

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School

**Boddington Crescent
Kambah, ACT 2902
Phone: (02) 6231 4144
Fax: (02) 6296 2621
www.sttap.act.edu.au**

Dear Parents and Carers of students in Years 4-6

20 May 2015

Your child has expressed an interest in trying out for a place in the Tournament of Minds teams (TOM). St Thomas the Apostle anticipates entering 2 teams in 2015. TOM is a competition which involves solving open ended challenges in literature, maths/engineering, social science or applied technology
From the TOM website:

“Tournament's aim is to enhance the potential of our youth by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. Tournament of Minds is for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant, and public way”

TOM consists of two challenges with the children working in teams of 7, over six weeks with no more than four children from a given grade.

- a) To prepare a 10 minute dramatic presentation to explore the given challenge.
- b) Build skills for a ‘spontaneous challenge’, requiring creative thinking and team work

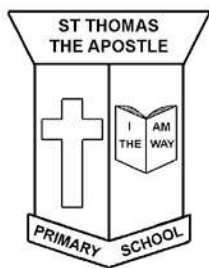
We have offered TOM bi-annually over the past few years. If you and your child choose to sign up and are selected into a team, you will both be in for a busy couple of months. Children who are a part of a TOM team learn to work together with other team members, make decisions, solve problems and communicate effectively with one another.

One of the biggest challenges for child, parent and teacher is that TOM requires that challenge solutions and presentations be ENTIRELY the work of team members. We will all be asked to sign an ‘Outside Assistance’ form. There are strict rules and guidelines for the teams on how to solve the challenges.

The important dates are:

July (tbc)	Long Term Challenges released
July(tbc)	School teams named
August (tbc)	Official Team nominations due
Sunday August 9	Student Drama Workshop 9am-1pm, Campbell Primary School (optional, \$40)
Saturday, 5th September	Southside Regional Tournament held at ANU
Saturday, 19th September	ACT Territory Finals ANU
(17-18 October Australasian Finals in Sydney)	

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In choosing team members, I will carefully consider who works together well, offers a variety of skills and a passion for the particular challenge. Once the teams are nominated, no substitutions can be made. So Saturday 5th September is compulsory. The actual time of your child's challenge will not be known until the week before. Parents, friends and supporters are welcome and encouraged to be part of the audience and share the excitement of the day.

Children who are interested will meet with me during Thursday lunchtime for skills sessions over the coming weeks. Starting Term 3, students selected into teams will meet from 1.00-3.00pm every Tuesday, then extra as needed. In the past, teams have elected to meet for an extra lunch time or after school/weekends at a team member's house. Extra meetings are always necessary as the competition day draws near. We will need parent help organising these extra meetings.

The cost of participating will be mostly covered by the school. School Registration is \$200, with \$50 extra per team. There are strict guidelines on spending for each team, with a focus on recycling and created props and costumes. Families may be asked to contribute to this. All team members will need black pants and a black t-shirt. Travel expenses will be met by the family.

Communication between home and school will be important. If you choose for your child to be involved could you please email kerry.wode@cg.catholic.edu.au, with your most used email address so that communication can happen swiftly and accurately.

Participation this year is limited to 14 children (2 teams) from Years 4-6. Please fill out the form below if you would like your child to be considered for the Tournament of Minds program and as a family you are willing and able to commit to meeting and competition times.

Please direct any questions to me at school or via email.

Kerry Wode (TOM facilitator)

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Tournament of Minds Response Form

Student name: _____ Class: _____

1) I, _____ give permission for my child to be considered for a position in the TOM teams. I am aware that training will take place during lunch time in Term 2, and school time in Term 3, with extra meetings taking place during Weeks 2-7 of Term 3 at a time to be negotiated by the teams.

2) I am aware of the Tournament date and that successful teams may be invited to ACT and Australasian Finals. Travel expenses will be met by the family. Once teams are selected no changes can be made.

Saturday, 5th September	Southside Regional Tournament held at ANU
Saturday, 19th September	ACT Territory Finals ANU (if qualifying)
Sat-Sun 17-18 October	Australasian Finals in Sydney (if qualifying)

3) I have emailed Kerry Wode kerry.wode@cg.catholic.edu.au

Signed: _____ date: _____