



Term 4

Week 11

16th December, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Wed 16th
 ●Last Day Of School 2015
 ●Uniform Shop Closed

Thu 17
 ●Staff Development Day

Fri 18th
 ●Staff Development Day

JANUARY

Wed 20th
 ●Uniform Shop Open 9:30am-3:00pm

Wed 27th
 ●MAI Testing - Kindergarten - Year 6 Information to follow
 ●Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-3:00pm

Thu 28th
 ●MAI Testing - Kindergarten - Year 6 Information to follow

Fri 29th
 ●Years 1 - 6 Return to School
 ●MAI Testing - Kindergarten Only

FEBRUARY

Mon 1st
 ●Kindergarten Start School

Dear Parents,

Well the end of the year is upon us and this is my final Newsletter as I move to a new and exciting adventure at a new school in 2016. While I am very sad to be leaving I know I am leaving Corpus Christi in the good hands of our staff and Mr Devlin who I know you will welcome to Corpus just the way you welcomed me almost 7 years ago.

This week we have celebrated Mass with our Year 6 Graduates on Monday night and also celebrated our End of Year Mass yesterday with the whole school. This has given us the opportunity to thank God for all our blessings and celebrate together in a very special way. Yesterday's mass was followed by a lovely Morning Tea and final assembly. Apart from saying thank you for such beautiful wishes I also shared some other thoughts about change and my time at Corpus – I have re-printed them below

Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves and then we have to say good-bye. I don't like good-byes. But goodbyes, like change, are part of life.

CHANGE – happens to us all the time – when we started school that was a change, new babies arriving in the house is a change – year 6 you will experience a change moving to high school, then into a job or university and so on – change happens to us often and sometimes people are scared of change – but we should not be – because when it comes to say good bye it is really a time to say thank you for the good times and remember what you are going to miss. ***So what I will miss about our school...***

- Kinder telling me they love me and what I do
- The great, wonderful, stupendous, sensational, terrific, awesome and outstanding replies to my never ending questions
- My friends – the teachers and staff
- Talking with the children about the weekend footy, or the cricket or TV shows or their writing, what they have read or something about their family
- Games in the playground
- The hall and our amazing learning spaces
- The sound of the occasional plane from Richmond Air force base
- Lots of cars trying to park around the school
- Our veggie gardens
- Our fantastically supportive Parish especially Fr George and the parishioners
- The ipads, laptops ... in fact all the amazing technology we have
- The grass, the cubby and the sandpit
- The newborn babies and toddlers that come to school to drop off or collect their brothers and sisters
- Our choir, our dancers and our morning greetings
- The light and bright library
- Learning new things with different classes
- The 4 "c"s
- But most of all I will miss you the children



What I have tried to do

- Put learning first
- Make all the decisions I make be about you the students
- Leave this place better than I found it (you have great learning spaces, excellent teachers, a new uniform, veggie gardens and lots more)

I also think some thank you's are in order

- To the people responsible for the Morning Tea and assembly
- To my right and left hands – Mrs Tonnet and Mrs Shahoud
- They with Mrs Ahern, Mrs Anderiesz, Mrs Micallef, Mrs Sloan and Mr Manton all work together as a team supporting your teachers and this means my job is so much easier.
- Mrs Taylor, Mrs Paton, Mrs Hearnden and Mrs Currie in the office help to make me look good with all the work they do in the office – where very little of their work gets seen
- The amazing teachers at this school have been fabulous to work with and I thank them for their dedication, hard work and commitment to helping you to reach your potential
- Our support staff – do a great job working with the teachers to ensure that learning is our number one priority
- Thanks also to the fabulous parents who have supported the school during my time as Principal. The community building, fund raising and support of the school has been outstanding – thank you
- To my family – I could not have done this job if my family were not the supportive bunch that they are
- I have loved working here – the rewards have been great – I feel very blessed to have been a part of your journey but the time has come for me to hand over the reigns to a new Principal and farewell you all.

What I want you to do

- Love learning – learn all you can
- Work hard, play fair and pray often
- Look after each other – be nice
- Make sure you let your light shine – just like you have all year
- Pray for me as I will pray for you.

This is an old Irish Blessing – I think I have some Irish blood in me somewhere – and so this is my prayer for you today...

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm up on your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

SOME SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to acknowledge and thank Fr George for his spiritual leadership of our Parish. Fr George and I have know each other for more than 10 years and I have always found him to be a man of principle, devoted to his work and a tremendous support for me.

A special word of thanks must also go to our Assistant Principal and Religious Education Co-ordinator - Mrs Tonnet and Mrs Shahoud - for their tireless support, professionalism, commitment, hard work and dedication to our school. Their support has enabled me to do my job well.

Finally my thanks to my Principal colleagues from the neighbouring Catholic Primary schools - in particular Mrs Anne Hines and Mr Allan Jones with whom our school established a Professional Learning Community across three schools - their vision, passion and knowledge has helped all three schools learn together and improve learning for their students.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Thank you for the many cards and gifts that have been arriving over the past few days. From my family to yours I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Good luck, God bless, farewell and best wishes to you all.

Richard Blissenden
Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Parents,

Faith Formation

First Reading Mi 5:1-4
The Lord foretells the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10
Paul reveals Jesus as the new sacrificial offering.

Gospel Lk 1:39-45
Mary visits Elizabeth.

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

Who do you know who is expecting a baby?

How are they preparing for the birth?

How are we preparing for the birth of Jesus?

Christmas reflection.

Jesus

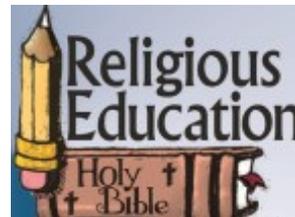
**He came not to a throne,
*but to a manger.***

**He lived not as a king,
*but as a servant.***

**He chose not a kingdom,
*but a cross.***

**He gave not just a little,
*but everything.***

-Holley Gerth



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Continued

Catholic Culture

Our Parish Sacramental Programme this year was very successful. This is another opportunity for parents to share in the faith journey of their children. The children love this experience and are very enthusiastic about joining in with their peers, new friends from the parish and parents. Being a facilitator is a very rewarding experience and we appreciate all the effort the leaders put into making the home lessons meaningful and reflective. The staff of Corpus Christi are very supportive of the Parish Programme and this year made it a priority to attend many of the celebrations. I would particularly like to thank the teachers in Years 4 and 5 who not only attended these functions but made sure that during the preparation time their class programmes and prayers supported the themes of the Sacraments.

This year we had the Year 4 and Year 6 children completing the Religious Literacy Assessment. Our goal for the year was to improve our knowledge in the seven strands by 3-5% which we successfully achieved in Year 4 and the Year 6 students also made this improvement from their results in Year 4. Well done to everyone. The children are encouraged to reflect on all their learning and faith formation in every grade so that they are able to live their faith confidently.

Part of my role here at Corpus Christi is to work very closely with the Parish and I would like to thank Fr. George O'Mara, Mrs Marie Cottee, Mrs Sue Weekes, Mrs Joanne Hocking and Fr. Christopher for all their support throughout the year. We have had some great celebrations thanks to our wonderful team.

Social Justice

Thankyou all so much for your support this year. Over the past twelve months our Social Justice support has been with Project Compassion, Caritas, Catholic Mission, Canteen, Penrith Kitchen and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Our Corpus Christi Community Christmas Appeal of food hampers and gifts was once again a great success. The Parish and its branch of the St. Vincent de Paul society sends a big THANKYOU for your support this year. Those in the community will benefit a great deal from your support at what is sometimes a very stressful time of the year. We wish all the volunteers and the families a very happy and holy Christmas.

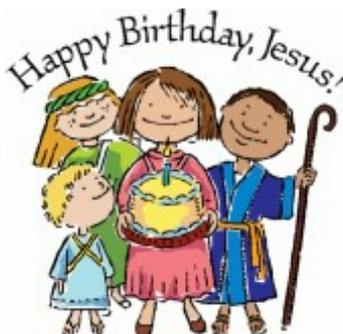
The student leaders on the Liturgy Team this year have worked very well with their social justice efforts this year. I would like to congratulate Jessica Yates, Racheal Peek, Giorgia Apap, Nicholas Pace, Aiden Xiberras, Georgia Fabre, Matthew Tempone, Lleyton Sullivan, Aiden Chong, Paris Zahra, Jasmine Woolford, Rhys Haddow, Denis Hannah and Harrison Williams on their commitment and wish them every success in the future.

Pilgrimage

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Greg Whitby, Mr Ian Smith and the ERE team at the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta for the foresight to up skill the Religious Education Coordinators of the Diocese through the FIDES programme. This wonderful project could only have been as successful as it was through the support of the principals. I would also like to thank Richard for his support not only with the time I had during the pilgrimage and the eight professional development days but also for his ongoing support for me in my role as Religious Education Coordinator.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your homes and your lives.
Have a wonderful holiday break ready for a safe return in 2016.

Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator



END OF YEAR AWARDS

Each year the school presents a number of awards per class. The criteria for each award is:

Care and Compassion

Students demonstrate this through their interactions with classmates inside and outside the learning space, They include other students in learning activities, invite them into games on the playground and demonstrate compassion for those in need. In addition these students articulate a concern for the poorest of the poor, are actively involved in fund raising or awareness raising for people less fortunate than themselves.

Communication and Co-operation

Students demonstrate this through the way they speak with each other, staff and visitors. They are often the first to volunteer to help; they are quiet leaders - although not always 'first'. They encourage others.

Effort and Persistence

Students demonstrate this through constantly 'having a go'. They rarely give up and try multiple ways to achieve their goal. They show the quality of being determined to do or achieve something and have firmness of purpose.

The 2015 award winners are:

| HOMEROOM | CARE AND COMPASSION | COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION | EFFORT AND PERSISTENCE |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| KB | Cassandra Hader | Aldrich Laryea | Eileen Xie |
| KE | Lia Parkes | Kaden Mazurek | Chelsea Bazina |
| KG | Noah Konieczny | Hannah George | Abigail Xiberras |
| 1B | Darcy McGettigan | Arianna Thacker | Harrison Tengdahl |
| 1E | Amanda Mazurek | Logan Cooney | Carla Colantonio |
| 1G | Christy Budianto | Jack Darby | Chase Peterson |
| 2B | Aleisha Moore | Cooper Greatrex | Aleisha Grant |
| 2E | Jack Giampietro | Montanah Telefoni | Natalie Vella |
| 2G | Lachlan Pryke | Joshua King | Sophie Vella |
| 3B | Madison Falzon | Ethan Junge | Flynn Murray |
| 3E | Ava Markas | Alicia Xiberras | Nate Galea |
| 3G | Kiara Peachey | Jadzia Dubois | Jack Attard |
| 4B | Liam Brincat | Sophia Chicharro | Harrison Dengate |
| 4E | Zoe Morris | Ryan Pianta | Alex Vella |
| 4G | Lachlan Colantonio | Cassandra Sanchez | Tara Tjahjadi |
| 5B | Jessica Buzzi | Anais Easthorpe | Natalie Sprycha |
| 5E | Beau Forrester-Taylor | Lucho Masuku | Georgia Thomas |
| 5G | Victoria Olarra | Danielle Yates | Anthony Camilleri |
| 6B | Lucy O'Connor | Lucas Chicharro | Courtney Heywood |
| 6E | Faith Churchill | Makinley Laing | Braedyn Urban |
| 6G | Joshua Fleming | Stella Wyngaard | Hannah Fitzpatrick |

ATTENDING SCHOOL EVERY DAY IN 2015

Congratulations to the following children who achieved perfect attendance for the full school year

Tyler Briggs 1E
 Mia Colantonio 4E
 Mikaylah Elks 1B
 Madeleine Fokes 1G
 Deeana Galea 3E
 Callum Grant KE
 Ashlea Greatrex KB
 Hannah Lopez 2E
 Abbe May 3E
 Alexis McAlpine 6G
 Callum O'Connor 3B
 Lucy O'Connor 6B
 Emily Palamara 5B
 Conner Pryke 1B
 Shuoheng Yang 3G



YEAR SIX AWARD WINNERS

When you enter Corpus Christi through the office you may have noticed our 'Roll of Honour' plaque displayed proudly for all to see. These names have been engraved since 2002 and acknowledge our School Captains, Academic Achievement, Leadership, Sporting Achievement and School Spirit. The recipients of this year's awards are:

Six Brown

| Type | Name |
|---------------|------------------|
| Leadership | Danielle Freeman |
| Sports | Baley Borthwick |
| School Spirit | Joshua Morgan |
| Academic | Christine Muscat |

Six Emerald

| Type | Name |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Leadership | John Galea |
| Sports | Huntley Jones |
| School Spirit | Gabriella Galluzzo |
| Academic | Saoirse Milligan |

Six Gold

| Type | Name |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Leadership | Bernadette Wakeling |
| Sports | Ryan Slaughter |
| School Spirit | Tahlia Panetta |
| Academic | Emily King |

Congratulations to each of these students for their outstanding achievement.
 The Year Six Team.

NEW GARDEN SIGNS

Earlier this year Pope Francis called for a 'Year of Consecrated Life' and this will conclude on 2nd February 2016. Our school, like many school communities, was founded upon the hard work and sacrifice of the consecrated women and men who gave of themselves in the hope that future generations might come to have an education imbued with the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. This week we took delivery of new signs for the 4 gardens near the main entrance to the school. There are three gardens dedicated to the Religious Orders that were instrumental in the foundation of the School and Parish – The Mercy Sisters, The Josephite Sisters and the Franciscan Friars. The fourth garden has a plaque donated by the graduating class of 2015 in memory of the first landing at ANZAC Cove 100 years ago. These gardens, in the area now known as Founders Square, is a fitting tribute to the Year of Consecrated Life.



YEAR OF MERCY

As we draw near to the end of the school year, and enter the third week of Advent, the Catholic Church began 'The Year of Mercy' on the 8 December. Pope Francis has called for a Jubilee Year of Mercy and is calling us to celebrate this Jubilee as a "special time for the Church: a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church's universal communion." Pope Francis. The ritual opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter, December 8, 2015, marked the official start of the Jubilee of Mercy. From that moment, in every Catholic Church in every diocese, the faithful are called to celebrate and live the Jubilee, particularly through the liturgy.

For more information go to <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

STAFFING UPDATES

In the past week Mrs Rose Antonelli announced that she has accepted a position at a department school in a full time capacity. Mrs Antonelli was the very first Kindergarten Teacher here at Corpus when the school opened almost 30 years ago and as such she is a Foundation Staff member. Mrs Antonelli has taught many grades but most recently she has taught every child every week as part of our CARST team. Her enthusiasm for the Creative Arts has been infectious. Her knowledge and skills in the area of teaching will be missed by the students and her colleagues. We wish her the very best as she moves back into full time work and thank her for her many years of service. Mr Ben Follan who has been working as part of our maintenance and cleaning team will also be finishing at the end of this year. We wish him every success in the future and thank him for his contributions to making our school look so good!

2016 STAFF LIST

Leadership Team

Principal -
 Assistant Principal and Leader of Learning Early Stage 1 -
 Religious Education Co-ordinator -
 Leader of Learning Stage 1 -
 Leader of Learning Stage 2 -
 Leader of Learning Stage 3 -
 Leader of Learning – Special Projects -

Mr Paul Devlin
 Mrs Maree Tonnet
 Mrs Sharon Shahoud
 Mrs Lauren Anderiesz
 Mrs Monique Boyer
 Mrs Emilia Ahern
 Mrs Natalie Micallef

Teaching Teams

Kindergarten - Miss Rosie Jones / Miss Kelly Ahern / Mrs Angela Calderwood
 Year 1 - Mrs Amanda Stevenson / Miss Judith Buttigieg / Mrs Lauren Anderiesz / Mrs Margo Woodhead
 Year 2 - Miss Sarah Archer / Mrs Lauren Hamilton / Mrs Irena West
 Year 3 - Mrs Lauren Peterson / Miss Rebecca Rydzewski / Mrs Marcela Betros
 Year 4 - Mrs Cathy Thompson / Mrs Kay Moore / Mrs Liezl Panol
 Year 5 - Mrs Anne-Marie Bosworth / Miss Katherine Ohlsen / Mr Sean Lanyon
 Year 6 - Mrs Emilia Ahern / Mrs Melissa McGrath / Mr Tony Weber / Mrs Simone Bowden

Diversity Team

Mrs Maree Tonnet
 Mrs Natalie Micallef
 Mrs Melissa McGrath
 Mrs Sue Attard
 Mrs Monique Boyer
 Mrs Sharon Shahoud
 Mrs Penny Pethybridge
 Mrs Christine Ryan
 Mrs Lisa Sammit
 Mrs Michelle Mazurek



Office Team

Mrs Libby Taylor
 Mrs Donna Paton
 Mrs Deanne Hearnden
 Mrs. Michelle Dixon (Uniform Shop)

Support Team

Mrs Susan Follan
 Mr John Follan

The Uniform Shop

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will be **OPEN ON**
 Wednesday 20/01/16 from 9:30am-3:30pm
 Wednesday 27/01/16 from 8:30am-3:30pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

PUBLISHED November 2016

2016 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, there is still uncertainty around long term government funding for Catholic schools. Indications are that federal government funding for education post 2017 will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which historically has been much lower than the education inflation rate. Funding growth linked to CPI will not meet increases in the real costs of schooling.

To maintain our current service levels we will need to increase diocesan tuition fees by 5%. This increase will mean we can continue to fund important initiatives to improve student learning, including:

- literacy and numeracy programs such as Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4 and professional learning for teachers and leaders to support the implementation of these programs
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our learning spaces, technology and infrastructure
- building new schools and expanding existing schools to cater for new places

Scholarships and fee arrangements

We are committed to ensuring that **no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation**. There are a range of scholarship and support programs to assist families including:

- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Fee arrangements and discounts
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2016

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fee can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Flexible payment plans are also available around weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments. The fee is only charged for the first three children currently enrolled in the diocese. There is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools.

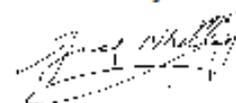
Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2016

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard, and ensure we can expand or build new schools in high growth areas. To ensure this continues we will need to increase the building levy by \$33 per family per year. The levy for 2016 will be \$735 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$245 in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs and we do not take the decision to raise fees lightly. **If a school fee increase will be difficult for your family to manage, please contact your school principal.** We will provide every assistance to families in financial need.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools

The 2016 Annual Tuition Fees are as follows:

| Annual Fees | | 1st Child 100% | 2nd Child 75% | 3rd Child 50% |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tuition Fee Primary | Kindergarten | \$1,098 | \$825 | \$549 |
| | Years 1 - 6 | \$1,419 | \$1,065 | \$711 |
| Tuition Fee Secondary | Years 7 - 8 | \$1,968 | \$1,476 | \$984 |
| | Years 9 -10 | \$2,184 | \$1,638 | \$1,092 |
| | Years 11 - 12 | \$2,790 | \$2,094 | \$1,395 |



Dear Parents,

As we have done for a number of years, the Incursion and Excursion fee will be invoiced at the beginning of the school year with approximately one third charged in each term (1-3) of 2016. For 2016 the following Incursions and Excursions have been booked

| Grade | School Based Fees 2016 | Term Cost | Description |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Kindergarten | \$120 | \$40 | City Farm, Gymnastics, Dance Fever, RE School Excursion, Hatching Eggs, Science Incursion, Bookweek Performance, Salaka |
| Year 1 | \$120 | \$40 | Gymnastics, Dance Fever, RE School Excursion, Science Incursion, Bi-Centennial Park, Bookweek Performance, Salaka Drumming |
| Year 2 | \$120 | \$40 | Gymnastics, Dance Fever, RE School Excursion, Science Incursion, City Excursion - Taronga Zoo, Bookweek Performance, Salaka |
| Year 3 | \$140 | \$50 \$50 \$40 | Penrith Lakes, Dance Fever, Athletics Carnival, RE Excursion, Bookweek Performance, Apple Store Incursion, Science Incursion, Re- |
| Year 4 | \$140 | \$50 \$50 \$40 | Youth Eco Summit, Athletics Carnival, Dance Fever, Bookweek Performance, Apple Store Incursion, RE Excursion, Powerhouse Muse- |
| Year 5 | \$210 | \$70 \$70 \$70 | Dance Fever, Day at Camp Yarramundi, Fizzics Education-Liquid Nitrogen Show, Bookweek Performance, RE Excursion, Athletics Carnival, Mini golf, Salaka Drumming, Cyber |
| Year 6 | \$310 | \$100 \$100 \$110 | Dance Fever, Mary MacKillop Place, Bookweek Performance, RE Excursion, Cyber bullying Show, Athletics Carnival, Canberra 2 day |

Our Incursion and Excursions have been booked for the full year and the costings have been based on attendance numbers, therefore we will only be able to process a refund for the year 5 and 6 students who are unable to attend their excursions where a Doctor's Certificate is provided. We are looking forward to these exciting events during 2015 and thank you for your support of our School. If you have any questions regarding School, Incursion or Excursion Fees please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. In 2016 the Resource Fee will be combined with a new Technology Fee. This will be known as the Resource and Technology Fee and combines a \$130 Resource Fee with a new \$60 Technology Fee. In 2016 the Resource and Technology Fee will be \$190, billed over the first three terms. This fee covers the cost of paper, some stationery items, craft material etc. This fee will also allow us to progressively upgrade our technology stocks. Thank you for your ongoing continued support of our school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Richard Blissenden
Principal



**NOTES DISTRIBUTED
THIS WEEK**

- PTO Interviews
- Year 1 - Chickenpox

UNIFORM SHOP - WEDNESDAY

8.30am – 9.30am & 2.30pm – 3.30pm

- * **Pre-paid orders** – These orders can be handed in at the school office at any time but will be processed on Wednesdays ONLY.
- * **Label all items** -To ensure all items are returned to their owners - PLEASE clearly mark all items with your child's name.
- * **Exchanges/Refunds** – All items must be in original condition with all packaging including tags attached. A Receipt is required for any faulty item or refund.

****PLEASE KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS****

Term 1 Week 1 Reminders

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 25/01/2015 | Monday | School Holiday |
| 26/01/2015 | Tuesday | Australia Day Holiday |
| 27/01/2015 | Wednesday | MAI Testing - Years K-6 Students Uniform Shop Open - 8:30am-3:00pm |
| 28/01/2015 | Thursday | MAI Testing - Years K-6 Students |
| 29/01/2015 | Friday | School Resumes - Years 1-6 MAI Testing - Kindergarten Students Only |

