



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Lent is a time set aside for each of us to think about the place of God in our lives and how we might build up our relationship with God. Each of us is made in God's image, whether we acknowledge this or not. Lent began last week with the celebration of Ash Wednesday when we received ashes as a reminder to us that we are mortal and one day our life here will end and our life with God will continue.

Lent is visible by the colour purple which is evident in our classrooms, the foyer and the Church. However the importance of Lent is marked by the *invisible acts* that we do during this time.

During Lent we are asked to do three things in particular - pray, fast and give to the poor (almsgiving). At school the children are encouraged to give to Project Compassion (Caritas). Each class has a special box to collect donations of money the proceeds of which go to help people less fortunate than ourselves. Being a cheerful giver without seeking praise for these efforts is the invisible acts of Lent.

This is time to build up our spiritual muscle, by taking up these invisible acts such as reading the scripture of the day, attending Mass during the week or by fasting on Fridays and giving the money usually spent on that nights dinner to Project Compassion or to the poor. It may inspire you to make space for God and look closely at where we spend our time and money.

Thanks for the many instances in which you show generosity and compassion to those in need. This is social justice in action. I strongly encourage you to talk to your children about Lent and what it means in your life and think about what it is you can do this Lent to grow in relationship with each other and with God.

I would also like to thank the parents who gave up their valuable time to organise and distribute the wonderful pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

Time to Celebrate: What an awesome week filled with prayer, learning and partnership!

On Monday, we had a great sense of partnership with parents learning about Place Value with their children in open classrooms. Our Mathematics goal this year is about improving student's understandings in Place Value. It was great to see many parents and carers join in fun interactive learning games!

Later that day, we held an information night about how to help your children at home in English and Maths. Thank you to the parents who attended! Parents commented on the fact that the tips were practical and informative, as well as easy and fun ways they could engage and help their children at home.

Yesterday we celebrated as a praying Catholic community with a K – 6 Liturgy. The purpose of this liturgy was to reflect and remind us of what it means to be a Catholic school. In this liturgy we had a fantastic student video reflection about, "What makes a great Catholic School" (which will be replayed at Stage 1's Assembly) and as symbol of our faith we released balloons in the shape of the Rosary. Thank you for your support as we walk together in the journey of faith and learning through your attendance and support.

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic

Don't forget Mother's Day Mufti tomorrow!

Tomorrow the students will be wearing mufti clothes with the donation of a gold coin and a small gift (unwrapped) towards the Mother's Day stall. Please remember to wear sensible safe shoes (thongs and high heels do not protect your child's feet.) Some parents and carers have been wondering why this is happening so early in Term 1. I am sure you can appreciate that it takes a great deal of time and effort, to organise, order and package enough gifts for the whole school. As our parents are volunteers they also need to take the time to do these acts of service.

Kindergarten 2015 Enrolling Now

If you have a child born between July 2009 and June 2010 they are eligible for enrolment in Kindergarten in 2015. Please collect an enrolment form from the school office or download it from our website. Please complete the form and return to the school office as soon as possible.

Quality Catholic Schools Survey

Sixty (60) randomly selected parents/carers will be receiving on Monday, a survey to complete online or in paper form. Inside the package is a note explaining the aim of the survey and when it is due back. If completed online there is no need to return the paper survey.

Helpful hints for the Lenten Season

Every year as the Lenten Season approaches, the thoughts start racing through my head, *what do I give up? Remember no meat on Fridays! How can I contribute to Project Compassion?* In the busyness of life, there is always a sense of urgency about these decisions. But perhaps the bigger question should be, what do I really want to take away from THIS Lenten experience?



Lent is meant to be a time of renewal and rejuvenation. It is a time for us to renew ourselves and to challenge ourselves to be better people than were yesterday. Whilst taking up scriptural readings this season, I came across some helpful hints that I thought could help not just me, but the community I belong to and serve.

The three pivotal practices of Lent are: prayer, almsgiving and fasting. How can we include these in our daily lives?

Prayer – We are blessed with countless prayer opportunities: when someone cuts you off in traffic, when you experience great service at the shops, when a loved one is wearing that last ounce of patience. Take these up as opportunities to say a little prayer.

Fasting – More important than the chocolate you'll give up, try this Lenten Season to abstain from unnecessary anxiety, judging others, gossip or criticism. These too are ways of fasting.

Almsgiving – Giving does not always come from our wallets. This Lenten Season ensure that you give due praise to others, give encouragement to those in doubt and words of thanks for the many services that would normally go unnoticed.

No matter how busy you are this Lenten Season make time for HIM through your daily encounters with others.

Pascale Joseph
Religious Education Coordinator

Year 1 Excursion Australian Arms Museum

On Monday 3rd March Stage One went to the Australian Arms Inn at Emu Plains to learn about things from the past. Firstly I had fun playing the games, next I had fun at washing.

Isaac Brown

My first activity was looking at the typewriters. After we went to the school we were in the olden days when they had to use a slate. **Andrew**

We did the washing and after that we went into the Barn. Finally we played games and my favourite was the horse shoe.

Lachlan Criss

We went to the school room and we wrote our name, but the chairs were short. Then we went to do cooking. We churned butter and we squeezed the juiced and grated carrot.

Michelle Ghobreyal



Awards 28 February 2014

Kindy – Blue Mia Barrett Julian Falzon Nenita Jasmine Javed Michaela Perera	Kindy – Gold Isla Fletcher Nash Neill Bonnie Rigo Isabella Surene	Year 1 – Blue Katherine Faustino Caitlyn Fitzpatrick Hayden Kennedy Paul Suluape
Year 1 – Gold Jack Bond Maree Dankha Liam Egan Andrew Mrsic	Year 2 Lily Callaghan Maycee Leala George Maraziotis Tara Teuma	Year 3 Darcy Brown Kristina Krasnauskaitė Brendenn Powell Elizabeth Sommers
Year 4 Georgina Child Taliah Cini Sean Egan Kolbi Prior	Year 5 Levi Chia Joel Emerson Bailey Thomson Talia Welfare	Year 6 Leonardo Isaac Nathan Luk Samantha Madrajat Molly Walker

Sport News



Congratulations to Joel Stevens who represented the Parramatta Diocese in Tennis. He then went onto competing in the MacKillop trials held at Wollongong. Joel competed against Sydney, Wollongong and Wagga Dioceses and won all of his 4 matches— 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 and 6-5. Well done Joel!

A special congratulations to our swimmers, Lachlan Becroft, Brayden Parkes, Jed Prior, Marc Spokes, Joel Stevens, Bailey Thomson and Callum Wamsley who competed in the Diocesan Carnival. This is a wonderful achievement to make it to this level. Special congratulations to Callum Wamsley who came 3rd in backstroke and will now go onto to compete at the MacKillop Carnival to be held at Homebush Olympic Park on 28th March.

Well done and Good Luck Callum!



Easter Raffle Easter Raffle

All families are asked to contribute an Easter egg towards our Easter Raffle. Please send eggs to the school office. The eggs will be bundled together for raffle prizes. If you have any unwanted baskets/small boxes that could be used as a container for our Easter Raffle please send to the school office.



St Patrick's Day

As a Catholic community we will be celebrating St Patrick's Day (Monday 17th March) by wearing one item that is green. This is to raise awareness of this great Catholic saint. (No donation is required.) Please remember to wear sensible safe shoes (thongs and high heels do not protect your child's feet.)

Leave

If you plan to take your child out of school for any reason e.g. an extra holiday, please remember to apply for an exemption from school. Parents and carers are required to carry the exemption certificate with them whilst on leave.

Parent Group Meeting Parent Group Meeting

On Monday 17th March at 7pm there will be a meeting for our parent group. The parent group is open to all parents interested in fundraising ideas for our school. The meeting generally lasts an hour and will be held in the Hall. Please be punctual as the school gate will be closed at 7pm.

Medication

Please ensure that there is a Medical Plan with the Medication given to the school office that is in date.

School Fees

School fees were due on Friday 7th March 2014. If you have already paid thank you. If payment has not yet been made or arrangements set up could you please do so as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty please do not hesitate to contact Rhonda Shirvington on 47212623 to discuss. Thank you

Dear Parents,

On Monday this week we shared information about the EMU Program we are using to teach maths. Following this Newsletter is some general information about the program. Throughout the year there will be further opportunities for you to learn about this program and I'm sure your children will enjoy teaching you some of the games and activities we use to teach maths!

Frances Manning
Acting Assistant Principal.

Correspondence

Correspondence which has been sent home in the past fortnight or with this newsletter includes:

- ☺ Mothers Day Mufti Day Fri 14 March
- ☺ School Photos Individual Envelope
- ☺ School Photos Family Envelope
- ☺ School Photos Note
- ☺ Faith in our Future Prayer Card
- ☺ Catholic Outlook
- ☺ Pasta Day
- ☺ Cross Country Yrs 3—6 only
- ☺ EMU - Maths



**Caroline Chisholm College,
Glenmore Park
provides Catholic Education
for girls in Years 7 – 12**

**Enrolling now for 2015.
Applications close 11 April, 2015.**

**For further information contact the
College on 4737 5500.**

Canteen

Canteen will be opened Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Chocolate & Strawberry Milk (250ml)	\$1.00
Water (600ml)	\$1.00
Pretzels (30g)	60c
Popcorn (25g)	\$1.00
Zooper Doopers (70ml)	50c

During the term there will be special food days e.g. hot dog days, pie & sausage roll days, noodle days etc. A note will go home to all families when these days will occur.

Bereavement Support Program

Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry is holding its second fortnightly Bereavement Support Group Session on Tuesday 18th March, for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this Session is "Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief". Venue: 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, from 10.00am – 12pm, cost \$5.00. This is an opportunity to gain some information about the grieving process and to support each other during this most difficult and painful time. Details and Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

Smart Loving Workshop

Enhancing Marriage Relations
Sunday 23rd March, 2- 5pm
Holy Family School Hall
32 Willowdene Ave, Luddenham
Donation at the door (afternoon tea provided)
Bookings essential Call Jess: 02 9319 6280
info@smartloving.org
Spouse can attend on their own or as a couple

Mrs Lennon's Reading Tip of the week...

- ☺ Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read. This means not only having many books around—from libraries, bookstores, and book clubs, as gifts, and as treats—but many chances to read and talk about what they are reading.
- ☺ Reading begins at birth. These are the kinds of things that lay the foundation for becoming a reader.

Infants:

- ☺ Enjoy action nursery rhymes and Mother Goose verses
- ☺ Fall asleep to nursery songs and lullabies
- ☺ Listen to stories as they are rocked
- ☺ Imitate actions of children in books
- ☺ Participate in making the sounds of animals in books
- ☺ Appear interested in babies in books
- ☺ React to rhythm, repetition, and rhyme
- ☺ Can point to objects in large, colourful pictures

