

Friday 1 February

Week 1, Term 1, 2013

P & F Association meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 7.00 pm.
All Parents are warmly invited to attend.



Newsletter

Dear Parents

Here's a very positive observation by the ever-astute Mark Twain with which to start the new school year: "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been." So, any wrinkles that have appeared on our faces over the past six weeks are due to the large amount of smiling and the abundance of laughter in which we were engaged, as we journeyed through the holidays with our children. No dissenting voices, please!

As we commence the school year, we have the unusual coincidence of commencing the Season of Lent next week. This could be a happy coincidence as it brings together two events that have many similarities.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey. Ashes on our foreheads mark us as Christians, as followers of Christ, as the people who carry His message in the actions of our lives, actions that give those with whom we make contact, an insight into Christian behaviour, an insight into Christ.

Our children begin their academic year journey. They wear the School's uniform and identify themselves as members of this Christian School. They carry the School's message in the actions of their lives and give those with whom they make contact an insight into the School's behaviour expectations, its values, its ethos.

We can begin our Lenten journey in a very positive manner by receiving the ashes on Ash Wednesday as a means to reassert the presence of Christ within our lives and not allow the ashes to be simply an outward symbol with no inner significance. We can enter into the spirit of Lent and focus on an area of our life that needs rebuilding, we can monitor our usual behaviours to check if they are negative or positive expressions of our calling to be a Christian. We can celebrate our Christian mysteries on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Resurrection. We can emerge on Easter

Sunday as Easter people with the Spirit alive and active within us. Of course, we can simply skip along through Lent, turn up for each day of it but give it no recognition. We can ignore our opportunity to advance our sense of who we are and neglect the occasion on offer to become more compassionate, more tolerant, more courageous, more forgiving, more loving, more of everything that Christ was as He lived the final few weeks of His life.

Our children can begin their new school year in a very positive manner by being prepared with books and materials and wearing their uniform in a manner that indicates total identification with their school. They can participate as fully as possible in the everyday life of the school, including its sporting and cultural activities, and focus on behaving in a responsible, cooperative manner. They can celebrate fellowship with other students by respecting their rights and feelings, whilst following instructions and rules that enable the ordinary conduct of the school. At the end of the year, they can emerge as the beneficiaries of having done their best at all times and having participated enthusiastically in the life of the school.

Of course, they could simply doodle and dawdle their way through the school year, turn up each day but make little effort at self-improvement. They can refuse any responsibility for their learning, homework and assignments and close their mind to encouragement and motivation. They can neglect opportunities to develop self-esteem, to advance academic skills, to broaden social interactions, to cultivate and absorb Christian values.

So, welcome to the New School Year and to the choices it presents to each of us.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Paul O'Heir.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

See updates on <http://intra.kurri.catholic.edu.au>

Username: kur.homeshare

Password: kur7232

To take advantage of any photographs printed, our Newsletter is available on the address above in Full Colour. On the home page look to the left for Newsletters and then click the required date.

TERM ONE

FEBRUARY

- 5—Swimming Carnival
- 7—Parent Information Night
- 13—Ash Wednesday Mass
- 19—Regional Swimming Carnival
- 22—Assembly, Yr 6. 2.40 pm
- 25—Opening School Mass
- 26—P & F Meeting, 7 pm @Abermain

MARCH

- 5—Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- 8—Assembly, Yr 5. 2.40 pm
- 11—Catholic Schools Week Begins
- 19—Harmony Day, Dio Winter Trials
- 22—Assembly, Yr 4. 2.40 pm
- 24—Sunday Mass, Palm Sunday.
- 28—Holy Week Liturgy
- 29 Good Friday
- 31—Easter Sunday

APRIL

- 12—Last day of Term One.

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INCLUDED

P & F News Letter



WELCOME BACK to 2013.

Welcome everyone to the new school year. We do hope that your summer break was enjoyable and that your Christmas was an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.

It is so wonderful to see how excited students are to return to school and how well prepared they are. Thank you for ensuring that students have the correct uniform. They certainly look very smart!

We especially welcome the Yr 3 Students and the Shaw, Bennett, Green, Payne and Burns families to our school community. We trust that your association with Holy Spirit School is a happy and rewarding one.

We also welcome Mrs Tracey Newcombe who has been appointed as our library assistant.

2013 Staff

Teaching Staff

Yr6. Mrs Amanda McFarlane/Mrs Sarah Walters

Yr5. Mr Stephen Mc Taggart

Yr4. Mrs Maree Pittaway/Mrs Jamie Cotten

Yr3. Mr John Chambers

Teacher Librarian: Ms Maria Stoppini

SUPPORT STAFF

LST: Mrs Jodie Elliot-Hile

LSA: Mrs Karen Peek

Pastoral Care Worker:

Miss Marg Maloney

Secretary: Mrs Patricia Kinsley

Cleaner: Mrs Jennifer Foster

Library Assistant:

Mrs Tracey Newcombe

Trainee: Emilie Mayo

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Religious Education Co-ordinator:

Mrs Maree Pittaway

Assistant Principal: John Chambers

Principal: Paul O'Heir

OFFICE HOURS

There has been a change in the school office hours. Mrs Kinsley will work Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The school provides a telephone answering service to families to help when the office is unattended. Whilst we will endeavour to respond to messages promptly there may be occasion when this is not possible.

SCHOOL FEES

Families who wish to restart their Direct Debits or those families wishing to commence Direct Debiting of their bank accounts for the payment of school fees are encouraged to come to the office as soon as convenient. This service can be commenced before the actual billing as all credits received to family accounts will be credited in the billing process. Payment of Cash and Cheque as well as BPay are also available.

SCHOOL HOURS

Morning duty begins at 8.40am. Therefore students should not arrive before this time.

If there are exceptional circumstances

please speak with Mr Chambers. Teachers are often at school well before this time but are preparing for lessons and are not available to supervise students. Mulbring students who travel on the bus are to sit on the veranda as usual.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

The 2013 Opening School Mass and School Leaders Commissioning will be on Monday 25 February commencing at 9.30am. Students from Abermain will also join the celebration.

Ash Wednesday Mass will be 13 February at 9.30am.

GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

During the school vacation the new CO-LA was erected. It certainly is a great improvement. There remains some final work to be completed which should be done in the next fortnight. The kerbing around the gardens has been done and now waiting for more mulch to be laid. If anyone has paving skills could they please contact Mr O'Heir.

INFORMATION NIGHT

There will be an Information Night on Thursday 7 February commencing at 6pm. The evening will commence in the School IT room and class teachers will present their respective class information.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

The school canteen will commence on Wednesday 6 February. Many thanks

to Michelle Archbold for co-ordinating the canteen! If you can help on canteen please contact the school.

Unfortunately the Slushi Machine is out of operation till week 3.

NEW COMPUTERS

The school computer network is being upgraded next week. The IT Room will have new computers installed on Monday and Tuesday. The School IT Levy has covered the cost of the new hardware which is approximately \$20 000.

LIBRARY BORROWING

Library borrowing will commence in Week 4 (Monday 18 February). Please ensure students have a library bag.

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Thank you for returning the Swimming Carnival entry sheets so promptly and we have had a great response from parents as helpers! Thanks to Mr McTaggart the planning for the carnival is coming together. Students may bring a coloured T-shirt to wear on the day if they wish. Please no crepe paper. See you Tuesday!!



P & F News

Please see the enclosed newsletter from the Parents and Friends Association regarding happenings for 2013.

PARISH NEWS

Celebrate the 3rd Annual

BLESSING of the VALLEY:

HEALING & HOPE!



This Liturgy will occur on Sunday, 3 March, 2013. Please arrive at 11.30am for 12 Noon at Pokolbin Community Hall, 128 McDonalds Road, Pokolbin.

The liturgy will last about 30 minutes and we will give thanks for the blessings bestowed on us over the past 12 months, acknowledge our sins, pray for what we need and invoke God's blessing on our valley. A shared picnic lunch will follow. BYO everything. Activities will be provided for children.

Pokolbin Community Hall has nice grounds and the hall is modern and well-appointed, ideal for hot or cold and wet weather, with a good kitchen and toilet facilities.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013

KURRI KURRI/ABERMAIN

There will be an **INFORMATION MEETING for Parents, Grandparents and**

Guardians of children who have been baptised and are in Year 4 and upwards regarding Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion for this year. This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 20th February at 7.00pm in the Kurri Kurri Parish Hall**. Due to privacy laws, we are unable to send letters out to families in our State Schools, so if you know of any families who have children who would like to make their sacraments, please let them know about this meeting. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call Cathy Brown on 4937 4574 or 0437 457 409.



STUDENT EXTRA CURRICULA ACHIEVEMENTS



This space is reserved for student extra curricula achievements. Please let us know if you have any noteworthy news.