

NEWSLETTER NO.36  
FRIDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

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Centred By **Faith**  
In Partnership with **Community**  
We Provide Excellence in **Learning**

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Ambrose,  
These last few weeks has seen a plethora of emails regarding parental input for class placement for next year. Each tells a story, a perception, an experience or some feedback for consideration. Each is valued and considered.

I ask that as we approach our student Orientation Days that you please take the opportunity to read the following and to reflect upon what one of our students wrote about their own experience. It does put it into perspective and the wonderful things that can occur when change is framed with a positive and growth mindset.

### **A Time for Change**

The transition (Orientation) days are a strategy we use to provide our students with a sense of belonging, an opportunity to get to know both the teacher and the students they will share the coming year with. It is also an opportunity to get a sense of the learning environment they will be working within. Transition, better described as a process of getting used to change, provides your child with huge opportunities for personal, emotional and social growth. It's something we should not fear but embrace.

The following are a few tips for you as a parent in supporting your child as they move from one classroom to the next:

#### **1. Encourage self-advocacy.**

Self-advocacy is one of the most important skills your child will learn over the next few years.

Speaking up for himself or herself and knowing how to ask for what they need is a critical, lifelong skill. Your child can only learn it if you make an intentional effort to back away and let him or her step up to the plate.

- When your child has a question about a project or a homework task, make sure he or she contacts the teacher, not you. Help your child brainstorm what to say, and maybe even craft the email or conversation together, but let the message come from your child.
- When your child feels like another student wronged him or her, teach them to use the office as a resource. Help your child report the incident to the teacher or even principal, but let him or her take the lead.

Side note: With these examples, I encourage parents to follow up with teachers to make sure your child really did follow through and advocate for themselves. I myself have written emails when my children were at primary school that simply said "I'm just checking to make sure my daughter talked to you about ..." This is very different from taking the lead and contacting teachers to solve it yourself.

#### **2. Allow your child to struggle.**

This one is always hard for parents, and for good reasons. We don't like to see our children struggle. Our instinct is to jump in and rescue. However, we all know that the greatest lessons in life come from learning from our mistakes, and if our goal is to raise children to become strong, independent adults, we need to learn to let them stumble.

- Our kids take their lead from our energy as parents. The attitude you project will be the attitude they absorb. Next year will again show you an unbelievable transformation! Allow your child to suffer the "natural consequences" of being unprepared. Maybe he or she will get in trouble. Maybe your child will receive feedback that they don't want to hear. It will sting and your child will be upset, but hopefully habits will start to change.
- Stop rescuing! Don't bring the missing work to school for your child. Don't write the teacher a note about how busy your family was and why homework didn't get finished. Let your child learn to deal with the consequences.
- Focus on growth instead of grades. Your child won't earn an A on every single task, and that's okay. Focus your conversations on how hard he or she is working, what is being learned, what support is needed, and how skills are growing, rather than just what your child's grades are.

The most important thing parents can do at this age is learn to ask, "How can I help? What kind of

support do you need?" instead of "How can I fix this for you?"

### 3. Encourage positive risk-taking.

Primary school is the perfect time to try new things, and becoming comfortable with taking positive risks is another critical skill in a child's development. Some ideas for next year's risk-taking include:

- Try a new sport.
- Join a club or start a new one.
- Expand their circle of friends.
- Try a music class.

There are so many ways your child can learn to take a positive risk. The important part as a parent is to always acknowledge and praise the effort and courage it takes to try something new.

The coming year is an exciting and nervous time for not only our students, but also for our teachers. Be thoughtful about the messages you are sending your kids about this new adventure.

Are you allowing your own biases to fill their heads with the idea that next year is terrible and you just have to suffer through it and try to survive? Or are you letting your child/ren know that it's going to be exciting, energising, challenging, and new?

Our children take their lead from our energy as parents. The attitude you project will be the attitude they absorb. Next year will be a time of unbelievable transformation! Prepare for it, brace yourself for it, but most of all, enjoy it!

Des Noack  
Principal



***Hi! I would like to tell you of my experience of transition.***

***At the start of the year I wasn't happy with the class I was in. There were a couple reasons why. One of the reasons was because I was in the exact same classroom with the same teacher I was with last year. However, the main reason was because all my friends were in a different class. I was sad because even though I knew the people in my class, they were not my friends.***

***For the first week of school I was miserable. I didn't really play with anyone. I just walked around the school.***

***But after that week, I knew nothing would change if I didn't try to make friends with my new classmates. I tried to make some new friends and it worked.***

***It turns out I became better friends with them than the people in the other class. So after crying on transition day and being miserable in the first week of school I now have got some really good friends and I have had a very happy year.***

***(Written by a student in Grade 3/4)***

# Student Class Placement Policy

## Rationale:

Student learning is our core business at St Ambrose Primary School and so we aim to provide an environment that encourages each child's educational and social development.

When making decisions about the placement of students we consider the following criteria in an effort to achieve a fair and even distribution of students in each class setting:

- Specific learning needs
- Individual differences
- Gender balance
- Relationships with other students
- Age
- Social and emotional maturity
- Academic achievement
- Family groupings
- Length of time a class or group has been together
- Class placements in previous years
- Classroom observations
- Student teacher relationships
- Parent / Carer input

The class structure that is decided upon will aim to:

- Equal range of abilities in each class / year level.
- Keep average class sizes as low and as even as possible.
- Allow for planned and unplanned increase in enrolments.
- Ensure that students identified as requiring additional support are where possible "shared" throughout the school.

The setting of classes requires a great deal of time and thought. Staff use their professional judgement and expertise, along with relevant information provided by parents in an effort to achieve effective class groups that satisfy, where possible, the needs of the individual and the needs of the group. No single factor determines placement, or will necessarily be acted upon. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Principal to make decisions about classes and the placement of students.

## Parents / Caregivers role in the process

In order to make the best decisions we need as much information as possible. Class teachers have an excellent knowledge of your child/ren, particularly in relation to their social and academic needs in the classroom and school setting.

As Parents/Caregivers you are given the opportunity to provide information that you believe could be considered in the placement of your child/ren. What we specifically seek from you is information about your child's learning or social needs that you believe

the school may not be aware of. (**Such information would not include a request for a particular teacher or what is commonly called "teacher shopping"**). This information should be provided in writing in an envelope addressed to the Principal and marked "Confidential" and relate specifically to the criteria highlighted above.

## The following will not be considered:

1. Requests to have or not to have particular teachers.
2. Information provided after the due date.

NB. The provision of this information should not be seen in anyway as a guarantee that requests can or will be met.

## Communicating Class Placements

Class Placements for the year ahead is communicated to the students at their first 2019 Student Transition session.

This practice means that:

- a. Students will know the name of their teacher for the following year;
- b. Students will know which other students will be in their class; and
- c. Parents and carers will have time to talk positively to their children about the class experiences they may have the following year.

## PARENT AND CARER COMMITMENT

Parents and carers commit to supporting the school's Class Placement Policy & Procedure by:

- a. Supporting and accepting decisions made by the School; and
- b. Being positive with their child about the class placement decision that has been made. (Remember you are the "Directors of First Impressions".)

## SCHOOL COMMITMENT

The School commits to supporting the Class Placement Policy by:

- a. Using informed professional judgement when deciding class placements; and
- b. Considering all available information, including that received from parents and care givers.



# 2019 School Fees & Levies

The **School Family Fee** for 2019 is: **\$1880 per family**.

The **Student Levy** for all students for 2019 remains at **\$485**. The Student Levy specifically covers costs associated with curriculum, e.g. books, e-learning, art material, excursions and incursions.

Please note that there will be no further request for funds throughout the year for either Excursions, Sports Programs or Sacramental Programs.

It is important to understand that the levies collected are pooled so as to ensure the best value for dollar is achieved.

We take pride in the fact that we are able to achieve excellent educational outcomes for our students whilst providing an affordable Catholic education.

In keeping our costs low and affordable, it is essential that families contribute to their child's education by ensuring that payment of the fees and levies are made each year.

## Methods of Payment

### School Fees, Levies & Camp Fees for 2019

#### 1. Pay the full amount up front

Cash, cheque, debit card or credit card at the office or by EFT.

#### 2. Pay by Direct Debit

Direct Debit Service Agreement - copy will be sent out with statement in the first week of 2019 school.

Ten monthly instalments (Feb to Nov inclusive)  
Paid on 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Amount = the total balance on your school fee statement divided by ten (including any camp fees)

We will be asking that all new families adopt method of payment 1 or 2.

If you have an established payment plan or this is not suitable for your family, we ask that you contact Karen Basa at the school office to discuss alternate arrangements.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have supported the school in a non-financial way through their participation in classroom activities and parent groups.

Our community, as a whole, has gained greatly from the gift of their time, effort and support.



## Term 4, 2018

### CDFpay Closure Dates

CDFpay will be unavailable to process orders and payments from 16/12/18 – 2/1/19

The uniform shop will re-open on Tuesday 29/1/2019 – from 10-2pm for parents to purchase, exchange or collect uniforms before school starts on Wednesday 30/01/2019.

#### Friday: 23.11

- Feast of St Clement & Saint Columban
- ONWZ Deputy Principals Network

#### Saturday: 24.11

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#### Sunday: 25.11

- **Feast of Christ the King**

### Week 8

#### Monday: 26.11

- Staff Prayer & Briefing 8.15am
- 2019 Forward Planning Day – Day 1
- School Assembly 2.55pm

#### Tuesday: 27.11

- 2019 Forward Planning Day – Day 2
- Education Support Officers Meeting – 2.30pm
- **Grade 4 Swimming Program**

#### Wednesday: 28.11

- **2019 Prep Orientation Session 5 : 9 till 10am**

#### Thursday: 29.11

- Staff Meeting 3.45pm:

#### Friday: 30.11

- Feast of St Andrew
- St Ambrose Staff End of Year Dinner
- Reports available to principal for review.

#### Saturday: 01.12

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#### Sunday: 02.12

- **First Sunday of Advent**

### Week 9

#### Monday: 03.12

- Feast of St Francis Xavier
- Staff Prayer & Briefing 8.15am
- **2019 Student Orientation Day 1 (Current 2018 Prep to Grade 5's)**

#### Tuesday: 04.12

- Feast of St John Damascene

#### Wednesday: 05.12

- Whole School Sports Carnival

#### Thursday: 06.12

- Feast of St Nicholas
- Staff Meeting 3.45pm:

#### Friday: 07.12

- **Feast of St Ambrose**

- **Celebration of St Ambrose Feast Day – PGL Campaspe Downs**
- **Whole School Mass: 9.30am**

**Saturday: 08.12**



**Sunday: 09.12**

- **Second Sunday of Advent**

### Week 10

**Monday: 10.12**

- Staff Prayer & Briefing 8.15am
- School Assembly 2.55pm
- **2019 Student Orientation Day 2 (Current 2018 Prep to Grade 5's)**

**Tuesday: 11.12**

- Feast of St Damascus
- Grade 4 Swimming Program
- Education School Officers Meeting – 2.30pm

**Wednesday: 12.12**

- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Genevieve Bryant End of Year Whole School Concert & Workshop

**Thursday: 13.12**

- Feast of St Lucy
- Staff Meeting 3.45pm:

**Friday: 14.12**

- Feast of St John of the Cross
- Student Reports Sent Home

**Saturday: 15.12**



**Sunday: 16.12**

- **Third Sunday of Advent**

### Week 11 – Grade 6 Graduation Week

**Monday: 17.12**

- Staff Prayer & Briefing 8.15am
- **Grade 6 Celebration Day – MSAC & Dinner**

**Tuesday: 18.12**

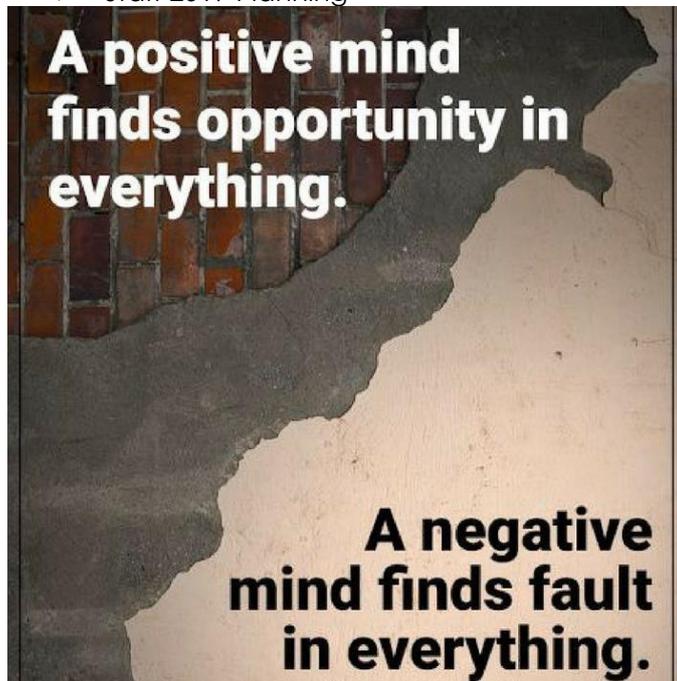
- **Grade 6 Graduation Mass**

**Wednesday: 19.12**

- **Whole School End of Year Mass 9.30am**
- **End of Year Award Ceremony – 2.00pm**
- **Student Dismissal – 3.30pm**

**Thursday: 20.12**

- Staff 2019 Planning



# Christmas Raffle 2018

We are asking all students to donate a variety of goods as per the themes below to help build our annual Christmas Raffle:

- P/1E.....Red themed hamper goods
- P/1L.....Green themed hamper goods
- 1/2B.....Gold themed hamper goods
- 1/2T.....Silver themed hamper goods
- 2/3R.....Red themed hamper goods
- 3/4P.....Green themed hamper goods
- 4/5F.....Gold themed hamper goods
- 5/6E & 5/6M.....Christmas drinks and Christmas entertainment foods.

Caremonkey forms will be sent to each class next week with a list of hamper items needed.

Hamper items may be placed in the Christmas Box in your child's classroom during the next few weeks. Raffle ticket books will be sent home Monday 26 November 2018. Please return stubs and money to your classroom teacher by Monday **17 December**.

The draw will take place at our End of Year Assembly. Each set of books has 9 tickets @ \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

Please contact the office if you require more tickets.

**Good luck everybody!**





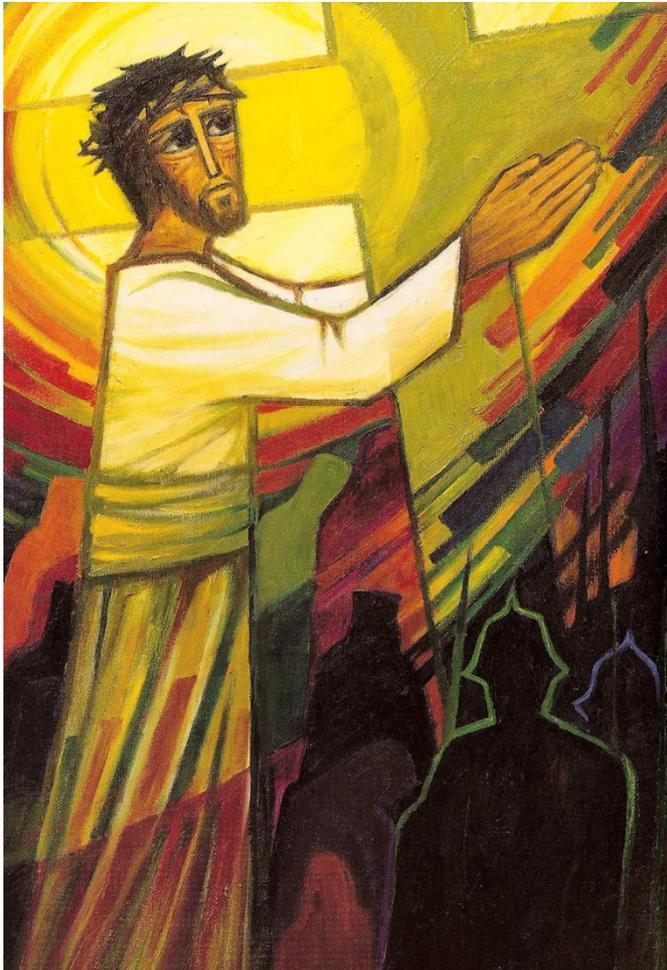
## This Week's Gospel

John 18:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'



## Gospel Reflection

### Jesus Before Pilate

The legend of the sword in the stone used to make me shiver when I was young. A poor, helpless child, valued by no one, abused by everyone, could become a king! The selection of a king was made, not by worldly evaluations, but by divine revelation. The choice was made clear by the ability to pull the sword from the stone. Sheer human brawn couldn't do it. Nor could cleverness. You had to be the one, chosen by an unseen hand, to be able to release the sword.

Beneath the picture of a macho-looking Christ runs this message: "Jesus, also known as Christ, wanted on charges of sedition, criminal anarchy, vagrancy, and conspiring to overthrow the established government. Dresses poorly. Uses carpentry as a cover. Has visionary ideas. Associates with common working people, unemployed, and winos. Has variety of aliases: *Prince of Peace*, *Son of Man*, *Light of the World*, *Lamb of God*, etc. Full beard and scars on hands and feet the results of injuries inflicted by angry mob led by respectable citizens and local authorities."

**Would we accept Jesus if he were on one of our main streets today?**

**What does a good leader do, say, and look like?**





With the end of the year quickly approaching, the carnival committee are busy organising the logistics and behind the scenes happenings to ensure next year's carnival is a success.

**Helpers raise your hands**

If you have already indicated that you are able to help on the day of the carnival, Carnival Committee president, Anna Hardwick, will undoubtedly soon tap you on the shoulder. If you would like to help, please talk to Anna or Jess Tucker and they will point you in the right direction.

**Order your Christmas trees now**

Don't get stuck trying to find the perfect real Christmas tree this year, order yours on CDF Pay now. The St Ambrose Carnival Committee is selling real 6ft Christmas trees that can be ordered and paid for now on CDF Pay. Trees are \$65 and can be picked up from the school on December 1 or December 8. Alternately, you can have one delivered to your door for \$75. Could it get any easier than that?

**Looking for plants**

It's the time of year where most of the weekend is spent out in the garden, enjoying the change of seasons. If you come across any spare plants, seedling, pots or soil, please consider donating them to the school. Our carnival plant stall is a big fundraiser for the school.

**From Little Things, Big Things Grow**

....but they do need a little time.

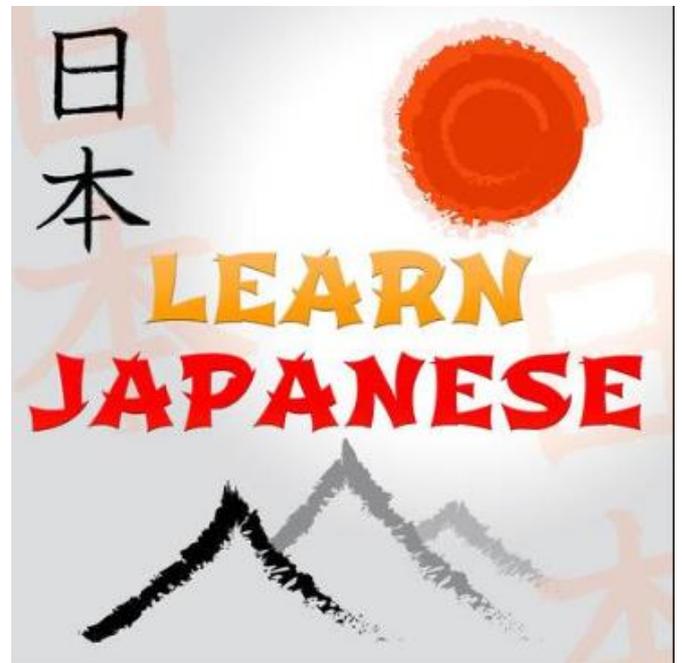
We are calling for hands-on help to grow plants for the Carnival Plant stall NOW.

How can you help?

Firstly, by donating any materials such as plants, cuttings, pots, soil, fertiliser, compost. Non-living items may be left with the school office. For living things please contact Amy on 0408 698 868.

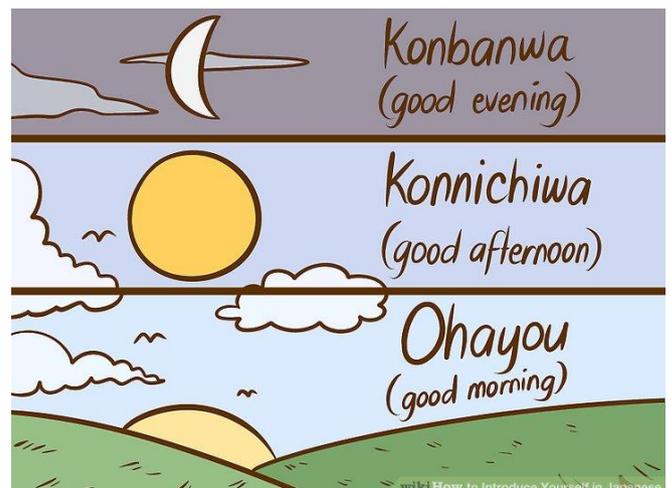
Secondly - start planting at home. Even join the Whatsapp "Carnival Green Thumbs" group and show us your photos.

Thirdly, attend the working bee today here at school from **2.30 to 3.30pm**. (There are no care commitments for any plants out of this working bee)



This week, we have been learning how to describe the weather in Japanese. The following chart shows common expressions when we talk about weather.

How's the weather? Tenki wa doudesuka?		
てんき weather Tenki	くもり cloudy Kumori	はれ sunny Hare
いいてんきです lovely weather isn't it Iitenki desune		
あつい hot Atsui	むしあつい humid Mushiatsui	さむい cold Samui
あたたかい warm Atatakai	つめたい chilly Tsumetai	
あめ rain Ame	ゆき snow Yuki	



This week students in 3/4P earned 116 pegs all together.

It was great to see that some students are becoming more confident and comfortable in saying new phrases in Japanese.



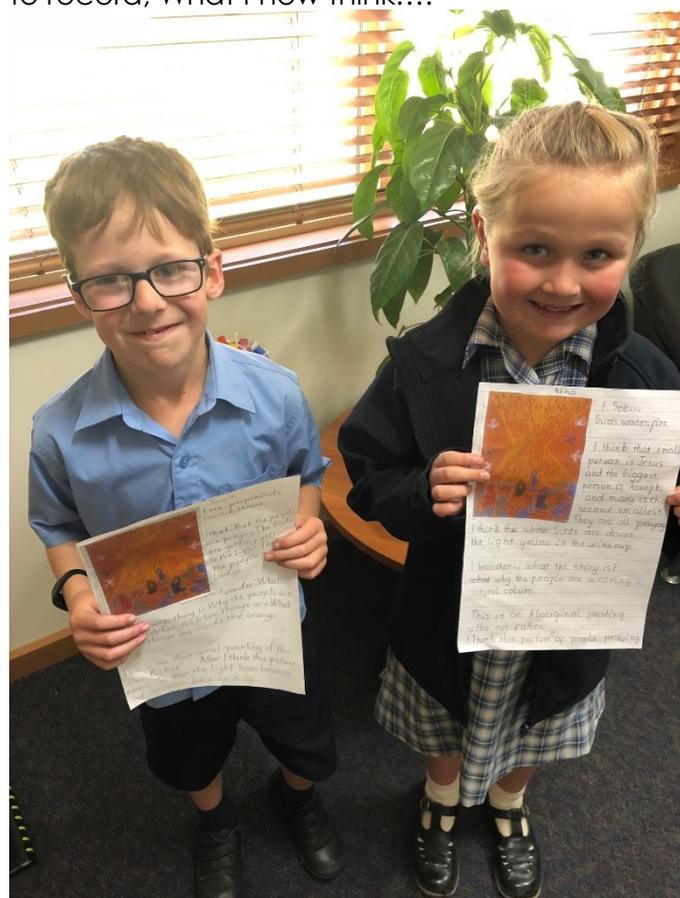
## SNAPSHOT WRITING!

I had so many butterflies in my stomach I thought I was going to chuck. The whistle blew. The game had started! I got the ball, dribbled it down the field, did a step over, tapped it to the outside and had a shot. I struck it perfectly. It sailed into the top corner, goal! The crowd went nuts!

By: Jamie H 2/3R

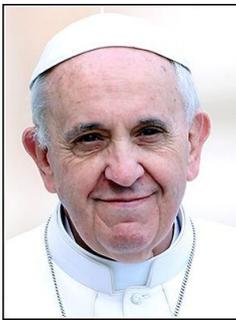


Asha and Jamie from 2/3R proudly showed their thinking about the Aboriginal Our Father via the thinking routine 'See, Think, Wonder'. This routine encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps stimulate curiosity! At the end of the activity the students were asked to record, What I now think....



Jamie thought that the picture showed the light from heaven and remember Jesus is with us.

Asha thought that the picture was of people praying to Our Father and that we pray the Our Father to thank God for what he has done.



Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

The St Ambrose Social Justice Team this Christmas would like to respond to Pope Francis' message to respond to the "cry of the poor" by calling for food donations! We would like to put our faith into action 😊



**FIGHTING HUNGER  
IN AUSTRALIA**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP  
THE FREE FOODBANK  
at Woodend & Kyneton**

***\* Donate food***

Food items needed include:

Tin tomatoes  
Cup-a-soup  
Pasta sauce  
Pasta bake  
Simmer sauces  
Recipe bases  
Curry bases  
Coconut cream/milk  
Tin tuna  
Tin fruit  
Dried fruit  
2 minute noodles  
Condiments eg: salt...  
Jam  
Peanut butter

Vegemite  
Honey  
Coffee  
Sugar  
Milo  
Cereal

Toiletries:  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Deodorant  
Soap/Body wash  
Razors  
Shaving Cream  
Ladies Sanitary items

The free foodbank provides people in need within our community with access to a range of food and household items, including toiletries at no cost.

Kyneton Caring Community: "The service is provided for anyone in our community who is experiencing hard times, pretty much for any reason. Members of our community come in to the free foodbank for all sorts of reasons, including: bill shock (when you are overwhelmed with bills unexpectedly), relationship breakdown, personal or family illness, domestic violence, having lost your job, and other types of financial hardship. Our clients include people from all walks and stages of life, including: students; the elderly; single, married, divorced; or single-parents; etc."  
<http://www.kynetoncc.org.au/free-foodbank.html>

PLEASE, next time you do a family grocery shop, could you purchase just one extra time from the list of suggestions and drop it into us?

You can give your food donations to your child's classroom teacher.



Thank you in anticipation of your support from the bottom of our hearts.

*St Ambrose Social Justice Team (Sophia, Ava, Sam, Kesia, Kaleb, Sarah, Amelie & Phoebe)*

## AMBROSE CARE

Once again this year Ambrose Care is providing help to families who might find Christmas a struggle. The little "giving" tree is at the front of the church with stars, with the age and gender of a child. If you take a star could we ask that the gift be returned to the church or parish office by **Friday 14th December**. We require donations of toys for boys and girls of different ages and all gifts need to be new. Cash donations are also welcomed and I will do the shopping for you, envelopes for donations are on the table with the stars. As always your generosity is most appreciated.

**For further information call**

**Bernadette at the Parish Office 54272690.**



### **Macedon Ranges Summer Orienteering Series.**

Wednesday 28th November at 7pm at Ash Wednesday Park sees the start of the annual Macedon Ranges Summer Orienteering Series.

This is a popular introduction to navigation sports for the family and for fitter people looking to add interest to their regular walk or training run.

The events take up to an hour (all in daylight) and use a map of each local town.

One can participate individually or in a group in short, medium or long courses.

Power walkers have the added interest of a score course, in which control points are of different values.

Adults \$5 Children \$2

Dates and locations for the pre-Christmas events, starting at 7pm:

Wed.	28 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	Ash Wednesday Park Smith St, MACEDON
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Lions Park Main Rd RIDDELLS CREEK
Wed.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Botanical Gardens Mollison St KYNETON

For further information about the series, call John Ewels – 54 261 649 or 0400 468 278

If you are bringing a large group, please let us know.

The series is organised by Central Highlands Orienteers with assistance from Tuckonie Orienteers.



The luscious flowers bloom around a  
dilapidated stone wall  
Lithe, vividly coloured birds dart among the  
treetops,  
Like a needle sewing fabric.  
Ferns conceal snakes of the most beautiful  
colours  
Snapping at lizards sunbathing on the hard,  
rocky ground.

Bees buzz past, like a procession of ants.  
Birds sing the most heavenly songs,  
And frogs and cicadas join the chorus.  
I marvel at the wondrous sight  
Until the unstable bridge beneath me breaks.

The wonder and awe I felt turned to fear.  
I was unaware before, but now it was plain to  
see.

I had been followed.  
The darkness was waiting... watching...  
And now it was ready to pounce!

It was lithe, graceful, yet truly savage.  
As the board splintered beneath me,  
I leapt into the abyss, hoping, praying,  
Someone would find me.

I hit the ground and lost consciousness.  
My last sight was the panther,  
Standing majestically on the hill,  
Flanked by three tiny balls of fur.  
I understood.

By: Charlotte 5/6M

# Christmas tree fundraiser

Nothing beats the smell and look of a real tree at Christmas time.

This year, support St Ambrose Parish School and order your tree today for delivery early December.

Tree size: 1.8m (6')

Cost: \$65 pick up from school on  
Saturday 1 or 8 December 9am-12pm  
\$75 delivered on Saturday mornings  
throughout December

Order online: <https://sawoodend.cdfpay.org.au>

Final orders: 26 November

**Limited numbers available. Be quick!**

*This inaugural Christmas Tree Fundraiser will help raise funds for the 2019 St Ambrose Woodend Community Carnival.*