Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Ambrose,

Welcome back to school! A belated happy Easter to each and everyone.

We cannot get over how great the weather has been for our students and families over the last two weeks. We can only hope that the days were used well and provided opportunities for adventure and new learnings.

This first week has flown and next week will very much be the same.

**Raising Expectations** – There continues to be much discourse in the media regarding educational outcomes for our students. The curriculum, over nearly two decades, has been pushed and prodded, reformulated, restructured and retaught. All the while, teachers continue to do their utmost to ensure that their students receive the best education possible whilst trying to ensure they meet state, federal, and more importantly, parental expectations.

While walking past the Grade Prep /One classroom this Monday morning, I could hear, with a sense of pride in their voices, Prep children counting to one hundred. I couldn’t help but have a smile on my face knowing that this teacher has very high expectations for her students and her children are enjoying their learning. In the same way, seeing Grade 3/4 students reading intensely as their teacher worked with a focus group.

When reflecting upon the national curriculum that is designed to provide every student within Australia with the opportunity to succeed, one has to consider at what level are we pitching our curriculum for students who attend St Ambrose Parish School. Do we challenge our students or do we simply settle for mediocrity? We are so fortunate at St Ambrose in having students that across the school, are consistently well behaved. This translates into teaching time spent focused on learning rather than behavior.

At St Ambrose, our curriculum is not simply designed to give our students an experience. It is especially designed to engage them in being enthusiastic learners, to be thinkers that are able to apply their learning to real life issues, problems and challenges. Simply doing something doesn’t mean you are learning something.

This term is promising to be an exciting one for our students given the planning and preparation that has been undertaken by our teachers. We hope that by the end of Term 2, like myself hearing our Preps count so confidently, you as parents will smile hearing of what they have learnt and seeing them share their successes.

**ANZAC Day March** – Although the school is closed, we would like to invite our students and parents on Monday the 25th April to join us as we participate in the ANZAC Day March that occurs down the main street of Woodend. As a school community, we will be gathering at 11.15am for an 11.30am start in front of the ‘Double 8 Chinese Restaurant’ in the main street. Children will march in set groups with families observing from the sidelines, meeting us at the RSL. Students should be dressed in full school uniform.

**Winter School Uniform** – One can truly feel the change of season occurring with the onset of winter upon us. It is really important that your child comes to school wearing clothing that will keep them warm when they leave the classroom. In colder climate countries, (Woodend would definitely make the grade), children are taught to wear layers so that they can adapt to the varying temperatures experienced in a given day. Our school uniform, at best, only provides two layers if a top and jacket are worn. Could I ask that parents please ensure that their child comes to school with at least two layers – three is preferred.
Winter School Uniform – We take pride in the appearance of our students and our uniform; it represents to the community who we are. As uniforms are compulsory, we would like to ensure that parents are receiving value for money and are happy with how their children are presented at school. Following discussion raised at the School Advisory Committee Meeting last term, we would like to receive feedback in relation to what you think of the current uniform in order to determine whether new suppliers or some uniform redesign is required. A Uniform Survey is being sent home with today’s newsletter. Please return surveys via your child’s classroom.

During the last week of Term 1 I raised money for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. I have spent some time in the hospital and wanted to help the children still there. Each morning, before school, I rattled a tin outside school. Thanks to the generosity of St. Ambrose families and the Woodend community, I raised $1488.95.

Thank you to everyone that donated!

By Keeley 3/4R

(Permission was granted to publish photo with name.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 10:27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.’

The passages from the Gospels where Jesus likens us to being sheep leave me a bit cold. I think I must lose something in the translation from first century Palestine to today. Most of the sheep I have ever watched may well be cute, in a woolly sort of way, but they are anxious creatures often running in packs in every direction, are notoriously stupid and difficult to manage or direct. On second thoughts maybe the analogy is not so bad after all! We, the people of God, can certainly be an anxious lot, a bit slow on the uptake and difficult to lead. It also true, however, that sheep are incredibly useful and adaptable animals. Think about all the places they have been taken throughout the world. They thrive. With all due respect to the vegans, vegetarians and animal liberationists here today, think about the multiple ways they have served humanity.

The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in
our homes. They are members of the family. Shepherds in Jesus’ day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus’ lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let’s steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.

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P/1R Layla S
For writing a great recount about her holidays!

P/1R Fiachra H
For using lots of time connectives in his holiday recount.

3/4F Isabelle N
For showing initiation in the classroom. Thank you Isabelle!

3/4F Sam B
For always trying hard in class to improve his learning!

3/4R Flynn A
For his terrific attitude to learning! Keep it up!

3/4R Mia L
For a brilliant effort researching and presenting her Inquiry learning!

5/6M Finn H
For his wonderful work ethic during classroom tasks.

5/6M Hannah D
For her fabulous recount of her Easter holidays.

Motivating Your Child For Excellence

The request to “Wake up for school please Ashton” was met with a groan. “I don’t want to go to school mum.”

Most parents will experience a child who is not motivated to be at school at some point in their lives. Many parents were that child! Trying to stimulate your child’s motivation at school is extremely difficult for parents, primarily because so much of what happens at school is out of your control. The environment provided by the teacher, other students, and the school community can have a powerful impact on your child’s level of motivation. There are, however, several things that parents can do to increase their child’s motivation at school:

Remember, relationships matter

Encourage your child to develop positive relationships with other students at school. If the peer environment is one that is safe, fun, and comfortable, then your child will be more motivated to be at school than if bullying or teasing is common place.

Your child’s relationship with the teacher should be positive

Look for ways to speak with your child about what the teacher is doing well, and the positive aspects of the student-teacher relationship. By building a positive perspective on classroom relations, children are likely to be more motivated at school.

Speak positively about the school

When our children hear us openly criticise school, the teachers, or the principal, we undermine their faith and confidence in the people who are influencing and teaching them each day. Look for things that the teacher or school are doing well, and emphasise them publicly. When your children hear you speaking positively about their school, they will experience your enthusiasm as an endorsement and respond accordingly.
Encourage mastery and mistakes, not performance and perfection

Developing competence requires practice, mistakes, and a long-term approach to mastery. If you’ve ever had a boss watching over your shoulder you will know how your focus on perfect performance can cause you to unravel. It also probably reduced your motivation! When children know they will not be judged on their performance, they feel free to experiment, make mistakes, and try again. By reducing pressure for perfect performance learning becomes an enjoyable process, and motivation goes up.

Emphasise effort

When your child brings home a report card (or when any evaluation is occurring in relation to schoolwork), emphasise the effort that they’re making over the results they’re achieving. Ask questions such as, “Do you feel like you’re working hard?” Point out what a teacher says about your child’s effort and ask, “Is your teacher right about this? Are you putting in less effort than you can?” Emphasise that you care more about effort than outcomes.

Share your child’s successes

When your child demonstrates competence, let him/her hear you telling other people about what was accomplished.

“Ella has been making such a big effort at school, and today she received an award for it.”

“Jack got 22 out of 25 on his weather project.”

“Matt just did his first serious high school exam. I’ve never seen him put in so much effort before. We still don’t know what he scored, but I’m so proud of him for working so hard.”

By telling people about the successes your child experiences, and by finding the good in what they do, your child will be more motivated to continue to work hard, practice, and develop good academic outcomes.

Canteen News!

The ladies in the canteen do a fantastic job, cooking and baking delicious food which we can smell some days throughout the school. To help them with their job when writing a lunch order please write:

1. Child’s name and grade clearly
2. Item/s required
3. Total
4. Amount of money enclosed
5. Change required, if any

(see photo below)

Please also note: Clear snap lock bags, sticky tape and staples are unacceptable.

Please remind your child to pick up milk drinks/slushies and other frozen drinks if pre ordered, fruit juices will be placed in lunch order tubs but not LOL's.

If your child would like a milk drink/cookie at recess they can pay across the counter or either write “RECESS” on the bag if placing through their lunch order. This way we won't get confused and we'll endeavour to make sure you child receives their snack at recess.
Sacred Heart College
Kyneton

MAKING THE CHOICE
SECONDARY EDUCATION
Info Session 26 April 7pm

A Vibrant Life

Music Lessons are off to a great start!
In Term 2 there are only a few after school spaces left.

Working with MusicWorks
students have the chance to be involved with weekly lessons in...

- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Drums
- Piano/Keyboard
- Bass
- Vocal

Spaces Limited so get in touch now!!!

- Register by contacting MusicWorks
- Lessons are on Tuesdays
- Join with a friend or by yourself

“Without music education, our kids have missed the opportunity to play and enjoy the fruits of music learning.”

- Visit www.musicworks.org.au for more info

AFL Auskick
STARTS APRIL 16th

Call Joel
H 5427 4048
M 0432 152 034

AFLAuskick.com.au

Sacred Heart College
Kyneton

Community News

Community News

LEARN TO PLAY BASKETBALL THIS TERM
Basketball is a great indoor team sport. Woodend kids can learn to play through the Macedon Ranges Basketball Association’s Aussie Hoops program. Come along and find out why the MRBA just won Basketball Victoria Country’s Small Basketball Association of the Year.

Register online at www.mrba.net.au. Numbers are limited so get in fast! If you’re keen on finding out more, visit our website or call the coordinator.

AUSSIE HOOPS (5-10yrs) BOYS AND GIRLS SESSIONS – THURSDAYS
- Starts Thursday 21st April
- Girls (5-10yrs) 4.30pm – Contact Kerri on 0411 146 897
- Boys (5-9yrs) 5.30pm – Contact Tamara on 0411 017 185
- 8 x skills sessions

Term costs:
- $150 for new players - includes insurance, Aussie Hoops pack, basketball and reversible singlet
- $80 for returning players includes insurance

MusicWorks
St. Ambrose’s Parish Primary School
2016 Music Lessons!

Paint and Paper Aeroplane Mount Macedon Intermediate School

MusicWorks Melbourne
0424 701 217
info@musicworks.org.au
www.musicworks.org.au
A great opportunity to hear young talent

Duneira is hosting Monash Sinfonia in concert at St Ambrose Church, Sunday 17 April at 2.30 pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the young violin or music student in your family to see first-hand a group of talented young students in concert. Perhaps this will inspire their dreams for a musical future!

Monash Sinfonia is an un-conducted string ensemble that offers outstanding young string students the opportunity to work with musicians of the very highest calibre.

Since its formation in 1996, Sinfonia has performed at the Port Fairy Festival, the Melbourne International Arts Festival, Melbourne Recital Centre and in Italy and Brazil.

In this Woodend concert, Sinfonia will perform some of the great works of the string repertoire by Corelli and Vivaldi as well as a stunning arrangement of Dido’s Lament by brilliant Australian composer Joe Chindamo and Josef Suk’s beautiful Serenade.

Tickets for all ages are just $20 each and are available online www.duneira.com.au  Booking essential

A Celebration Day for Girls

May 2016
Woodend - Sunday May 1st
Riddells Creek - Sunday May 15th

For more information:
www.celebrationdayforgirls.com or

The Enchanted Garden Open 16th—17th April

The Enchanted Garden of St Ambrose, the old school house in Woodend, will open its gates to the public for the first time in over a decade.

The house contains of world renowned gallow dancer Lizzy Pinkney. The property is steeped in history, and since this is an opportunity to see what is undoubtedly one of the most stunning and significant private gardens in the country.

Botanical artist Greg Langwood will be displaying his latest art works over the two days.

Macedon Ranges Cancer Support Group

Wednesday 27 April 2016
1pm to 3pm

Macedon Ranges Health
5 Neal Street, Gisborne

The program will be built around the needs identified by group members and will include presentations, speakers and group discussion.

For enquiries and RSVP’s please call Jane on 0412 993 109 or email Jenny at committee@itcwc@gmail.com

It Takes a Village Compassionate Communities Inc.
and
Macedon Ranges Health

ST AMBROSE
COUNTRY ESTATE
1588