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*As we journey through Lent  
 let us keep Christ at the heart of all our  
 words and actions.  
 Let us focus our lives more clearly on the way of  
 Christ and living the Christian life.*

Dear Parents,

**COMBINED SCHOOLS MASS - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

This year Christ Our Holy Redeemer will host the Annual Combined School Mass and activity day with Sacred Heart Primary School. During the day the students from both schools will join in combined activities together and come together at a special Mass in the courtyard at 11:00am. Parents are most welcome to join us at Mass. A sausage and drink will be provided for lunch on the day. Parent helpers will be needed for this day. If you can assist please phone the office and leave your name.

**EVACUATION DRILL**

On Tuesday we conducted an evacuation drill to ensure children are familiar with the actions to take should we have to enact our Emergency Management Plan. The children responded in a calm and sensible manner and are to be commended on their conduct throughout the drill.

**SAFETY FIRST**

To ensure the safety of all our students I would ask parents to support the following safety procedure. The side gate nearest the hall needs to remain closed at all times unless supervised by a staff member or parent. We would ask parents who use this gate in the afternoons to not leave the gate open. It will be the responsibility of the teacher on drive-through duty to open the gate and then leave it open. We would encourage parents to use either the gate on Ferntree Gully Road near the portable or the main entrance to the reception, as ways to enter the school for afternoon pick-up. With thanks for your cooperation.

**ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION**

Tomorrow morning at assembly the Year 1/2S class will be presenting some of their learning to the community.

**PSW SCHOOL BAGS**

Over the past few weeks, we have been notified by parents of concerns with school bags - fraying at the seams at the top of the handles at the back. On Tuesday the manufacturers came and had a look at some of the bags to see the fault for themselves. It was identified that the bags all came from the same batch.

If your child has a school bag that is fraying in the same place we would ask that you notify the school office. We would like to inform the manufacturers of numbers and details by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March (next week). Thank you

**TERM ONE DATES**

**MARCH**

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Parents Association Meeting 7.30pm
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Labour Day Holiday
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Combined Schools Mass 11.00am COHR  
COHR School Board Meeting 7pm
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> COHR Open Day
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day  
PA's Twilight Movie Night
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Hot Dog Day
- Wednesday 22 5/6 Canberra Camp Information Night
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Term 1 finishes. Students dismissed at 2.30pm

**SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD**

The first meeting for the School Education Board will be held next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the staff room. Our AGM will be held at our second meeting for the year on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Take care and enjoy the upcoming long weekend!

Brendan Welsford  
 Principal

## PAREN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Last night's PA meeting was well attended. Thank you to those parents who were able to make it. There was valuable discussion and a good time had by all. The chocolates were yum!!

### FUND RAISING FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

With the start of the footy season just around the corner we would encourage families to finalise the purchase of their footy tipping ticket. The competition does not start until the second round so there is still plenty of time!

Please take the time to read the information sheet attached to the ticket. This is a very different kind of footy tipping competition – with a prize of \$5,000.00! Tickets cost \$20.00 and \$10.00 from each ticket sold is kept by COHR to benefit our school. If required, extra tickets are available in the office.

**HOT CROSS BUNS** – order forms for Hot Cross Buns, Easter 2017 need to be returned by

### MOONLIGHT MOVIE NIGHT 17 MARCH

With our Movie night only one week away don't forget to purchase your tickets!

### HELPERS REQUIRED

Can you help with the sausage sizzle for the combined school mass on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March?? Please let the office know if you are able to help out. Thank you

### CLASS REPS

Thank you to those parents who have offered to be class reps for 2017. There are still a few vacancies for the following classes;

1/2IC  
3/4KS  
5/6F  
5/6IK

Please let the office know if you are able to assist by being a class rep for one of these classes.

### CAR PARK AUCTION

The 'Rock Star' car park is to be auctioned off for Term 2. This will take the form of a silent auction and bids can be made through the office. The winner will be announced at assembly on the last day of term.

## Bebras Australia: computational thinking challenge

The 2017 Bebras Australian Computational Thinking Challenge ([www.bebbras.edu.au](http://www.bebbras.edu.au)) is part of an international initiative whose goal is to promote computational thinking amongst students. Bebras is aligned with and supports the new Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum.



The challenge is delivered online and over the next week our 3 - 6 students are working in teams within their class to problem solve challenges presented to them. Teams have 45 minutes (5 - 6) to an hour (3 - 4) to complete the challenge.

We have signed our students up using their school username and given the class a generic password.

There has been no enrolling students with their full name or age, so privacy has been adhered to and our students information will not be stored on any computer systems.

### What is Computational Thinking?

Computational thinking enables us to analyse and develop solutions to complex problems and to then use technology to create or innovate new processes and solutions. Careers of the future will require these skills at every level. For example:

**Managing resources** - understanding how to direct and use resources to maximise productivity  
**Analysis** - testing of complex situations, buildings and the like for safety before manufacture  
**Creativity** - finding new ways and techniques to express human experience  
**Safety** - understanding and applying technology to create safe environments

### Why is computational thinking important?

Computational thinking provides students with the skills to analyse a problem and facilitate solution development. Having computational skills enables students to have an understanding of techniques such as *decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, evaluation and algorithms*. Correctly applying these techniques will help students to successfully use, design or innovate with technology.

Students will tackle the 15 challenge questions in teams next week. We are looking forward to having our students participate in this challenge, enjoying the nature of problem solving together. This challenge will happen again in September.

Thank You Karen Wakeling, 5/6 & 3/4 Class Teachers