



43 Ferntree Gully Road Oakleigh East 3166
Phone: (03) 9569 8966 Fax: (03) 9563 0295
Email: principal@cohroakeast.catholic.edu.au
Website : www.cohroakeast.catholic.edu.au

Newsletter No: 12 28th April 2016

Dear Parents,

ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS AT COHR

Last Friday we commemorated ANZAC day with the planting of our own Gallipoli Oaks Tree. The school received this tree from The National Trust of Victoria and it is a descendant of an original Gallipoli Oak tree from 1915 from Gallipoli Turkey. We received a plaque with our tree and wish to thank Ross Leslie (James Yr 5 & William Yr 3) for cementing this into a granite block. At our ceremony we were fortunate to have Lieutenant Andrew Proy (Madeleine's dad in Yr 1) speak to us about the true Anzac Spirit. We thank Lieutenant Proy for his speech and we have shared it with our community as the staff felt it valuable to share for all to be reminded of living the Anzac Spirit within all our lives.

ANZAC DAY SPEECH FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Thank you for having me here with you this morning to commemorate ANZAC day, which most Australians, recognise as one of the most important days of the year.

ANZAC... Now that's an unusual word... Originally it was not a proper word, it was a set of initials which described the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who were in Egypt in the First World War. The initials stood for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and in 1915, those men, together with British, Indian and French soldiers were sent to fight in the part of Turkey known as the Gallipoli peninsula. It was because of the way those Australians and New Zealanders fought, and the way they faced the hardships and dangers which confronted them that the initials became a word - ANZAC - which today is respected in both Australia and New Zealand.

Their actions forged what has become known as the ANZAC spirit and that spirit has been the driving force behind all Australian servicemen and women ever since - in France, later on in World War 2, Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, all of which happened long before you were born. It is also present in the peacekeeping operations our service people undertake today in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor and the Solomon Islands.

What does the ANZAC spirit mean? I believe it is a short word for a number of qualities which all of us, not just men and women serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force, can usefully use in our everyday lives.

The ANZAC spirit represents a sense of purpose and direction. The original Anzacs knew what they had to do, they knew of the dangers and the difficulties but they got down and did not let those difficulties stop them from obeying their orders. It is true that the whole campaign did not achieve what was hoped for. But the soldiers on the ground stayed until their leaders decided it was time to withdraw.

You can apply this to your everyday life. You know what work you have to do at school and what tasks your parents may have set you to do about the house. No matter what difficulties you think are in the way, think of the Anzacs and others who have followed them and push the difficulties to one side and do accomplish your task.

Secondly, the ANZAC spirit represents an acceptance of responsibility. This is another quality you should apply in your everyday lives. Take responsibility for everything you do. It is easy to say 'I did that' or 'that's my work' when everything goes right. We all know that sometimes things do not go right. Sometimes you do something which is against the wishes of your parents and teachers. Remember the ANZAC spirit and take responsibility for what you are doing.

The ANZAC spirit also includes a sense of compassion. This has been summed up in the Australian experience as mateship. This means to watch out for your mate, help him or her at all times and don't poke fun at other people at school because they may have had some misfortune, or come from a different part of the world.

So these three very simple things are what we mean when we talk about the ANZAC spirit. Another word you can apply to this same spirit is unselfishness.

Now, I like every other person hopes that Australia will never be involved in another war - and that you will never be called upon to experience such a terrible thing. But you should use these things I have talked about - a sense of purpose; acceptance of responsibility and unselfishness, not only while you are at school, but whatever you do in your lives. If you do this you will be keeping the faith with those who put the word ANZAC into our language and you will be helping to make sure that the ANZAC spirit is always part of life in Australia.

TREE PLANTING

Thank you to David Florio and Ross Leslie for their assistance in preparing the area for the oak tree and the presentation of the plaque.

EDUCATION BOARD

There will be an Education Board Meeting in the staffroom tonight at 7:30pm. It is anticipated that we display photos of each Board Member for display in the foyer. It is important for the school community to know who are the parent representatives.

WALKATHON

What an excellent morning we had for a walk yesterday! Many thanks to all our parent helpers: crossing supervisors, parents who walked with classes, morning tea helpers and of course the cooking and distribution of hot dogs and drinks. Having so many parents really enabled everything to run smoothly.

PARENT PROTOCOLS

We have attached the protocols for parents at Christ Our Holy Redeemer. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

The staff is concerned with the amount of inappropriate language and gestures children are using at school, both on the playground as well as in class. Classroom teachers have explained that not only does this reflect on them personally but also has an impact on other children and families. We ask your assistance in working with us to highlight the importance of speaking respectfully at all times. We expect our students at Christ Our Holy Redeemer to act and speak with respect and we know as parents you would want the same. We are working on a process to inform you as parents if this continues to occur.

NEW ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

As you may have already noticed, the construction of our new playground has begun and we hope that the children will be able to use it as of next week.



EUCHARIST "WALK THROUGH MASS"

Thank you to Fr John for leading our year 4 students and parents on a reflective explanation of the different parts of the Mass. This evening was the first family night in preparation for First Eucharist on June 5th.

ENROLMENTS

Although enrolments for current families will close on Friday 27th May, we ask that you indicate what you plan to do by the end of next week. This is simply to gauge our enrolment intake to date.

Enrolments for new families close on June 17th.

SENIOR CAMP

Our 5/6 level are very excited about their time away next week (4-6th May) at Briar's Outdoor Education Camp in Mt Martha.

REFLECTIVE GARDEN CREW

What a fantastic response as we now have ten volunteers to date, to assist in the maintenance of Christ Our Holy Redeemer Reflective Garden. Expertise is not needed, just bring along your enthusiasm and together we'll have fun. Included will be a morning tea.

As this area is part of our main school/parish entrance, we want to keep it in good shape. We will meet on a monthly basis, for a couple of hours. Please leave details at the office and these will be passed on to Grace Leslie. Looking forward to seeing you for our first gathering on Monday 2nd May, straight after assembly.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Parents are needed to assist on Monday 2nd May at 2pm, to prepare and wrap gifts. We also require help on Tuesday 3rd May from 9am till recess, to set up and serve at the stall. Please make sure your child has a plastic bag in which to place their gift.

Kind regards

ANTONIETTA CORP

TERM TWO DATES

Term 2

April

Thursday 28 Education Board
Friday 29 COHR Cross country trials, Inter School Sport

May

Tuesday 3 Mothers' day stall (TBA)
Wednesday 4 Yr 5/6 camp returning Friday
Saturday 7 First Eucharist Commitment Mass 5:30 SH or 7pm COHR
Sunday 8 Mothers' Day
Tuesday 10 NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Wednesday 11 NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Parents' Association meeting 7:30pm
Thursday 12 NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Sunday 15 Pentecost Sunday
Monday 16 Review: VRQA compliance visit
Tuesday 17 Family Faith night – Prep 7pm
Thursday 19 Family Faith night – Yr 1/2 7pm
Wednesday 25 First Eucharist Reflection day
First Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm
Thursday 26 Education Board 7:30pm
Friday 27 Inter School Sport
Biggest Morning Tea
Monday 30 School Review week

June

Thursday 2 First Eucharist Reconciliation service
Friday 3 Inter School Sport
Sunday 5 First Eucharist 9:30am and 2pm
Wednesday 8 Parents' Association 7:30pm
Monday 13 Queen's birthday holiday
Wednesday 15 Parish Council
Friday 17 Mid-Year Reports sent home
Disco
Thursday 23 Education Board
Friday 24 End of term 2 – children dismissed 2:30pm