This week’s newsletter falls in the middle of the 2015 National Reconciliation Week. The following prayers also express the values that the College holds as part of our culture in the desire for and working towards **Hope**, **Justice**, **Wholeness** and **Revelation**.

**Prayer of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**
Father of all you gave us the Dreaming.
You have spoken to us through our beliefs.
You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus.
We thank you for your care.
You own us. You are our hope.
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.

We ask you to help the people of Australia
to listen to us and respect our culture.
Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people,
So that you can be at home in us and
we can make a home for everyone in our land.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

**Blessing:**
May you always stand tall like a tree.
Be strong as the rock Uluru,
as gentle and still as the morning mist.
Hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart.
And may the Creator Spirit always walk with you
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Cameron Belle and Joshua Orchard of Year 12 were named in the NSWCCC Football side following a successful carnival where along with Sam Gulisano [Year 12] were members of the State Championship winning Sydney ICCC side in the boys’ competition. Similarly, Hayley Swanson also of Year 12 was a member of the Open Girls Independent Combined Catholic Colleges [SICCC] side that were also crowned state champions … Well done to all of our footballers. Additionally, Mr Tsambalas and Mr Sacca were also the coaches of the SICCC Opens Girls’ side.

James Corcoran
Principal

*Hayley Swanson*
Aquinas Day 2015

A reminder that our annual feast day “Aquinas Day” will be held in Week 8 - Thursday 11th June commencing with Mass in the hall at around 9.00am to which all parents/carers are most welcome. The remainder of the day will see a wide variety of fun activities; food stalls and an afternoon talent quest, which is always fabulous. We are all as a College community looking forward to this day and thank in anticipation all the Pastoral classes/students for organising the many exciting events along with their teachers and Mrs Monk for her overall coordination of the day.

Year 7-10 Parent/ Teacher/ student Interviews 25th & 26th June 2015

Just a reminder that Year 7-10 Semester one Reports will be released electronically via SEQTA in Week 10 and in addition to this details will be sent home over the coming weeks via the newsletter, email and SMS pertaining to online bookings codes / details for the upcoming Parent/Teacher/Student interviews on the last two days of term—Thursday 25th June from 8.30am to 8.00pm and Friday 26th June from 8.30am to 12.30pm. These days require all families to make 5 minute bookings with all class teachers to gather important feedback about the progress of their children thus far in 2015 and ways to further enhance learning outcomes. Also note that students are expected to bring with them to these interviews their report portfolios as a tool for discussion and that all students are expected to present in full school winter uniform. Finally these days are in effect pupil free days other than attending interviews and therefore for Year 11 and 12 study days, though they are welcome to use the College resource centre if they wish.
Lockdown/Evacuation Drill

As part of the College’s compliance and WHS expectations a practice full school Lockdown and Evacuation drill will take place during Pastoral class/morning this coming Friday 5th June. I would encourage parent/carers to speak to their sons/daughters about this drill and the importance of the learnings associated with it.

Robert Nastasi
Assistant Principal
YOUTH MINISTRY @ AQUINAS: UPDATE

**WYD16**

Expression of Interest forms are **now** due, if any Year 9 or 10 student still needs to hand in their form please do so by Wednesday.

**Rosary**

The Rosary & prayer intentions will now **continue** every Tuesday in Room 15 during lunch.

**Christian Meditation**

During exam week last week on Monday and Tuesday, Christian Meditation sessions were held in Room 9 during lunch. Both sessions were very successful with students from years 7-12 attending.

Christian Meditation will be back soon!

*If anyone has any questions please see Miss Kilzi*
“UPDATE: YOUTH MINISTRY@AQUINAS”

Students are to keep updated and check the notice board on the Nagle Paved

YOUTH MINISTRY@AQUINAS

Youth Ministry @ Aquinas: Everyday Saints

ROSARY & PRAYER INTENTIONS

May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to special Marian devotions held in the Catholic Church during the month of May honoring the Virgin Mary as “the Queen of May”.

Reciting the Rosary and prayer intentions

When: Every Tuesday @ lunchtime.
Where: Room 15

All staff and students are welcome.

Any questions please see Miss Kilzi
Evangelisation day, which occurred on the 27th of May at Patrician Brothers Fairfield, was an enlightening event which dove deep into a spiritual journey whilst having a bit of fun along the way. The day began with introductions and a prayer led by some other students in the archdiocese. The day’s festivities including some singing and dancing to Steve Angrisano’s musical talent, Activities that helped you to connect with other people from other schools in the archdiocese. We ended the day with mass and said goodbye to all of the friends we had made. Over all it was an excellent fun filled day that I am sure everyone enjoyed.

Michael Monk

On Wednesday 27th May Lauren Petrie and myself (Catherine Kilzi) took ten students from Year 9 to the Year 9 Southern Region Evangelisation Day @ Patrician Brothers, Fairfield. The day was led by American singer/songwriter Steve Angrisano. The students enjoyed a faith-filled experience with students from schools within the Southern Region. On behalf of Miss Petrie and myself, we would like to thank these students on their remarkable and outstanding representation of the College. Below are some reflections and photos from a fantastic day.

The Year 9 Evangelisation Day on Wednesday the 27th was a very enjoyable and memorable experience. We were able to sing songs together, meet new friends and listen to inspirational stories that were based around the theme ‘pure in heart.’ Thank you Miss Kilzi and Miss Petrie for the amazing opportunity and a great day.

Emily Boesen
Asylum Seekers Centre Collection Week 7

This week we are asking our students to support a collection for the Asylum Seekers Centre at Newtown. The Asylum Seekers Centre provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers living in the community. Their services include casework, accommodation, financial relief, health care and counselling, employment assistance, education, advocacy, food and recreational activities. They are a not-for-profit organisation and rely on grants, donations and volunteers to undertake their work.

The Social Justice Committee of Aquinas, with the help of the Hospitality/ TAS Department, is planning to volunteer to bring a hot meal to the centre to feed 40 clients once a term, starting next week. The money raised will pay for the supplies for Aquinas to support this worthy cause.

Please give generously. Any questions/issues please see Mrs Monk

Aquinas Day NEXT Thursday 11th June

Eucharist Celebration followed by Aquinas Day stalls and then the Staff and Students Talent Quest. All funds raised will support our Timor Immersion Program and the people of Maliana in East Timor. Students will be asked to bring money to buy hot food, drinks, sweets and to join in activities such as discos and put-put or kicking competitions.

Mrs Julie Monk - Social Justice Coordinator

There will be a meeting for students who are interested in joining the Social Justice Committee next THURSDAY A at lunchtime in Room 18. We will meet once a fortnight. All welcome years 7-12!

MATHS DEPARTMENT RECALL CORNER

Each week Maths Recall is included in the newsletter to encourage junior students to regularly focus on non-calculator skills. Please show your answers to your maths teacher during your next lesson, as it shows interest and excitement about mathematical skills.

1. Find 20% of $650
2. Decrease 45 by 15%
3. Calculate the GST on $795
4. Evaluate \(-\frac{3}{27}\)
5. Insert the correct <, > symbol between \(\frac{1}{9}\) and \(\frac{1}{10}\)

Mrs Catherine Fensom  
Assistant Mathematics Coordinator
Reconciliation Week

Make a Mark Art Project

On the 28th March, Aquinas Catholic College was involved in an art project that symbolised the significance of reconciliation.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

As a school community, Aquinas made their mark by placing various hand prints within a group artwork. I like to thank staff and students who came along and make their personal mark as a sign of respect for Reconciliation Week.

Ms Simone Small
NEW SYSTEM FOR MERITS / DEMERITS

Students are now receiving Merits and Demerits through SEQTA and not in the Diary.

Parents will be notified of either a Merit or Demerit in an email. SEQTA’S software is currently being updated so students will be able to track their own Merit / Demerit tallies.

20 x Merits = A Merit Award

3+ Demerits (in a week) = A Detention

Dealing with exam results

It’s normal to feel a whole range of things before or after you get your exam results. How you feel is probably related to your expectations, and those of people close to you. There are ways you can deal with the pressure of expectations. No exam result is so important that it will stop you achieving your goals in the long term.

Dealing with pressure and expectations

You could be someone who gets motivated and energised by pressure and expectation. But even if you are like that, both pressure and expectation can become too much, and end up harming your performance and outlook more than they help. There are some things you can do to deal with pressure. They include:

• talking to someone outside the situation, like a friend or counsellor
• talking to the person setting the expectations, and try to make it clear they’re not helping
• re-setting your own expectations – they could be unrealistic or just unhelpful
• taking some space – go for a walk, play sports or video games and give your brain a break
• writing down your feelings
• avoiding drugs and alcohol – they just help compound stress.

Also remember that your exam results are just that – marks given to one thing you wrote down, once. They’re not a number that reflects your worth, and they won’t stop you doing what you want in the long-term. It’s surprisingly easy to transfer between uni courses if you do well in first year, and if you go into uni later in life, your exam marks now are quite likely to be irrelevant.

College Year Coordinators

7 MS Kelly Morales
8 Mr Leigh Gair
9 Mr Terence McGrath
10 Mr Peter Tsambalas
11 Mrs Marina Vukovic
12 Mr Stephen Roberts

FREE

On the app store now

happify

It’s an exciting time for those who want to overcome negative thoughts, worries, and everyday stress. Happify has turned a decade’s worth of research into a series of activities and games that train your brain and build skills for lasting happiness. That’s our mission. Discover what our personalized tracks can do for you. They are effective and measurable.
Pastoral Care Corner

House Spirit

Another initiative being run by the Year 11 and 12 College leaders and House Representatives is to provide opportunity for House spirit to be developed through different lunch time activities. Friday saw the first of these activities run for Year 7, a Penalty Shootout!

Congratulations to All Year 7s who participated—and in particular to some of the girls!

The games will continue
Each Friday this term!

Well done!

Week 6 Exams

Congratulations to students in Year 7-10 who completed their Half-Year examinations last week!

It was great to see the amount of study taking place by all students, in particular the Year 10s who were on study leave for the week.

Remember you get out what you put in! Visit au.reachout.com for help on studying, or coping with exam related stress.

YEAR 9 DUKE OF ED

There will be an information night held on Monday of Week 9 (6PM), for those students in YEAR 9 who are interested in completing the DUKE OF ED BRONZE AWARD.

The night is aimed to inform both students and parents/guardians of the requirements and costs of the Award. Please return the attendance slip given to students last week, by Tuesday 9th June.
LEARNING AND CURRICULUM MATTERS

This Week's Assessment Tasks

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Extension Mathematics (includes Year 11 accelerated students)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Senior Science</td>
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<td>11</td>
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Year 11 and 12 Study Skills Seminar

This week Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (www.enhanced-learning.net) ran a fabulous study skills session with Year 11.

The session focused on helping students identify improvements they could make to the way they approach their learning using the practical strategies and techniques outlined in order to maximise their academic results in their final years of school. Time management was addressed in relation to dealing with distractions, beating procrastination, managing time efficiently and using a diary and term planner as planning tools. The session also gave advice on how to set up and maintain an effective home study environment and how to manage both the paper and digital resources for school. Finally, specific study skills were covered, including how to make brain-friendly study notes and using active learning styles which best suit each individual. It was recommended that each time students finish a topic at school they should then spend some time at home over the next week working on creating a set of study notes or summaries for that topic. Organising the information is the first stage of exam preparation and students should not wait until exam time to start this process – it should be ongoing throughout this year. The school holidays offer students a good opportunity to get themselves up-to-date on their study notes.

Year 11 students also attended a session with Rocky Biasi from Human Connections (www.humanconnections.com.au). The session aimed to help get students into the best mental and emotional state for peak performance. Students were presented with a range of techniques and strategies to help them manage stress, learn how to refocus on priorities and minimise mental focus on disappointments and set-backs. Techniques for accessing motivation and dealing with procrastination were also covered. The students also constructed a vision for HSC Success and implemented core "success" principles by using the 4 step process to set and achieve goals.

Year 12 looked at advanced research about the brain and how that could be used to make their study more effective. The focus on the session was looking ahead to the next set of examinations and how students can ensure they are well-prepared. Steps to make effective study notes were highlighted and students also examined the study techniques they traditionally used, exploring new techniques they could try. Students should remember to avoid some of the common pitfalls of studying – not using active learning strategies (instead just reading as their main method of studying) and not doing enough practice and past examination papers under examination conditions (without looking at notes and under a time limit). Year 12 also learnt how much time they should spend on study during the holidays and how to structure their preparation for the Trial HSC examinations.

“The session with Prue was such an eye opener as it provided me with many ways of studying that will help me achieve the marks I am aiming for.” Temiqua Sugars

“Prue’s session was a great motivator for study and encouragement to alter my study habits. Prue did a great job at getting an unorganised boy to organise a study schedule!” Zach Ramsay
“The seminar for Year 12 was fantastic! I’ve learnt great techniques to study smarter, along with some tips for time organisation. I now feel ready to approach the crucial few months before trial and HSC exams.” Isabella Krstanovski

Parents are encouraged to review and discuss the handout from the session with students and identify practical changes they can make to improve their approach to learning in the senior years. The Study Skills Tips for Parents website (http://studyskillstopiptipsparents.com/) provides additional advice for parents needing more information. The skills of resilience, persistence and self-discipline are probably the most important skills that parents need to nurture in their senior students.

All secondary students and parents at our school also have access to a comprehensive and interactive study skills website to help students develop their skills. Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and enter the username: aquinas and the password: 10success and start improving your results today! Additional handouts referred to during the session are available on the ‘Things to Print’ page of this site. Also visit the ‘Highlights’ page (under the More menu) for easy access to the most popular sections of the site. Remember, students, you can also download the slides from the session from www.enhanced-learning.net using the details provided at the back of your handout.

Lisa Mirabello
Leader of Teaching and Learning

CEO Science HSC Study Days

For the last four years the CEO has conducted a series of successful HSC Study Days for Science students. This program will run again this year in the first week of the school holiday when students, free of the pressures of school work and assessment tasks, can focus on their upcoming Trial HSC exams.

The Preparation Days have been designed to give HSC students the opportunity to focus on their preparation for the Trial HSC and HSC Examinations. Experienced HSC markers and teachers will give students the opportunity to practice interpreting past HSC Exam questions and writing quality responses. The focus of the days will be exam technique NOT content and are thus designed to complement the work done at school.

Students will be charged $25 on the day and provided with morning tea and a beef sausage sizzle and drink. The days will operate from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Following registration students will not be permitted to leave until 3.30pm.

Parent permission notes are available from your science teacher or from Mrs Woods (Science Coordinator)

The venue is St Mary’s Cathedral College, St Mary’s Rd, Sydney. (Enter via the gate at the end of Cathedral Street.)

- **Tuesday 30th June:** Chemistry, Biology and Senior Science – each subject runs for the whole day
- **Wednesday 1st July:** Physics and Biology (Repeated)

Students need to RSVP to their teacher by **Monday 22nd June 2015** for catering purposes and also to ensure enough workbooklets are printed.

Further information is available by emailing or calling Mrs Maree Woods, maree.woods@syd.catholic.edu.au
This term, a number of students across all year groups have been meeting regularly every week to discuss and recommend activities that our College can undertake to help create a better environment. This Friday, 5 June is WED day and Aquinas Catholic College has registered its first activities with the United Nations.

What is WED?

Celebrate the biggest day for positive environmental action!

World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

The WED theme this year is "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care." The well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy, ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet's natural resources. And yet, evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide.

Many of the Earth's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change, pushed by high population growth and economic development. By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our ways of living and consumption.

Consuming with care means living within planetary boundaries to ensure a healthy future where our dreams can be realized. Human prosperity need not cost the earth. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. It is about knowing that rising rates of natural resource use and the environmental impacts that occur are not a necessary by-product of economic growth.

Every Action Counts

WED is the opportunity for everyone to realize the responsibility to care for the Earth and to become agents of change.

"Although individual decisions may seem small in the face of global threats and trends, when billions of people join forces in common purpose, we can make a tremendous difference."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

EAT will help promote awareness and action for the environment this week by having lessons across most Key Learning Areas dedicated to this. Most subject faculties will show the students environmental impact studies within its area of learning. This will be a lead in to this Friday's WED day 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment.

On WED day this Friday, EAT will start a bottle and aluminium can recycling station at our College. EAT will sell bottles and cans of drinks for $2.50 each and will refund 50c for each can returned and placed into the recycling station. Each future fundraising initiative involving the selling of plastic bottles and/or canned drinks will be similarly controlled. Money raised from any EAT fundraisers will go towards the instillation of a water refill station in our College. The emphasis with this would be to educate the community of the need to refill your water container rather than purchase more bottles of water, thereby reducing pollution in the environment.

This week is the start and it may seem small but it does make a difference. Aquinas Catholic College has registered its activities this week with the United Nations and EAT looks forward to showing the community how we can all be agents of change and good stewards of creation.

For more information about this and future activities, EAT meets every Tuesday, Lunch 1 in the Library. Also, check out the WED website http://www.unep.org/wed/, and see what the world is doing.

Mr Tsambalas
Australian Mathematics Challenge

The following Year 7 and 8 students were entered in this higher level offered by the Australian Mathematics Trust who administer the Mathematics Competition later in the year.

The students were given a 3 week time period to solve 6 challenging problems, which few students across Australia, manage to completely solve. The students made a fantastic effort in their submissions. The entrants were given very little class time to work on their solutions and each presented separate answers.

Results will be available in Term 3 and the Mathematics Department congratulates the following students.

YEAR 7

- Keeley Lennon
- Chanelle Wakim
- Ryan Wade
- Michael Kerle
- Anna Rickert
- Alex Zinnato
- Elena Ryan
- Jack Coleman
- Nicholas Katsiris
- Chloe Cosgrove
- Jordan Ledwell
- Aidan Doyle

YEAR 8

- Caitlin Bell
- Grace Edgar
- Madeline Kanellopoulos
- Chloe Cotter
- Steven Celi
- Jack Harris
- Christian Doueihi
- Hamish Baldacchino
- Emma Higgins
- Ben Ferraro

Mrs Catherine Fensom and Mrs Elyse Finnerty

DEBATING

Round 5 of Debating

Last Wednesday 27th May, the Year 7 and 9 teams debated in Round 5 of the Regional Catholic Schools Debating Competition at MSJ, Milperra. Unfortunately the Year 8 and 10 teams were unable to debate due to forfeits by MSJ. Both teams represented the College commendably and won their debates on the challenging topic area of politics and social issues, despite absent members of both teams. A big thank you to Amelia Kirgan (7 Red) and Joshua Lane (8 Red) who were able to step in at the last minute to join the Year 7 and 9 teams.

Year 7 team for Week 5:

- Michael Kerle
- Joel Johnson
- Emily Lane
- Amelia Kirgan

Year 9 team for Week 5:

- Michael Monk
- Samantha Kerle
- Joshua Lane (Year 8)

Thank you to their coaches Mrs Dickinson and Mrs Buttling and Ms Wilson for adjudicating.

This Wednesday 3rd June, the Year 7 and 10 teams will compete in the Semi-Finals of the Regional Catholic Schools Debating Competition at Marist College, Kogarah.

Good luck to both teams!

Miss Cooper
LOST PROPERTY

We have a number of school jumpers in Lost Property.
If you are missing any items please come to the office.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Answers:

1. $130
2. $45 - $6.75 = $38.25
3. 10% GST = $79.50
4. $ \frac{1}{9}
5. $ \frac{1}{9} > \frac{1}{10}$ (think of position on number line)

Maths Department

Skills for Work and Study TAFE Course!

This course at Gymea Tafe is for people who wish to refresh their skills to re-enter the workforce or do further study.

Classes run 3 days per week in school hours beginning 20th July. Subjects include: Computing, Workplace Writing, Resumes, Interview Skills, First Aid and more.

Information session:

10 am Wednesday 10th June
Gymea College Building A Room AG12, The Kingsway Gymea

Enquiries: Phone 9710 5136

UNIFORM SHOP

( Located next to Canteen)

THURSDAY 4 June
8:00am—9:00am

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

The Uniform Shop does not accept Eftpos or Credit cards

College caps and sports socks can be purchased from the College Office

CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 2

TIME: MONDAY-THURSDAY 10:00-1:35, FRIDAY 9:30-12:45

MONDAY 1/6  CRISTY COTTER, TONY SHELDON, MARINA KOUZMENKO
TUESDAY 2/6  LINDA KIRGAN, SIMONE CARLINO
WEDNESDAY 3/6  VERONIQUE ROCA, SONIA NIELSEN, KRISTEN KASPARIAN, KIM GLENIE
THURSDAY 4/6  MARGARET MOUSSA, SALLY DONOVAN, JENNIFER DELUCA, CARLEY STUDDON
FRIDAY 5/6  MARIA SKARENTZOS, CATHY CARUCCIO, LISA ALLEN

MONDAY 8/6  MONICA SPOONER
TUESDAY 9/6  PENNI CASTLE, AMANDA GALEA
WEDNESDAY 10/6  JACKIE TORO, LIBBY YIP
THURSDAY 11/6  SARAH RAYMOND, ANN-MARIE WALKER
FRIDAY 12/6  JACQUELINE WAKIM, JAHN REGAN, SUSAN BULLOCK, PATRICIA WADE

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