

St. Mary's Primary School Bairnsdale Newsletter

No. 03 23/02/2012

LENT - A TIME TO REFLECT



Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

The final report of the Gonski review was released on 20 February. It contains detailed proposals on how schools could be funded in Australia. The report has recommended a new model for schools. At this time the implications in Victoria for Catholic school funding and parent fees are unclear. We will keep you fully informed of any changes that are likely to affect our school. The review called for the injection of an additional 5 billion dollars in school funding. The Australian Government has responded cautiously to this proposal. Prime Minister Gillard has stated that 'indexation will be an element of any new arrangement'. We will wait to see whether this meets the Catholic education position that funding be indexed to keep pace with government school costs. The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) will work with schools to ensure they are well represented in any government consultations.

Travel Home Arrangements

I ask your support in ensuring that you give clear directions to your son / daughter each morning so that they are clear on how they are to travel home each afternoon. At the moment we have constant phone calls to the School Office throughout the day with messages from parents regarding how students are to travel home. These messages then have to be passed on to the child's teacher. The messages are time consuming and disrupt teaching and learning time. If there is an urgent need to

change the normal pattern because something unexpected has come up we are only too happy to pass the messages on. In these cases, where possible, it would be appreciated that messages are received before 11am.

Supervision Reminder

Students are supervised from 8.30am until 3.30pm. Please ensure students are not at school outside of these times. At the moment we have some children being dropped off as early as 8am and others not collected until after 4pm. This should not happen.

Year 6 Camp

Next week our Year 6 students are heading to Canberra for their annual camp (Tuesday to Friday). I will also be attending the camp which means Mrs. Liz Dwyer will be Acting Principal in my absence.

Best wishes,

Kevin Greenwood,
Principal.

PARISH NEWS

During the six weeks of the season of Lent, two extra Masses will be added to the normal timetable during the week. These extra Masses will be celebrated on Tuesday at 6pm and Thursday at 6pm. We also invite parishioners, either as families, groups or individually, to make at least one journey around the Stations of the Cross with us on any of the **six Fridays during Lent at 6pm.**

PTFA NEWS

The AGM of the PTFA was held last night and while numbers were small we were able to fill all positions on the committee and map out plans for fundraising and social events for the year. I extend thanks to all who attended the meeting and to those who have accepted positions on the committee. There are a number of areas where the PTFA will need additional support to effectively run the events it has organised. **A PTFA note will be sent home in the near future and parents are asked to nominate where they can assist. We are asking that every family contribute to at least one event for the year.** Remember all monies raised goes towards resources to assist with the learning of your children.

2012 Office Bearers

President	Renee Grant
Vice President	Anita Hodder
Secretary	Lisa Desio
Treasurer	Jane Natty
School Board Rep	Anita Hodder
Uniform Shop Coordinator	Vikki Holland
Uniform Shop Treasurer	Jo Hall

2012 Fundraising / Social Events

Term 1	Easter Fair (29 th March)
Term 2	Major Raffle (drawn 28 th June)
Term 3	Trivia Night (10 th August)
Term 4	'The New Duck Cup' (11 th Nov)

Easter Fair Helpers Group

We are having a meeting at 2pm next Monday 27th February to plan for the Easter Fair. The meeting will take place in the staffroom and will be finished in time for you to collect your children. The group already consists of Tamara Cook, Lisa Desio, Virginia Evans and Jane Natty. Please come and help.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

A reminder that if you are eligible to receive the Education Maintenance Allowance the form has to be submitted by tomorrow. We will require a photocopy of a Health Care / Pension Card that was valid on 1st February 2012. NO LATE CLAIMS ACCEPTED.

LOST

Missing since Term 4 last year - size 8 school jumper clearly marked with 'Overy' with phone number. Please return it to the office urgently.

ST. MARY'S PTFA ICY POLE DAY

The PTFA will be selling icy poles at lunchtime tomorrow (Friday 24th February). The icy poles cost 50 cents each.

DIARY DATES

24/02	Icy Pole Day
27/02	Easter Fair Helpers Meeting – 2pm - staffroom
28/02	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra 5.30pm – Reconciliation Workshop – Parish Centre
29/02	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra Prep rest day
01/03	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra 9.10am – 4M Mass 10.15am – 5S Reconciliation
02/03	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra
05/03	Preps commence full time
06/03	Division Swimming
07/03	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy
08/03	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy 9.10am – 2C Mass 10.15am – 4N Reconciliation 10am – 2pm – Gr. 6 Maths Activity Day
09/03	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy
12/03	Labour Day Public Holiday
13/03	Pupil Free Day Parent / Teacher Interviews
14/03	Regional Swimming
15/03	9.10am – 2W Mass 10.15am – 6P & 6H Reconciliation
16/03	School photos
19/03	Indoor Assembly
20/03	Division Tennis 5.30pm – Reconciliation Workshop – Parish Centre
21/03	5.30pm – Board Meeting
22/03	9.10am – 1M Mass 10.15am – 5B Reconciliation
23/03	'Ride to School' Day Hot Dog Day
26/03	Gr. 4 camp – Coonawarra
27/03	Gr. 4 camp – Coonawarra 7pm – Gr. 3 Reconciliation Rite – St. Mary's Church
28/03	7.30pm – PTFA Meeting – school staffroom
29/03	9.10am – 1C Mass 10.15am – 4M Reconciliation State Swimming 5pm – 7pm – PTFA Easter Fair
30/03	11.30am – Easter Liturgy 2.15pm dismissal – last day Term 1

PHELAN'S TOWN BUS SERVICE

Term 1, 2012 bus fees are now overdue. These outstanding fees MUST be paid immediately or your child will be refused travel on the bus. Please make cheques payable to St. Mary's Primary School Town Bus Committee. The fees are to be handed to the school office, marked "Town Bus Fees".

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking days are **WEDNESDAYS**. If you wish to start a savings account for your child please collect a Catholic Development Fund application form from the school office. Put the form (with the relevant copies of identification) and some money in an envelope; mark the envelope with your child's name and grade and send it into the school office marked "SCHOOL BANKING". A passbook will then be processed and given to your child.

Sharon Roderick, School Banking Co-ordinator