Dear Parents

Last Thursday evening, the Rotary Club of Canberra North presented the Pride of Workmanship Award to our very own Ross Harcombe.

Ross is a worthy recipient of this award and it acknowledges the outstanding contribution he makes to the Rosary school community. Many visitors to the school, including Archbishop Christopher, have commented on the neat, clean and orderly appearance of the school and we have Ross to thank for this. Ross always takes pride in his work and goes out of his way (above and beyond) to assist with school events etc.

Ross came to our assembly last Friday to share his award with the children. As we were leaving the hall, I overheard some children saying, “Mr Harcombe is the BEST.”

Kind regards

Maureen Doszpot
Principal

Together we do our BEST
PROJECT COMPASSION—Eric and Ma from Fiji
Twenty-five years ago, married couple Eric and Ma worked hard, but their farm was unprofitable. They had a very limited income and diet, until they took a training course at the Tutu Rural Training Centre (supported by Caritas Australia). Using the skills they learnt there, the couple have built a successful family life, and a thriving farm that provides them with a healthy diet and sustainable source of income.

Your donation to Project Compassion helps people in isolated areas of Fiji gain the skills they need to grow food for life.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS
At Rosary students receive the Sacraments in the following grades. Yr 2 Reconciliation; Yr 3 Eucharist; Yr 6 Confirmation. If any students (Baptised Catholic) have come to Rosary in the higher grades not receiving these Sacraments, please let me know if you would like them to receive the relevant one(s).

Dates for the Sacraments are as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrament Type</th>
<th>Preparation Session</th>
<th>Commitment Mass</th>
<th>Sacrament Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRST EUCHARIST</td>
<td>Thur 30 April @ 6pm</td>
<td>Sun 31 May @ 10am</td>
<td>Sat 27 June @ 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECONCILIATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sun 28 June @ 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITMENT MASS</td>
<td>Thur 11 June @ 6pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thur 30 July @ 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMITMENT MASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETREAT DAY</td>
<td>Fri 26 June 9am-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACRAMENT DATES</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mon 24 August @ 6pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 25 August @ 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thur 17 Sept 9am-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 18 Sept @ 6pm</td>
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</table>

Upcoming Masses
The Yr 6 Grade Mass is on next Thursday - 6 March, 10am ACU Chapel. All are welcome!

Thanks
Thankyou to all of the Yr 4 families that were able to attend the family Mass last Sunday. Also a big thanks to the Yr 4 teachers, Janet Hanratty and Beth Clarke, for their preparation of the students.

Regards
John O’Brien
Religious Education Coordinator
WANTED

Rugby: More boys needed for all age groups, especially u8’s (John Dettori’s 2014 team).
Rego forms at front office or Rosary website.
Ph Dave 0403 977575

REWARD

READING PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

TARGET GROUP – Kinder and Year 1 parents

Do you want to learn how to support your child at home with their reading? How to juggle sight words, readers, alphabet etc
Do you have questions about reading?
Are you interested in learning more about how we teach reading to young children?

Please come to an information and Q & A session

When – Monday 23rd March 9–10:30am
Where – Rosary School library

RSVP – office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au by Friday 20th March
Please include any questions in your email to be included in the session

(Younger siblings are welcome)
Community Council Committees 2015

☐ I would like to be involved in the Community Council in 2015.

I would like to be involved in the following way:

☐ I am interested in being a Member of the following Committee (please tick one):
  ☐ Hospitality
  ☐ Student Services
  ☐ Environment
  ☐ Sport
  ☐ Communication

☐ I’d really like to help where I can with the Community Council in 2015. Just ask me!
☐ I’d just like something small to do, please!

Comments: __________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Name of eldest child at Rosary: ________________________________

Parent name: ___________________________________________________

Parent signature: _____________________________________________

Phone contact: ________________________________________________

Email contact: ________________________________________________

Date: _________________________________________________________

Please return this form to school as soon as possible.
LUNCHTIME LEGO CLUB

Do you have too much Lego at home? Are your Lego containers overflowing? Then perhaps we can help you…..

We are seeking any donations of Lego to establish a lunchtime Lego club. We will accept all types of lego.

Please send any and all pre-loved Lego to school for use in the ‘Lunchtime Lego Club’.

Please see Melinda Hall-O’Brien if you have any questions.

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Veritas Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards last Friday;

- Thanks to all the families that have returned their child’s contact information. If you have not yet returned yours please do so as soon as possible.

- Reminder that Term 1 School fees are due this week.

- Netball Registrations are due by tomorrow (Friday). Payment can be made via Bpay or at the front office.

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For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Assembly</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4-6 March</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jindabyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 March</td>
<td>School Photos (summer uniform please)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 March</td>
<td>Year 2 Dublin Assembly</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 22 March</td>
<td>Catholic School Soccer Carnival</td>
<td></td>
<td>University of Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 March</td>
<td>Cross-Country Carnival</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stromlo Forest Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All articles for inclusion in Veritas should be at the School Office no later than 9:00 am Wednesday.
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

more on page 2
It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day. Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

✓ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
✓ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
✓ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
✓ Consider catching-up on missed work.
✓ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.
Class contact details - 2015
(Return to Melinda Hall-O’Brien Assistant Principal)

If you were not able to attend the Parent information evening this week you will have missed the opportunity to add your details to the class contact list. Please complete below and return to school ASAP if you would like your details to be included.

Parent/Carer’s Name: _______________________________

Child’s Class: _______________________________

Child’s Name: _______________________________

Email: _______________________________

Phone: _______________________________

I give permission for these details to be included on the class contact list  Email - yes / no  Phone - yes / no

Melinda Hall-O’Brien (Assistant Principal) Melinda_hallobrien@cg.catholic.edu.au

Parent Liaison Contact

I am willing to be a Parent Liaison Contact for 2015

Parent/Carer’s Name: _______________________________

Child’s Class: _______________________________

Child’s Name: _______________________________