

Friday 15 March

Week 7, 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

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word, "harmony"? Would it be music and all those musical instruments of differing sizes, shapes and volumes working so well together to produce harmonious sounds? Or perhaps you have been doing some painting around the house, you have used a variety of colours in the same room and have achieved a pleasure of harmony to the eye. Harmony Week is about bringing together the many faces of Australia, celebrating the differences and treating those around us with consideration and dignity so that we can have a living experience of harmony.

If ever you thought that God might have been more considerate and allowed humankind to be one race and language, then, this brief poem might tell why not.

"I cannot change the way I am

I never really try,

God made me different and unique,

I never ask Him Why.

If I appear peculiar,

There's nothing I can do,

You must accept me as I am

As I've accepted you.

So often we will criticise

The things that others do,

But, do you know, they do not think

The same as me and you.

So God in all His wisdom,

Who knows us all by name,

He didn't want us to be bored,

That's why we're not the same."

Author unknown.



It is said that culture is the "lens" through which we view the world, make sense of what we see and how we express ourselves. As well as a variety of artistic expressions in the form of literature, dance, music and films, culture has a variety of social practices in the form of language, religion, family customs and personal values.

Values are the things that we hold as important. Just as each individual holds certain values, each culture promotes different ones. For example, Australians value money, so wrongdoers will be punished by being fined, whereby money is taken from us. The Mbuti pygmies of Africa value social support, so wrongdoers in their society are punished by being ignored. Understanding people's values is the key to understanding their behaviour.

People who disagree with us on fundamental issues can be difficult to relate to, but they can also be of value to us. Travel broadens our outlook on life; so, accepting personal differences can be an inner sort of travel. When we truly value the worth of other people, we come to value better our own worth.

When someone is strange or different from us, it might be a natural reaction to shy away, to think we're better. However, to lose out on the richness of human diversity, to live our whole life in one little corner of human experience, would be tragic indeed.

Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "The surest way to corrupt a young person is to teach him to esteem more highly those who think alike than those who think differently."

Hopefully, as we make our way through Harmony Week hand in hand with our children, our minds and hearts will be focussed positively on increasing our understanding about tolerance and acceptance.

God, our Father, may Your Spirit direct us towards goodness, truth and justice in our daily lives, that we may truly live for the good of all. 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

18— St Patrick's Day —In class activities

19—Harmony Day, Dio Winter Trials

22— Assembly, Yr 3. 2.40 pm

24—8am Palm Sunday Liturgy Rotary Park

28—Holy Week Liturgy

29—Good Friday

31—Easter Sunday

APRIL

3—Blue Day

12—Last day of Term One.

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INCLUDED

Parish Magnetic Calendar

Yellow Flyer Health Services Meeting at

Kurri Kurri Library April 9, 2013

Australian Catholics—Easter 2013

CANTEEN ROSTER

Monday—18/3. J Bishop

Wednesday—20/3. E Blishen

Friday—22/3. R Latter & M Mehrton

Monday—25/3. L Gardiner & G Allen

Wednesday—27/3. M Archbold

Friday—Good Friday. No School.

Thank you ladies.



COMPUTERS

SMALL DONATIONS REQUIRED

Please see Mr O'Heir



WORKING BEE

Thank you to those families who indicated they were willing to help at a working bee. However our numbers were low and a suitable date difficult to find. In the coming weeks we will have some mulch being delivered. Perhaps those who are here of an afternoon could bring a rake along and spread the mulch.

PALM SUNDAY

The annual Ecumenical Palm Sunday service will be held the same weekend as "Nostalgia" on Sunday 24 March at 8am in Rotary Park. This year we would like Yr 3 and other interested students to assist in the dramatisation. This is an important occasion and we hope you can support us in enriching the liturgy.

HOLY WEEK

Year 6 will be presenting the "Easter Story" on Thursday 28 March at 12.30pm. Students are being creative and dramatizing the significant events of holy week and Easter. Please come along and join us.

BLUE DAY

Our school will be joining in with Blue Day on Wednesday 3 April. This day supports those with autism. Students may come to school in blue coloured clothing.

DIOCESAN YOUNG LEADERS DAY

Our school leaders will be joining many other school leaders throughout the diocese on Monday at the Diocesan Young Leaders Day. The day aims to develop leadership skills and encourage leaders to maximise their potential. We wish Jonah, Lara, Liam and Isabella a great day.

ENROLMENTS, 2014, OPEN AT HOLY SPIRIT INFANTS SCHOOL

Consideration of Enrolment for 2014 are currently being taken at Holy Spirit Infants School Abermain. Please encourage any interested families to contact the office for an enrolment package. Principal, Marie Butel-Simoes can be contacted on 4930 4361.

YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS TO ST PETERS, MAITLAND 2014

Enrolment forms will be sent home next Tuesday to all Year 6 families. Please return the enrolment form to our school. We will then send all completed forms to St Peters High School Maitland by the due date. Please return completed forms to our school by Thursday 28 March.



RE NEWS

Thank you to the Mini Vinnie's committee for organising a beautiful liturgy Monday to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. It was lovely to have parents in the room and with us to celebrate what a great blessing Catholic education is. The children in Mini Vinnie's received their badges last week from Michelle Kott from Vinnie's and have been wearing them with pride.

Next Tuesday is St Joseph's day and we are celebrating Harmony day on this day as well. Children can come in bright colours and bring a gold coin donation that will go to Project Compassion. The mini Vinnie's children will be bringing in cupcakes, jelly cups that will be for sale at morning tea and first half lunch for 50cents each. There will be face painting available for 50cents as well. The children will participate in a whole school prayer at 9:10 that you are welcome to join us in and be participating in rotational activities through-

out the afternoon. We appreciate your support in our Lenten project and thank you for your generosity.

This Sunday the 17th of March is our Young People's Mass at Abermain at 6pm. It is also the kindergarten welcome to our Holy Spirit community mass. It would be lovely if you could join us and there is always a sausage sizzle for supper to enjoy with a chat afterwards.

May God bless you and your family during lent as we journey towards Easter. I am continually challenged during Lent to give more to those around me and I believe that is one of the wonderful things about this season.

God Bless,

Maree Pittaway

Religious Education Coordinator

School-wide POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR for Learning (PBL)

This year, Holy Spirit was selected to be a school for the School wide Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) programme in the Maitland - Newcastle Diocese.

PBL focuses on teaching students expected behaviours and on rewards for students who consistently make appropriate behaviour choices. Initially, our pastoral care policy will continue as it has in previous years, as the change to PBL is a gradual process which takes 2-5 years to implement fully.

Research has shown that the use of 3 or 4 positively stated expectations that are simple to remember and understand is of enormous benefit to students, as they experience consistency and the security of knowing what is expected throughout the school.

A recent 2 day training course on PBL was attended by three members of our staff,

and the 4 expectations that we have decided on for Holy Spirit students are:

- * I am Safe
- * I am Responsible
- * I am Respectful
- * I am a learner

These expectations will be introduced to the students beginning next term.

Each expectation is taught through a series of 'focus lessons' to explicitly teach these expectations.

The staff of Holy Spirit are very excited to begin this new initiative with our students. We will keep you informed via the school newsletter and website of our progress and current issues surrounding PBL.



PARISH NEWS

Palm Sunday will be celebrated with the Anglican community at Rotary Park on Sunday 24 March commencing at 8 am. Our school children will act out the Gospel of the Palms. This service will also be part of the Nostalgia festival with visitors from all over Australia visiting our region. Mass will continue at 9 am at Holy Spirit Church.

Included with the newsletter today is our **Magnetic Parish Calendar**. Please place on your fridge. It contains all the important Mass times for our Easter Season.

FOCUS ON READING

Next week, on Tuesday, some of our staff will be participating in an in-service on the new 'NSW syllabus for the Australian curriculum'. As you know we are a Focus on Reading school. We are delighted to see that the new curriculum is reinforcing our focus and the directions we are taking. The curriculum is centred on having students 'Make meaning through lan-

guage'. It expects students to be capable in 'Responding and Composing' effectively in their use of language. In enabling this to happen the syllabus expects teachers to work with children so that they become proficient in 'Developing and applying contextual knowledge', 'Understanding and applying language forms and features', and Engaging personally with texts. You can see how this lines up with the 'super **six comprehension strategies**' we use and teach at school to help our students develop better reading and comprehension skills.

We look forward to the in-service and to discussing the curriculum with you further. If you would like to have a look at the new syllabus it can be made available to you at the school

P&F NEWS

The new executive are very excited to have been appointed to their positions for 2013. Our first P & F meeting will on Tuesday 7 May 7pm at Holy Spirit Primary Kurri Kurri. As this is quite

new for us and we are still finding our feet please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or suggestions.

Easter Raffle—We still require donations for our monster Easter Egg Raffle. Please send into school before Tuesday 26 March. Raffle tickets have now been sent home so be sure to send tickets and money back as soon as possible and please ask if you would like more tickets to sell.

Raffles are still selling at the Kurri Kurri Bowling Club on Friday nights for March and April. Please come along and support the school and hopefully win a great prize. Helpers are needed from 6.00 pm—7.15 pm. Please call Kerrie Phillips on 4936 4794 or 0412 264 446 for more information.

Entertainment Books

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

Katrina Davies, P & F President.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Local Kurri business **Country Decor** will be the place for kids on Sunday 24th March. The **Beanie Master** will be making special guest appearances all day during the Nostalgia Festival.



There will be loads of fun, games and giveaways. Come along and join in all the fun at Country Decor shop 1, 138 Lang Street Kurri.



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.



CDF Student Account

The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) can provide your child with a student account that is operated through the school. All parents of kindergarten students should have received a welcome letter which included a new account brochure. If you would like to open a CDF student account for your child please send the application form and an initial deposit to the office and a new account will be opened for your child. If you do not currently have a student account application form you can pick one up at the school office.

The CDF also offers great savings accounts for parents - call 1800 810 330 for further information.

STUDENT EXTRA CURRICULA ACHIEVEMENTS



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