation. You will also be able to access your child's reports on the portal as well, all previous SEQTA reports have been uploaded into Compass and will be accessible to view online and download as a PDF. **Parents are also encouraged to download all SEQTA reports before SEQTA Engage and SEQTA Learn access is no longer available at the end of this year.**

Early in 2018 every family will receive a unique printed Compass login letter, you will be sent an email notification alerting you to the arrival of the letter. Please ensure the letter is only opened by a parent and that the details are kept private. The letter will also provide you with the direct link to the Aquinas Compass Parent Portal and instruction for downloading the Compass App.

For more information please read the brochure, "*Welcome to Compass - a guide for Parents and Families*" found here: tinyurl.com/SecondaryParentBrochure

Jessica Fraser
Librarian (Information and Innovation Coordinator)

Enlivened by the Spirit

• W H O L E N E S S • H O P E • J U S T I C E • R E V E L A T I O N •

Success in the Spark Creative Writing Competition!

The Spark Creative Writing competition has been completed for its second year, with winners recently announced at a special presentation at the Gynea Tradies Club. Spark is for students from years 7 to 12, encouraging creativity and imagination. It gives young writers an opportunity to develop and showcase their creative writing skills, as well as compete against other passionate writers. With over 170 entries from approximately 14 schools around the Sutherland Shire, students were up against stiff competition from their writing peers. Stories were judged by a panel from the Fellowship of Australian Writers who were faced with the difficult task of selecting the best stories.

Aquinas Catholic College is very proud to celebrate Nicole Pejic-Mercel (Year 11) who was awarded Second Place in the Senior Division for her short story based on this year's theme 'Other Worlds'. Nicole's work will be published online, as well as in a printed anthology, along with the other winners from the Junior Division. Congratulations, Nicole!

Sally Millar (English Coordinator)



Uniform shop will be open on

Thursday

7 December

8:00 - 9:00am

**Please note the Uniform Shop only sells
Sports Uniforms and School bags**

**The Uniform Shop now has Eftpos
facilities**

We do not accept AMEX



CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 4

TIME: MONDAY-THURSDAY 10:00-1:35, FRIDAY 10:00-12:45

MONDAY	4/12	MONICA SPOONER
TUESDAY	5/12	AMELIA KATALINIC
WEDNESDAY	6/12	JEANETTE CABRERA
THURSDAY	7/12	GEOFF RAYMOND, LISA TUDEHOPE
FRIDAY	8/12	KYLIE GARRETTY, SONJA PARKER

MONDAY	11/12	EVELYN IOAKIM, MICHELLE TURNER
TUESDAY	12/12	
WEDNESDAY	13/12	PICNIC DAY