St Thomas More’s Vision Statement
‘Our faith in Jesus Christ nurtures and empowers us to become a just and learning community’.

Dear parents, friends and Father Simon,
I was amazed to see the turn up at the first Community Conversation last week, which was again repeated last night. We had over 30 families and 60 students so far! Attendees overwhelmingly gave it a stamp of approval. The idea behind the Community Conversations is that we listen and assist in the building of relationships. The unsettling part is that we actually don’t know where the conversations will lead. The best part about the listening is that we are able to change or adapt what we are doing to improve parent engagement. The first action that has resulted from the conversations, is that the Structured Learning Walks (see next paragraph) we have planned, will now center on iPad use and composite grades. Again these actions are a direct result of what we learnt from the Community Conversations. Please have a think about attending the next one. (Mar 10th tbc)

Our first ‘Structured Learning Walk’ actually took place last year. We took several of our new parents and Board Chair, Ben Brockliss to visit classrooms to see teaching and learning in action. The parents were briefed before and after the visit so they were aware of what to look out for. The next walk is scheduled for 23rd February at 9am. You are very welcome to attend. If this date does not suit, please let me know. There are more planned.

We are continuing to practise our evacuation drills. As you can imagine, it is a complicated process to move approximately 150 people safely and quickly anywhere around our site. We are getting better at this and we are continuing to train different staff members to run them. Members of the school leadership team will also participate shortly in critical incident management training. If you would like to know more about this please make sure that you have subscribed to “School Stream”. Any member of staff in the office is happy to assist you in setting this up.

Finally, our senior school will be celebrating Mass next Thursday at 9am. Please come and join us.

Have a great week,

Duncan Arendse
Principal
### School Closure Days

**Friday 18th March 2016, Thursday & Friday 21st & 22nd April 2016**

**What Happens on a School Closure Day?**

Staff attend four meetings and professional development days each year, called School Closure Days in the calendar.

There are no classes for students on a School Closure day. Extend out of school care, offers families who are registered with them, a program on these days at a set cost. Families will need to contact Extend if they wish to register for care. In our experience, the minimum number required for the program to run is not usually met. We suggest that families seek alternative arrangements to avoid disappointment should the Extend program not proceed.

> We appreciate that closure days can cause an inconvenience to families and we thank you for your understanding and acknowledgement of the importance of these days.

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### DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Monday 22nd</th>
<th>District Swimming for selected students at Monbulk Pool—10am to 2pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 23rd</td>
<td>Structured Learning Walk for Parents of 5/6 ‘s with Tony Dalton—9 to 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 24th</td>
<td>No Preps Today</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 25th</td>
<td>Senior School Mass from 9am ~ all welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 27th</td>
<td>Commissioning Mass at St Thomas More Church from 5pm ~ all families encouraged to attend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Wednesday 2nd</th>
<th>No Preps Today</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 3rd</td>
<td>Junior School Mass from 9am ~ all welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmation Session at 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Structured Learning Walk for all Parents at 9am ~ all welcome</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Monday 7th</th>
<th>Parents and Friends Meeting in the Staffroom from 7pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 9th</td>
<td>No Preps Today</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 10th</td>
<td>Confirmation Session at 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Conversation—to be confirmed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Monday 14th</th>
<th>Labour Day Public Holiday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 15th</td>
<td>School Board Meeting from 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 16th</td>
<td>Preps Attend School Today</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 17th</td>
<td>Confirmation Session from 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>School Closure Day to be confirmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Monday 21st</th>
<th>Lenten Liturgy—time to be advised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 22nd</td>
<td>Lenten Liturgy—time to be advised</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews from 2.00pm to 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 24th</td>
<td>Confirmation Session from 10am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 27th</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 28th</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TERM TWO**

| Week 1       | Monday 11th  | Commencement of Term 2                                      |

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### IMPORTANT DATES

**Whoopsie—One Incorrect Prep Date was in the Calendar sent home!!**

Preps ARE TO ATTEND School on the Wednesday after Labour Day.

**Wednesday 16th March**

**PREPS ATTEND SCHOOL**

Thank you to Reese’s mum, Donna for picking it up!!

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### Parents Interested in Playing Futsal?

If anyone is interested in playing Futsal with St Paul’s Monbulk on Friday Afternoon at Mt Evelyn—please see Duncan Arendse or Andrew Price, the Chair of the Parish Council.
Community Conversation in action!

Please refer to the letter on page 4, which provides information and an invitation to participate in our Learning Walks for parents!

Please take the time to complete the reply slip included or email office@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Congratulations to Past STM Students

It is with a great deal of pride that we heard some recent news. Our past students Alex Tan and Molly McKernan have been appointed as Captains of their schools (St Margaret's Berwick and Mater Christi College, Belgrave). We would like to think that they have taken the basis of what they have learnt at St Thomas More as foundation knowledge to assist them to achieve great success. I would like to wish them well in their appointments.

Duncan Arendse.
Principal

Reminder
- Drop off Zone - DO NOT OVERTAKE

We are concerned that a collision may occur if cars overtake a stationary vehicle in the drop-off zone. This area is not wide enough for two vehicles passing each other safely!

Missing a School Jumper?

We can all appreciate the frustration of missing school jumpers, particularly when they are new!

There are quite a few missing jumpers, so we ask that families please check your child’s uniform to make sure that they have not taken home someone else’s by mistake.

No Newsletter Next Week
(next newsletter Thursday March 3rd)

Home Communication

It is important to us, that families feel informed on what is happening at school.

With today’s technology we are fortunate to utilise media like Schoolstream and Instagram and Facebook, to provide updates quickly.

Schoolstream will be utilised a lot more this year and consequently the security of the site will be amended to be password protected. We will inform you of these changes when they occur and the process involved.

Consequently we will be reducing the Newsletters emailed home to families to once a fortnight. If families have any concerns regarding this, please feel free to let us know your concerns.
Learning Walks for Parents at St Thomas More

You are invited to come along and see firsthand how children learn at our school here in St. Thomas More Belgrave Learning Walks for Parents are a marvellous opportunity for parents to come to the school and with other parents in a small group to be guided around classrooms by one of the school leaders.

These guided walks will provide you with:

- A first-hand look into classrooms and the learning
- Special commentary and insights from school leaders
- An opportunity to ask questions
- A chance to meet and listen and learn with other parents

If you are interested in joining us on one of these walks please complete the form below and return it to the school as soon as possible indicating your preferred date.

Learning walk dates and times

Learning Walk 1  Tuesday February 23rd at 9.00 am to begin in the school staffroom
Learning Walk 2  Thursday February 25th at 2.00 pm to begin in the school staffroom
Learning Walk 3  Thursday March 3rd at 9.00 am to begin in the school staffroom

The focus of these walks will be to;

- Showcase the use of technologies in the learning process
- To show how learning occurs across a range of grades, age levels and individual learning needs

We are excited about these walks and invite you to join us.

Have a great week,

Duncan Arendse
Principal

---------- Please complete and return to the school as soon as possible ----------

Learning Walk for Parents

Family Name _____________________________________________________

Yes I/we will be attending Learning Walk or Parents 1 or 2 or 3 (please circle)
CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE 2016

Each year we run a Classroom Helpers course, which is open to parents and other family members. This course focuses on early reading, writing, speaking & listening and numeracy skills and is a pre-requisite if you wish to help in the Prep-2 classrooms during Literacy or Maths.

Many of our Prep parents undertook the course last year during the orientation days (although we haven’t forgotten we still have one session to catch up on) so we would like to gauge whether there is interest in running the course for others who missed out.

We will run the course either during the day or in the evening, depending on demand and to best suit as many as possible.

If you are interested, please indicate which days and times you would be able to attend on via the link by clicking here (or web address in reply slip), filling in the attached slip or email either of us.

The junior grades appreciate parent helpers to help run effective Literacy and Maths lessons, and we would love as many parents as possible to complete the course. Even if you are not able to help in the classroom, you would be most welcome to attend to find out how to help your child with their learning. Some people may also be interested to find out more about how things work at STM. In other words, everyone is most welcome!

There will be 2x2hour sessions or 4x1hour (once again, we’ll decide when we know what suits most people best).

• 9-11am on a Tuesday or Wednesday
• 2-3pm on a Tuesday or Wednesday
• 7-9pm on a Monday or Tuesday or Thursday

Thank you,
Judy Smith
 Literacy Leader
 judys@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au.

Monica Rayner
 Maths Leader
 monica@smbelgrave.catholic.eu.au

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Classroom Helpers Course Reply Slip
(or online here or http://goo.gl/forms/FBElo9mVvj)
I would like to attend the Classroom Helpers course.
I am able to attend at the following times:

9-11am: □ Tuesday □ Wednesday
2-3pm: □ Tuesday □ Wednesday
7-9pm: □ Monday □ Tuesday □ Thursday

Your name: ________________________________

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bellrealestate.com.au

_________________________ __________________________

Student of the Week Awards

Prep/1B Malachi W
Akil M

2JS Bas H
Charlotte G
Annie Mc

3/4PC Brodie C
Letti T
Fern S

3/4D Liam B
Oliver M

5/6TC Lexie W
Taylor V-G

5/6N Brooke W
Sebastian V-T

Does your family have a current Health Care Card (HCC)?
You may be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply.

$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students.

Application forms should be completed and lodged with schools by 29th February 2016, as payments are made from March.

Welcome to another newsletter from your P&F!
ICY POLES this FRIDAY 19\textsuperscript{th}!!
Tube icy-poles are .50 cents and stick icy-poles are $1. Please send the money in with your children.

We are after donations for our Easter Raffle. Please leave your goods at the office and we will make sure they end up in our beautiful hampers. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We have discount voucher books for sale. They are like a smaller version of the Entertainment Books. The books are at reception or for sale in the uniform shop and they are $20 each.

More information for all the above topics is on our FACEBOOK group – STM Parents and Friends. Please tell your fellow school friends about this group and invite them to join. Everyone involved are really fantastic and friendly and it’s a wonderful place to swap ideas and keep up to date with school happenings.
AFL YARRA RANGES
BELGRAVE JFC
UNDER 10 and 12 and
GIRLS ONLY U/12

NEW GIRLS ONLY competition
(must be aged 9 by 1/1/2016)
For more information call:
Maxine Armstrong
0417 391 283
or
belgravejfc@yahoo.com.au

We also have Friday night
Auskick.

GIRLS ONLY FOOTY IS COMING TO BJFC IN 2016!
FREE GIRLS FOOTY CLINIC
AT UPWEY TECOMA JFC

SUITABLE FOR GIRLS AGES 7+

6PM - 7PM MONDAY 22 FEB 2016
TALASKIA RESERVE, UPPER FERNTREE GULLY
FOLLOWED BY FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR PARTICIPANTS & FAMILIES

REGISTER BY EMAIL
GIRLSFOOTY@UTJFC.COM
PLEASE INCLUDE PLAYER NAME & AGE

Join us at Girl Guides

Experience Fun, Friendship, Adventure and Leadership with our Non - Formal Educational Method for girls 6-15yrs

Come along to try Upwey Guides.
We offer 3 free visits to check us out.

Interested? Contact us:
Margaret 0407 042 748
mbrooks@guidesvic.org.au