



Corpus Christi Primary

Growing together as the body of Christ

Newsletter

Term 1

Week 4

19th February, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Mon 23rd	●Year 1 & 2 - Coffee & Chat - 9:00am-10:00am
Tue 24th	●Nepean Zone Swimming
Wed 25th	●Kindergarten Parent Education Night - 7:00pm
Fri 27th	●Diocesan Swimming Blacktown ●Kindergarten - Coffee & Chat - 9:00am-10:00am

MARCH

Mon 2nd	●Staff Development Day
Tue 10th	●Twilight Tour for 2016 Enrolments - 5:00pm

Dear Parents,

Last Friday our students, staff and families participated in two significant events to begin the New School Year. The first was our Opening School Mass. Led by Father George we asked God to help and protect us in our learning this year. We welcomed our beautiful Kinder children to "Our Family" and Father George blessed our Captains and Student Representative Council for 2015. The second event was our Welcome BBQ and Fun Night – more details inside – but both these significant events have set us up for success this year.

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team and this has been clearly evident from the work of the Meet / Greet / Goal Setting Meetings, the Opening School Mass and the Welcome BBQ and Fun Night. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly academic environment and, when appropriate, celebrate our achievements.

We hope that throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year: *"The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11.

Within our school, we can all try to model God's love for each one of us, by being a renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school's endeavours. For this sentiment to continue throughout the year, it will require our collective wisdom and generosity of spirit to be at the forefront of all our communications.

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will provide counter experiences of liturgy and prayer to assist the spiritual and moral maturity of all our students. May this school year, see staff and parents in partnership in our collective role of secular and faith education.

"God, our Father, we ask that Your Spirit be a constant influence in the lives of all who make up our school community this year. Help our students to be discerning, so that the outcomes of their choices will be in accord with Christian values. Amen."

Peace and best wishes

Richard Blissenden



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Parents,

Faith Formation

First Sunday of Lent: Year B

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah and his descendants.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

As life was saved by the ark, so are our lives saved in Baptism.

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

After forty days in the desert, Jesus proclaims the reign of God.

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

In today's gospel where did Jesus go for 40 days to pray?

Who tried to tempt or test Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the people of Galilee after he left the wilderness?

These 40 days of Lent are a time when we turn back to God and ask for forgiveness.

In Lent we spend time in prayer and do good works.

How can we do this during the coming weeks?



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ASH WEDNESDAY – 18 February

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 'Do not put on a gloomy look.'

The ashes of Ash Wednesday carry a sense of urgency. They remind us that we are not permanent residents here on earth, that in fact life is quite short.

This makes Lent a valuable time for examining our direction, refocusing our priorities, and making sure that God is at the centre of our lives. We need this time of Lent each year to open ourselves to being captured anew by the love of God – and to finding ways for the love we have received to flow through us to others.

Lent is also a time for recognising that we cannot help but be moved and respond. The words of St Basil (330-379) are still true today: "When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor."

In Lent we pay special attention to the three traditional practices of almsgiving, prayer and fasting – but, as the Gospel cautions, we do them 'not to attract notice'. The Gospel encourages us to be people of joy and hope, advice that is echoed in Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, 'The Joy of the Gospel': 'With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, God makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew.'

In Australia, Project Compassion has become part of the Church's Lenten practice. It is a key way to bring joy, hope and food for life to those in need.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS - Continued

Catholic Culture

Our Opening School Mass was celebrated last Friday and many parents, family and friends were able to join the celebration. The theme of the mass was 'Light' and Fr. George reminded everyone that 'God brought order and purpose to life when He brought light. When we come to school we learn about the order and purpose of our world. We should make sure that we are people who are loving and friendly. When we follow Jesus we are people of the LIGHT.'



Thankyou to all of the parents for their understanding when asked to sit in the church overflow areas this any enable the children to fully participate in the liturgy. The children were very excited and were eagerly awaiting the entrance of the new Kindergarten children for 2015. The whole school sang 'Welcome to the Family'. The Kindergarten children then led the school in singing 'This little light of mine' This is always a very moving start to our year and this year the children joined together beautifully in their song of prayer and triumphant finish. With lots of smiles and with great reverence the Kindergarten children of 2015 were officially welcomed as part of our Corpus Christi family. We wish the children of Kindergarten and any new students and their families many blessings for the coming year.

Thankyou so much to the students and teachers of the G classes who prepared our mass. To all the staff who helped out with final preparations in the morning I am very appreciative. Thankyou to Mrs Bosworth who served with Fr. George. A special thanks to Fr. George for celebrating with us. Congratulations also to our School Captains and SRC who were inducted at the end of the mass.

Catholic Schools Week Mass will be held on Thursday 12th March, 9.30am.

Our prayer focus for Week 8 assembly will be St Patrick and St. Joseph. St Patrick's Day will be celebrated by dressing in GREEN. St. Joseph's Day is a Roman Catholic feast day commemorating the life of St. Joseph, the step-father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day has strong ties with the Italian community who prayed to St. Joseph to save them from famine. Their prayers were answered and so on this day they celebrate with a table filled with food in honor of St. Joseph. St. Joseph's bread is a must. This bread is very similar to our donuts so we will have donuts on sale for \$1. The donuts will be restricted this year to a maximum of 2 per student. Children are to preorder their donuts by bringing in their money prior to the day.

All classes participate in sharing prayer with the rest of the school at assembly. Last year we used the Values we were learning about as our theme for each assembly. This year we will be using another form of prayer where grades will be using the scripture as a base from the unit of work they are studying.

Congratulations once again to all the children who presented themselves for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation last year. It has been noted that the number of children making their sacraments does not match with the number of students on the grade. For whatever reason your child has not participated in the programme it is important to note that through Baptism they already started on the journey. By participating in the programme they are continuing the journey that you as parents already chose for them. They are then able to fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church and the celebrations we have as a school. We nurture, plan and prepare our children for many things and their spiritual life should be part of this as well. Please watch for dates and times when these will be available again this year. Looking forward to sharing this special time with you all.

Social Justice

This year the theme for Project Compassion is 'Food for life'. Project Compassion commenced with our Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast where we raised over \$500. This has started our fundraising efforts for Caritas/Project Compassion 2015. Thankyou to everyone who donated pancake mix and pre made pancakes, to the teachers and students who served and to Mrs Sammut who backed up a day after to help cook and distribute pancakes to anyone who missed out the day before. This year was such a great community event and we were very happy to see many of you at the breakfast. If you wish to know any other information the website is www.caritas.org.au

Have a lovely week

God Bless

Sharon Shahoud

Religious Education Coordinator



CURRICULUM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

WHEN: 7pm on Wednesday 25th February

WHERE: Kindergarten Learning Space

WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED: How to support your child in Reading, Writing and Mathematics

KINDER PARENTS PLEASE MARK THIS IMPORTANT MEETING IN YOUR DIARY!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to be a Parent Volunteer? It is a Catholic Education Parramatta Diocese requirement that all volunteers working in our schools complete child protection training. Volunteers are required to complete an online training module once every 2 years. After successfully completing the module, an email notification will be sent automatically to the volunteer's email address and to the school email address. This email is a confirmation that the volunteer has successfully completed the training.

The course - "Child Protection for Volunteers" - may be accessed via the following link:

<http://ceoweb.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>

Volunteers only need to complete this training once every two years. If you completed this training last year there is no need for you to complete the online course this year. Please feel free to complete this course from home. If you are unsure as to when you last completed your training please contact Mrs Deanne Hearnden in the school office.

**YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED THIS COURSE
BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE CONTACT WITH OUR STUDENTS**

***Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal***

MERIT AWARDS - Setting An Effective/Appropriate Learning Goal For 2015



Samarah Walker - KB
Kaden Mazurek - KE
Abigail Xiberras - KG
Isabelle Dries - 1B
Elenore Drake - 1E
Rebecca Attard - 1G
Brianna Forsyth - 2B
Ellie Amituanai - 2E
Harley Davidson - 2G
Krystal Daly - 3E

Brendan Avery - 4B
Jasmine Williamson - 4E
Theresa Grima - 4G
Dylan Major - 5B
Aaliyah Palffy - 5E
Victoria Olarra - 5G
Lilly King - 6B
Aiden Xiberras - 6E

WELCOME BBQ & FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Our night was extremely well attended by families – it was the most well attended night of its kind in our Hall. Thank you to the many parents who prepared the hall & food, cooked the BBQ and / or cleaned up at the end of the night. Thank you for your amazing work in the lead up to and on the night. Thanks also to the staff able to attend the night

Parent Representative Group Meetings

This year we plan to run a range of meetings for parents in various forms to give our community different ways of meeting. This term we will run four different gatherings



- ◆ **Coffee and Chat With the Principal** – parents from up to two grades at a time will be invited to have a coffee and chat with the Principal. There wont be a set agenda – rather an opportunity to meet other parents, talk about school, ask questions and ‘have a coffee’. Watch out for your invitation.
- ◆ The traditional PRG meeting will be replaced by a **Pop Up Meeting in the Car Park** one afternoon per term. We ran a trial last year and this proved to be a successful way for parents to meet and talk positively about our school.
- ◆ **Parent Education Sessions** – designed to support parents in how they can help their children with learning in Religion, English and Mathematics. Our first session will be on helping your child with Mathematics to be held on the 16th March – more details soon.
- ◆ **Fund Raising and Community Building** – these meetings will plan and conduct a number of events for our community – some just for the students, some just for the adults and some for both – a separate flyer with dates and requests for assistance will come separately, if you can assist with one of these events. These meetings will be held as needed and advertised via the newsletter – all welcome!

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL IN WET WEATHER

In the event that it is raining in the afternoon parents need to collect their children from all spaces – for example if you have a child in Kinder and Year 2 you will have to visit both spaces. The gates open a little earlier to ease congestion but we still require parents to collect from the learning spaces.

SHADE SAILS REPLACEMENT

For your information a whole brand new shade structure is to be installed in the area outside Year 6, including poles and shade cloth – this area is used by Years 5 and 6 during class time, at times before school when other areas of the school are too wet to use and in the afternoons for dismissal. The sails were damaged beyond repair in a storm at the end of 2014 and we have had to wait for a new structure to be engineered, for the insurance company to agree to our claim and now work should commence in the coming weeks – the expected completion date is mid March.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

As advertised in previous Newsletters a Staff Development Day will be held on the 2nd March. Our focus for the day will be on Religious Education and exploring the units of work the children will be working through this year. There is no school for the children on the 2nd March.

INVITATION TO STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fr George invites families to Stations of the Cross each Friday Night during Lent. This will be held in the Church from 7.30pm



PARENTAL FEEDBACK

We were privileged to have 13 families new to our school join the nearly 40 other families last Friday Night at our BBQ and Fun Night. 6 of these 13 new families spoke with me about how welcomed they felt – it was some lovely feedback from these new parents. Over the past week I have had a chance to speak with many existing and new families who have told me how positively the year has started for them and their child/children. Thank you for this feedback and also for the questions and feedback a number of parents have asked about how and why we 'do things around here' – this feedback is so valuable as we try to continually try to improve what we do.

WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD IN THE AFTERNOON?

We know that it can be quite hot waiting for the end of the school day near the Front Office. During 2014 we installed a number of seats in the shaded area of the car park to give some shelter from the sun. In answer to a few questions about installing shade near the front doors of the office we have investigated this and it is impractical to construct a shade structure given the position of the sun in the afternoon – the structure would need to be built on/near the crossing to give the shade needed and this is just not a practical solution. Please also remember that arriving at 3.10pm is another way of avoiding the 'wait' in the sun.

TERM 1 SCHOOL FEES 2015

All families at Corpus Christi School should now have received their School fee statements. Please note that Term 1 fees for 2015 are due by Friday 6th March. Alternatively you can pay for fees via an instalment method but you must send the relevant documentation back to the Catholic Education Office, Locked Bag 4 North Parramatta 1750 by Friday 20th February 2015. This is known as the Flexible Payment Plan (FPP)

Please contact the school office on 47 290 696 if you require further information.

2015 STATE ELECTION

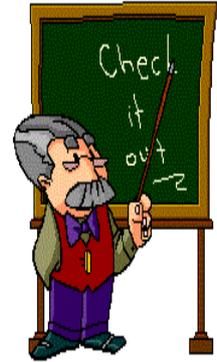
DID YOU KNOW?

On average, it costs around \$13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school. In most Catholic schools, school fees cover less than a quarter of this cost. The rest comes from taxpayers like you! This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.



TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

Over the past few weeks our staff have been involved in some professional learning after school both on and offsite. Mrs Shahoud and Miss Dane have begun their Intensive Reading Recovery Training. Mr Manton and Mrs Ahern have attended two intensive days on leading Mathematics, Mrs Boyer and Mrs Micallef attended a day with Lynn Sharrett on strategies related to our school goals. Yesterday the whole staff were engaged in preparation for our Staff Development Day on RE.



**SMOKE
FREE
ZONE**

SMOKE FREE ZONE

Corpus Christi is a **Smoke Free Zone** please do not smoke on the grounds - this includes the car park.

Thank you for your co-operation.

What will
your Catholic school
of tomorrow
look like?

Tell us in a 30 second video

**\$5000 in prizes
to be won!**

Individual primary and secondary entries
**WIN AN IPAD PLUS
A \$250 JB HI-FI VOUCHER
for your school**

Group primary and secondary entries
WIN A \$1000 JB HI-FI VOUCHER

Runners up in each division
WIN A \$300 JB HI-FI VOUCHER

**Open to all Catholic
primary and secondary
students in NSW & ACT**

Catholic Schools Week 2015
**Competition closes
18 March 2015**

Proudly supported by
**AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC
BISHOPS CONFERENCE
EDUCATION FUND**

To enter visit www.catholicschools.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Our Canteen is run by volunteers and we are in desperate need of NEW volunteers to assist us. If you are available please complete and return the slip below ASAP. The canteen opens only on Mondays and Fridays.

CANTEEN HELPER

I can assist in the Canteen – please put my name on the roster and contact me.

- I have completed the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers
 I will complete the Child Protection Training Module for Volunteers

Name _____ Contact Phone Number _____

Please Tick Days Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Both
Please Tick Time Available	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:00-10:00am	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:30-2:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Both
Please Tick Frequency	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly

HELPERS NEEDED TO COVER BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY



If you are able to spare some time to cover some books for us at home please complete the slip below. We will supply you with the contact for the books. We will ring you and ask you to collect the books from the school.

Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.



Att: Library

Yes I can help contact books when needed.

Name _____ Contact Number _____

Child's name _____ Class _____



NOTES DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK

- Year 1 & 2 - Coffee & Chat
- Kindergarten Coffee & Chat
- Year 6 - Sports Shirts
- Premier's Reading Challenge

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 5 Reminders

23/02/2015	Monday	Year 1 & 2 Coffee & Chat - 9:00am-10:00am
24/02/2015	Tuesday	Assembly 2:20pm Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival
25/02/2015	Wednesday	Uniform shop opened - 8:30am-9:30am & 2:30pm-3:30pm Kindergarten Parent Education Night - 7:00pm
26/02/2015	Thursday	
27/02/2015	Friday	School Banking Kindergarten Coffee & Chat - 9:00am-10:00am

