

**NEWSLETTER No . 5 : 3rd March, 2016**

Dear Parents,

LENT



We are all familiar with the saying that, 'Beauty is only skin deep' and its hidden caution, that we should look more closely at the inner-person, where we will find the core values of the person. The true beauty.

Lent offers us the opportunity to get beneath the 'skin' of our life and get in touch with the core values of our relationship with God through Jesus, who came and lived our way of life.

It is an opportunity to strip away the false images of God that we ourselves have created over the past year. Lent is a time when we can choose to put ourselves to the test both physically and emotionally by some acts of fasting and abstinence, periods of reflection and self examination and perhaps some spiritual redirection. It is a time to grow in closeness to Jesus who can bring wholeness and healing to our lives, as He did to those who asked Him for it, no matter how varied their circumstance.

Our school expectations of ***Be your best by Respecting Self, Others and the Environment and Be Safe*** are an explicit focus of our assemblies each week. My reflection from this week was observing the faces on the students as the student awards were read out. I was standing in a position where I could see the name of the student as the teacher was reading out a very well worded and meaningful explanation of why each child was receiving the award. The children's faces were brilliant as they listened to each word that was spoken about the children's enacting of our expectations.

I thank the teachers for knowing their students so well and being able to articulate this through the student awards. I encourage all parents and grandparents to continue to reinforce our whole school expectations.

Heathcote Community Games

Congratulations Heathcote on the great success of the Heathcote Community Games. This is quite a significant event for our town and it was very well supported by the community. From little things big things grow and this applies to OUR games as we complete the festivities of 2016 and plans are already underway for a bigger and better Community Games for 2017 and beyond.

I was fortunate enough to be involved in a number of events over the two weeks and took a great deal of pride from the fact that our school was so heavily involved in so many sport and community events. The sense of pride in representing their school and family is very evident.



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Teaching position

Helen Coughlan who has been working in the 3/4 class this year has tendered her resignation from Holy Rosary this week. Helen is also a teacher at another school as well as a numeracy consultant in the region and these positions, as well as other commitments, meant that two days here at Holy Rosary were going to be difficult. We thank Helen for her time here at Holy Rosary and wish her all the best in her work in the future. Helen's position will be advertised on Friday this week.

Condolences:

To Mrs Tobin and her family on the passing of her father Jim Dawson. I didn't meet Jim, however, I am always inspired by the great yarns and memories that families share when one of their family is ill or has passed away. I know that the Tobin and Dawson families have share many tears, laughs and yarns over the past few weeks.

Congratulations:

Miss Mitchell announced last week that she and Rohan are engaged. As a school community we congratulate them as they begin this most beautiful journey in life together. It does make me feel old as I taught Rohan when he was in primary school. Well done Lauren and Rohan.

Our past teachers:

Mrs Nicole McDermott on the safe arrival of Hazel Mae on 18th February, 2016

Mrs Jodie Leechman on the safe arrival of Jacob Louis on 23rd December, 2015

Parents and Friends Committee elections.

3.30pm Friday, 4th March, in the O'Dee Centre

We have nominations for all executive positions and will also be looking for people to head up subcommittees. Please come along and give your support to the P & F.

Holy Rosary Heathcote School Board March Meeting Tuesday 8th at 5.30pm Staffroom

Uniform:

It is fantastic to see our students so well dressed in their school uniform. When I arrived back at school on Friday and witnessed the students returning from the sports clinic at Barrack Reserve, I was most impressed with their effort to be in sports uniform, hats on and looking tidy and neat. It is an expectation that when we are representing our school we are at all times our very best in behaviour, appearance and manners. Thanks to all parents for ensuring we are able to achieve this goal.



First Friday Mass is Friday 4th March at 11.30 in the church. Only Grade 3 will be attending as many teachers are away on camp or at in services.

Pupil Free Day.

A reminder that Monday 7th March is a pupil free day for Holy Rosary. The staff will be attending a professional development day at St Luke's Shepparton which will assist us with the development of our Behaviour and Engagement Framework for the school. All of our staff are on board with this process and after Monday 7th we will be formulating our action plan around this.

There will be an opportunity for parents to become involved in this discussion as we move forward.

Grades 4/5/6 Camp

I was able to head over to Ballarat on Tuesday evening (and Thursday) to be a part of the school camp. The students had great weather for their activities and were enjoying every aspect of the fun filled days. It is so important that our students are exposed to wider learnings and experiences as they move through their schooling. The 'Blood on the Southern Cross' production at Sovereign Hill was such a great experience and our students were very involved on Tuesday evening.

Such 'cultural capital' allows students to recall and draw on these great experiences later in life when they are in conversations. It is a more worldly look on things.

I am sure the students will come home tired yet enthused from their four days in Ballarat. Thank you to the parents for supporting such an important initiative and for the fabulous teachers and helpers Mr Geary, Miss Mitchell, Miss Hogan, Eamon Dullard, Fiona Bradshaw and Peter Florence for taking such great care of your children. Please take the time to thank them as they return on the bus.



The children will return to Holy Rosary around 2.00pm. Parents may pick up their child at 2.00pm, or the children can wait at school until dismissal at 3.15pm.

Alternative playground experiences

Over the past few weeks the staff at Holy Rosary have developed new and exciting opportunities for our students to engage in differing activities while in the playground. It is encouraging to see the passive area (formally the eating area) being used while at the same time rigorous games are happening as well. The introduction of board games under the shade area has been a hit and the students are taking responsibility and respecting the equipment.

Northern Plains HUB Mass and Dinner:

On Thursday 10th March our staff will be joining staff from Catholic schools in Rochester, Elmore, Echuca, Cohuna, Pyramid Hill, Kerang and Inglewood for Mass and dinner. This year the host of this evening is Our Lady of The Sacred Heart PS, Elmore. This is a great opportunity for our staff to meet up with colleagues from schools that are similar in size and demographics.

Kind regards,

Paul Dullard
Principal

CLASS MASSES - Parents welcome to attend

All class masses are in the school chapel at 9.00a.m.

Thursday, 10th March : Gr. 3/4 (Miss Hogan)
Thursday, 17th March : Gr. 3/4 (Miss Mitchell)
Thursday, 24th March : Gr. 5/6

We place great emphasis on these visits; worshiping together strengthens and professes our faith developing an even closer relationship with our local parish community

**FOUNDATION STUDENTS
WILL NOT ATTEND SCHOOL
ON A WEDNESDAY
UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH LONG WEEKEND.
THEY WILL COMMENCE
SCHOOL FULL TIME
ON MONDAY, 14TH MARCH**

CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS

Why is it important that children are given opportunities for a longer turn to talk and listen?

Children's Chatter Matters!

Language Learning activities to have a go at home.

5. Encourage your child to listen to sounds at the *beginning* of words. Choose two words from their reader book and ask them to judge if the two words start with the same sound (say some that match and some that do not). Encourage them to say the two words and feel the first sounds with their mouth. Then, point out the two sounds at the start. For example, “*Mouse and Moon start with the same sound.... Mmmmouse, Mmmmoon. They both start with the ‘mhhh’ sound*”.

Once your child is able to recognise when words do/do not begin with the same sound, encourage them to try to name the first sound (be sure they say the sound, not the letter name). You might then like to think of other words that start with the same sound together.

For students who have a strong awareness of first sounds, try making up tongue twisters and sentences using the same first sounds. *For example: Silly Simon searched for seagulls while he sang a sweet song by the sea.*



The advertisement is split into two main sections. The left section is red and features the club's logo (a cartoon character holding a ball) and the text "NetSetGo INFORMATION" above a Gilbert brand ball image. The right section is black and features the text "SAUSAGE SIZZLE" and "AUSKICK INFORMATION" above a Sherrin brand ball image. The central text reads:

HEATHCOTE JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB
WELCOMES THE 2016 SEASON
FINAL
SIGN UP/REGISTRATION DAY

**WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH
5.30PM TO 7.00
BARRACK RESERVE OVAL**

**REGISTRATIONS BEING TAKEN
FOR U12 & U14 FOOTBALL,
U14 & U16 NETBALL**

HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SERVICES SURVEY

What child and family services would support Heathcote and surrounding communities?

The community in and around Heathcote have to travel to Bendigo or other larger towns for child and family services (other than maternal & child health, preschool, primary school and playgroup). A number of concerned and interested locals have joined together and organised funding from Mandalay Resources for Community Child Care Association to do a feasibility study for childcare and other child and family programs and services in Heathcote. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-for-Heathcote-1475756322739822/?fref=ts> for more information.

The purpose of this survey is to gain information about the types of children's and family services this community would use. A copy of the Questionnaire is available from the school office or can be completed online via <https://www.surveymonday.com/r/2YTG2TN> (this is our preference) : the Community House can be used to complete the survey online. Completed questionnaires to be returned to the Community House.