



Rosary Primary School

2 March 2017- Week 5 Term 1



TOGETHER WE DO OUR BEST | BELIEVE | EXPLORE | STRIVE | TRIUMPH

Dear Parents and Friends,

On Wednesday this week, the whole school attended the Ash Wednesday Mass which marks the start of Lent. It is worthwhile spending time reflecting on the three ways to prepare for Easter during the Season of Lent: to pray, to give alms and to make personal sacrifices. In practical terms, this means spending time in relationship with the Lord, going without something or doing something extra; perhaps going outside of our comfort zones to support another. Lent is also a good time to consider letting go of old hurts and finding room in our hearts to forgive and move forward. I pray that it will be a truly special time of preparation this Lent for us all and that we will arrive at our Easter celebration feeling renewed and just that little bit closer to our friend, Jesus.

Swimming Carnival

What a wonderful day we all enjoyed at the Dickson Pool on Monday for the school Swimming Carnival. The weather was perfect and the day ran very smoothly thanks to the great organisation of the staff team and the assistance provided by so many parents and other community members. The children were very well-behaved, cheered loudly for their Sports Houses and participated with enthusiasm and determination. All around, it was a great day out. Special thanks to Mrs Higgins, Mrs Toole and Mrs Watson for their very hard work leading up to the carnival and to all the parents and friends of the school who helped out on the day in a myriad of ways. Thanks also to the parents who provided food and refreshments. With this great level of support from the whole community, the carnival was a great success.

Year 5 and 6 Camps

Our Year 5 and Year 6 students returned from their respective camps on Friday afternoon. After recovering some energy, I feel certain that families will have had 'their ears talked off' as the children recounted their experiences. They experienced new things and were asked to challenge themselves within a supportive and safe environment. I sincerely thank Mr O'Brien, Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Hanratty, Mrs Watson and Mrs Campton, Mrs Jiang, Mrs Hinds and Mrs Brotchie for taking such good care of the children whilst on camp. I am positive that the children have all learned some new skills and, more importantly, that they have learned a little more about themselves and others too. I hope they will long remember their camp experiences with fondness.

Car Park Safety

Please be aware that the speed limit in the car park is 5kph. If you do not plan to accompany your child into the school quad in the morning, please use the drop off zone. The purpose of the drop off zone is to allow students to alight safely from vehicles directly onto school grounds without having to cross the car park. **In the afternoon, this zone is not in use** as it impedes pedestrian safety as parents and students make their way to parked vehicles on the asphalt.

Students who leave vehicles which are parked in marked bays need to be accompanied across the car park by an adult to enter through the gates to the supervised space in the morning. Likewise, when parents park in marked bays in the afternoon, students need to be collected from inside the quad and accompanied by an adult to the vehicle.

I ask all drivers to be mindful of the car park rules and to adhere to them on every occasion for the safety of the children and all others in our community. Please take note of the sign which is located on either side of the entry to the courts and which I have copied for you here.



Sports Equipment from Home

Please ensure that your child **does not** bring his/her own sports equipment to school – with the exception of the little rubber bouncing balls that are used for playing handball before school. Please ensure these are labelled with your child's name. The school has a generous supply of sports equipment for the children to use during the breaks. When children bring their own things, it creates problems on the playground with regard to issues of property going missing or being damaged and of ownership/power e.g. 'I own the football, therefore I'm the boss of the game'.

Thank You

A huge 'thank you' is extended to Louise Agnew; one of our wonderful parents who has put up the notices on the school sign at the entry to the school carpark for the past three years. We are very grateful to Louise for this voluntary service to our school. However, as part of the Year 6 Leadership program, this job has now been assigned to the Year 6 Admin group so that they have a substantial role to play in their final year of primary school. Thanks again to Louise for the dedication expressed to the school over such a long period.

Catholic Leaders' Retreat

From Wednesday morning this week, I'll be in Bowral with all of the Principals from the 56 Archdiocesan Schools at our annual Director's Day and Catholic Leaders' Retreat. The Retreat provides an opportunity to network with others, to share ideas and understandings and to invigorate the soul through spiritual development. However, the first day is a meeting day organised by the Catholic Education Office to discuss system priorities and initiatives for the Archdiocese. Mr O'Brien will lead the school in my absence with the support of the Executive Team.

Director's Visit

The Director of Catholic Education in our Archdiocese, Mr Ross Fox; newly appointed this year, will be visiting our school on the afternoon of March 8. Whilst at the school, Mr Fox will meet with me and members of the Community Council Executive, visit classrooms and enjoy lunch with the staff and members of the Parish community. I sincerely hope that Mr Fox will enjoy his visit to our wonderful school as he makes his way around our Archdiocese and learns more about what each school has to offer our system of Catholic Education.

V. Sanden

Vicky van der Sanden

Thought for Lent:

"We do not have the right to be indifferent or to look the other way."

Pope Francis



FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday 10 March	Year 5 Panama Assembly	12.30	School Hall
Monday 13 March	Canberra Day Holiday	-	-
Thursday 23 March	Year 5 Grade Mass	10.00	ACU Chapel
Friday 24 March	4 London Assembly	12.30	School Hall
Sunday 26 March	Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival	See draw-more info to come	UC Sports Ground

Religious Education News

Rosary Community Family Mass - Thank you!

Last Sunday was the Rosary Community Family Mass. It was lovely to see so many families attend and enjoy a chat and sausage afterwards. Thank you to all who were able to attend



Ash Wednesday Mass - Thank you!

Thank you to all family and friends who were able to attend the Ash Wednesday Mass. Father Kieran reminded us all that Lent is a time for prayer and reflection, going without and helping others.

Project Compassion 2017



Week one of Lent: Dinia, Philippines

Dinia, widowed and shy, struggled on her own to make ends meet until her community encouraged her to participate in the Socio Pastoral Action Centre Foundation Inc. (SPACFI) program, supported by Caritas Australia. SPACFI's Integrated Community Development Program helped her develop diverse ways to gain a sustainable livelihood, continue to send her children to school and contribute to her community. Now she inspires her neighbours through her commitment to the common good



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help our most vulnerable neighbours in the Philippines to build a stronger future for their families and their communities.

You can donate through: - **School boxes in your child's classroom**

- www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

- by calling 1800 024 413.

Peace and best wishes

Liz Higgins

Religious Education Co-ordinator (acting)

Veritas Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a VERITAS award last week:

Jacob Thomas, Rafe Mooney, Daniel McAlary, Joseph Garreffa, Bridget Pham, Zoe Bertram, Tearia Teaiwa Mortimer, Mikey Roser, Chelsea Szabo, Katerina Beaver, Eva Spoljaric, and Aidan Smith.

BEST Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a BEST award at Tuesdays assembly:

Athena Kouparitsas, Seraphine Parker, Benji McNamara, Jaylee Hodges, Hugo Pochi, Edward Brady, Rhys Chapman, Anh Nguyen, Sienna Manu, Olivia Lumbaca, Joseph Martin, Sam Chapman and Donovan Savle.