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*"The Lord measures our perfection
neither by the multitude nor the
magnitude of our deeds, but by the
manner in which we perform them."
St John of the Cross*

Week 3, Term 1

Thursday 11th February, 2016

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

It was remiss of me to not inform you of the passing of Mr Kevin Tingle's mother Eileen last week. Eileen's funeral was held this past Monday. We continue to keep the Tingle family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

We celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday to commence the season of Lent. Fr Lee highlighted the three main aspects of Lent – Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. It is a good time to reflect on these and make some commitment in each of these areas. Fr Lee mentioned the importance of Almsgiving – starting with being generous to those closest to us, which is often the hardest and then reaching out to those outside our family.

I want to thank the teachers who organise the music, sing and read at each of our school Masses. A big thank you also to the high school girls who have been singing at our Masses – it is very much appreciated and really helps to lift our hearts and minds to God. An old saying goes that when you sing (well), you pray twice, so I am certain we have been sending up double the amount of prayers at each of our Masses.

Swimming Carnival

One of the highlights of the week would have to be Tuesday's School Swimming Carnival! We were very proud of the way our students conducted themselves across the day, showing great determination, willingness to get in and have a go and most of all terrific support for each other. A huge thank you to all the staff and parents who worked tirelessly all day to help run such a successful event. It was great to have some of our 'old' students return to help out also – thank you for all you did and the example you give to the current students. Mr Byrnes took out the male teacher/parent race, but is warned that I move across dry land somewhat better than in the water, so am looking forward to a rematch on the Athletics Track! Well done to Erin Woods who cruised to a win in the mature ladies 50m. A special mention to Mrs Mott, who put in countless hours of preparation prior to the day and then last night tallied up the final results so our students could be presented with their age champion medals on Wednesday. St Francis of Assisi finally broke through for their first win. Well done!

Mobile Phones

Please note that mobile phones are not to be brought to school. If you do require your child to have a mobile phone on them for after school contact, then a note must be sent

informing us of this please. Mobile phones must remain in the child's bag and are their sole responsibility. Any phones used during school time will be taken and returned at the end of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

It's a boy!

Congratulations to the Chandrasegaran family on the birth of Clement Macarius. We hope all are going well and Clement settles in well to the Chandrasegaran family. We look forward to meeting him soon.

Parents and Friends Meeting – Tonight!

Thursday 11th February (tonight) at 7:30pm in the SMMC Library. Hoping to see lots of parents there!

Mothers' and Daughters' Camp

The Mother/Daughter Camp is fast approaching. You should have received a note, which needs to be returned to the office ASAP. This is wonderful opportunity to spend some time with other families in a fun, faith-filled environment.

Primary School Class Meetings

Next Wednesday 24th February the Primary School Teachers will run meetings in their classrooms to inform parents of the routines and expectations at each of these levels as well as to provide a forum to answer any questions you may have. Meeting times are in the 'Dates for your diary' section. We hope you can make it along to these meetings.

Cuppa after Mass

Every Friday after 9:15am Mass we have a cuppa in the school hall. It would be great to see you there if you can make it along, especially our new families. It is a great opportunity to meet other families and feel a part of our school community.

Check out the ABCs of *The Crusade of Love* in the section 'Living out the Faith in the Family'. Let's see how we can enact these in our daily lives, especially as we use Lent to help us prepare to celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ at Easter.

God Bless

Luke Burton
Principal

Dates for your diary...

- Wednesdays 17th Feb, 24th February, 2nd March, 9th March - *High School Swimming* 1:45pm – 2:45pm
- Wednesday 24th February – Wonga Wetlands Excursion for Yr.11 Biology Students
- Wednesday 24th February – Primary School Class Meetings in classrooms
 - 3:30pm – Kinder
 - 4:00pm – Yr.1/2
 - 4:30pm – Yr.3/4
 - 5:00pm – Yr.5/6
- Saturday 27th February - *Dad's Golf Day*
- Monday 29th February – Year 7 Vaccination Forms due back
- Friday 4th – Sunday 6th March - *Mother/Daughter Camp* at Feathertop Chalet, Harrietville
- Wednesday 16th March – Year 7 Immunisations (for those who have given permission & returned forms)
- Thursday 17th March - *St Patrick's Feast Day*
- Saturday 19th March - *St Joseph's Feast Day*
- Friday 1st April – School Assembly after morning Mass
- Saturday 2nd April - *Rev Reece Beltrame Ordination*, St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga. An invite is extended to all the SMMC Community (see Week 2 Newsletter) First Mass of Thanksgiving offered by Fr Reece Gerard Beltrame will be Sunday 3rd April at 10am at St Patrick's church, Albury.
- Wednesday 6th April - *Athletics Carnival* at Alexandra Park 9:00am – 3:30pm
- Friday 8th April - *Term One finishes*
- Friday 11th November – Sunday 13th November - *Father/Son Camp*





LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

It is vital to start teaching young people about virtues and helping form their moral conscience from a very young age. From eighteen months of age a child begins to understand right from wrong. They also begin to comprehend that there are consequences for their actions.

One of the best ways to do this is through the use of stories which highlight a particular virtue or show the opposite vice so children know the consequences of not pursuing the chosen virtue.

When a child does something wrong, many a parent is reminded of a story. "Don't you know the story of the boy who cried wolf?" they might ask. The misdemeanour that triggered the telling of the story is usually forgotten, but a story and the moral lessons it contains will last a lifetime and be a treasured childhood memory.

"Children can learn about heroes and heroism in their reading. They can see, through examples, how ordinary people meet great challenges and overcome them. They can meet literary characters and historical figures who embody the virtues: judgement, responsibility, personal courage, and self-control. A virtuous life is one of adventure." James Stenson

Reading stories aloud such as 'Aesop's Fables' and 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde are great ways to help form your child's character and draw closer to them. Embrace these moments to truly be their first educator, forming them to be the fine men and women you one day would like them to be.

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY- LOVE

The ABCs of The Crusade for Love

1. Respect Everyone-Christ resides in everyone. Be sensitive to others- they are your brothers and sisters.
2. Think well of everyone- think ill of no one. Try to think something good even in the worst circumstance.
3. Always speak well of others - do not cast a slur on anyone. Repair any harm resulting from an uttered word. Do not provoke strife between people.
4. Speak to everyone in the language of love. Do not raise your voice. Do not swear. Do not vex others. Do not provoke tears. Reassure others. Show a kind heart.
5. Forgive everyone everything. Do not hold grudges. Always be the first to extend your hand as a sign of reconciliation.
6. Act always to your neighbour's advantage. Do good things to others, as you would like them done to you. Never give a thought to what others owe you, but always to what you owe them.
7. Be actively compassionate in times of suffering. Be quick to offer consolation, counsel, assistance and kindness.
8. Work conscientiously. Others benefit from the fruits of your labour, just as you benefit from the labour of others.
9. Be active in your community. Be open to the poor and the sick. Share your goods. Try to see the needs of those around you.
10. Pray for everyone, even your enemies.

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński (1900-1981)