

Friday 1 March

Week 5, 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

There is a saying that supposedly came down to us from the ancient Greeks that goes something like this: "Tell me whom you admire and I'll tell you who you are". The ancient Greeks ensured that their people had suitable models to admire by focussing on the deeds of people such as Hercules, Ulysses, Achilles, Perseus, Theseus, Jason and turning them into heroes. We might understand heroes to be symbols for us, of all the qualities we would like to possess and all the ambitions we would like to satisfy. Because the ideals to which we aspire do much to determine the ways in which we behave, our choice of heroes is of great importance.

Our children's choice of heroes usually follows a fairly predictable pattern. Young children often choose their parents as heroes because parents are their immediate providers and caretakers. As children grow and begin to question their parents' influence, they choose peers as heroes, often someone close to their own age who had "made it big" as a rock star or sports person. Older teens usually admire people who can think for themselves and act individually.

Nowadays, the media have made it all too easy for us and our children, to confuse celebrity with excellence. In a celebrity age, we need to caution our young people about worshipping fame and beauty. Celebrities can become heroes to our children mainly because they are attractive, rich and famous and not for any redeeming qualities they may have.

Today's popular culture worships the "antihero", as some of today's entertainers, athletes and other popular "icons" exemplify everything that is unheroic. These antiheroes encourage unheroic values such as selfishness, dishonesty, disrespect, irresponsibility, greed, cruelty, violence and promiscuity - hardly the types of values we want to see expressed by our children; we need to impress upon our children how unheroic such behaviours are.

So, what do we tell our children? We can start out by telling our children what a difference people of courage, noble qualities and genius have made to our world. We can tell them that these heroes are people like us, that heroes, too, are human and so what was possible for them is possible for us. They stumbled, wavered, even made fools of themselves, but they rose and accomplished something of great importance. Heroes instruct us by rising above the negative aspects of their lives and triumphing over their weaknesses. Heroes inspire us and push us towards our better self.

Childhood is the time when the influence of positive role models can be most decisive. Children should see in heroes what they yearn to see in themselves: the ability to overcome weakness, fear or insecurity and to be brave, courageous and kind. Being a hero is the sum of life, not just an event that happens; mistakes we make are just as important as the successes, if we learn from them.

Helen Keller, who was blind for most of her life, has these encouraging words for us: "I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest person."

God, our Father, we thank You for the gifts that each of us has. Open our eyes to the potential we have; give us the courage, the generosity, the determination to fulfil this potential. Amen.

Peace and Best Wishes

Paul O'Heir.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

To take advantage of any photographs printed, our Newsletter is available on the School Website in Full Colour.

TERM ONE

MARCH

- 3—Blessing of the Valley, Pokolbin
- 5—Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- 8—Assembly, Yr 6. 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.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- New P & F Executive
- Easter Raffle
- School Representative Council
- School Website
- School Fees
- Catholic School Week
- Working Bee
- Focus on Reading
- Sporting News for our swimmers
- Community News

INCLUDED

Working Bee Survey

CANTEEN ROSTER

- Monday—4/3. L Gardiner & G Allen
- Wednesday—6/3. L Sylvester
- Friday—8/3. S Mihillis & E Blisken
- Monday—11/3. F Holly
- Wednesday—13/3. M Archbold
- Friday—15/3. L Kavanagh & K Phillips

Thank you ladies.



P&F EXECUTIVE 2013

The P&F AGM was held this week and a new executive was elected. The new executive is:

President: Katrina Davies

Vice - President/Fundraising: Kerrie Phillips

Treasurer: Angela Underwood

Secretary: Annette Billiet

As we welcome our new executive and thank them for taking on this important responsibility we also acknowledge the outgoing executive who for a number of years have given generously of their time and enthusiasm. Our school appreciates the tremendous support the P&F has made. Thank you to Helen Wilks, Jodie Summer-ville, Leanne Clements and Rachael deBijl who have stepped down. The outgoing P&F executive also presented the school with \$2000 at the last meeting.

WELCOME

We welcome the Cullen family to our school community. Tenesha is in Year 4 and has quickly settled into our routines. We trust you have a happy and rewarding time at Holy Spirit School.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Opening School Mass! The celebration was indeed a joyous occasion and marked the commencement in a most fitting way. Our guests Mr Clayton Barr MP and Mr Chris Quinn (CSO) spoke highly of our students and were impressed with the school leaders.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The SRC had its inaugural meeting last week. While most of the meeting focussed on the Opening Mass we did discuss how the SRC has a responsibility to con-

tribute ideas to help the school. At the next meeting we will discuss ideas on how we can use the P&F donation (\$2000) around the school. Following a democratic process each class elected the following children to represent the SRC, Year 3. Emelia Kavanagh, Year 4. Taleah Mountford. Year 5 Tiana deBijl and Year 6 Jakob Bartley.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The new school website has now been published. Please take time to view it. We would certainly appreciate any feedback. The best way to access the website is to just google *holy spirit primary school kurri kurri* and it should appear. The construction of this site has taken much time and effort from staff and from Mrs Cheryl Fahey (CSO).

PARISH NEWS

BLESSING of the VALLEY: HEALING & HOPE!

This Liturgy will occur this 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.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

The school accounts have been distributed and we appreciate the quick response from so many families. Schools just like businesses and homes must pay their accounts. Your prompt payment enables us to meet

our commitments. Please finalise accounts by the due date if paying a term account.

If you pay by Direct Debit and have not already commenced payments please contact the office to restart or commence this payment option.

Other options available for payment of fees include, BPay, Cash and Cheque.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This year Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from 10 to 16 March. This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge how catholic education, not only contributes to children's lives, but also to society more widely. There will be open classes on Monday 11 March from 12 noon followed by a prayer time at 1pm. Please join us.



WORKING BEE

We would like to organise a working bee before the end of term. Our focus would be completing the gardens and laying turf. Please complete the attached survey to indicate when you would be available. It is envisaged that the working bee would take about 3 hours.

FOCUS ON READING

Last week we briefly revisited the '**super six comprehension strategies**' we use and teach at school to help our students develop better reading and comprehension skills. The first strategy mentioned was **Making Connections**.

For a young child making connections can be difficult because they don't have the life experience and the reading experience to do it effectively. There are ways you can help.

Establish a reading routine at home for reading: it could be before bed, before lights out, on a Sunday night or whenever

suits you and your child. You could even have a regular reading night where the whole family gets together and reads. Once your child sees reading is important because you show them it is, you do it together, and it becomes regular, half the battle is over. You are developing a lifelong positive attitude to reading.

When you are making connections you are linking personal background knowledge, understanding, or experiences to what you are reading. This helps your child to construct a much deeper level of meaning to what they are reading. Younger children can't do this. As parents you have a wealth of experience. Share with your children your own experiences and your own stories. Talk about stories you read when you were little or tell them about your own life experiences that you can link to the stories they are reading. They will absolutely love this. You will get closer to them. They will gain knowledge that they can make connections to and they will enjoy learning more about their parents. It will be great bonding and even more importantly you will be helping them improve their reading and comprehension skills.

P.S. Don't forget the grandparents. They are great at this too, probably even better than you are. (This is a biased opinion from a grandparent who loves reading and talking with his grandchildren.)

P&F NEWS

P & F AGM

We welcome the 2013 committee as follows:

President: Katrina Davies

Vice President: Kerrie Phillips

Secretary: Annette Billiet

Treasurer: Angela Underwood

Fundraising Coordinator: Kerrie Phillips

Federation Rep: Katrina Davies

The 2012 P & F greatly appreciate our new eager committee and know the school community will support them.

Entertainment Books

These will be available soon from the Office at Abermain & Kurri Kurri. They contain great bargains! More details to follow.

Easter Raffle—Donations are being collected for the monster Easter Raffle. Please send into school over the coming weeks.

Raffles will be held at the Kurri Kurri Bowling Club on Friday nights for February, March and April. Helpers are needed from 6.00 pm—7.17 pm. Please call Kerrie Phillips on 4936 4794 or 0412 264 446 for more information.



SPORTING NEWS

Congrats to Ella McGrorey, Charlie Hawke, Chelsea Ford and Hannah Crouch who have won selection in the All Saints Cluster Swimming Squad for the upcoming Diocesan Swimming Carnival - Tuesday March 5th.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kurri Pre-school are currently taking names for children requiring pre-school education for children eligible to attend pre-school up to 2015 ie. Born before 1.8.2011.

We also still have positions available for 2013 for children aged 3-5. Please contact Kurri Pre-school on 49372110 for further information.

Give Netball a Go!!

Registration fees discounted for 2013 Season
Bring your friends and join a family fun atmosphere at Kurri Kurri Netball each Saturday morning. Form a team or just come and join.

Fun Net Up to 7 years	FREE
Netta 8 - 10 years	\$20.00
Juniors 11 - 17 years	\$30.00
Non-players (Coaches)	\$40.00
Financial members (1 per family)	\$5.00

Rego Dates:

Tuesday, 5/3 & 12/3 from 5 - 6.30pm
Saturday: 2/3, 9/3 & 16/3 from 9 - 11am
At Kurri Kurri Netball Courts Clubhouse
Come and see why Netball is so much fun!!

www.kurrikurri.netball.asn.au

For any additional enquiries, please contact Deb on 0412053923

Kurri Kurri Junior Football Club Rego Days

Online registration is ready, click on the link on the right hand side of our page My Football Club Registration. All registrations must be done online before coming down to our canteen at Birralee Junior. (Please bring your invoice with you, it will be sent to your email address) All new players must bring a COPY of their Birth Certificate. (Anyone who hasn't played before or is new to our club) When you register you will need to pay half your fees and the rest before the first game (13th April 2013) All payments will be made at the canteen, not online. All players will receive a water bottle, which will be handed out before the season commences at training. Game day fees are \$5. Membership is \$2 or \$3 for new members. Socks and shorts are available at the canteen.

Packages : (you must register in the age you are turning this year, irrespective of what team you are playing in)
\$65 U6/7 (must turn 5 during 2013, to start playing)
\$80 U8/11
\$95 U12/18

*Positions on teams will become vacant after our last registration day. For any help or information please call Joanne on 0414619194

GUITAR LESSONS



Private guitar lessons are available each Tuesday during school hours if you wish your child to learn guitar.

Mr Robert Smith, a local musician, teaches guitar. He can be contacted on 4930 8027.

STUDENT EXTRA CURRICULA ACHIEVEMENTS

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

