



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

Newsletter No: 3 14<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents,

Yesterday, Ash Wednesday, marked the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a time for Christians to consider how they live the word of God and to renew this living. The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are one way in which Christians embody the values of justice, compassion and generosity and the giving up of oneself. The 40 days that Jesus spent praying and preparing in the wilderness is reflected in the season of Lent that lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter Sunday (not counting Sundays in the season). Numbers are never randomly used in the Bible. 1, 3, 7, 12 and 40 all have specific meanings. 40 indicates a time of formation.

*To me, God and compassion are one and the same. Compassion is the joy of sharing. It's doing small things for the love of each other – just a smile, or carrying a bucket of water, or showing some simple kindness. These are the small things that make up compassion. Compassion means trying to share and understand the suffering of people (Mother Teresa, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta).*

Let us strive this Lent to strengthen our relationship with God.

#### LUNCH ORDERS

A link to Classroom Cuisine, our new canteen provider, can be found on our school website.

**All orders must be placed on line before 8.30am.** School have no access to the service and **will not** be able to place late orders.

#### SCHOOL HATS

A reminder that children are required to have their school hats for recess, lunchtimes and PE. Please, please ensure hats are clearly named.

#### EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Please note that eligible families must submit their forms to the school office no later than Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Application forms can be obtained from the office.

#### INDUSTRIAL NEWS

The Australian Education Union (AEU) planned industrial action against the Victorian Government today in the form of a statewide stopwork. As in September 2012, the Independent Education Union Victoria Tasmania (IEU) – the Union which represents Catholic staff - joined with the AEU. This stopwork action is intended to pressure the government to increase its wages offer to teachers from 2.5% to 4.2% per year. A number of our staff were worried and concerned about taking action at this time of the school year, and decided, reluctantly, not to take

action at this time. I would ask that you support catholic staff for improved pay and conditions.

#### CHANGES TO STUDENT ATTENDANCE REPORTING FOR 2013

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is instituting a new student attendance reporting standard for all Australian non-government schools for 2013. The change will align non-government school reporting with government school reporting and will allow the *My School* website to report and compare like schools. The changes include a lengthening of the reporting period to 20 weeks and the addition of two attributes on each student: gender and Indigenous status. It is important to note that the school requires a reason why a child is absent. We are required to maintain those notes for a period of time. We also will be recording "late arrivals." Children arriving at school after 8:55am will be deemed to arrive late and will be recorded as a "late arrival."

#### EDUCATION BOARD

Our Education Board's first meeting for the year will be this evening - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February - at 7:30pm in the staffroom. On the Agenda we will be revising the Board's guidelines and looking at our priorities for the future.

#### FISH'N'CHIP NIGHT

Thankyou to the families who attended the Fish'n'Chip evening last week. The weather was kind to us as a breeze made the temperature pleasant. It was a great community event.

#### PANCAKE DAY

A very big thankyou to all of our mums who assisted with preparing, cooking and distributing pancakes on Tuesday.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Russo family (Thomas 3/4EP) on the arrival of their baby girl Isabella Mary.

#### YEAR OF GRACE

A Mass for both parishes to celebrate the Year of Grace in thanksgiving for the many blessings received through the Parish Life will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.00pm at Christ Our Holy Redeemer followed by supper. Keep this date free and join us as we recognise our grace-filled lives. Please bring a plate to share for supper.

## RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Yr 3 children who are intending on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year are asked to attend a Commitment Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February at the 11am Parish Mass. During the Mass the children will be invited to come forward and receive an Act of Contrition.

## ENROLMENTS FOR CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Applications for enrolment at Catholic Secondary schools close on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. If you are intending to enrol your child into a catholic secondary school for next year, it is essential that you meet this date. Enrolments for Government Secondary colleges open later in the year.

## PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Parents are invited to attend an Information evening on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Hall at 7:30pm. Some of the topics addressed will be Hometasks and our Student Engagement Policy – with particular information about our use of Restorative Practices.

## MEDICAL FORMS

All medical forms must be returned to the school office by **tomorrow (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb)**.

## DATES

### February

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Education Board
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent Information evening
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Yr3 Reconciliation commitment Mass
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent Information evening
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Yr3 Reconciliation commitment Mass
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Association AGM

### March

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Catholic Secondary enrolment due
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Information night 7pm Sacred Heart
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	School closure day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day public holiday
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Education Board
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Reconciliation (Yr 3)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Harmony day
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Reconciliation (Yr 3)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	School Sports day – Duncan MacKinnon
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Association
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Thursday; Easter holidays – school finishes 2:30pm

With Best Wishes

Tom Coghlan  
PRINCIPAL

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd February 2013

7:30pm

in the Parish Hall

ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

COME ALONG AND VOTE FOR THE 2013 COMMITTEE.

A GREAT WAY TO MEET OTHER PARENTS AND BE A PART OF YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Please read the attached form regarding committee nominations.

## OAKLEIGH DRAGONS

Now recruiting

Girls and Boys new players wanted.

Under 9s – Under 17s teams

2013 REGISTRATION DATE

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb from 6.00pm.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 9.00am

Scammell Reserve – Guest Rd Oakleigh South

Please come along for a free sausage sizzle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Any queries contact us: Email: [oycfc@hotmail.com](mailto:oycfc@hotmail.com) or call our Registrar: Anna Goodwill 0427 054 746, Club President: Bart Planksen 0418 996 606

## ASHWOOD BASKETBALL

“Ashwood Wolves Basketball Club are now recruiting players for their U8, U10 and U12 teams for the Winter season commencing mid-April. No experience necessary; just team spirit and a great attitude. Registrations close Saturday 23/2. Contact Brigid Boyce on 0407 323 805 with any queries.”

## Spacers and Schools/Preschools: Reminder for Parents & Carers

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. Some schools/preschools may implement a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

**Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.**

For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email [schools@asthma.org.au](mailto:schools@asthma.org.au)

# C.O.H.R. - PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## 2013 – COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Please read the attached form which will give an outline of the committee roles.

TICK	POSITION	NOMINATED PERSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	President	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastoral Care	.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Member	.....

Please complete and return this form to the School office.

Name:..... Signature:..... Date:\_\_\_\_\_

The 2013 Committee Nomination form should be in the office by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February although nominations will still be accepted (and voted upon) on the night of the Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

We are also looking for members for the Fete Committee

- President .....
- Vice President .....
- Secretary .....
- Treasurer .....
- General Member .....

## Project Compassion 2013

Project Compassion 2013 carries the message:

### "Open doors into the future"

which is taken from Pope Benedict XVI's 2007

encyclical *Spe Salvi*, 35, "*We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future*".

This year's Project Compassion stories are about children, young people and the communities who support them. Caritas Australia's partners around the world are helping to open doors into education, sustainable livelihoods and supportive environments. As a result, more young people now have hope for the future.

In 2013, we are sharing stories from people in *Mozambique, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indigenous Australia and Papua New Guinea*. Their stories humble and inspire us, and show how your contributions to Project Compassion help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Each year, Project Compassion runs during Lent.

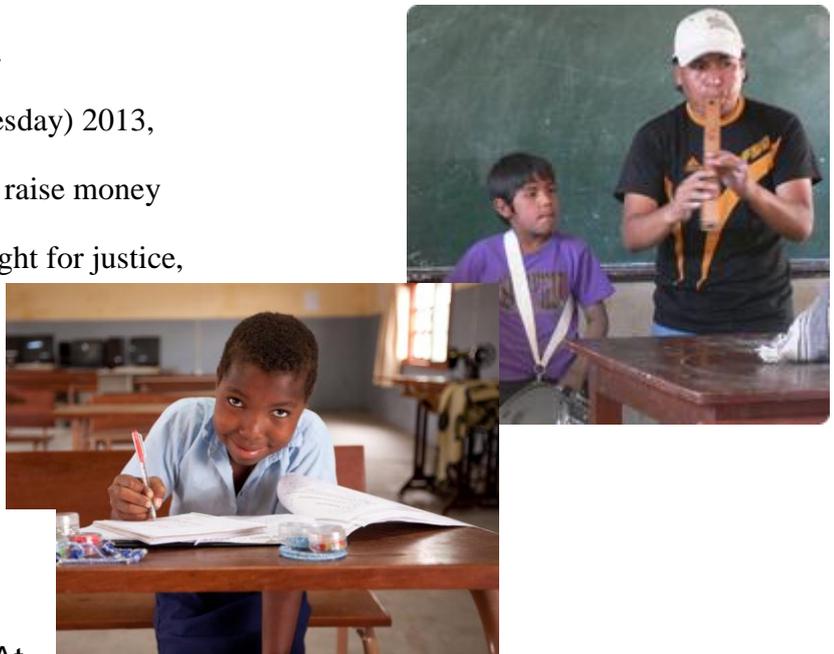
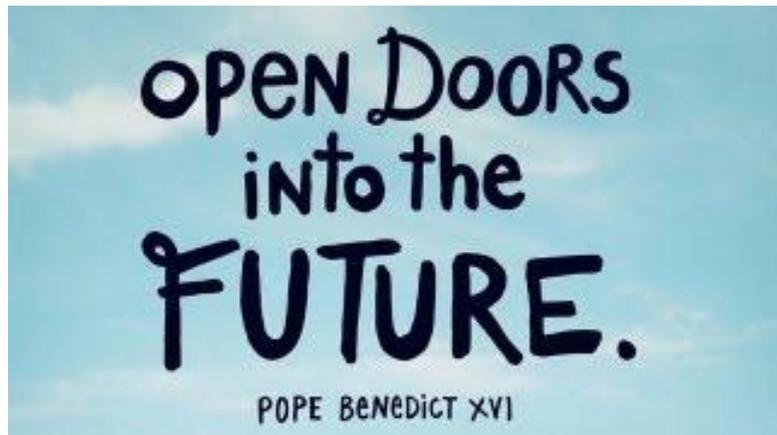
Starting on Wednesday 13 February (Ash Wednesday) 2013,

we are asking people across Australia to help us raise money and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every day.

Visit the Caritas website to read more about the work carried out.

[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Lent is a time** when we think about how we have been called into a special relationship with God and other people. At the end of the forty days of Lent we celebrate Easter and Jesus rising from the dead. God sent his son Jesus to give his life for us and show us that we need to open the doors of our hearts to love others as God loves us.



**During Lent** we give thanks for the good things that God has given us and remember that these blessings are not just for us. We must share them and use them to help other people in the world who do not have enough food, clean water and healthcare.

**God of hope,** we pray for a just world where people are able to live with dignity, and where the resources of the earth are cared for and used for the good of all people. We pray that we will be people of compassion during this time of Lent, and that we will see Jesus in the needs of others, especially the poor.