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Newsletter No: 9 24th March 2016

Dear Parents,

As we come to the conclusion of a busy term it gives us the opportunity to reflect on our achievements:

- ✓ Beginning of year whole school Mass
- ✓ Ash Wednesday Mass/ liturgy
- ✓ Reconciliation program- Commitment Mass/ family night
- ✓ Holy Week liturgies
- ✓ Theme: Companions on the Journey/Road
- ✓ Positive beginning for Foundation (Prep) students
- ✓ Level information evenings
- ✓ Sport – tennis, swimming, interschool sport, Gala day
- ✓ Cartooning incursion
- ✓ 3-6 IT Computational Thinking challenge
- ✓ COHR Week – set up processes for the year
- ✓ Respect towers created by all classes
- ✓ Buddy program – years 1/2 and 3/4; Prep and years 5/6
- ✓ Zones of Regulation
- ✓ Welcome Morning tea at the beginning of the year
- ✓ Fish 'n' Chip evening
- ✓ Welcome of new staff to the school
- ✓ Review process
- ✓ Staff conference with a focus on the Review
- ✓ School photos
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities: guitar lessons, Flow club, Pop-up play, Running club, Choir, Code club, Garden club
- ✓ COHR Open day
- ✓ COHR School sports
- ✓ COHR reporting format
- ✓ COHR Promotional video
- ✓ Assessment schedule
- ✓ Fete committee – parent involvement
- ✓ Parents' Association (meetings and AGM)
- ✓ Education Board (AGM)
- ✓ Respect towers
- ✓ COHR movie night

This week – Holy Week – engages us in many ways. We can reflect upon the message of Jesus that we 'do this in memory of me' and of the call to service; or we can reflect upon the suffering of Jesus for us on Good Friday, and celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday. Whatever angle we choose to take, it is the most important celebration in the Christian calendar.



The Parish (COHR) Holy Week timetable is as follows:

COHR

Thursday 24th March (Holy Thursday)

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 25th March (Good Friday)

9:30am Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 26th March

10:00am Confession

7:00pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday)

8:00am Easter Dawn Mass

11:00am Easter Mass of the Day

NEXT TERM

Next Term Antonietta Corp will assume the role of Principal. Jill Palermo and Michella Pradel will share the Deputy Principals role. Elise Pape has been promoted to the Leadership team. These positions will be for the Term.

ENROLMENTS

Last Wednesday we welcomed some new families to our school during our Open Day. There were 20 prospective new families through the school, ably escorted by our Year 5/6 students. Thanks to the parents who assisted with morning and afternoon tea - it was also a warm welcome.

Enrolments for current families will close on Friday 27th May.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Winter uniform is expected to be worn from the beginning of Term 2.

PORTFOLIOS

Portfolios were sent home on Tuesday. A reminder that if you still have the folder at home for the holidays, please return this to school on the first day of next term. Thank you. We hope this was an opportunity for your child to share their learning and for you to gain a snapshot of your child's learning this term. You are encouraged to leave comments for your child in the parent section.

COMBINED SCHOOLS EVENTS

Yesterday, both schools joined together at Sacred Heart to celebrate and pray together. Thank you to parents who were able to attend and support the day.

HOLY WEEK PRAYER SERVICES

This week the children have participated in prayer services to recognise events during Holy Week. Thank you to the parents and families who have also attended to support these reflective moments. There will be a special Easter prayer service on the first day of next Term.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted on Wednesday 13th April from 3pm until 6:30pm and on Thursday 14th April from 4pm until 6:30pm. PTO has now closed, and interview times will now need to be arranged with your child's teacher.

FETE COMMITTEE

The Fete Committee will meet on Monday 11th April at 7:30pm. All parents are more than welcome to attend.

OVAL WORKS

During the holidays there will be some work done on the Oval – especially at the Huntingdale Rd end where cars have eroded the playing surface. The oval will be closed from Tuesday 29th March for at least three weeks.

RECONCILIATION

Our Year 3 students will be undertaking the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) on Thursday 21st April at 7pm in the Church.

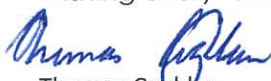
HANDYMAN

We are seeking to employ a handyman for a few hours each week to undertake minor jobs as well as keeping the school neat and tidy. If you know of anyone who has the skills and would be interested, please inform the Office.

And on a personal note:

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of being part of this community? We are indeed fortunate to be part of such a wonderful and vibrant community. Your support, friendship and encouragement have sustained me and challenged me to always strive to do my best for Christ Our Holy Redeemer. I leave knowing that our school is in a great place to take on the next chapter of its history. The school has the support of you, the parents, it is supported by Fr John and the wider parish community. We have wonderful parental support, fantastic children and of course a dedicated and talented staff. Enrolments are relatively stable and financially the school is in a strong position. There is much for which to be grateful. However, nothing stands still. If it does it becomes stagnant. We need the continuing support of all parents to commit to take an active role in the life of the school, whether it be helping in the classroom, assisting on excursions, assisting with Inter School sport, getting involved with the Parents Association, being actively involved in this year's Fete, or doing a spot of gardening ... whatever. As the Nike ad urges us: "Just do it." Once again - thank you. Goodbye and God bless.

Wishing every family a joyous and holy Easter.


Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL

TERM TWO DATES

Term 2

April

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| Monday 11 | Term 2 commences Fete Committee meeting 7:30pm |
| Wednesday 13 | Parent/teacher interviews/ conferences 3pm to 6:30pm Children dismissed at 2:30 |
| Thursday 14 | Parent/teacher interviews/ conferences 4pm to 6:30pm |
| Tuesday 19 | Monash ANZAC service Parish Council |
| Wednesday 20 | Yr 3 Reconciliation 7pm SH Parents' Association meeting 7:30pm |
| Thursday 21 | Yr 3 Reconciliation 7pm COHR |
| Friday 22 | Evacuation Drill |
| Monday 25 | ANZAC day holiday |
| Tuesday 26 | Yr 4 First Eucharist 'Walk through Mass' 7pm |
| Wednesday 27 | Walk-a-Thon, Hot Dog lunch day |
| Thursday 28 | Education Board |
| Friday 29 | COHR Cross country trials, Inter School Sport |

May

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| 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 |
| Monday 30 | School Review week |

June

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|--------------|--|
| 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 |

Library News

Leigh Hobbs, bestselling author of iconic Australian books *Old Tom*, *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris* and *Horrible Harriet*, has been announced as the Australian Children's Laureate for 2016–2017.

The Australian Children's Laureate is an initiative developed by the Australian Children's Literature Alliance (ACLA). The laureate's role is to promote the importance of reading, creativity and story in the lives of young Australians.

The focus for Hobbs's term as Laureate is 'to champion creative opportunities for children, and to highlight the essential role libraries play in nurturing our creative lives'.

'Libraries have played an enormous role in my life', Hobbs says. 'Reading and exploring history and art is something I have been able to do because of libraries. I'm passionately interested in histories and cultures and I hope that through my work I can encourage children to explore and experience these things too.'

In the Library this term, Year 1 – 6 students have been exploring Leigh Hobbs books, characters and illustrating style.

ABC Splash have a '*create a character competition*' that interested students may enter. Students need to draw a character, write a one-line description of their character, take a photo of it and upload to the website. To enter, students need to enter their name and parent/guardian email and also type in a nickname that appears on the website with their drawing. If your child is interested, please visit the website <http://splash.abc.net.au/ugc-competition/-/u/2201380/create-a-character-competition> for more information on how to enter. The 3\4 students have had a go at creating a character and have taken it home to continue or start again.

Eight of the most inventive, creative characters with descriptions will win a Leigh Hobbs book signed by the author! Competition closes 5pm, Friday 8 April.

Enjoy and Good Luck

Karen Wakeling