

NEWSLETTER No.16
THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2017

Week 8

Monday: 5.06

- **Grade 6 Canberra Camp**
- School Assembly 2.55pm

Tuesday: 6.06

- **Grade 6 Canberra Camp**

Wednesday: 7.06

- **Grade 6 Canberra Camp**
- **Class Mass: 9.30am – Grade 1/2T**

Thursday: 8.06

- **Grade 6 Canberra Camp**
- Staff Meeting 3.45pm – 5.15pm

Friday: 9.06

- **Grade 6 Canberra Camp**
- **2018 Prep Applications Close**

Saturday: 10.06

- Woodend Winter Arts Festival

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Ambrose, Yesterday, while walking down the school corridor I was asked several times how I was. In my rush, the reply came quickly - 'busy' or 'rushing' or 'as busy as ever'. On reflection, I wondered what would happen if I replied, 'Relaxed and laid back' or 'taking time to smell the roses'. I don't think I would be believed!

Being active in our lives and engaged with the world around us is a gift, but if we were honest about our busyness, some of it is not virtuous. At times it can be about denial, avoidance or even simply trying to keep up with our peers.

In this weekend's Gospel account of Pentecost, the primary gift Jesus' Spirit bestows on the disciples is peace. It's strange how just as we all compete with each other to be the busiest person we know, we also complain that what we really want is 'some peace and quiet'. We can't have it both ways. Compulsive frantic activity is the enemy of peace.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!



Pentecost

Peace is like all the best things in life: an attitude of mind and a habit born of consistently making good choices. Some people can do a large amount of work and be quite serene about it. Peace, for them, is an affair of the mind and a way of life.

Seneca, a 2nd century philosopher, noticed, even in his day, how most of his friends and acquaintances were lacking peace. He wrote a famous book on anger and how to deal with it. He especially noticed that his richest friends were the angriest of all. Seneca came to believe that the reason so many people were agitated was that they had an unreasonable expectation about how smoothly their day would go. Those who were rich thought their money would buy them an easier life in every way and so when it didn't, they got the angriest of all.

If Seneca is right and we want more peace and quiet, we have to have realistic expectations of each day and factor in the things that might go wrong.

Seneca's secular wisdom holds that the more aware we are of the frailties in us, others and life, the fewer conflicts we would have. In turn this would lead to fewer occasions when we would need to ask or give forgiveness.

And so, my prayer for all of us this Pentecost weekend, is that we each find a moment of peace, a moment of reflection, a mindfulness to be still with our God.

Desmond Noack

Principal



The members of the Social Justice Team (Mini Vinnies) would like to thank the school community for getting behind their Pencils for Primary Schools Project over the last fortnight. The team would like to let you know that together we collected 2,217 pencils!!! These pencils will become a valuable resource for schools in East Timor. One student exclaimed... *"That means that 2,271 students will all get a pencil!"* It is a lovely feeling to give.

WINTER 'BLANKET' APPEAL



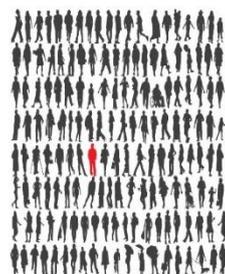
From now until the end of Term 2 the Social Justice Team (Mini Vinnies) will be partnering with the St Vincent de Paul Society to run a 'Winter Appeal'.

This year the St Vincent de Paul Society are in desperate need of warm, life-saving blankets for our 'homeless'.



WOW! We have 240 students at our school! So in a town the size of Woodend with a population of approximately 5,500....that would mean, statistically there could be up to 30 people homeless!

This year we are asking our generous school community to donate warm blankets (and/or sleeping bags) for the homeless in our community. The blankets do not need to be new, as long as they are clean and in good condition. Let's make a difference this Winter!



On any given night in Australia **1 in 200** people are homeless

Homelessness Australia
Creating a Framework for ending homelessness



St Ambrose Social Justice Team/Mini Vinnies for 2017
Ruby, Lily, Patrick, Lorelei, Maisy, Hannah, Cai, Thomas, Dana and Alyssa

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Week 9

Monday: 12.06

- **School Closure – Queen's Birthday**

Tuesday: 13.06

- **Grade 3-6 Rotations**

Wednesday: 14.06

- **COBAW Winter Sports (Grade 5 & 6's)**
- Music Work Tuition Lessons: 10:00am – 8.00pm

Thursday: 15.06

- Staff Meeting 3.45pm – 5.15pm
- School Advisory Committee Meeting 7.30pm

Week 10

Monday: 19.06

- School Assembly 2.55pm

Wednesday: 21.06

- Music Work Tuition Lessons: 10:00am – 8.00pm

Friday: 23.06

- Evidence Into Action Workshop No.2 (Leadership Team)

Saturday: 24.06

- Parish Family Mass – Grade 5/6R

Week 11

Tuesday: 27.06

- **Grade 3 – 6 Rotations**
- **Parent Teacher Interviews – 3.45pm to 7.45pm**

Wednesday: 28.06

- Music Work Tuition Lessons: 10:00am – 8.00pm

Thursday: 29.06

- **Parent Teacher Interviews – 3.45pm to 7.45pm**

Friday: 30.06

- **Whole School Mass of Thanksgiving: 12.30pm**
- **End of Term 2**
- **Students dismissed at 1.30pm**



Mid Year Student Reports

Following on from the changes introduced last year, as a result of feedback from the School Improvement Data, our reports provided far greater information in regard to how a student has achieved against the learning criteria, but also information regarding the students application and work habits to the learning. These changes have been implemented to provide parents with a more comprehensive overview of the learning taking place and assessed against a four point scale:

Not yet evident – Your child requires assistance and further development of this concept.

Working towards – Your child is developing their understanding of this concept.

Achieved – Your child understands this concept and is able to demonstrate this ability.

Exceeded – Your child has exceeded expectations of this concept.

There continues to be great issues regarding feedback based upon teacher comment where parents have observed that report comments are often generic, computer program generated and provide little additional information regarding their child's learning.

To address this, teachers will not be providing written comment but will provide you as a parent, at the parent teacher interview, examples of your child's achievements and challenges using work samples that demonstrate their progress. Such examples validate the report provided and are an excellent point from which to discuss areas of achievement or strategies for improvement.

To ensure that such feedback is current and accurate, teachers are undertaking great care in moderating student work, together with ongoing assessments, so that the information provided in the report truly reflects the child's ability against the requirements of the Victorian Curriculum. In doing this, we avoid having reports that produce a rollercoaster of results from year to year or are inaccurate and cannot be validated against what the student has produced or achieved. Our hope is to be able to ensure consistent progress over each semester based upon quality assessment and common teacher expectation. Your child's teacher will be able to demonstrate samples of work produced by your child to support their mid year report.



Sacred Heart Band – You Might Recognise Some of Our Past Students!



The staff were lucky enough to have a visit from Mr & Mrs Taylor and their new baby Matilda. Mrs Taylor and Matilda will be back soon to visit with 1/2R.

The Governing Principles for the School Advisory Committee

On Thursday night, a group of parents gathered to discuss how best the School Advisory Committee can operate and be as effective as possible in addressing continued improvement for students, staff and the community.

In moving forward, we are seeking 6 to 8 parents, with a representation of at least 2 parents from the Junior, Middle and Senior areas of the school. We are also very keen to have at least 3 Dads participate as we have found from previous committees that their engagement into the process of school improvement has been invaluable.

Our next meeting, which will coincide with the AGM, will occur on Thursday 3rd August at 7.30pm in the school staffroom.

The following outlines the principals by which the committee is governed.

School Advisory Committee Purposes

The purposes of the School Advisory Committee are to:

- a) act as an advisory body to the parish priest and principal, on matters concerning education in the parish
- b) act as a forum for discussion on matters concerning education in the parish primary school
- c) provide a link between the parish priest, principal, teachers and parishioners in relation to the provision of Catholic education in the parish community
- d) promote community development by fostering a strong interrelationship between parish and the parish primary school, Catholic secondary colleges and pre-schools.

School Advisory Committee Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the School Advisory Committee are to:

- a) promote the Catholic ethos of the school and to support the Religious Education programs
- b) provide advice on the development and review of school policies
- c) plan for the future of the parish primary school and its ability to accommodate future enrolments
- d) provide advice on budget planning and finance-related matters
- e) contribute to the selection process for the school principal
- f) foster adult education in faith.

The School Advisory Committee has no responsibility for the internal management and administration of the school, which are the responsibility of the school principal.

School Advisory Committee Membership

The School Advisory Committee shall be composed of at least eight (8) members who appreciate, value and share the educational mission and ethos of the Catholic Church. It shall consist of:

- a) (the parish priest (ex officio)
- b) the school principal (ex officio)
- c) six (6) to eight (8) parents of children attending the parish primary school.
- d) other persons co-opted for a period of time to serve a particular need on the education board.

School Advisory Committee Ordinary Meeting

The School Advisory Committee should meet at least 8 times per year and at least once in every two months.

A quorum, comprises a majority plus one of School Advisory Committee members at the time of the meeting and members must be present at all time during a meeting.

Meetings will be scheduled generally in Week 3 & Week 7 of each term. The starting time will be 7.30pm with meetings taking place in the school's staffroom.

School Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the School Advisory Committee shall be held once a year in Week 3 of Term 3.

An annual report is to be presented at the AGM and communicated to the parish community.

School Advisory Committee Office Bearers

Following the AGM, the School Advisory Committee will elect from its own members a chair. Ex officio members and employees of the parish or school shall not be eligible to hold the office of chair.

The School Advisory Committee will elect a deputy chair who will carry out the duties of chair in his/her absence.

The School Advisory Committee will appoint a secretary from among its members.

The secretary attends meetings and prepares necessary documentation under the direction of the chair.

Appointment of School Advisory Committee Members

The parish priest will appoint School Advisory Committee members that have been nominated.

The terms of appointment for members of the School Advisory Committee are as follows: The six to eight (6 - 8) parents of children at the school will be elected for three years, and may be re-appointed.

The term of appointment for the board chair will be for two calendar years and may be eligible for re- appointment.

Confidentiality and Solidarity

School Advisory Committee confidentiality and solidarity are key ingredients in building trust among members. At times, there will be a good reason to declare an issue, a paper and/or a discussion as confidential. This should be done by the chair prior to a School Advisory Committee meeting. School Advisory

Committee members should also respect the right of individuals to express their views freely at meetings without fear of being named outside the meeting as taking particular positions. A sense of trust and harmony among members is vital for the wellbeing of the School Advisory Committee.

Agenda of Meetings

The agenda of each meeting will be formulated by the chair and committee members at the end of each meeting. Issues or matters for discussion will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. All reports that are to be presented at a meeting must be sent to committee members two weeks prior to the meeting so as to provide time for reflection and consideration.



**WINTER CAN BE QUITE MAGICAL.
ZAC HOLDING A SHEET OF ICE.**



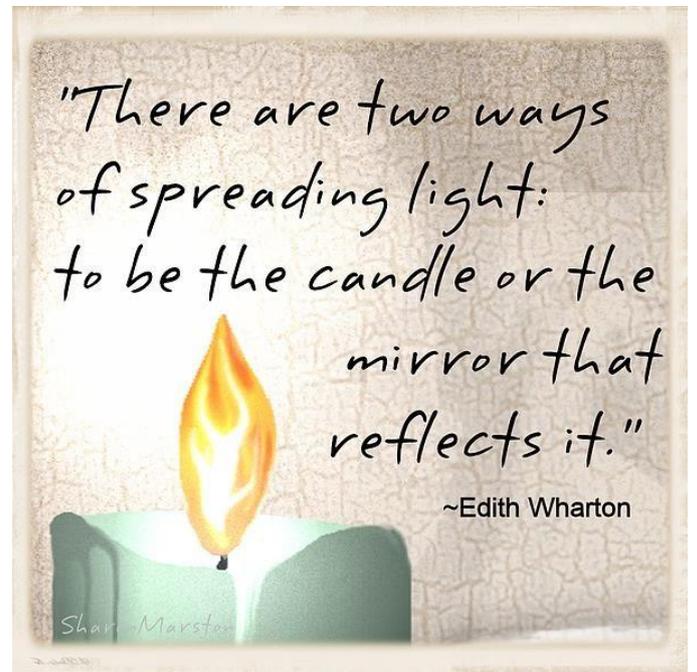
Walk to School Day



What a beautiful morning we had for our "Walk To School" day. Last Friday saw one of the largest turn out of students we have ever had for this event. 169 students is amazing when considering the school has a population of 236 and it had been raining throughout the night.

Thank you again to all our Mums and Dads who accompanied students on the walk and helped out in serving breakfast. As parents, you make a wonderful team that makes these days both possible and enjoyable. It's fantastic to have such wonderful support.





This Weekend's Gospel

Gospel

Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven:
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Dear God,

I'll walk in the palms of your hands,
I know that when I fall you'll catch me.
You'll lift me up and place your wings around me,

And comfort my feelings.
I'll wake up in a fields of flowers,
That you created for me.

I'll eat the goodness of your fruits,
Under a golden tree.

When I make mistakes,
And even disgrace your name,
I always know you'll love me.

By Faith 5/6F

GISBORNE SOCCER CLUB 3 DAY

School Holiday Camps





WED 12TH - FRI 14TH JULY

Star Camp: 9am - 12pm
Age group: 5 - 12yo

Elite Camp: 1pm - 4pm
Age group: 9 - 14yo

Working in affiliation with Melbourne City FC to identify the next generation of football stars.

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footballstaracademy.com.au
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LOG CABIN CAFÉ



The Queen's Birthday weekend will once again see the 'Log Cabin Café' open its doors during the Woodend Winter Arts Festival. This 1st Woodend

Scout Group 'popup café' will be offering Devonshire tea/coffee, light lunches (including steaming bowls of homemade soup) and refreshments. The atmosphere within our rustic Log Cabin promises to be warm and inviting—whether it is for a hearty lunch, an afternoon tea,

or a quick cuppa in our conversation nook—perfect for a break amid the events of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, or a family outing.



Log Cabin Café:

41 Forest Street Woodend,

11am to 4.00pm, Sat 10 to Mon 12 June 2017

"A DEEPLY FELT REFLECTION OF THE MAN. SAVOUR EVERY MINUTE." - NEW YORK TIMES
"LENNON'S SPIRIT SHINES THROUGH." - NEW YORK POST

Lennon

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FRIDAY 23TH JUNE

KYNETON TOWN HALL

WWW.MRSC.VIC.GOV.AU/ARTS | 1300 888 802

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

HAVE YOU ENROLLED YOUR CHILD?



Enrolment applications for entry into Year 7, 2019 close on **26 June 2017** (approximately 18 months prior to Year 7 commencement).

All students, including those attending Catholic Primary Schools, must submit an enrolment application form to be considered for a place.

Visit the College website to book a tour or download an application form. Enrolment enquires can be made by contacting the Registrar, Mrs Denise Lawrence.



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