Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another term! This term should be a busy one with First Communion and Grade 4/5/6 Camps. Mid-year reports will be sent home at the end of term and Parent teacher interviews will be conducted.

The children have returned well rested and have settled back into routines very well.

I hope you all had a happy and holy Easter and were able to celebrate this great time in a meaningful way.

INTER@ACT = A NEW WAY OF CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DELIVERY AT OUR SCHOOL. OUR WHOLE SCHOOL INQUIRY UNIT FOR THIS TERM IS “SUSTAINABILITY”. Grade 6 will also work through a Unit on Civic and Citizenship in preparation for their Canberra Trip.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES – “Classroom News” will no longer be provided in hard copy but will be available online at www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au in the online version of the Newsletter. If you do not have internet access contact the office for a hard copy. Log on to the website and subscribe for automatic email notifications.

STAFF MEMBERS DON’T COMMENCE YARD DUTY UNTIL 8:45am EACH MORNING. CHILDREN ARRIVING AT SCHOOL BEFORE THAT TIME ARE NOT SUPERVISED BY SCHEDULED YARD DUTY TEACHERS.
Woodend Carnival
I would once again like to thank everyone involved with the carnival and congratulate you all for a wonderful effort. The carnival raised over $18 000.00 for the school and parish. I wish to thank all of our sponsors and urge you to support the businesses that support us.

FAMILY WEEK
Family week coincides with Mothers’ Day and will commence on Monday the 7th of May. Please note a change of date – The Mothers’ Day Stall will be conducted on that Monday. Mass will be held on Wednesday the 9th of May. On the evening of the 10th of May there will be a dinner for Mums at the Bentinck. More details soon. A special family day and shared lunch will be organised later in the year.

SUSTAINABILITY and GARDEN GROUP
Anyone interested in joining our Sustainability and Garden group we will be having a meeting next THURSDAY at 2.30 p.M in the staff room. Evening meetings will be organised later.

UNIFORM SHOP
Please note. The uniform shop is now open on Wednesday mornings not Thursdays.

SOLAR PANELS
Anyone interested in helping Michael Portelli and I develop our submission for a Solar Grant should contact Michael or myself.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>16 Apr</td>
<td>Start Term 2</td>
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<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY</td>
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<td>26 Apr</td>
<td>Fire Brigade visit for P/1/2</td>
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<td>7 May</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day Stall</td>
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<td>7 May</td>
<td>Camp meeting Gr 4/5 6.45</td>
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<td>7 May</td>
<td>Camp meeting Gr 6 7.30</td>
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<td>8 May</td>
<td>Gr 3 /4 excursion</td>
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8 May     PFA meeting
9 May     Mass
10 May    Mothers’ Day Dinner
11 May    Principals’ Meeting
13 May    Mothers’ Day
15 May    Advisory Board
6 June    Eucharist Workshop
11 June   Queen’s Birthday
12 June   PFA

Grade 4 & 5 Camp 23rd – 25th of May

Grade 6 Canberra Trip 4th – 8th of June

1st Communion 24th of June

TUESDAY 26TH JUNE P/T INTERVIEWS. NO CLASSES FOR CHILDREN.

29TH JUNE TERM TWO ENDS AT 1.00 p.m

Confrimation 2nd of September

P.F.A
I have written to all families via the post regarding the P.F.A. You should receive the correspondence soon. Please consider the contents of my letter.

NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN ON MONDAY THE 14TH OF MAY – STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY.

ANZAC DAY
There will be no school on ANZAC DAY. Our school has been invited to participate in the Woodend March and commemoration service. Any children available and wishing to march should wear a school uniform appropriate for the weather and gather at 10.30 near the Chinese Restaurant.

FINALLY
Congratulations to Kristy Lee who was once again asked by the Herald-Sun to develop curriculum materials for their LEARN section. Keep an eye out for Cyber Safety tips in CLASSROOM NEWS thanks to Kristy.

All the best

Robert
Let us Pray

**Leader:** O Risen Christ, we rejoice in your resurrection and exult in your living presence amongst us as we pray:

Reader: Risen Christ, you come to transfigure our human nature:

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Reader: Risen Christ, in you our resurrection has already begun:

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Reader: Risen Christ, you fill our hearts with peace:

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Reader: Risen Christ, your Spirit burns away our sadness:

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Reader: Risen Christ, you come to gather us as one in your Body, the Church:

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Leader: Risen Christ, from the waters of baptism you raise us up with you and renew your gift of life within us. Help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of life and love.

**All:** Kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.

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**Scripture Reader:**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

John 20: 19–21
Mental health is the new self-esteem

What is your state of mind like? What is the state of your child’s mental health at the moment?

These are questions that we need to ask ourselves continually.

The busyness of life means that many of us feel that we are living our lives on the run and there is little time or chance to relax.

It is one thing to feel a little stretched. In some ways this is quite a healthy state. We usually achieve little if we are in a constant state of inertia.

But it is another thing entirely to feel constantly stressed because we are so busy or demands just stack up so that before we know it we are snowed under and life seems out of control.

For the sake of our mental health we need to create space so we can relax and not feel that our lives are spinning out of control. The same circumstances hold for children.

Left to their own devices children generally have sound mental health habits. They attend to about the right ratio of play, rest and work - that is, play comes before work and just after rest in most children’s scheme of things (just like dictionary order). I have never had to say to my children, “Now get back to playing. You have done enough work for one day.” It is always the other way around and so it should be.

But it seems things maybe changing in these times of highly orchestrated, adult-initiated childhoods. It is not so much that work comes before play rather that play is so highly structured that much of the spontaneity and self-directedness of play is lost.

The last decade has seen almost universal acceptance by parents and caregivers of the place of self-esteem in a child’s development. But we need to be careful not to over-organise and over-complicate children’s lives at the expense of free, unstructured ‘muck around’ time.

The importance of ‘muck around’ time is underestimated. Research maintains that self-initiated leisure is essential for good mental health and emotional well being in adolescents. Teenagers who have an interest outside of school or their normal range of ‘work’ have a tremendous insulator against stress, anxiety and depression.

Parents and teachers can fill up children’s and young people’s lives with all types of activities that there is little space or time left to pursue their own interests or to just ‘muck around’.

Most of us know intuitively that ‘muck around’ time is the prerogative of childhood.

The opportunity for some free, unstructured time is something that we adults need to remember as we model good mental health habits for the children and young people in our lives.

Quick Parenting Quiz

1. The average Australian child watches 19 hours of television a week.
   
   Answers:
   1. True.

2. Junk food advertising is two times more common during children’s television programs.
   
   Answers:
   2. False. Junk food advertising is three times more common during children’s television programs.

Vitamins for parents

Little things count - involving children in decision-making:

Do you give children opportunities to make decisions that affect themselves and their family?

Decision-making is a skill that needs to be continuously practised. It an important part of being an autonomous human being. Parents can step back and allow children to make decisions about such things as: what to have for dinner, how to make grandma’s visit a pleasant, what time they should get up in the morning or whether to do homework before or after dinner.

It is in the small areas that affect children’s lives that autonomy with guidance needs to be given. Limits can be given to help children make wise or appropriate choices. For instance, they may choose how they use their pocket money but you may insist that it be distributed between spending, saving/investing and charity.

Bright idea

Adopt one, dump one

If a child has a full schedule of extra-curricular activities and he wants to take on a new hobby or interest then he may have to consider omitting one of his present activities. This basic time management practice is a life skill that all children should learn as it prevents schedules being overcrowded, not to mention being a great sanity-saver.

Wise & Witty Words

“Becoming responsible adults is no longer a matter of whether children hang up their pyjamas or put dirty towels in the hamper, but whether they care about themselves and others- and whether they see chores as related to how we treat the planet.”
Eda Lessan

“It is not giving children more that spoils them; it is giving them more to avoid confrontation.”
John Gray,
“Children Are From Heaven”
CLASSROOM NEWS.

GRADE P/1 AB

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you have had a wonderful Easter break and that the children are feeling rested and refreshed.

This term is 11 busy and enjoyable weeks! Reporting writing will take place this term, ending with Parent/Teacher Meetings sometime in the last two weeks.

Our new Religion Unit is called Easter and looks at new life and new beginnings. Children will be looking at the Easter story, the Resurrection, the Ascension and what happens after. On Wednesday we had our conclusion to ‘The Easter Musical’ over in the Church. It was wonderful and creative celebration and I would like to thank Jayne O’Callaghan for finding and organising this play for us.

In Literacy we are going to begin with writing and publishing our holiday recounts, so please take time to look at the display in the hallway early this term. Once we complete our holiday recounts we will be moving on to writing reports as this will integrate nicely with our new Inquiry Unit, The Way We Were. During reading we will looking at and reading books which are written in a recount or report format and hopefully which will tie in with our Inquiry unit or letter focus. All students are confidently identifying and using the letters of the alphabet and even the sounds that these letters make. We will be revising letter sounds and having a strong focus on reading skills (e.g. segmentation, blends, vowel sounds etc). In Mathematics, we will begin by revising and extending counting patterns and identifying the numeral and matching it to the visual layout. We will also be revising and extending our shape knowledge and measurement skills.

As mentioned before, our new Inquiry Unit is The Way We Were. This unit is a Sustainability unit which focuses on Change. It looks at what change is, and the different changes in our world and their possible causes. A lot of this unit’s activities are whole class or group activities so please look around the room at our Inquiry displays throughout the term. This unit looks to be very enjoyable and rewarding for the children.

At the end of term we purchased a Buddies Program, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation: Better Buddies. This program will make the most out of our buddies program as each session will develop lifelong skills in a fun and rewarding way. More information on this program can be found on the following website: http://amf.org.au/betterbuddies/ or by typing ‘Better buddies program’ into Google. If you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Finally please keep up the fantastic reading you are doing at home and please do not hesitate to come in and see me if you have an queries or concerns.

Looking forward to another great term!

Kind Regards,

Amy Beaumont 😊

GRADE P/1 JB

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to an action packed term two in P/1J. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday together. Thank you for all your good wishes and concerns about Sarah she is doing very well and is advanced on her road to recovery. Congratulations to Rueben and his family on the safe arrival of Amelia. This is fantastic news.

I would like to thank all the helpers that come into our classroom to assist us. We really appreciate your time and efforts. Thank you also goes to Mrs Keating for her help and to Kylie also for her assistance on Fridays.

This term our Inquiry Unit is titled Sustainability: The way we were. So you may get asked lots of questions about how things change and how things were in the “olden days”.

In Math we will be looking at numbers to 10 for Preps and to 100 for the Grade Ones. Counting with your child would be very helpful in this process. Addition and Subtraction problems and measuring problems will also be undertaken.
In Language we will be doing lots and lots of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.
In Religious Education the Unit on Easter will be the first for this Term.
Please remember to return your child’s Take Home books each Tuesday. This is very important as they are borrowed through the Library’s borrowing system and this is completed on Tuesday. Wednesday is still our Library book borrowing day.
I am enthusiastically looking forward to a wonderful term Two.
Please come and see me with any concerns however big or small.
Regards
Jenny Boldiston.

GRADE 1/2B

We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and that you’re feeling well rested and ready for another busy term.

We are starting the term in Religious education with a unit on Easter. Our main focus is of course the Resurrection of Christ. Yesterday we gathered in the church and finished our ‘That We Might Live’ play/musical. The children loved being involved in the production and we thank Jayne O’Callaghan for organising this play for us.

Our inquiry unit this term is titled ‘Tip toe through our world’ and focuses on sustainability. Our unit aims to develop our understanding of how we are personally responsible for helping to keep our world a place that is safe and beautiful for us to grow up in.
Throughout this unit we will be looking at:
* Ways to sustain (look after) and improve our environment
* The differences between environments; and
* Using scientific experiments to help us understand sustainable actions

This week we have been using role play to develop our understanding of what sustainability means and we each selected one thing that we would like to sustain and how. On Friday we will be conducting an experiment. We are going to bury different pieces of rubbish and predict what might happen to this rubbish over an 8 week period. (We will be digging up our rubbish up at the end of the unit.)

In literacy this term we are focussing on the genres of recount, report and description. This week the children have been busy writing recounts about their holidays. Feel welcome to pop into the classroom and read about our holiday adventures. We also remind you that home readers need to be returned to school every Tuesday. Please ensure your child’s reading diary is also brought in on this day, so we can monitor your child’s reading at home.

In math we are starting the term with a focus on length. We have been seeing who could make the longest worm, and we measured ourselves with string, and then found different items in our classroom that we were longer and shorter than. We are still continuing our work on counting by 1’s, 2’s, 5’s & 10’s and we ask you keep working on this with your child at home.

Both in KennyMc & Miss Benjamin’s class this term we are introducing “circle time” which links with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards of interpersonal development and personal learning. Circle time will give the students invaluable people skills and time to share thoughts and concerns they may be having at school.

We are looking forward to another fantastic term and to working with you all.
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.
Happy Birthday to Tamika who turned 8 during the holidays.

Miss Benjamin
GRADE 1/2 KM

Welcome back to KennyMc’s classroom news. We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and that you’re feeling well rested and ready for another busy term.

We are starting the term in Religious education with a unit on Easter. Our main focus is of course the Resurrection of Christ. Yesterday we gathered in the church and finished our ‘That We Might Live’ play/musical. The children loved being involved in the production and we thank Jayne O’Callaghan for organising this play for us.

Our inquiry unit this term is titled ‘Tip toe through our world’ and focuses on sustainability. Our unit aims to develop our understanding of how we are personally responsible for helping to keep our world a place that is safe and beautiful for us to grow up in.
Throughout this unit we will be looking at:
* Ways to sustain (look after) and improve our environment
* The differences between environments; and
* Using scientific experiments to help us understand sustainable actions

This week we have been using role play to develop our understanding of what sustainability means and we each selected one thing that we would like to sustain and how. On Friday we will be conducting an experiment with 1/2B. We are going to bury different pieces of rubbish and predict what might happen to this rubbish over an 8 week period. (We will be digging up our rubbish up at the end of the unit.)

In literacy this term we are focussing on the genres of recount, report and description. This week the children have been busy writing recounts about their holidays. Feel welcome to pop into the classroom and read about our holiday adventures. We also remind you that home readers need to be returned to school every Tuesday. Please ensure your child’s reading diary is also brought in on this day, so we can monitor your child’s reading at home.

In math we are starting the term with a focus on length. We have been seeing who could make the biggest worm, and we measured ourselves with string, and then found different items in our classroom that we were longer and shorter than. We are still continuing our work on counting by 1’s, 2’s, 5’s & 10’s and we ask you keep working on this with your child at home.

We are looking forward to another fantastic term and to working with you all.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Regards

Cherisse and Brenda

GRADE 3/4G
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a lovely Easter Break. It has been fun sharing holiday adventures with the children and seeing all the children come back to school so refreshed.
This is a very action packed Term for our grade. The grade three children have their First Communion to prepare for and the grade fours have the camp to Kangaroobie later this term too! There will be an activity night for Eucharist and information night for camp coming up so keep an eye out for further information and dates regarding these. This is also a report term and formal Parent/Teacher Interviews will be conducted at the end of this term. Naplan Testing will also take place for the grade three children during May. We have begun all new units of work and the children have been involved in some pre-assessments and activities to engage and tune them into their new learnings. Our class has begun with the reading and watching of the original animation of The Lorax. This text was chosen because it links our learning in all areas of the curriculum. During Religion we will be looking at the New and Old Testament stories from the Bible and seeking to discover the messages within, during Reading and Writing we will be delving into Persuasive texts and our new Integrated unit is called – Sustainability: Wow! Look What We’ve Got. I have not seen the modern version of The Lorax in the cinemas, but the book and the original animation available on the web, from all accounts is better!! This story by Dr. Seuss delivers a very powerful message to children about their environment and the part they play in sustaining it. It also has two very strong main characters, The Once-ler and The Lorax, both of whom are being very persuasive but for different purposes! Look out for a link in this weeks Homework!

Also as part of our new Integrated unit on Sustainability Micheal and I will be conducting an excursion in Week 4 to Hanging Rock. A permission letter giving all relevant details will be sent home this week for your attention and information.

During Maths over the next couple of weeks I will be focusing on 2D and 3D shapes, Time and the four operations (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division).

A big thank you to all my Parent Helpers who have started helping out in the classroom again. I am still keen to recruit more able bodies! If you are interested please do not hesitate to contact me and discuss a time and day that may suit you. Please remember that my door is always open and I am happy to meet with you about your child at any time. I look forward to our continued partnership this term.

Debbie Geisler 3/4G

GRADE 3/4P

Greetings from Grade 3/4P,

Welcome back to our new term. I hope you all enjoyed some great family time and the beautiful weather over the holidays. The children all seem well rested and enthusiastic to begin a new term of learning.

This term our Integrated Studies topic is titled ‘Sustainability – WOW! Look What We’ve Got!’ Through various activities and experiences the children will explore the questions - How can my environment be better looked after for the future? How do humans affect the survival of living things? To support our learning we are visiting Hanging Rock Reserve on the 8th of May. An excursion permission note will be coming home this week.
This is as is usual a busy term with NAPLAN testing for our Grade Three and camp for Grade Four. There will be a parent meeting at 6:45pm on Monday May 7\textsuperscript{th} to outline details of the Kangaroobie camp. The costs of the camp will be around $220. You can, if you wish start paying for these as soon as possible if this makes it easier for you rather than paying it in one lump sum.

Towards the end of Term 1 we had our school cross country event. It was great to see the effort that all the children put in to finishing the event to the best of their abilities. Thanks to Jayne for all her hard work and effort in organising the day, also thanks to all the parents who helped on the day and made it such a great event. Congratulations to Matthew, Abbey, Brody, Olivia, Bryn, Harrison, Dayna, Jack Thorsen and Amy Duff from our class who all made it to the next level of competition and will be representing our school at Hanging Rock on Tuesday the 24\textsuperscript{th} of April.

I would also like to congratulate our school equestrian team for their great effort at the event held in Bendigo. Please read Abbey Martin’s report in this newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, drop in to see me or email.

Cheers Micheal

**GRADE 5/6 F**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of another term. The children all seem well rested and eager to return to be with their friends and ready to begin a new term of learning. Late last term we had our school cross country event. I was placed out on the course at about the half-way mark for the senior children. It was great to see how they all were willing to push themselves to do the best that they could for their respective houses. Thanks to Jayne for all the hard work and effort in organising such a great event. Congratulations to Harley Giddings, Nick Grantham, Cade Brabham, Stuart Beckett, Charlie Mathieson, Alana Lacey, Angus Lloyd, Jacques De Groot, and Tamsyn Dicker from our class who all made it to the next level of competition which will take place on Tuesday the 24\textsuperscript{th} of April at Hanging Rock. Jayne is looking for parent help on this day so please let us know if you are able to help.

As you know the students from Grade five and six will be going on camp this term. There will be 2 parent meetings on Monday May 7\textsuperscript{th} to outline details on both the Canberra and Kangaroobie camps. The costs of the camps will be around $220 for Grade five and $450 for Grade six. You can if you wish start
paying for these as soon as possible if this makes it easier for you rather than paying it in one lump sum.

Next Wednesday April 25th is Anzac Day. I invite all of our senior students to attend the local ceremonies at the RSL. It has been a tradition at our school for a number of years for the children to march on this day and it is always pleasing to see our school represented at such a solemn occasion. Those children who will be attending need to be in front of the Woodend Laundromat around 11:30a.m ready to begin marching at 11:45a.m. To coincide with this, the students have been given a two week homework task to research an Australian soldier who represented their country at war. This task is due in on Friday 27th of April.

I would like to thank Karen Basa and Danielle Chew who have volunteered to be my class representatives this year. They sent home a note earlier this week to outline their role and to collect certain information from you. I would appreciate it if you could return the forms as soon as possible.

The children from Grade 6 will begin their visits to the Woodend Aged Care this week and Suzzanne who will be supervising this has asked for parent help in this most worthwhile program. It will involve walking down to the facility each Thursday afternoon and assisting the students with the activities. If you can help please let either Kristy, Suzzanne or me know as soon as possible. Many thanks in anticipation!

P.S Grade sixes are free to wear their Graduation T-Shirts each day of the week if they wish!!!!!!!!.

Regards,
Marg Flett.

GRADE 5/6L
Dear Parents and other interested parties,

Welcome to term two. This is by far one of our busiest terms and I look forward to sharing a busy eleven weeks of learning with your children. I hope you had a lovely Easter break and managed a bit of relaxation time away from the routines of school life.

Well the carnival seems a long time ago now but I didn’t get to thank the wonderful and hard-working committee and volunteers for such a fabulous day. The children and I had a wonderful day. We all wrote letters of thanks and feedback for the carnival committee which they read out at their evaluation meeting. A special mention should be made to all the students in our class who were brave enough to enter into ‘Woodend’s Got Talent’! It was great to see and we certainly do have some talent here at St. Ambrose!

We had a very busy last week of term one... The school cross country was a great event (thanks Mrs. O’Callaghan), we also had our beautiful school portraits taken and our Holy Week play. The final Resurrection scenes of our play took place yesterday, with the 5/6 classes performing the Resurrection
dialogue and hymns. Again thanks Jayne O’Callaghan for organising a real event to help the children learn the Easter story.

For the first two weeks we have set an ANZAC day mini-project for homework. This is due next Friday 27th April. The guidelines on the sheet are fairly clear but I did tell the children to speak to me if they had a family member that didn’t exactly fit the guidelines as I’m willing to be flexible. Feel free to email me with any questions. The children should get the A3 poster paper from me whenever they require it.

Speaking of ANZAC day, our school captains, Nick, Olympia, Taylor, Luke and Paige will be representing our school at the Woodend R.S.L ceremony next Wednesday 25th April. All children throughout the school are invited to join the march and would be very welcome. We’d ask them to wear their full school uniform. The march begins at 11.00am near the Woodend Chinese. They then march to the R.S.L for the service which begins at 11.45am. The children will be raising and lowering the flag, reading a poem and laying our wreath. Parents are welcome to march too or just join the service at the R.S.L. We are currently selling ANZAC day badges and wristbands at school from $2 to $5. Lest We Forget.

Selected children will participate in the Cobaw Cross-Country event next Tuesday, 24th April. Please return the permission notes and money ASAP. Mrs. O’Callaghan and some teachers will be supervising on the day.

Mr. Fitzgerald continues to work in our grade each Tuesday. He will complete a one week teaching round with us on Monday 30th April.

We’ve been very busy and struggled to fit our Woodend Library visits in. Our next visit will be on Wednesday 2nd May and we’ll need a parent helper.

Rob, Marg and I discussed the new Grade Six t-shirts and feel we’d be happy for them to wear them all the time or any day they wish, so no set days for those and you can still alternate between both shirts if you like. Both the grade 4/5 Kangaroobie camp and the grade 6 Canberra camp are fast approaching. We thought we could do a joint camp information night on Monday 7th May. The Kangaroobie information will be presented at 6.45pm and the Canberra information will be presented from 7.30pm. We should be finished by 8.15pm so I encourage you all to come along. The cost of the Kangaroobie camp is approximately $220, and Canberra is $450. Feel free to begin making part payments to the office now if this is easier for you. If you have any hesitations about your child going on camp, I’d encourage you to please come and speak to myself or Marg ASAP so we can discuss these. The Canberra camp leader application forms are due back tomorrow. The Kangaroobie camp leader applications are due Monday 30th April.

The Grade Six children have commenced visiting the Woodend Aged Care facility. There are 2 groups which will both attend monthly. Ms. Roberts will be walking with them each alternate Thursday afternoon and she is looking for a parent helper to walk with her. If you’re available any Thursday afternoon it would be much appreciated if you come for a leisurely stroll (they went today so it will be alternate Thursday’s from now on).

In Religion we continue to work on our Easter unit titled New Beginnings.

In literacy we have been doing a lot of our inquiry unit which involves different types of reading, writing and thinking. We’ve also looked at logos, slogans, synonyms and antonyms and the structure of an email. In writing we have been focusing on planning and drafting persuasive texts. The Grade Five children will be required to write a persuasive text in the Naplan test on the 15th May.

The email list I’ve set-up seems to be working well and is an easy way to get a message out to all my parents. I hope you are finding this useful.

Happy birthday to Olympia who turned 11 on the 28th March.

Congratulations to our students of the week; Aden Cooper for a marked improvement in his classroom demeanour and Brooke Pearse for 100% effort in all learning tasks.

Please mark the upcoming important dates in your diaries:

Friday 20th March – last day for Canberra camp leader applications
Tuesday 24th April – Hanging Rock cross country (selected students)
Wednesday 25th April – ANZAC day, no school, Woodend RSL March 11.30am
Monday 7th May – Grade 4/5 Camp information night 6.45pm and Grade 6 Camp information night 7.30pm
Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th May – Naplan testing
Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th May – Grade 4/5 Kangaroobie camp
Tuesday 29th May – Cobaw soccer (Grade Six)
Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and were able to make the most of our beautiful autumn weather. My family was most fortunate to celebrate my son Michael’s wedding on one of those warm and sunny days and I am still recovering from after wedding get togethers and a full house of family staying with us!! As much as it was a wonderful celebration, I am wondering where did those holidays go??

Yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) our whole school gathered in the church for the second part of our Easter musical, “That We Might Live”. We were entertained by the students from Years 5 and 6 and, in an upbeat manner, they told the story of the Resurrection. This celebration brought to a close the long journey we have been travelling – from Ash Wednesday, through all of Lent to Holy Week and finally the highlight of our church year, the feast of Easter. These are traditional and important events in the life of
our church and I would like to thank the students and their teachers for making these events come to life for our school.

This next term will be a busy one again for our students preparing for their First Holy Communion (Eucharist). This year, we have 37 children making their first communion and it has been decided to hold two Communion Masses, one on Saturday evening June 23rd at the parish 6:00 pm Mass and the other at 11:30 on the following day, June 24th. Within the next week, parents will receive a note asking them to indicate their first preference and hopefully, we will be able to accommodate everyone’s wishes.

In Week 4 of this term, we will be celebrating Family Week. Our classroom teachers in their Religious Education lessons will be covering the importance of Family and of being a loved and cherished member of God’s Family. We will celebrate Family Week together as a school at Mass on Wednesday, May 9th at 9:30 in the Church. Since Mother’s Day this year is Sunday, May 13th, our focus will be on our Mothers and we hope to have a special surprise for them after Mass that day. (More details about this will be in our next newsletter.) All families are invited to join us, especially the Mums, and those loved ones who are like our mothers to us! I understand that for some of our students, who no longer have their mums, this can be a very sad occasion too but I would encourage families to see this time as an opportunity to remember, to pray for and to celebrate the love our mothers had for us and the love we have for them. Hopefully, this can assist in the healing process.

Our Social Justice Team were presented with their badges at our last assembly and we hope to hold our next meeting next Monday to discuss some of their upcoming plans.

Over the last few weeks, two of our families have lost their grandparents. Please keep the Turner family (Jack in 5/6L) and Stapley family (Dana in 3/4P and Erin in 1/2B) in your prayers. May God bless and keep us all in His care.

Enjoy your family time together,
Jayne O’Callaghan  (Religious Education Leader)

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**MASS TIMES**

- Saturday 6.00 pm
- Sunday 10.00 am

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A medley of Student Wellbeing and Learning & Teaching news.

**Inter@ct Inquiry Resource Makers:**
I would firstly like to thank the Parent Class representatives who responded so willingly to my asking their support in making the Inter@ct Inquiry resources. Without hesitation they agreed and were ready to commence. By the end they will have their Level 20 Photocopy and Laminating Certificates and graduate at the top of their class.
This is a wonderful support for our teachers and students.

**Friday activities in the Library:**
Each Friday from next week we will open the Library at Lunchtime for students who wish to participate in one of three activities. The activities at this stage are **Yoga** with Ms Clare Shannon who is an accredited children’s yoga instructor. **Chess and Checkers** and **Knitting blanket squares** for charity organisations to support such people as the Homeless. If you are able to support us with these activities e.g. time to teach knitting or chess we would love for you to be involved and appreciate it greatly.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY ... excess wool, knitting needles (large size ones – easier to knit with), yoga mats that you don’t need? They would be gratefully accepted.**

**First visit to Woodend Aged Care today:**
Today 15 of our grade six students will walk down to the Aged Care. We will meet with some of the residents and support them to make a book compiling their recollections of their past. We are all looking forward to this fortnightly event. Meeting, interacting and establishing friendships with another generation of people offers much learning and insights you can’t get from books or computers.

**NAPLAN Data:**
The middle/senior school teachers will be looking closely at the information that the NAPLAN data can give us to support and inform our learning and teaching in 2012. All teachers have been reviewing English, Numeracy and Inquiry data from Assessment period 1 and have utilised this information to direct their curriculum goals and outcomes set for Semester 1.
Enjoy the beauty of the Autumnal weather and season and I hope your holidays were happy and everyone is revived and ready for term 2.

Kind regards,
Suzzanne (Roberts) (Student Wellbeing/ Learning & Teaching Leader)

SPORTS NEWS

Hello Everyone
Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you’re feeling refreshed from the school routine and that everyone enjoyed their Easter break.

Our first term ended with a bang when, as a whole school, we competed in the St. Ambrose Cross Country, held here at school and in the surrounding area of Five Mile Creek. We were blessed with a fine but cool morning, perfect weather for running a cross country! Congratulations go to Carmel, our gold team, who were the eventual winners on the day. I would like to thank the wonderful band of helpers, parents, grandparents, brothers and even friends, who turned up to help on the day. These types of events cannot take place without this support and, on behalf of both students and staff, I thank you. Our Cobaw Sports Cross Country team has been chosen from our placegetters in the 9 to 12 year old age groups and this carnival will take place next Tuesday, April 24th at Hanging Rock. The students involved already have their permission letters with all the details and these need to be returned immediately, if they have not already done so.

Our P.E. program has commenced for this term. Our focus in the Junior School is continuing to develop ball handling skills, especially with smaller balls and later in the term will include games skills. Our Middle School will focus on the Fundamental Motor Skills Program and the Seniors, as well as concentrate on improving fitness levels, will be practising major games for their participation in the Cobaw Sports program. These games include Soccer, Netball, Tee Ball and Football. Cobaw Winter Sport day is Friday, 15th June so please add this date to your calendar as we will again be on the lookout for parental support.

Finally, a reminder for everyone, we will again be taking part in the “Walk to School” program to be held in May. Breakfast on that day will be provided by our wonderful P.F.A. and there will be two meeting points where parents from surrounding outer areas may like to park and walk from there. To the north of town, the Bentick is the “park and walk” stop and to the south, the corner of Quarry Rd and Ashbourne Rd, just outside Maloa House is the other point. More details as soon as they come to hand.

That’s all from me this week. Enjoy your fortnight,
Kind regards,
Jayne O’Callaghan, Sports Coordinator

Art News

The whole school focus for art last term concentrated on DRAWING and the different techniques we can use to create artworks. We looked at how lines create shapes and how we can use colour and different media to different effect. Our focus artist was Picasso and we looked at how he was a master at many artistic techniques and how he could contour draw with light.

This term the middle and senior students are finishing up the drawing unit by practicing contour drawing and creating abstract works of art from the shapes formed from blind contour exercises. Ask your children to show you how to blind contour draw, it’s fun! This terms main focus will be on colour, texture and textiles. So if there are willing knitters, sewers and anyone who can crotchet I’d be forever grateful for extra hands in the classroom. Email me on cshannon@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au.

The juniors are looking at texture and colour and collage and will create construction 3D art from the hundreds of boxes you kindly donated. This melds well with the inquiry units focussing on sustainability. Any willing helpers are more than welcome in the classroom, simply contact me on the above email.
Welcome back to the term! We have so much exciting news happening in music. We have four new rosewood xylophones to work with one bass, two alto and one soprano one, both spanning two octaves. The students have been testing these out and have already started playing them exploring ostinato and drone patterns with familiar rhymes and songs.

More exciting news is that some of the grade 3/4 students will be heading into the recording studio to record the school song. We are looking forward to working with Adam from Sound Vault studios, where the children will be given a chance to explore the recording process from start to finish. I will be looking for musicians to assist us in the recording process. If you think you might be able to help please drop in or send me an email.

Finally, the Grade 1/2 and prep/1 work from last term will soon be available on the school website for you all to listen to. They have come together beautifully. All the children should be very proud of their work and we hope you enjoy it.

Cheers,
Eloise Meyer
emeyer@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au

LITERACY NEWS

Dear Parents,
Welcome to Term 2! Our results of the middle and senior school testing came in last night and I am meeting with these teachers next week to analyse the data. This is another tool we use, along with teacher’s daily observations, anecdotal notes and communication with parents to teach to the children’s individual needs.

We are trialling a Literacy program called “Reading Eggs” in the junior school. This program is used on the interactive whiteboard as well as having books to read with follow up activities. The program targets the areas of spelling, grammar and comprehension. I’ll let know what we think about it in a few weeks time.

The timetable for the “Bridges Program” with some year 1 students is in full swing. We work in the classroom every second day for 40 minutes and work on reading and writing strategies. I will also be working in the middle and senior classrooms to support the children during the Reading and writing sessions.

Please see me if you have any questions.
Cheers, Maree

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday 26th April</th>
<th>Jane Dwyer</th>
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<td>Thursday 3rd May</td>
<td>Rebecca Hall</td>
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During the holidays, the St Ambrose Equestrian Team represented our school at the Bendigo Interschool Equestrian Competition. Pictured are: Brooke, Amy, Imogen, Jessie and Abbey.

All of the girls did a magnificent job and placed our school in 17th overall. There were 51 schools in total, so that is a wonderful result!!!

It takes a huge family commitment to spend an entire weekend away with horses, saddlery and children. Thank you to the parents who put so much effort into this event!
Dear Parents,

As you can see from the earlier photographs, the St Ambrose Equestrian Team have been busy competing and representing our school during these past school holidays. The children wear our school polo shirts for the games and showjumping elements of the competition, and many of you will recognize the old grey jumpers that were once a part of the winter school uniform. The children wear these jumpers with the old school ties that were also a part of our school uniform many years ago. This is worn for the showing and dressage elements of the competition. The school provides saddle cloths for the horses to wear and these show our school logo and let people know which school the children represent.

It takes a great deal of time, effort and organization in order to prepare, train and compete in these events. All of these children and their families have put a lot of effort into this competition and we congratulate them on the wonderful way that they represented our school.

Amy and Brooke have prepared a report about the event for you to read. Well done, girls!

Kindest Regards,
Colleen Mahoney
(Equestrian Co-ordinator).

The Report:

On the 14th and the 15th of April Imogen Hewitt, Jessica and Abbey Martin, Amy FitzGerald and Brooke Pearse all competed at the Bendigo Interschool for St. Ambrose. We all got up there on Friday and camped there till Sunday with our horses. Saturday was Dressage, Jumping and Handy-mount! Amy came champion in dressage and second in handy-mount and did good in jumping. Brooke came 2nd in dressage and did well in her second test, Abbey Martin came reserve champion in Dressage, Jessie came 8th in dressage and also got a good score in handy-mount and a clear round in jumping, Imogen got 11th in dressage and did well in jumping.

On Sunday we all competed in the show and we got lots of ribbons! Over all St Ambrose came 17th out of 51 teams which was very good! So well done to every one who was in the team!!!

More interschools are coming up so if you would like to join the St. Ambrose Equestrian team please see us or Mrs. Mahoney.

! By Amy FitzGerald and Brooke Pearse!

Also - by: Abbey Martin

We set up our camp site for the night and looked after the horses. The next day was dressage and showjumping. We all supported each other as the day went, and watched each other. There was a special dinner for the people that came. We stayed up very late.

The second day was such a busy day but it was still a fun day till the end. At the end we packed our bags and the camp site and listened to the presentations. St Ambrose went really well, we came 17th out of 51 schools.
PFA NEWS

Lot’s happening this Term with the PFA!
The committee is up and running with a couple of vacancies still to be pounced upon, come and have a
cuppa, quick agenda meeting and then some social chit chat and most importantly a laugh. The next
scheduled meeting is 08 May at 7pm in the staff room. Get involved and have a say for your children and
yourself as to what we can organise for some fun and light fundraising here and there to achieve and
complete some needed projects and help with some pastoral care as well. Fresh ideas and fresh faces will
be like being on a holiday…Give it a go!

Mother’s Day is around the corner and we have the annual ‘Mother’s Day Stall’ happening on
Wednesday 09 May. The ‘Secret Project’ night on Thu 10 May for Dad’s and children from 6 – 7 pm in
the art room and once again the Mother’s Day Dinner being held on Fri 11 May from 7pm at the very up
market Bentinck this year…..put it in your diary ladies as there are limited numbers again this year and to
miss out would be terrible! There are some fantastic social events that are being planned for further down
the track, another walk to school with a healthy breakfast together in the hall event, a proposed Supper
Dance and perhaps a Trivia night….the opportunities are endless! There will be lots of collaboration
between the Sustainability Group and the PFA as to how we can all work together with the teachers and
children to really focus on our environmental footprint, to try to curb and cut out wastage and to use our
proposed Sustainability Garden to its full potential and more.

Oh, the Pauls Collect a cap has been extended until well into next year now. Please keep sending in the
special labelled caps from milk bottles and drinks so we can earn some ‘easy money’. The cap box is
situated just in front of the office inside the front door.

Thank-You to Sue Lidgerwood for co-ordinating a fantastic Photo Shoot Day. Thanks to all who took up
the fantastic opportunity, can’t wait to see the results. We have some groovy fun families in our school
…pets and all!

Stay tuned each Newsletter for updates

PFA Committee

LOST PROPERTY NEWS

There are plenty of items left over from Term 1 in the lost property cupboard that are named and have
still not been collected. Could all parents/carers please check the cupboard (next to table tennis table in
hall). Any unnamed lost property is logged in the ‘Lost Property’ book weekly and is kept at the front
office. The quantity of clothing and kitchen ware that gets donated after being logged and held for 1
month is amazing!..

We encourage Iron On name labels for jumpers, cardigans and hats as these are the most popular lost
property clothing items. Stick on labels are best for any plastic ware, lunch boxes and drink bottles.
We do offer an ‘In House’ labelling service by providing Iron on name labels and stick on labels. Just put
your details in the Lost Property book at the front office and for the cost of the dymo tape that is used,
they will be ready in a couple of days.

We have quite a few parents looking for items of clothing both named and unnamed so please keep a
check on what your children are bringing home.

LOST

Size 10XS summer windcheater (purchased new this year)
Has an iron label “Tilly Crowther”
Please check if you have this windcheater by mistake and return it to school
COMING SOON
MOTHERS DAY DINNER
WHEN…Friday 11 May, 7pm
WHERE… THE BENTINCK
Mark this date in your diary, a well deserved meal in style for all Mum’s, Grandma’s, Aunties and perhaps that Special ‘Mother figure’ in your life
Start saving your pennies
Tickets on sale soon, limited seating. Advanced Bookings can be made through your class representative

Mother’s Day Stall

It’s that time of year again. The Mother’s Day Stall is being held on Wednesday, 9 May from 2.00pm until 3.30pm. Gift prices range from $1.00 to $5.00. And are limited to two per child. All children are welcome to come back at recess to purchase any additional gifts.

There will also be a Mother’s Day raffle, which will be drawn on the day. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1.00.

Volunteers are needed to help with the stall on the day, so if you are available from 2.00pm - 3.30pm, please come and help. Set up is from 1.00pm on the day if you are available, (many hands make light work).

Donations of plastic bags for the stall would be very much appreciated. They can be dropped off to the office on Tuesday, 3 May.

Please call Karen McNeil on 5427 4341 for any further information.
Woodend Whole Town Garage Sale
Saturday 5 May

One persons trash is another person’s treasure

We prepare a map of all the garage sales and provide you with balloons to display on the day. We do all the advertising too.
We sell maps to shoppers from the House at 47 Forest Street from 8am so you don’t receive early callers. Clear out your cupboards and sheds.

Register your garage sale today on 5427 1845 or to reception@woodendnh.org.au

Proudly hosted by Woodend Neighbourhood House

Term 2 at Woodend Neighbourhood House

We have lots of interesting courses for children and adults, during the day, evening and weekends. Here is a sample of some of them:

- Recreational Boat & jet Ski Licence training – 27 April
- Beginners Guide to keeping livestock
- French, Spanish, German, Dutch
- Quilt & Sew
- Book keeping & financial administration
- Skills for getting a job
- Introduction to Retail
- Zumba, Tai Chi, Yoga, Senior exercise, cycling and Pilates
- Scrap book and card making for youth and adults

For full details of all the opportunities at the Woodend Neighbourhood House visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call into 47 Forest St.

Small, medium or tall?

Then you’re just right for basketball!

The Macedon Ranges Basketball Association welcomes all preps – grade 5s to experience the joys of basketball.

Reasons to get into basketball:

1. It’s good fun!
2. It’s a great way to improve ball skills
3. It’s fabulous value at $50 a term ($40 if you pay in the first 2 weeks).
4. It’s easy – just bring your runners and come for a try-out at Buffalo Stadium.
Mondays (girls only)
4-4.45pm Preps – Grade 2
4.45-5.30 Grade 2 – Grade 5

Thursdays (boys & girls)
4-4.45pm Preps – Grade 2
4.45-5.30 Grade 2 – Grade 5

5. It’s social – grab a friend and bring them along too!

6. All of the above + more!

For more details, contact: Kerryn on 5427 1860 or 0415 076021 or korritt@iprimus.com.au.

www.macedonranges.basketball.net.au

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ZUMBA FITNESS

Tuesdays 5:40pm
Thursdays 9:15am
Thursdays 6:30 pm

Woodend Neighbourhood House : 54 27 18 45
ZUMBA TONING coming in May!!

Bookings essential, call Nelly
0421 36 39 39
**Net Set Go! Program for new netballers**  
(boys and girls age 5-8 )

San Remo NetSetGO! is Netball Australia’s Junior Netball Program. The program incorporates skill activities, minor games and modified matches and will be coordinated by accredited coaches to ensure a quality experience for all participants.

The program will run on Saturday mornings at Buffalo Stadium in Woodend. Participants need to wear comfortable clothes, runners and bring a drink bottle with them.

For further information about the Net Set Go! Program please contact Anne-Louise Lindner on 5427 3056 (AH)/ 0437 662 220 or email alpete@aapt.net.au

**Cost: = $70 (WDNC Club Fees $50 + Netball Victoria Fees: $20)**

For Registration form Please contact: Rhonda Hill (Secretary)  
5427 2085 / 0419 323 095  
**rhonda_hill@hotmail.com**

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**HUGE GARAGE SALE!!**

**Saturday 21st April**

7.30am – 2pm

15 Savages Lane  
WOODEND

4 households, loads of goods, undercover.... Get there early to grab lots of bargains!
All children can learn ...... in the right conditions.

Careen Learning
Macedon Ranges

**Providing extra teaching for Primary aged children**

Specialists in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics,

WE BELIEVE IN:
- Working in conjunction with home and school with your child as our focus.
- Teaching out of school hours so there is no interruption to school learning time.
- One on One individual attention for each child and their specific needs OR
- Small group work at common year levels if enough interest and need
- Tailoring teaching programs to meet each child’s specific needs
- Testing children thoroughly before teaching plans are put in place

Call Joe or Jill Caruana for an obligation free chat and personal meeting

0419 149 482
5427 3386

We are conveniently based in the Macedon Ranges — Woodend