Dear Parents,

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences go out to Sharon Georges and her family after the recent death of James. James’ passing has deeply affected many in our school community and your concern for Sharon and the children has been strongly felt. Such a tragic occurrence has left us saddened and with many questions. I ask that you continue to pray for the Georges family and I'm sure that Sharon is grateful to all of you who have been supporting her and her family in this difficult time.

CONFIRMATION

Many of our Grade Six students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday the 30th of August. I wish to congratulate the girls and boys and their parents and sponsors. I wish to thank the children's teachers Michael Portelli and Margaret Flett and our REC Jayne O’Callaghan for their efforts in preparing the children and organising the Confirmation Mass.

FATHERS’ DAY STALL

On Wednesday the 28th of August the PFA will conduct a Fathers’ Day Stall for the children. This year they are going to run things a little differently. If any child forgets to bring their money they will be able to select a gift but not take it home until and payment is made by Friday. If any family is having a cash shortage but would still like your child to buy a gift then please give me a call.

PREP 2014 INFORMATION MORNING

On TUES 3rd of SEPT there will be an information morning for parents of children commencing Prep in 2014. Parents interested in attending can gather in Jenny Boldiston’s classroom at 9.30 a.m. The session should go for about an hour. Please encourage any families who have yet to enroll their child to come along as well. For more information contact Jenny or Amy Beaumont.
WINTER ILLNESSES

Quite a few children have been sick lately but have been sent to school. We encourage children to be resilient and 'soldier on' if they have a sniffle but if a child is sick they should be at home for three important reasons:

1. That’s the best place for them to be to help them recover and receive the care that they need
2. The staff at the school can’t be nursing sick children and do their other tasks as well
3. It’s not fair to other children and adults to send a child to school who may be infectious.

Congratulations to all of the children on their efforts in their various winter sports. Many of the children achieved success and we are very proud of you.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Don't forget that Classroom News can be found by clicking on the hyperlinks at the end of the newsletter. There are also links to the PFA and to community news and advertisements.

The school App is now available from Google Play and iTunes. Search for St Ambrose’s School and install. It’s free!

BOOK WEEK COMMENCES ON THE 2ND OF SEPTEMBER. ALL WEEK WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A BOOK FAIR AND THERE WILL BE A DRESS UP DAY FOR THE CHILDREN ON WEDNESDAY THE 4TH OF SEPTEMBER.

ENROLMENTS 2014
Any school family with a child ready to commence school next year should complete an application for enrolment form as soon as possible.

INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS
Thanks to Mrs MacDonald for preparing the children for this event which will be held on the 9th of September. Good luck to all of our athletes.

Finally happy Father’s Day to all of our dads for Sunday week.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Macklin
Reader:

How rich are the depths of God — how deep his wisdom and knowledge — and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods!
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory forever.

Romans 11: 33–36

All:

Lord our God,
all truth is from you,
and you alone bring oneness of heart.
Give your people the joy
of hearing your word in every sound
and of longing for your presence
more than life itself.
May all the attractions of a changing world
serve only to bring us
the peace of your kingdom
which this world does not give.

The Depths of God
Do you ever compare your child’s behaviour or progress with other children of the same age? If so, you are causing stress for yourself and your child.

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

BUT it’s hard to resist as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers. When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? This is okay, as long as we don’t lose sight of three important aspects:

1. **Kids develop at different rates.**
   
   There are early developers, slow bloomers and steady-as-you-go kids in every group so comparing your child’s results or performance can be completely unrealistic.
   
   **What this means for you:** Focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a month ago.”

2. **Kids have different talents, interests and strengths.**
   
   Okay, your eight-year-old may not be able to hit a tennis ball like Rafael Nadal, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.
   
   **What this means for you:** Help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Recognise that strengths and interests may be completely different than those of his or her peers and siblings.

3. **Parents can have unrealistic expectations for their kids.**
   
   We all have hopes and dreams for our kids but they may not be in line with their interests and talents.
   
   **What this means for you:** Keep your expectations for success in line with their abilities and interests. If expectations are too high kids will give up. If they are too low, they will usually meet them!

Parents rightfully should take pride in their children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones such as, taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or in their milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from your kids. It also causes you to play the “compare & compete game” – i.e. by comparing kids you can put pressure on yourself and them to perform for the wrong reasons.

And certainly, your self-esteem as a parent should not be explicitly linked to your children’s behaviour or developmental levels.

“You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as ‘unconditional love’.

Published by Michael Grose
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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au
Please click on links below to read the following classroom and specialist teacher blogs

**Religious Education – Mrs. Jayne O’Callaghan**
- Confirmation Reflection Day on Friday August 30th.
- Confirmation in our church Friday August 30th at 7:00pm.
- Feed the hungry project – food collections to Prep/1A.

**Learning & Teaching – Ms. Suzzanne Roberts**

**Wellbeing – Ms. Suzzanne Roberts**
- Visit to Corpus Christi – Monday 26th August.

**Literacy – Mrs. Maree Thomas**
- LAP testing begins Monday 2nd September.
- Book Fair dress up day 4th September.

**Prep/One A classroom news – Mrs. Amy Beaumont**
- Grade Prep Information Night for 2014 children starting at St Ambrose.
- Nurse Visit. Please return forms before the due date.
- Book Fair begins Monday September 2nd.

**Prep/One J classroom news – Mrs. Jenny Boldiston**
- News from Lia Sheppard.
- School Nurse visit

**One/Two classroom news – Mrs. Casey Pringle**
- Book Week
- Necessity
- Money

**Two/Three classroom news – Mrs. Debbie Geisler**

**Three/Four F classroom news – Mr. Matthew FitzGerald**
- Book Fair 2nd September.

**Three/Four CW classroom news – Mrs. Kristy Cavic and Mrs. Kelly Woodman**
- We are holding a Father’s Day Stall on Wednesday 28th August.
- Book Fair on Monday 2nd – 6th September
- A reminder that the School Production is going to be held on the 18th and 19th September.

**Prep/One J classroom news – Mrs. Jenny Boldiston**

**Five/Six F classroom news – Mrs. Margaret Flett**
- Cobaw Athletics 9th September.
- Confirmation updates.

**Five/Six P classroom news – Mr. Micheal Portelli**
- Confirmation Updates.
- Cobaw Athletics 9th September.

**Visual Arts news – Ms. Clare Shannon**

**Music news – Mrs. Eloise Meyer**

**Physical Education news – Mrs. Brenda McDonald**
- Cobaw Athletics Competition – Monday 9th September.
- Trials for track events.

**LOTE – Japanese news – Sensei. Fumie Cox**
LINKS TO OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SCHOOL WEBSITE

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Please click here to view advertisements, events and services in our local community. This week’s notices include;
- Woodend District Netball Club – Summer Season
- Spring Flower Show
- Bendigo Gem Club

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Please click here to view the latest news and information about the School’s Parents & Friends Association.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please click on the link above to view the fully updated and official school calendar.

UNIFORM SHOP

Please click on the link above to view information about the school uniform shop and to obtain a price list and order form.

SCHOOL NEWS & NOTES

Please click on the link above to view notices sent home with the children.

SCHOOL FEES & PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please click on link above to access information on 2013 school fees and payment options.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Please click on link above to view information on the school canteen and to view current menu and price list.

STAFF CONTACTS

Please click on link above to view a full staff contact list.