School Overview

St Thomas the Apostle has an enrolment of 504 students and is situated in a well-established suburb surrounded by excellent facilities and plenty of green spaces for recreation. It is very much a family friendly environment with a strongly committed school community. There are 21 classes of approximately 24 in each class. These classes are located in four separated buildings, interconnected by walkways and gardens. We pride ourselves on working towards becoming a highly sustainable school and to this end we boast a large kitchen garden, extensive nature trail and domestic kitchen where we harvest our own food and prepare meals through our kitchen.

St. Thomas’ Domestic Kitchen, 2012

The results as indicated in literacy and numeracy as stated through NAPLAN results and our own internal testing outline where we choose to lay emphasis in the curriculum. St Thomas’ is in a year of review, and this process has enabled us to look more deeply at our progress and find new avenues in which to improve best practice and outcomes for students.

We provide special support for students across Prep to Six in literacy, numeracy and social skills. Intervention in numeracy and literacy is offered in Years One to Six. Several new support programs in building social stamina, the introduction of cyberbullying classes and additional sport programs make for a varied and comprehensive curriculum.

Additional support is offered in counselling. Parenting programs, professional education for families and psychologist’s support line for families are but a few of the additional programs on offer.

We coordinate self-esteem programs for juniors and seniors. The introduction of Restorative Practice and ongoing work in Circle Time continue to build our student’s self-esteem.

The Active After School Sport Programs continues to be strengthened with new sporting activities each term. This physical activity links into building stronger self-esteem. The programs are offered twice weekly and include circus skills, gymnastics and a range of interesting alternative games to support children less active in sport and fitness.
With the major initiative of the establishment of an organic garden, involving the whole school and community, we are now able to harvest our produce and cook in our new domestic kitchen. Students and community are actively engaged throughout the week in this project which is partially overseen by CERES in Brunswick. This garden is a major source of learning for our established Ecology Club and supports key units of work in the classrooms. Already it has attracted several grants and we will continue to involve students in applying for further funding. Science, as a specialist area has been established.

This year has seen school community engaging with our new multi-purpose hall. This facility has provided an all-weather venue and has increased our physical education programs, as well as developing community spirit by offering it to community sport groups by night. This year our community has raised funds to include extensive audio visual equipment in the gymnasium which will further enrich its use through drama and performance.

In 2012 we are refurbishing the old library and creating a Discovery Centre housing all the latest technology for the students. This interactive environment will be ‘state of the arts’ and enable a modern approach to using technology both inside and outside the classroom. This is our second year of working closely with an educational consultant who has been employed to work with teachers and the leadership team. This year a significant focus has been on building leadership capacities. The facilitator’s work with teachers has been about strengthening teaching practice, including professional growth in differentiated curriculum and facilitating improvement in children’s performance. She has been involved in working with the staff in the early stages of preparing for the review through interpreting data, surveys and other anecdotal information to help us critically reflect on our performance.