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"Servite Domino in laetitia!"

(Serve the Lord joyfully!)

St John Bosco

Week 4, Term 1

Thursday 23rd February 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I was fortunate enough to attend a retreat last weekend in Castlemaine, Victoria and prayed for your intentions and for all involved in our school community. The retreat was a great way to help keep all we do in this life in perspective. Aspects that really stood out were the importance of prayer, the sacraments (especially the Eucharist and Confession) and service of others. We are called to Know Christ, Love Christ and Imitate Christ. It really challenged participants to think about how they are developing the religious life of their children and also those people we interact with each day. If you haven't done a retreat before or it's been a while, I highly recommend it!

Parent Evening

I hope you enjoy our first parent evening for the year tomorrow night, listening to Paul and Angela Quinn share their parenting journey. Talk begins at 7:30pm and wine and cheese will be available for your enjoyment. As mentioned I am unable to be there, but will pray for a fruitful evening.

Shrove Tuesday

Next Tuesday morning the SRC will be cooking up pancakes for breakfast from 8:45am. Pancakes will be sold for \$1 each and you can have a glass of orange juice for 50c to wash them down. Proceeds are going to a charity as part of the almsgiving aspect of Lent. All are welcome to come along and enjoy this morning. The senior students may even make you a coffee!

Uniform

With some mornings proving to be a bit fresh, it would be a good idea to order your child a jumper if they don't have one already. Also, for any secondary boys needing a blazer it's not a bad idea to order now as they can take some time to get organised. Blazers will be needed in readiness for Term 2. Please make sure all uniform items have your surname on them. The lost property box is near the hall exit.

Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Joshua Morris who received a Certificate of School Citizenship Australia Day Award for 2017. Josh was nominated by the school for being a great citizen within our school community, being willing to help out wherever it is needed and for showing respect to everyone he interacts with. Well done Josh.

Chess Club

There was an excellent roll up to the primary chess club on Tuesday at lunchtime. A few of these kids have definitely played before! Thanks to Mr Galvin for running this session and giving some expert tips – what to do and what not to do!

Next week is back to secondary and we will keep alternating until we can acquire enough chess boards to accommodate both primary and secondary every week. If you have any chess boards you would like to donate please send them in.



Guest Speaker

Tomorrow Sam Clear will come and speak to our secondary students about his journey walking around a large part of the world in aid of Christian unity. This has come about as a last minute event due to being made aware Sam was in town with a bit of downtime before the Stronger Rally in the evening. I have read the book Sam wrote about his journey and I am sure he will give some great inspiration to our students.

Stronger Rally

There is an opportunity for students in Yr.6-12 to attend a Stronger Rally at Catholic College Wodonga tomorrow evening, Friday 24th February from 6-9pm. Fr Rob Galea runs Stronger and Sam Clear will also be speaking at this event. Please see attached flyer sent through from their team for further information if you are interested.

P&F Meeting

Please come along next Thursday 2nd March at 7:30pm for our first Parents and Friends Meeting for the year.

Lent

Next Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. It's time to start thinking about the three aspects of Lent that help us to refocus and enter more deeply into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What will you be doing (or not doing) this Lent?

I hope you all have a terrific weekend.

God Bless,

Luke Burton (*Principal*)

Dates for your diary...

- EVERY TUESDAY 8:15 – 9:00am – Fun Maths Skills Classes with Mrs Horsfall in St Albert Room
- Tuesday lunchtimes – Chess Club with Mr Couture and Mr Galvin
- Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes – Library Open for all students

- **Term 1 – Tuesday 31st January – Friday 7th April**
- Secondary Swimming Program – 1st and 8th March
- **TOMORROW NIGHT 7:30pm – Term 1 Parent Evening 'Parenting for the Long Haul'**
- Wednesday 1st March – ASH WEDNESDAY – 12pm Mass St Mary's Jindera
- Thursday March 2nd – Road Safety Talk for K,1,2 students
- Thursday 2nd March – Parents and Friends Meeting 7:30pm in the Library
- Friday 3rd March – Responsible Pet Education for K-2
- Friday 3rd March – School Assembly after Mass
- Wednesday 8th March – RAS Primary (formerly BIPSA) representative swimming in Wagga
- Wednesday 15th March – Yr.11 Biology Excursion to Wonga Wetlands
- Friday 7th April – School Assembly after Mass
- **Term 2 – Wednesday 26th April – Friday 23rd June**
- Wednesday 3rd May – SMMC Cross Country at Jindera Golf Course 11:30am – 2:00pm
- Monday 15th May – SMMC Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park, Albury
- **Term 3 – Tuesday 18th July – Friday 22nd September**
- Saturday 12th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- **Term 4 – Tuesday 10th October – Thursday 7th December**
- Saturday 21st October – SMMC Annual Fete

Curriculum Corner – Mr Andrew Flores



This term the 1/2's began looking at their classroom and home environments. One of the lessons has been to describe themselves to the class, sharing about their likes and dislikes. After this they each created a letter that describes them, which now hangs inside our classroom. The students continue to learn the way a classroom works, how they need to be respectful in listening, speaking and taking turns. As with all our learning, we linked it with our faith and relationship with God. This mobile shows how we are all very different but equally loved by God. Feel free to come in and take a look!

LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE



Lent: Joy in Suffering

True joy comes only from faithfully doing God's will in each moment and accepting suffering knowing that it comes from God and is for our good. This joy doesn't come easily and can be a constant struggle. John Paul II at World Youth day told young people, *"True joy is a victory, something which cannot be obtained without a long and difficult struggle. Christ holds the secret of this victory."*

True happiness is what every person longs for. This longing for happiness is really a longing for God and for heaven. We have truly only fleeting glimpses of this true happiness. We will only be perfectly happy when we are in heaven. This yearning is written on the heart of man by his Creator, as Saint Augustine says, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and we are restless until we rest in you." Dr Isaac, author of "Character Building", states that 'happiness in this world comes from a combination of pleasure and suffering.' Pleasure such as happy family times sweetens life whereas suffering matures us. In the same way pruning the rose bush brings forth beautiful roses and shapes the bush in the right direction, improving and enhancing the natural beauty of the plant.

True happiness also exists in the gift of self, "It is in giving that we receive". For us this means faithfully doing God's will in each moment. Cheerfulness is the virtue that enables us to give of ourselves to do God's will with a generous spirit even when it involves suffering. During lent we take on extra suffering to purify ourselves and make ourselves more holy and pleasing to God. This gives us plenty of opportunity to practise the virtue of cheerfulness - still faithfully doing God's will despite the extra suffering. This lent make a decision to banish sadness far from you, knowing that to give into it is to give into the evil one. Go into battle and conquer it with the virtue of cheerfulness.

This Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on your forehead to remind you that your body will one day turn to dust. Be filled with joy knowing that your eternal soul will one day be with God. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, the wonders that I have in store for those who love me." Lent is a time to turn joyfully back to God knowing that this life on earth is so brief compared to eternity.

Lent prefigures the life of man on earth. The six weeks of Lent represent man's time of purification on earth, striving for perfection through the day, living out a life of virtue founded in penance and almsgiving. This time on earth, ending in bodily death, followed shortly afterwards with the Resurrection when we, like Christ, see God face to face. The time Our Lord spent in the tomb prefiguring the time a soul spends in purgatory. The six weeks prefiguring eternity. This Lent turn back to God and joyfully serve him in everything you do, knowing that life is short and eternity goes on forever.

Be joy filled people, full of hope. Use this time given to us to examine our relationship with God and what we need to do to truly rid ourselves of sin and attachment to this world. True happiness and joy comes from faithfully doing God's will. "He who wills nothing but what God wills is always happy; for, as everything happens by the will of God, the soul has always that which it wills." (St Augustine) St Hilda of Whitby - The Patron Saint of Modern Literature.

Virtue for the Month of February-Temperance

This is the virtue of saying no to oneself.

It is the ability to enjoy the good things in life in moderation.

"We are what we repeatedly do, excellence then is not an act but a habit"

Aristotle