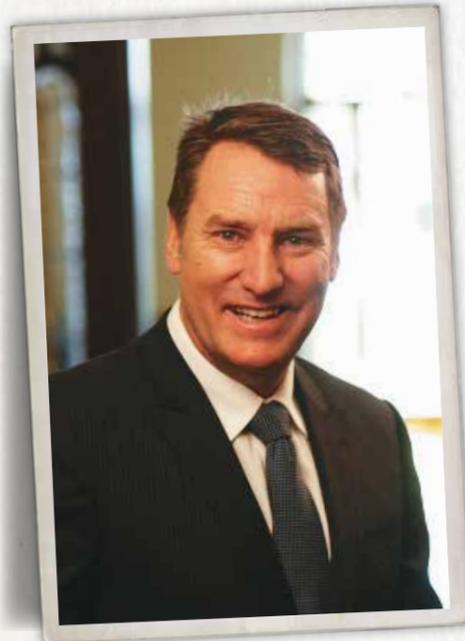


Exploration and discovery are at the heart
of our new Kindergarten Program.



A Message from the Headmaster



At Aquinas we have been educating boys since 1894 in the tradition of Edmund Rice with Catholic values at the heart of the experience. During that time, we have well and truly learnt what teaching methods work best for boys: how to engage and inspire them, how to channel their youthful energy, and how to develop their spirituality in a meaningful way.

With the commencement of our new Early Years Program in 2014, your son will be able to benefit from a boy-focused education from his very first day of formal schooling. He will be taught by teachers who love teaching boys, in an environment specifically designed for boys.

It also means he will be able to enjoy a continuity of education right through until Year 12. There will be no need to go through the stress of being the new boy as he moves into Primary and Secondary school.

Mark Sawle
Headmaster



From K-3, one step at a time.

We will welcome our first Kindergarten class to Aquinas in February 2014 into purpose built facilities. As this inaugural Kindy cohort moves through the school, we will add pre-primary and Years 1 to 3. By 2018, Aquinas will have classes from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Learning is tiring when you are a little boy, so our Kindergarten Program will run 3 days a week (days are yet to be determined). By Pre-primary, boys have the stamina to attend school 5 days a week.

We are planning on starting with one Kindergarten class and our class sizes will intentionally be kept small so boys can receive plenty of individual attention.

There may be the option of adding a second class, however as this is not guaranteed, we suggest you register your interest as soon as possible.



Our Curriculum – Designed for what little boys are made of.

Our learning programs are designed to support the special learning needs of boys, with a strong emphasis on the literacy and numeracy skills that form the foundation for their future.

Boys need extra support in reading.

With the right support and encouragement, boys can be great readers and writers. The part of a boy's brain that processes language develops at a different rate than a girl's does, so we will engage them with a classroom environment that is full of visual aids and diagrams, and activities that keep them interested and wanting to know more.

Kindergarten boys will be introduced to literacy through a play-based program that poses open-ended questions to promote language development. As boys start to read, we will use 'Guided Reading' – small group instruction that supports them to become confident readers. If a boy is still struggling by Year 2, we will intervene with specialist programs to help accelerate his reading and writing.



Boys want interaction and learn by experience.

It is all about engaged learning when it comes to boys. They love to construct, discover, experiment, manipulate and question. If boys are not engaged they can switch off very quickly, so we work hard at keeping school life as interesting, fun and interactive as it can be. Our Kindergarten Program is designed to stimulate all the senses so boys can extract maximum benefit from classroom activities.

Through play-based learning, our teachers will guide boys to learn about new concepts. For example, mathematical concepts will be introduced through the use of concrete learning experiences; what looks like water or sand play will actually be a lesson in weights, measurements and mental computation.

Boys thrive with structure and routine.

Boys need structure. At Aquinas, we will make sure our Kindergarten boys know what we expect from them; we will help them to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. Even more importantly, we will give them the guidance, wisdom and advice they need to make the right choices.

Our PATHS Program (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) is designed to help little boys develop important social skills such as trust, sharing, respect and cooperation; skills they will get to practise daily in the classroom and playground.



Boys need passionate, dedicated and highly skilled teachers.

Boys are just as sensitive as girls are; they flourish with a teacher who gives them the space to understand and express their emotions. We just teach boys and tailor our teaching methods to cater to their needs. We know that good teaching is all about variety, so we will use different approaches and methods to get the best from our kindergarten boys.

Specialist teachers will bring added value to our program, sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise to a number of areas across the curriculum. Your son will receive specialist teaching in Art, Music, Physical Education, Library, Extension and Enrichment, Learning Support and LOTE (Languages other than English).

Boys need learning environments that support their uniqueness.

We will encourage boys to explore their own interests, to be open minded, and to not be frightened to try new things. Providing a learning environment that gives each boy an opportunity to discover his particular strengths and unique qualities is something on which we place huge importance.

Academically gifted boys will be extended through a 'Thinking Skills' program that allows for enriched study across all curriculum areas. To help all boys uncover their creative talents, we will offer a diverse arts program that includes visual arts, drama, performance and music.



Exploration and discovery are at the heart of our new kindy program.





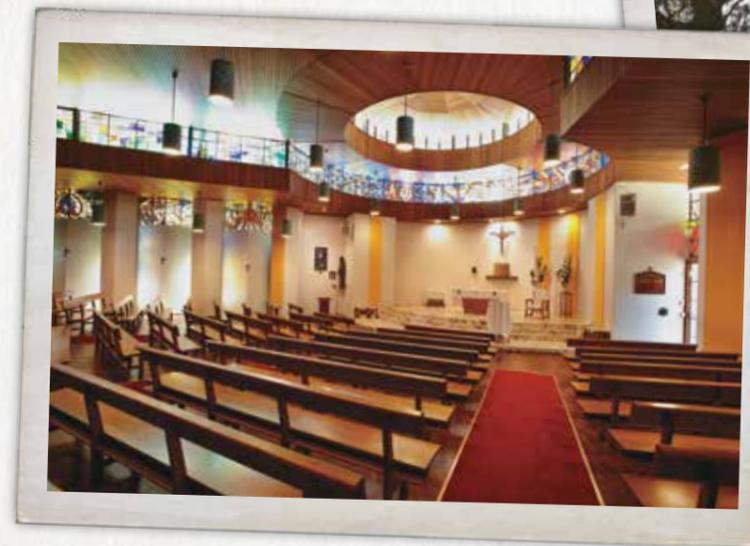
You are part of something much greater than yourself.

Boys need a place that encourages Catholic spiritual growth and pastoral care.

Our values, principles, and goals make us who we are. At Aquinas, we seek to instill the Catholic principles of upholding the dignity and value of all humanity. Through Sacramental preparation, Religious Education and regular school Masses, boys learn what it means to be supported and behave using the Catholic ethos.

On an individual level it means knowing that you are valued, respected and heard. We place a huge importance on pastoral care, with your son's teachers, our College chaplain, and support staff all there to provide spiritual leadership and emotional support.

Faith is also about realising you are part of something much greater than yourself. Service is a key part of spiritual life and teaches boys to look beyond their own self-interest. Through Junior Service Learning and Project Compassion, boys learn about the difference they can make in the community and develop social awareness, compassion and humility.



Boys need space to move and explore

At Aquinas, we pay attention to the whole learning environment, so whether boys are in the classroom or out on the grounds, they have the room they need to move, play, and explore.

Our Early Learning Centre will have a village-style feel and feature spacious, air-conditioned learning spaces. All classrooms will be designed to open to outdoor courtyards, creating flexible indoor-outdoor learning spaces that can be quickly and easily adapted for different activities.

Boys love being outdoors, and at Aquinas space is in abundance. Our safe and well equipped play areas, beautiful grounds and ovals offer stimulating and attractive surroundings that enable boys to grow and develop.

Boys thrive when their parents are involved in their learning journey.

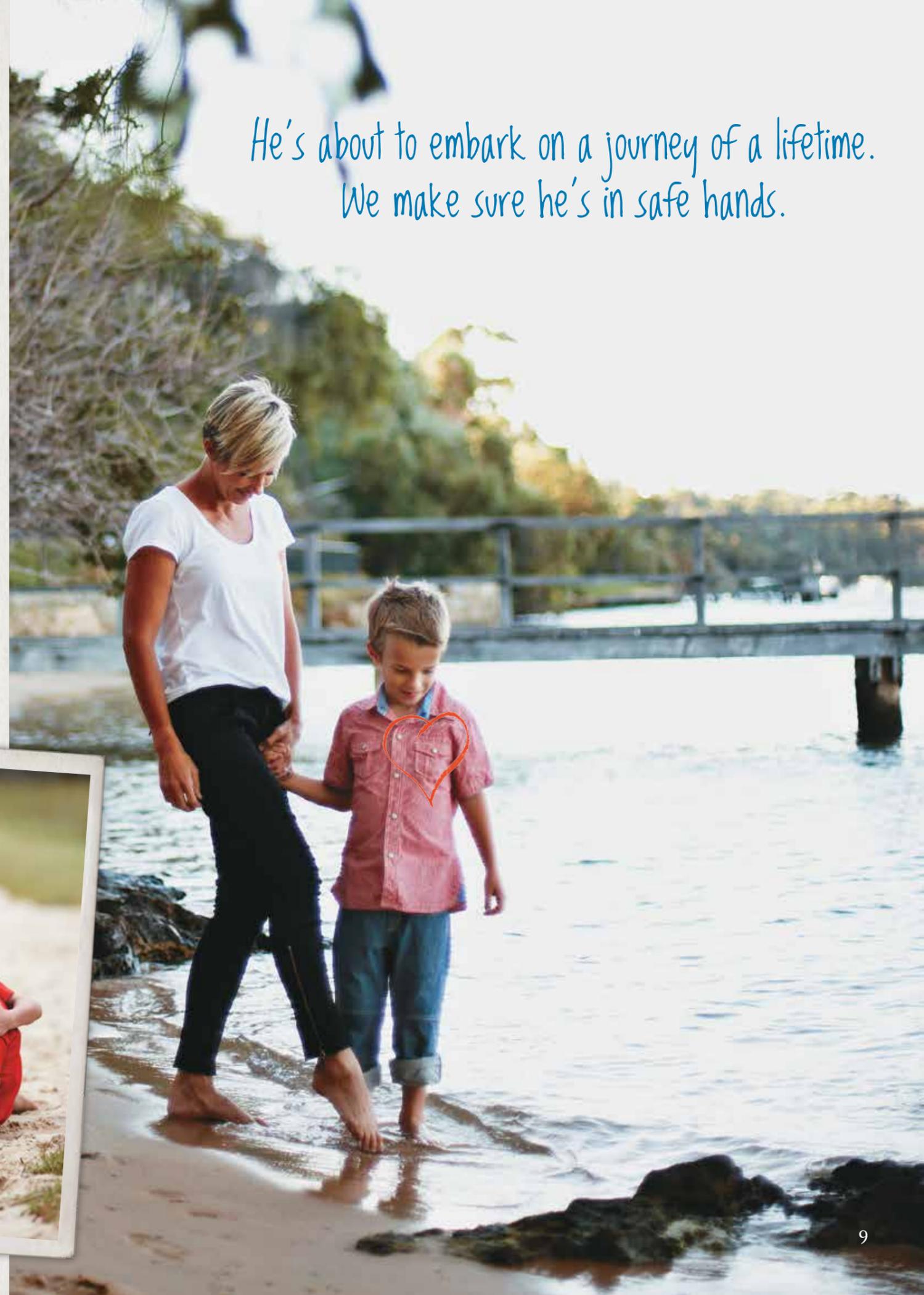
We believe boys benefit from a strong teacher/parent partnership. We have an inclusive approach to education and you will be warmly welcomed at the school and in the classroom. We encourage parents to participate and be involved in school life.

To ensure you are kept abreast of what is going on in the school and classroom, you will receive regular emails from your son's teacher as well as two school reports per year. We will also hold workshops throughout the year to help you learn more about what we do at Aquinas.

If issues do arise, your son, family and our staff can draw on the support of a team of specialists, including a school psychologist, speech therapist and occupational therapist.



He's about to embark on a journey of a lifetime.
We make sure he's in safe hands.





AQUINAS COLLEGE

MOUNT HENRY ROAD • SALTER POINT • WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LOCKED BAG 11, BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE, BENTLEY WA 6983

TELEPHONE: (08) 9450 0600 • FACSIMILE: (08) 9313 1901 www.aquinas.wa.edu.au

CRICOS CODE: 00428E