"Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return…"

Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

As we begin our Lenten journey next week on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of our own mortality when the ashes are placed on our forehead with the Sign of the Cross. Christ’s death and Resurrection are then just 40 days away and the Lenten period allows us to focus on the personal renewal necessary to appreciate the true sacrifice and celebration of the Easter season. It is important that Lent is seen as a period of real spiritual growth rather than just a time to give up a few luxuries or make the occasional sacrifice.

A particular focus for our school this Lent is Project Compassion whereby we are challenging our children to be aware of the day to day struggles of children living in developing countries, with the hope that this awareness and compassion will endure beyond their time at St Joseph’s and that they continue to pray for and consider others less fortunate than themselves.

What an outstanding performance by the St Joseph’s swimmers to win the District Swimming Carnival last Friday for the first time in many years! Congratulations to all the swimmers for putting in such a great effort and a particular thank you to Mary Ventry for her organisation and to Mr Bennett and Miss Moreing for their help on the day. Many of our swimmers qualified for the regional Archdiocesan carnival in Narooma next week and wish them the best of luck.

One of the biggest logistical challenges in any school is regular and effective cleaning. I’m sure that when you have noticed your family name on the cleaning roster you have had to reorganise your weekend and set aside several hours to complete the task, on a voluntary basis. After discussion at the last School Community Council meeting it was decided that due to the increase in enrolments and learning spaces this year and the difficulty of fitting school cleaning into a busy family routine we would trial employing Wendy Perkins to carry out this role at a mutually convenient time. The school and the SCC will fund this commitment so this gives further emphasis to us helping the SCC with fundraising throughout the year as their efforts are helping to remove the burden of school cleaning from your already busy family life. We will review the arrangement later in the year.

Welcome to Mrs Shelley O’Brien, a CEO Senior Officer in Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives, who has been working with all staff this week to discuss the latest pedagogical approaches to classroom teaching and learning. We are one of the schools in the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Plan initiative and our parent body will be involved in surveys related to this in the very near future.

It was wonderful news recently to hear that Mrs Elizabeth Moroney had been re-employed by Catholic Education this year (shades of déjà vu?) and she will be visiting us on Wednesday 18th February to catch up with everyone.

We are looking forward to another productive Working Bee next Tuesday from 4 pm to 6 pm to bring some order back into the school grounds. See you there!

A reminder the School Counsellor will be here on Monday 2nd March so if you would like to catch up with her please let me know as soon as possible.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs, Acting Principal
Senior Class

Welcome back to a new school year. I am very pleased with how the class has settled into our routine and the enthusiasm of all students towards their work. This term we are investigating Natural Disasters, in particular Volcanoes and Bushfires, to enable students to gain further experience in the writing of a factual report. On the fun side we get to make our own erupting volcanoes. In Maths we are looking at how data can be represented by creating simple graphs on paper to inputting data to create various graphs using a spreadsheet format. We will be investigating the life of a family from central Sulawesi for our Indonesian studies and the often complex nature of Aboriginal life and customs and their contribution to this nation.

Mr Bennett
Senior Primary

PSSA Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the PSSA Swimming Carnival last week with St Joseph’s winning the overall carnival. What a positive win it was. With a great display of sportsmanship by everyone cheering on, not only St Joey’s students but competitors from Bibbenluke, Delegate and Bombala Public Schools.

Thank you to Mary Ventry for the organisation of another successful carnival and to all of the volunteers for your support.

Important Parent Message

If you have an important message for your child or child’s teacher about changes in travel arrangements or any other information please ensure that you contact the school on 02 6458 3776 and talk to a staff member as text messages and voice messages can sometimes be missed.

Canteen Roster

Earlier this week a note went home seeking volunteers for the canteen roster.

This year with the support of the SCC we have removed the weekend cleaning roster. To enable this to occur we need parents to assist with canteen, please remember to return your form with availability as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support!

Deb Ball Volunteers Needed

SCC Deb Ball update
Your SCC needs you!
Ball is 28 March 2015
This is our MAJOR fundraiser for the year.
Please volunteer as a helper by notifying Jade or Kristy on the SCC.