Immaculate Heart of Mary School Newsletter

Grade Prep Afternoon Tea

On Tuesday afternoon the Grade Prep children stayed after school for an afternoon tea. Mrs Mulqueen, Mrs Dobric and the children went for a walk around the school to make sure all other children had gone home before we enjoyed having the school to ourselves. We had some delicious food and drink, and we thank our lovely parents that provided the food for everyone. We also had a fabulous dance party where our grade prep children showed off some spectacular moves! Our afternoon tea ended with a cool iced pole provided by Mrs. Skinner. Both teachers and children all had such a wonderful time, with one student saying that it was "the best party ever!"
Dear Families,

**Building update:**
Our builders Behmer and Wright report that our building works are progressing steadily:
- Sandi will be back in her office next week
- Internal refurbishments are expected to be completed by the end of next week. We are currently waiting for some carpet and fittings to arrive.
- The new entrance to the school and our new classrooms are expected to be complete by the end of Term 2
- Our carpark will continue to have works completed over the coming weeks as water services are installed. Our current car park plan will stay in place. Please take care in driving carefully through this area to ensure a safe environment for our children.

**Lent**
The season of Lent is upon us. Recently children we cooked pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. The whole school then participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at the Church. Each of our classes have been talking about ‘our Lenten journey.’ This involves reflecting about how we can become better people. Lent is a time when we can discover what God expects of us, that while God is loving and caring, we do need to respond. Sometimes we go astray. We can be self indulgent, pride can get in the way of forgiving those who may have wronged or offended us. We can do better! Lent gives us time to reflect and repent. Regretting and seeking forgiveness is only one aspect of repentance, having a change of heart, seeking a new direction is the other.

**Project Compassion**
At our Ash Wednesday Mass each class was presented with a Project Compassion Box. Father Harry reminded us that during Lent we could give up something and make a small donation to Project Compassion. Alternatively we might perform good deeds for family and community members.

Caritas Australia works with all people to enable them to learn more about poverty and its underlying causes. Catholic social teaching promotes the concept of justice. We believe all can empowered to stand up to end poverty and promote justice. This is not about being ‘nice.’ It is about upholding the dignity of each person. Why Global Social Justice? Poverty is created by the actions of people, which means it can be eradicated – it’s not a question of if, but when. But for this to happen, we must all work together towards the creation of a more just and fair world. During Lent we are all invited to make a donation to Project Compassion and perform good deeds.

**Reconciliation**
Our Reconciliation program has commenced with a commitment masses and personal preparation. Please pray for our Reconciliation candidates.

**‘Theatre come to St Mary’s**
Excitement is building for our ‘Making Friends’ Theatre show which will take place on Monday 29th February in the church at 2.15pm. All welcome.

**Parents & Friends AGM**
The P&F AGM is being held on Wedensday 9th March at 7.00pm. This will be preceded with a Pizza dinner at 6.00pm. All new members are most welcome. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter and from the office.

**2015 School Board AGM**
It will soon be time to appoint two new board members to the school board. The board membership consists of the Parish Priest, Principal, Deputy Principal, and up to four parents who currently have children at the school. As a general guide the terms of office are for two years, so every year there are two vacancies. The Board meets for approximately 75 minutes twice a term. Its primary role is to support the Principal in implementing the Mission and Vision of the school. This is accomplished by reviewing policy, discussion and planning for our future. Each parent is invited to nominate an adult in our community that they think would be able to carry out this role. The 2015 Board will collect nominations and then speak to nominees to see if they would like to take on this important community role. The nomination form is attached to this newsletter and is available from the office. Please consider taking on this important role or nominating a member of our community. The AGM will be held on March 17th at 6.00pm.

**School Closures**
Each year our school has four closure days to provide time for professional development for our staff. Our first closure will take place on Tuesday 15th March.

**2015 Camp Program**
We have begun our 2016 camp program with great anticipation. Our camps program is designed to help our children to socialise, to learn new skills and become more independent. We encourage your child to have a go and do their best. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher.

**Working Bee**
Recently thirty metres of mulch was delivered to our school. This mulch will be spread underneath our adventure playground equipment to create a softfall area. Families are invited to assist in spreading this mulch. Volunteers are asked to bring their wheelbarrow and shovel to assist with this at a time that is convenient to their own Schedule.
Financial Assistance
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
The Victorian Government provides eligible families with assistance to cover important, education and fun activities by way of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF).

- Families holding a valid concession card are eligible to apply.
- The Applications forms are available from the School Office and must be submitted by Monday 29th February.

Class Awards - Week 4
Prep/1D Alison
Prep/1M Riley M
Gr 2 Zahli
Gr 3 Indiana
Gr 3/4 Tully
Gr 4/5 Lachlan W
Gr 5 Stephanie
Gr 6 Joshua

Asthma Management
With the start of another school year it is a good time to examine your child’s Asthma Management Plan. Is it up to date? Do you need a new one?

We would appreciate it if parents of students with Asthma could look at their children’s current plan and consider if it needs updating or not. We are better able to treat your child if their plan is up to date.

We have attached a blank Asthma Management Plan for your convenience. All new and updated plans need to be lodged at the office. Thank you.

Some news From Asthma Australia
Back to School asthma spike
Every year there is a well-documented rise in asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations when students return to school after the Christmas break. Asthma Australia has information for parents of students with asthma to help them prepare for school. Asthma Australia’s website and social media provide the latest information, including a checklist of what to do to help your child and a survey to complete to determine the impacts for parents/carers.

Asthma Australia recommends that you talk to school staff about your child’s asthma and the school’s medication policy, provide an Asthma Plan from the doctor and supply a spare reliever puffer and spacer for your child’s use at school.

Asthma Kids
Looking for a way to help your child understand more about their asthma or about a friend with asthma? Asthma Kids is an online, interactive tool to help primary school aged children understand what it’s like to have asthma and what they can do to help. Watch one of the introductory videos then take Chester’s Asthma Trail. There are prizes to win too! www.asthamakids.org.au
**Diary Dates**

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<th>FEB</th>
<th>Mon 29th</th>
<th>‘Making Friends’ Theatre show 2.15pm</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 1st</td>
<td>Grade 1 Camps Program, Apex Park 4.15 to 6.15pm First Reconciliation Meeting St Kieran’s 6.00pm (parents only)</td>
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<td>Mon 7th</td>
<td>School Photographs, full summer uniform</td>
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<td>Tues 8th</td>
<td>Second Reconciliation Meeting St Mary’s 6.00pm (parent &amp; child)</td>
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<td>Tues 8th/Wed 9th</td>
<td>Grade 4 Camp - Allambee</td>
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<td>Wed 9th</td>
<td>P&amp;F AGM, 7.00pm in the Library. Pizza dinner provided from 6.00pm. All Welcome.</td>
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<td>Sat 12th/Sun 13th</td>
<td>Presentation of Prayer Reconciliation candidates</td>
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<td>Monday 14th</td>
<td>School Closure - Labour Day</td>
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<td>Tues 15th</td>
<td>School Closure - “Change 2” Professional Development Day</td>
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<td>Wed 16th</td>
<td>Celebration of Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Fri 18th</td>
<td>Italian Day - Sicily</td>
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<td>Thurs 24th</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1, 1.00pm finish</td>
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<td>Fri 25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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| MAR       | Mon 11th                        | First Day Term 2 |

| APR       | Mon 11th                        | First Day Term 2 |

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**Community Events/Notices**

- **Music Lessons** - Mrs Natasha Hoekstra is available to teach Violin, Viola, Cello, Guitar, Flute, Recorder, Clarinet & Trumpet. Please contact Natasha on 0409 040 700 for more information.

- **Music & Voice Lessons** - Mrs Carine Surendorff is available to teach Piano, Saxophone & Voice Training. Please phone her on 0458 242 459 if interested.

- **Free Kids Dental** - Families receiving Family Tax Benefit A may be eligible for the Commonwealth Government Child Dental Benefits Schedule which provides up to $1000.00 on child dental services. To see if you are eligible contact Medicare.

- **Newborough Girl Guides** - Open Fun Night Wed 2nd March, Torres St Newborough. 5 to 9 yrs 5pm, 10 to 14yrs 6.30pm

- **Latrobe City** - Pre school Storytime at Moe Library. Wednesday & Friday mornings 11.00am

- **Moe/Newborough Baseball Club** - players needed within the 5-18 age group. Both boys & girls welcome. Please phone David Bloomfield 0417 052 038 if interested.

- **Moe & District Netball** - looking for girls & boys to play Netball on Saturday mornings. Starts Term 2, 16th April. If you are interested please contact Donna Krznaric on 0438 004 189. Coaches are also needed.

- **Newborough Junior Football Club** - Sign up nights, Tuesday 8th & Thurs 10th March. U 10/12 4.15pm U 14 4.30pm. Newborough Football Club, Southwell Ave Newborough. Register in person or online http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=1-6151-80408-0-0&sID=93364

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**PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIP**

St Mary’s Church, Newborough and St. Kieran’s Church, Moe
Contact: 5127 1057

**Weekend Mass Times:**

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<td>St Brigid’s Yallourn North</td>
<td>Saturday 5.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Newborough</td>
<td>Sunday 9.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Kieran’s Moe</td>
<td>Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 10.30am</td>
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**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL**

Friends forever, learning together

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