

Celebrating the Feast of St Ambrose

Dear Parents, Students & Friends of St Ambrose,

Today, as a school community, we gathered to celebrate our Feast Day. A feast day provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon the life and characteristics of the saint that our parish and school are named after. St Ambrose, our patron saint, is also the patron saint of learners, bee keepers and beggars. These three areas touch upon three key characteristics that reflect our school.

Firstly, we are a community of learners. Our primary work is to provide a learning and teaching environment that encourages our children to think and believe that they are capable beyond what they themselves or others believe.

Secondly, the nurturing of bees is essential to our environment. As our world experiences climate change, we, like bee keepers are challenged to care for our environment and to leave the world a better place for our next generation.

And thirdly, as a Catholic school, we are very much focussed on issues of social justice reflected in acts of charity and kindness.

Also, at this time of year, we continue to focus on the season of Advent. Throughout the school and classrooms, symbols of Advent are present this provides our students with the ability to draw meaning from such symbols and enable them to reflect as to how they, as people of God, can be signs of hope, compassion and light to the world.

May your Advent be a time of waiting, a time of reflection, an opportunity to see Advent through the eyes of a child so that in sharing this time with them, you also revisit the Liturgical New Year with fresh eyes and a renewed spirit.

May this truly be a year and a time of Grace for yourself and your family.

With kindest regards,

Des Noack
Principal

NEWSLETTER NO. 39

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2017

Week 10

Monday: 11.12

- School Organisation Meeting – 8.15am – 8.30am
- Advent Paraliturg Week
- **Student Orientation Day 2**
- School Assembly 2.55pm

Tuesday: 12.12

- **Sacred Heart College Grade 6 Transition Day.**
- **4/5BW Incursion – Kids Helpline in Schools - Friendship**

Wednesday: 13.12

- **St Ambrose School Sports Carnival (Whole School). Please note that this is a change of date due to clashing with the SHC Transition.**
- Music Work Tuition Lessons: 10.00am (final)

Thursday: 14.12

- 4/5BW Excursion - Cinema Bendigo

Friday: 15.12

- Student reports sent home.

Week 11 – Final Week

Monday: 18.12

- School Organisation Meeting – 8.15am – 8.30am
- Advent Paraliturg Week
- **Grade 6 Celebration Day & Family Dinner**

Tuesday: 19.12

- **Grade 6 Graduation Mass – 6.00pm**

Wednesday: 20.12

- End of Term 4
- Whole School Liturgy – 9.30am
- **School Award Ceremony: 12.30pm**
- **Students dismissed at 1.30pm**

2018 School Start Date for Grade 1 to Grade 6 Students is Wednesday 31st January 2018

Health Alert - Whooping Cough

We are still continuing to get confirmation by many families having undertaken a swab that their child/ren have whooping cough. We cannot stress enough that if your child has Whooping Cough, your child should not attend school or day care:

- for three weeks from the start of the cough, if no antibiotics are given, or
- until they have had at least five days of their course of antibiotics.

We understand that this can be a great inconvenience but without your assistance, this health issue will continue to fester. Please make contact with the school office as soon as possible if your family contract any of these conditions.

Canteen – Important Information

The last day for canteen this year will be **Friday 15th December.**

In 2018 the canteen will be open only on Wednesday and Friday (no Mondays).

Next year when the canteen does open we will no longer be utilising the Flexischool system, instead we will be moving to CDFpay, the same system we are currently operating for uniform purchases.

Parents need to use up any credit they may have with Flexischool or contact them for a refund.



Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Dear Jesus, I've Been A Good Boy This Year

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

2018 Grade 4/5 Camp

There has been some rumours floating around regarding next year's Grade 4/5 School Camp not occurring. We would like to advise all parents of Grade 4 & 5 students that the camp will occur next year. We are currently exploring camping options and dates so as to make the most of this experience for our students.

The camping program has been raised and discussed at several School Advisory Committee Meetings as to moving the bi-annual Grade 4/5 camp to an annual Grade 4 camp starting from 2019. In moving to this structure in 2019, no current student would miss this opportunity along with the experience of participating in the annual Grade 6 Camp.

Christmas Raffle 2017



Thank you to everyone who has already donated to our annual Christmas Raffle and to everyone who has already returned their raffle ticket stubs and money to the office. There is still time to donate – just pop your purchase in the Christmas Box in your child's classroom. All raffle ticket stubs and money need to be in by **Friday 15th December**.

The draw will take place at our end of year assembly on Wednesday 20th December.

The Raffle draw is a much anticipated event for the children, please "be in it to win it".

Wheelchairs for Kids

We were very excited to get this update from Don this week in relation to the funds we raised to support the important work of Wheelchairs for Kids. Thank you all, once again, for your generous support.



Thursday 30th November, 2017

Dear Don (WFK),

I am very happy to inform you that we have started to distribute the wheelchairs. The distribution is going on very well. The local government has given us a vehicle which is helping us to go into the villages to distribute the wheelchairs.

Last month we distributed in a town called Chai near Bukavu and the population was very happy to see the distribution of wheelchairs which were free, for the first time.

There was one child, Amani, who was crawling around three kilometres every day to get to school

and he received a wheelchair and now he uses that to get to school and the whole town was thrilled to see him receive the chair. When he is going to school with it, the town people cry with joy as they watch him use the chair. Once he had the chair, on his way home he moves through town to see his friends and greet people, something he could not do before. He says that before he had no legs but now he has legs and can move around. He uses the table attached to his chair when at school for his lessons and when at home he uses it to eat from.

When I talked with his mum, she just cried with joy, explaining that her son used to not move very much and she was a prisoner at home caring for him. Now though she can do other things and work because he is now mobile. He says that the wheelchair has changed his life and the life of the family.

We came to Luvungi to collect other wheelchairs which will be distributed in other villages. By next week we will visit villages 300-500 kilometres from Bukavu to give them wheelchairs.

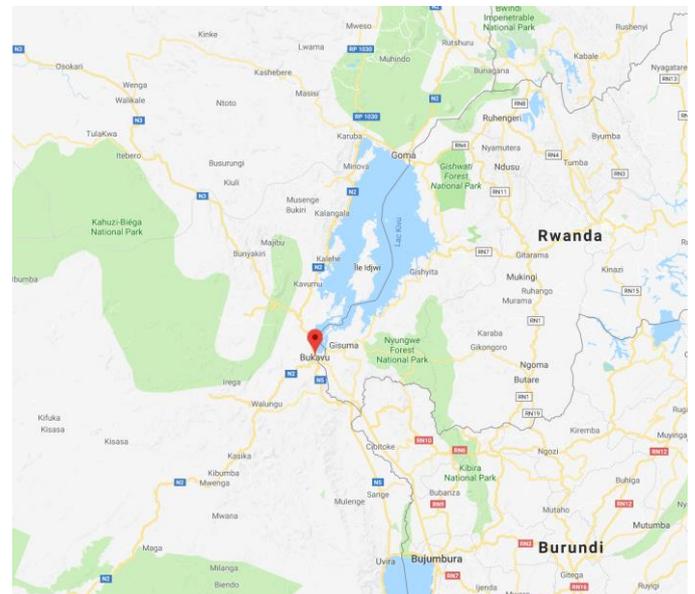
Thank you very much for sending us wheelchairs because they really bring hope, joy and mobility to many children and families and the population of DR Congo are happy to see their children receive wheelchairs for free. We will update you as we distribute more.

Attached are photos of children who received wheelchairs and of Amani in his school.

Many thanks,

Dr Luc and Delice.

(Bukavu is a city in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, lying at the extreme south-western edge of Lake Kivu, west of Cyangugu in Rwanda, and separated from it by the outlet of the Ruzizi River.)





POTENTIAL CODE RED DAY SCHOOL CLOSURE

In the event of extreme fire danger and a **CODE RED** day being called, the following provides information as to how we, as a school will act and communicate with you.

The decision to close will be confirmed by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than **1.00 pm the day prior to the closure**. Once we have received confirmation of the closure we will contact you directly via email and SMS before the end of the school day to confirm this. You are urged to check the Department of Education and Training website for updates, school closures will be posted to the Department's website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Please note that all of our school bus routes will also be closed; services will resume when the school reopens.

We realise that the potential closure of our school may result in you having to make alternative arrangements for your child, but the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. **Given the predicted weather conditions, we urge that your child is not left at home unattended or in the care of older children.**

If you know of other parents who, for any reason, may not be aware of the school's potential closure, please contact them to help ensure they are aware that the school may be closed.

You should also explain to your child and family members that our school may be closed. **For safety reasons, no staff will be on-site if the school is closed.**

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Woodend Lion's Carols

Saturday 16th December

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our request for singers at this year's Lion's Carols. The response has been incredible with more than 50 students keen to represent St Ambrose and sing on the night. Our first rehearsal will be this **Friday 8th December** at Lunchtime in the theatre. It will be important that students attend these rehearsals to work out performance positions and parts. Our final rehearsal will be on Friday 15th December.

Thanks for your support and we are looking forward to a fun and joyous event.



St Ambrose Feast Day Celebrations



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Happy Feast Day Everyone
And A Special Thankyou To Our Parents, Teachers & PGL
Staff Who Made It So Much Fun

Hope & Trust – A Word of Thanks

As the end of this school year races towards us, I would encourage all parents to take a moment to reflect upon your child's year, the relationships that they have enjoyed and developed and the effort and commitment of your child's teacher to engage, encourage and enthuse them in their learning.

Teaching is a unique career where we are blessed with the children who are placed in our care and at the end of the year, say farewell as they move onto another class. The greatest gift we as teachers receive daily is the gift of trust, the look of discovery on a child's face, the smile of friendship shared, the words of trust spoken, the knowledge that we have made a difference and that through what has been taught, a child has the gift of hope.

Teaching is not just a job but a vocation. A vocation born out of a love and passion for educating others to realise, discover and bring out the best within each child and person. As the year ends, if you believe your child's teacher has made a difference, let them know. It certainly makes a difference to the teacher.

We can confirm that the **St Ambrose School Production for 2018 will be The Wizard of Oz - Young Performer's Edition.**



The production will be held at Sacred Heart College Kyneton in **Term 2** next year with auditions being held at the beginning of Term 1. The 2018 senior students (Gr 5 &6) will be given a copy of the script and sheet music to read over the holidays and familiarise themselves with the roles.

We would encourage all families to watch with original Wizard of Oz movie, perhaps over the holidays, as our production will be very similar.

Have a restful break and I'll see you next year.

End of Year Planning For Grade 6

Monday 18th December

Grade 6 Celebration Day: Grade 6 students will be having a great day at the Melbourne Aquatic Centre to celebrate their final week at St Ambrose. Parents are welcome to come along and join in the fun of the day.

Students will need to bring bathers, towel, a snack, lunch and drink bottle.

We require 4 volunteer parents to accompany our students and assist with supervision.

Parents wishing to join their child at MSAC for the day will need pay for entry into MSAC and make their own way to MSAC due to limited seating on the bus.

Tuesday: 19th December

Grade 6 Graduation Mass & Presentations

6.00pm Grade 6 Graduation Mass –followed by presentations, speeches, a visual presentation by Grade 6 students.

Wednesday: 20th December

9.30am **End of Year Mass**

10.30 – 11.00am Recess

11.00 – 12.10pm Normal classroom activities.

12.10pm – 12.15pm Line up and move to hall.

12.15pm **Grade 6 Farewell Ceremony** commences

1.15pm Grade 6's move to oval with all other classes following.

Grade 6's form a circle, with grades gathering around them.

Once all gathered, a special blessing takes place.

The bell will ring at 1.30pm.

1.30pm End of year dismissal.





BASKETBALL SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

AGES 6-12 YEARS \$139* FOR TWO DAYS

*EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:
Register and pay before
31ST December 2017

HOOP SMART
Ahead of the Game!

18TH & 19TH JANUARY 2018 | 9.30am - 3pm
SUNBURY BOARDMAN STADIUM

Register at www.hoopsmart.com.au by 15TH JANUARY 2018



PGL School Holiday Program

Day Camps at PGL Campaspe Downs, Macedon Ranges

Mon 8 - Fri 19 January 2018

Activity programs include some of the following activities:

- Giant Swing
- Archery
- Leap of Faith
- Flying Fox
- Aeroball
- Climbing
- Open Canoeing
- Abseiling
- Raft Building

All instruction included. Suitable for ages 7-16.
Arrival from 8:15am, activities between 9am - 4:15pm. Pick up 4:15 - 5pm.

Just **\$49** incl. GST per day

To book visit www.trybooking.com/book and search for 'PGL'
Call us on 1300 859 895 or email info@pgladventurecamps.com.au to find out more
Booking essential. Limited places.

PGL Campaspe Downs, Trentham Road, Kyneton, Vic 3444



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY WOODEND LIONS CLUB



Carols by Candlelight

SATURDAY
16TH DECEMBER

Free BBQ @ 5.30pm
Carols from 6.30pm

**Buffalo Sports Ground,
Forest Street, Woodend**



Come and join us!



LEARN KARATE



The art of Neko Ryu is a form of Karate that has been developed over the past 38 years. Its modern-day principles with traditional values make it a practical, and popular martial arts.

ST Ambrose's Parish Hall

Templeton Street, Woodend VIC 3442

Monday

Juniors (5 to 14) 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Seniors (15+) 7.00pm to 8.00pm

For more information, please phone Tracy: 0411399493
Visit our web site at: www.nekoryuaustralia.com

Classes coincide with school terms
Classes for 2018 commence on the
05 February 2018.

First lesson Free

Instructor: Ray Musgrove
7th Degree Black Belt

Woodend Neighbourhood House

Christmas Community Lunch

Friday 15 December
12pm at the Woodend RSL

Book your seat today 5427 1845



Grass Hay For Sale
 \$5 per bale pick up in paddock or
 delivery can be arranged for \$7
 Excellent pasture hay for horses/cattle.
 Phone 0438 399 880
 Woodend Area.



FAMILY FUN DAY
 Sunday January 21 2018

Jumping castle ★ Live music ★ Face painting
 Netball and football activities
 Food and drinks (bar open)

All profits from the day donated to the
 Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

TIGERS **good Friday appeal**
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

\$5 SINGLE ENTRY \$10 FAMILY ENTRY 12.30PM-5.30PM KYNETON SHOWGROUNDS



Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend offers women's day and night netball competitions and The Stadium in Gisborne has a Thursday morning basketball competition.

The Monday morning netball competition games are played from 9am. Tuesday night netball games begin at 7.10pm.

Thursday morning basketball games are played from 9.30am.

New and experienced players welcome. Register as an individual or as a team—a number of teams are seeking extra players and new teams are always welcome.

The next season begins in February.

Family friendly competition, with no games in the school holidays, and children are welcome to attend.

To register your interest in netball, contact Buffalo Sports Centre on 542 7 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

To register for basketball, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/thestadium