Dear Parents

Last week I attended an Archdiocesan Principals’ Retreat led by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. The Archbishop guided us in our reflection on Scripture and reiterated his message from the current issue of Catholic Voice about the three essentials of contemplative prayer: Silence, Stillness and Simplicity. “Being silent in a noisy world is not as easy as it seems. But real silence is not simply an absence of noise. It is an interior act of paying attention and truly listening to the Holy Spirit deep within us all. As with silence, stillness has both interior and exterior dimensions. There needs to be physical stillness. Again this is not easy in a world of perpetual movement. But physical stillness helps to still the mind and heart. We focus on Jesus within us. Simplicity... We do not have to perform in prayer. We do not have to tell Jesus all the great things we are doing and slide over the things we are not doing. Prayer is about presence not performance. Simply being in the presence of Jesus and waiting on him is superior prayer.”

My thanks to John O’Brien and Julie Godfrey for assuming extra duties and responsibilities while I was on retreat and Melinda was away with Year 5 on camp.

My School

Most of you would be aware that the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has launched the updated My School website (www.myschool.edu.au). This website provides a profile on each school in Australia, including ours, showing information about the school such as numbers of students and staff, attendance rates and results from the national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN) conducted in 2014. The website also includes information about school finances and student gain in NAPLAN. My School shows comparisons between Rosary’s NAPLAN results and those from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia.

There is often interest from the community in the achievements and performance of individual schools. There is a lot of information available to help understand how individual schools are performing, and what their strengths are. School websites, and the My School website are valuable sources of information about schools. However, using raw data such as NAPLAN or finance information, while adding to information about schools, is a narrow and incomplete way to assess a school’s performance when taken in isolation. Schools are not defined by the results of one test on one day that focuses on a very specific part of the curriculum. There is no substitute for visiting the school, speaking to the principal and teachers, observing students and talking to other parents. Teachers at Rosary already use a range of data to inform us about the performance of our students. We will use the My School data in conjunction with what we already know to inform our teaching and learning programs to ensure the best outcomes for our students. We will continue to review the areas where we are doing well and also where we can make improvements.

What we will also do is remember that the measure of a good school is not only academic success. When new families come to enrol their children at Rosary, very few mention the My School data. Most comment on the school’s reputation as a caring, inclusive community. Word of mouth is the most effective means of advertising! We celebrate our successes, work to continually improve our outcomes and are thankful for the wonderful staff, cohesive vision and supportive parents who are there working with us.

Catholic Schools Week

This week is Catholic Schools Week, with the theme ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’. It is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the wonderful opportunities that Catholic schools provide, and to celebrate our history, our distinctiveness and our many achievements. Students at Rosary celebrated by attending the Shell Questacon Science Circus on Tuesday.

Thank You ...

♦ To Kath Watson and Alison Marks for their planning and coordination of last week’s Year 5 Camp at Jindabyne and to Melinda Hall-O’Brien and David Kelly for accompanying them. From all accounts the camp was an outstanding success.

♦ To Philippa Brotchie, Amanda Jiang, Alison Marks and Kath Watson for so generously attending the iPad Toolbox two day conference in Sydney and foregoing the Canberra Day public holiday.

Kind regards

Maureen Doszpot
Principal
PROJECT COMPASSION - Karen from Wilcannia-Forbes

This week Project Compassion focuses on the Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes ‘Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life’ program (supported by Caritas Australia). It is helping First Australians, like Karen, to take control of their money, and choose and prepare nutritious food to ensure a healthier future for their families.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps First Australians in remote communities gain the skills to make healthier food choices, building a better future for their families.

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).

Yr 6 Mass

Last week Yr 6 had their grade Mass. Well done to the students and teachers on the reverent and meaningful participation and thankyou to those family members who were able to attend.

Regards

John O’Brien

Religious Education Coordinator

Year 5 Camp

Jindabyne 2015
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Parent orders can be made without child’s knowledge and picked up from the library. If you do this please write “parent order” and a contact phone number on the order form.

Sorry but late orders cannot be accepted as all orders are made to Scholastic in one transaction.

Important Payment information: Credit card payments are made online scholastic.com.au/loop. Cheques are to be made out to Scholastic Australia. IF ORDERING ONLINE, SELECT LIBRARY AS THE CLASS.

Issue 2 orders: are due back to school with all money no later than

**Friday 20 March**

Questions about book club can be directed to me at gunning99@grapevine.com.au

Happy Reading,
Helen Gunning.

---

**Community Council News**

The Community Council held its first meeting for the year on 25 February. The Council received a briefing on the implementation of the BYOD project - as was reported to the whole school community in last week’s Veritas; consideration of the work plan for the Council for the year; reports on the surveys conducted at the end of 2014: the communications survey; the BYOD survey; staff, student and parent satisfaction surveys. We also endorsed the School Improvement Implementation Plan and the Behaviour Management Policy. Finally, the Council determined that in 2015 there would be 2 scheduled Open Meetings: in week 8 of Term 2 and Week 4 of Term 4. The Term 2 meeting will function as something of an AGM in terms of a formal report from the Council.

In terms of the surveys the Communications survey was completed by a third of families and strongly endorsed the primary role of Veritas as the key communications instrument. Families reported mixed experiences with the SchoolBag App and some email communications and expressed their strong views that Twitter and Facebook were not helpful means of communication.

The BYOD survey was reported on last year but it is worth reiterating that about 70% of Year Six (2015) parents completed the survey and 50% of Year Five families (allowing for some cross over). As was reported last year 75% of Year Six parents and half of Year Five parents were supportive of the introduction of the program. The concerns of parents have been taken seriously and are being addressed in a variety of ways as indicated in Veritas last week. This will continue to be a priority area for the Council to monitor in 2015.

The annual staff, student and parent satisfaction surveys were completed by a good range of people in each category. As always in such instruments the views were mixed in regard to strengths and weaknesses but each of the surveys strongly endorsed the view that Rosary is a supportive community and that students and their families are largely happy here. There were also a number of views expressed that the school needs to do more to to explore and and foster a learning community that caters to the increasingly diverse needs of students and their families. What stood out for me was the overwhelmingly positive comments from students - they love their school and believe that they are valued and cared for in our community.

Flowing from these surveys, the Council has determined to make diverse learning needs a focus in 2015. At our next meeting we will plan a series of information, presentation and discussion options to further this agenda.

The Community Council exists to serve the Rosary Community - you should let any of the Council Members know if there are issues of concern or ideas that you want discussed or explored.

The dates for the Council meetings for 2015 are: 25/3, 20/5, 17/6, 12/8, 9/9, 4/11 and 2/12.

The two dates in bold are the scheduled Open Meetings. I hope that many of you will be able to be present.

Patrick McArdle
Here are some photos of the exciting things Kinder Paris have been up to since the start of the school year.

We have enjoyed shared reading of big books in Literacy.

We have shared stories about our families.

We have investigated the weather in Science.

We have loads of fun with Our Year Six Buddies.

We have had fun in the Engine Room.
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)

For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 March</td>
<td>School Photo Day– Full summer uniform (no sports please)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 15 March</td>
<td>Catholic School Soccer Carnival</td>
<td>See website</td>
<td>Uni of Canberra</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>Thursday 26 March</td>
<td>Year 3 Prayer Celebration</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>ACU Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 March</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stromlo Forest Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Netball fees are now due. If you have not yet paid please pay as soon as possible. Thank you to all families that have already paid.

School photos are being taken tomorrow, Friday the 13th. Full Summer Uniform please. No sports.

Catholic Soccer Carnival see website for info.

Thank you