

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The second week of Advent focuses on preparing ourselves for Jesus' coming. Preparing our hearts requires time and commitment. This is why we pray in community. God calls us to trust in this invitation of love, peace and joy

Today we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath.

Light symbolises our faith in God and our loving relationship with Jesus.

Light symbolises our commitment to God's love.



In this week's readings, the prophet Isaiah tells a story about peace and harmony. Isaiah speaks about the unexpected happening when wolves are at peace with little lambs and new shoots grow out of old tree stumps. These images remind us that one will come who will live like this, caring and respecting all of creation. Isaiah reminds us that this is God's plan for the future. This is what God asks of us through Jesus.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the warm weather for our wonderful Heathcote Summer. This week we had more children who developed itches and minor rashes from reactions to insects and grasses. We encourage children to be aware of their surrounds to avoid such incidents.

Yesterday the staff spoke to our senior students about our expectations of them for the remainder of the year. They have had a great year with many successes and we encourage them to continue to be their best right up to the last day. The staff would be very grateful if you could reinforce the importance of finishing out the year on a high.

MASTER PLANNING FOR HOLY ROSARY

As you will be aware we have engaged E-plus architects to facilitate a Master Planning process for Holy Rosary and we have now had several meetings.

The Project Control Group (PCG) consists of staff, school board reps and E-plus staff who have begun to determine what our school needs to cater for the future. We aim to develop an educational philosophy as well as a plan of how our school looks physically. Others from our wider community will be called on as determined by the group for input and once the process is developing the wider community will be encouraged to have input into our planning.

It is important to note that this is a Master Planning process which looks at broader developments of the school, and that it will lead to finer details and further collaboration with the wider community in the future.

This is a tremendous opportunity for our school community and one that the staff and school board take very seriously. There has been much invested into this school over many decades by many people from our community and respect and acknowledgment of the past as well as a positive look towards the future will ensure our best outcomes.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

This Thursday and Friday our staff will be attending a Spirituality Retreat at Moama. The two days will involve a visit to St Mary's school, activities around understanding more about us as teachers, our surrounds and our school.

The staff are very much looking forward to spending a few days together and we are blessed to have many fantastic presenters attending as well.

I look forward to reporting back to you on how our retreat has influenced our staff for the future.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS RAFFLE

Thanks to our hardworking team of parents we are offering you the chance to win several prizes as we head into the Christmas break.

Ticket books were sent home to each family today. Each book contains 10 tickets. Tickets are \$2 each (\$20 for a book).

Any sold tickets are to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 14th December. Winners will be drawn at the end of year assembly on 16th December.

1st Prize: Christmas Hamper - Kindly donated by Heathcote Wine Hub, Fetching Treasures, Mclvor Meats, Lions Club of Heathcote & Gaffney's Bakery

2nd Prize: Trailer of Firewood

CHOIR ATTENDING HEATHCOTE HEALTH

It is a great tradition for our students to sing for the residence of Heathcote Health around Christmas time. The simple act brings great joy to those who often miss family and friends at this time. Thanks Mrs Sexton who once again has prepared our children so beautifully. Mrs Sexton and I will accompany the students to the hostel next Tuesday 6th December.

Yours Sincerely



Paul Dullard
Principal

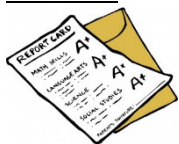
IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Thursday 1st	-	Pupil Free Day – Staff Spirituality
Friday 2nd	-	Pupil Free Day – Staff Spirituality
Tues 6th	-	Orientation Day (Whole School)
Tues 6th	-	CCB Transition Day (Gr 6)
Wednesday 14th	-	Reports go home
Thursday 15th	-	Gr 6 Graduation Evening
Friday 16th	-	Last Day Term 4

JANUARY

Tuesday 31st January	-	First Day Term 1 2017
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REPORTS

Staff are currently in the process of finalising school reports in order to send them home on Wednesday 14th December. We ask families who may need more than one copy of their child's report or need their child's report mailed to please contact the school office as soon as possible.

ORIENTATION DAY

On Tuesday 6th of December, the children will transition into their 2017 classroom. This will take place from 9-10:30am. During this time, the students will have the opportunity to meet their 2017 teacher and find out who the other children are that will be in their class.

Students who are attending CCB in 2017, will travel to the La Valla campus in Junortoun to participate in their Transition Day. These students will be at CCB for the whole day.

LIBRARY BOOKS

As we come to the end of the school year, we ask that all students return any library books. Notes will be sent home with any students with outstanding items during the coming weeks. If, for any reason, you cannot return your books, please speak to Mrs Harris.

TRANSITION PROGRAM

During Term 4, Holy Rosary will continue to offer Transition mornings for students moving into Foundation in 2017. The goal of this program is to better prepare students through structured activities to help support the transition process.

TUESDAY DEC 6

8.45AM—1.30PM

**REPEAT NOTICES**

PARENTS AND FRIENDS AGM: Please feel free to join the Parents and Friends committee for their AGM meeting at 5.30pm on Thursday 8th December in the O'Dee.

FINAL SCHOOL MASS AND GRADUATION: On Thursday 15th December the whole school will gather for our final school Mass in the church at 11.30am. All welcome.

Grade Six Graduation will be at 6.30pm in the O'Dee Centre. I would encourage as many families to come along to these events as possible. It is a great way to farewell our Grade 6 students after their time at Holy Rosary.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINAL DAY: Friday 16th is the final day for students. School finishes at the normal time of 3.15pm

Timetable for the day will be:

10.45am (Recess) : Special visitor

1.00pm – 2.00pm : Lunch (early)

2.00pm – 3.00pm : Assembly & Musical Performance

3.15pm : Dismissal as normal

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CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS

Ten activities will be provided each term focusing on key areas of oral language supporting literacy. During Term 4, these activities will focus on targeting your child's knowledge of story grammar. Feel free to adjust these activities according to your child's grade level. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Special Education Coordinator, Liz Tobin. Good luck and most importantly enjoy this very special time with your child.

9. There are many new versions of traditional fairy tales. Children love reading the new versions and comparing what was the same/ different with the traditional story. Have a look at these versions:

- The Three Little Bush Pigs - Paul Dallimore (The Three Little Pigs)
- Suddenly! - Colin McNaughton (The Three Little Pigs)
- The True Story Of The 3 Little Pigs By A. Wolf - Jon Scieszka
- There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Mozzie - P. Crumble
- There Was An Old Bloke Who Swallowed A Chook - P. Crumble
- Jim And The Beanstalk - Raymond Briggs

Safety Alert

Snake Safety

EASTMAN LYNCH.....

If you live or work in an area where snakes are known to live, you must know what to do when you come across one.

- First thing you need to know is that the snake is **not** going to chase you so you need to be able to control any panicky feeling you have.
- You can stand perfectly still and you will be safe.
- Or you can just walk away from it.

What to do if bitten by a snake – First Aid will save your life.

- First make it a priority to get the victim to the hospital.
- Do not wash the bite. You will wash away the venom left by the snake which can be used for identification.
- Try to keep the victim calm.
- Immobilize the bitten body limb (with a splint, etc) and try to keep it below the heart.

DO NOT

- wash the bite
- apply the 'cut and suck' techniques
- add ice, a tourniquet, alcohol or aspirin
- pour turpentine into the wound

DO

- Wrap the limb in a pressure bandage to localize the venom.
- Only bring in the snake for identification if it is easily captured. **Do not risk a second bite** - because the snake may not have been venomated during the first bite (20 to 40 percent of all snake bites are "dry" bites).
- Finally, when at the hospital **encourage them to call poison control** for advice as many medical personnel do not have experience treating snake bites.

Even if you do not like snakes it is important to not harass or kill them. Snakes in Australia are listed as protected which makes it illegal for them to be killed, trapped, held in captivity, or traded without a permit.

Keep the environment in which you work free of clutter, rubbish and long grass. These environments provide the perfect place for snakes to take refuge. Be aware but not afraid. A snake does not want to hurt you and only sees you as a big predator. If you see a snake, just watch it. It will move away from you.



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- LIVE MUSIC
- DANCING
- FOOD & WINE
- BEER & CIDER
- ARTS & CRAFTS



Followed by the annual

MARIST BRASS

CAROLS IN

THE CATHEDRAL



Bring your picnic rug or chairs. Delicious food will be available on site from a variety of Bendigo's best food vendors.



Summer

IN THE Parks

This summer Bendigo's beautiful parks will come alive with a range of fantastic music, movies and other great free or low cost events.

To check out the full list of events and activities on offer visit our website.



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