FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As I walk from class to class during the day I have the joy of chatting with your children and getting to know them just a little better each day. This week we have been pleased to see the sun shining every day and play on the school grounds has been the highlight of many a child’s day at school. Today I enjoyed watching the Y3 vs Y4 soccer game. What was a highlight for me was to hear the children supporting and encouraging each other, with very little concern about winning the game. This is the spirit that we wish to grow at St Vincent’s…I can’t wait to be back on duty again!

MEET AND GREET/ Expo

It was wonderful to meet St Vincent families on Tuesday evening. It was a good opportunity for us to share our 2016 priorities. Communication is important to us at St Vincent’s and I hope that all families now have access to the newsletter, Skoolbag App and class term overview to keep fully informed. I thank the teachers for staying behind to meet you all.
YEAR 6 STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students in Year 6 are excited about leadership opportunities for their final year at St Vincent’s. A letter will be sent home next week to all Year 6 families outlining the student leadership programme. At the school community council meeting last night I had the pleasure of sharing a proposal from Year 6 students for a new look leadership shirt. The shirt has been designed by students and has been given approval by our SCC and parents who attended the Meet and Greet.

I look forward to seeing our students wear their new shirts upon their return from camp and being presented with a school leader badge at the special leadership commissioning liturgy on Friday 1 April.

YEAR 5 MEDIATION MATES

All Year 5 students will participate in a First Aid skills training session with St John’s ambulance on Monday. Following this students will commence their duties (on a roster basis) as Mediation Mates during play times. There is a high level of enthusiasm to carry out this role in our school. In this role students will be wearing an orange fluoro vest and assist students in a number of ways (e.g: finding a friend for a lonely child, refereeing a game, monitoring safe play on the climbing equipment.) I know they take this responsibility seriously and are very much looking forward to the start date of next Tuesday.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Next Thursday we celebrate our Open School Mass in the Church. This is a special occasion for our school community and I encourage you to join us celebrate the beginning of the school year. Save the Date: March 5th, 6.30pm. Welcome Mass and BBQ for all families.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

I am pleased to report that Catholic Care has re-assigned Mrs Morena Minero de Gonzalez to our school as our Counsellor. Morena will be on site every Wednesday morning. If you have a concern about your child and you would like Morena to become involved, please let me know.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

Due to the swimming carnival there will be no Friday Assembly. Awards will be given out at the usual morning Assembly before students catch the bus to go the pool. A reminder that we celebrate weekly achievements with our children and families every Friday morning. Please join us and stay for a while to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Club 4 kids…

I am very excited to be able to provide our 4 years old preschool students with an opportunity to come to St Vincent’s for a morning where they will have experiences to wonder, explore and investigate their world. This initiative is a result of many of our parents wanting to know what they could do with their preschooler on their Wednesday off preschool. We are very excited about this program, as we are sure many 4 years olds will be too. The flier is attached to this newsletter and I encourage our families to share this with their neighbours.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday and this marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. All students attended Mass or a liturgical celebration and were marked with the cross of ashes on their forehead. Your child may come home with questions so I thought I’d give you some background information. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign that we want to turn away from sin, and to follow Jesus. Ash Wednesday begins the forty day season of Lent that leads to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we come together to remind ourselves that we don’t always follow God’s ways and need to ask God for His mercy and forgiveness. Like God’s people in the time of the prophets, we wear ashes to show that we want to turn away from whatever keeps us from God, and to have a change of heart, so that we can live in right relationship with God and each other. For Catholics, Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstaining from meat. Fasting reminds us that food alone cannot make us happy. We must also be fed with prayer, with God’s Word and by meeting Jesus in the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist. The small sacrifices we make during Lent make room in our hearts to welcome the risen Jesus at Easter. Please take some time to talk with your children about the meaning of Lent and discuss together what could be a meaningful sacrifice for this time.

May God bless you and your families

Lina Vigiotta

lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au
**FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**Netiquette** is network etiquette. The dos and don'ts of online communication!

Your child/ren should have brought home a responsible use of ICT form to sign. The purpose of this form is to ensure student well-being and to confirm they know how to use online programs confidently, safely and responsibly.

Sometimes it’s easy for children to forget that there is a real person on the other end of their Instant Messaging session, game or wall post. It’s easier for them to say and do things online that they might not do in ‘real life’. They may hurt another person’s feelings or be made to feel unsafe or embarrassed. It’s important that we encourage the children to treat people online the same way they would face to face.

For further information visit the e-safety website [https://esafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)

For specific children resources go to: [https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources](https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources)
For specific parent resources go to: [https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/parent-resources](https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/parent-resources)

With best wishes,
Lisa Harris
lisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au

---

**AWARDS:** This weeks awards are for: **“PROBLEM SOLVING”**

**KINDER/1 BLUE:** Scarlett C, Jack D

**KINDER/1 YELLOW:** Jennifer T, Sienna R

**YEAR 2 YELLOW:** Oscar O, Elle S

**YEAR 3 BLUE:** Charlie H, Taneisha P

**YEAR 4 BLUE:** Matthew J, Ella R

**YEAR 4 YELLOW:** Sharadda S, George B

**YEAR 5/6 BLUE:** Eloise C, Sienna P

**YEAR 5/6 YELLOW:** Tilly A, Claudia B

---

**BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to the following students celebrating their birthday over the coming week:

Riley B, Menard L, Emily M
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

REC Newsletter Week 2

“We are Missionaries of Mercy”
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor”.

(Luke 4:18)

Yesterday our children participated in Ash Wednesday liturgies, by either attending Mass or receiving the ashes during a Prayer Liturgy. As you may know Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Throughout Lent we will be using the newsletter and app to provide some information for ways that families can reflect and pray together at home during this special time.

A Prayer for Lent

Lord, please guide me this Lent,
remind me to pray to You,
To thank You, to love You, to hear from You
each and every day.

Amen

Whole School Focus

Prayer Celebrations for Term 1

| Week 5 – 4 Mar | 5/6 Blue – 24 Hours for the Lord |

Holy Week

We will be celebrating Holy Week at St Vincent’s during Week 8 and the start of Week 9. We will begin with a Palm Sunday prayer reflection on Monday 21 March at 12 Noon and continue each day until we celebrate the Resurrection on Tuesday 29 March. Each class group will lead one of the reflections. This information will be distributed as soon as it is decided. We will circulate the timetable via the app asap.

Beginning of Year School Mass

Our Beginning of Year School Mass will be celebrated next Thursday 18 February at 12:00 midday. Please note this new time and again we thank you for your understanding with the change of date. We warmly invite all parents, family and community members to join us.

Project Compassion 2016

St Vincent’s will be supporting Project Compassion in each and every classroom throughout Lent and we invite all families to join in. A new resource that we will be using that you could get at home is the Lent Calendar. It is a free app for the iPad or iPhone and be found by searching for Project Compassion in your app store. It delivers a reflection for each day of Lent. If your family would like to have its own Project Compassion collection box for home, they can be picked up at the Front Office.

Peace and best wishes,

Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH

LENTEN ACTIVITIES.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed in the Church every Wednesday at 6pm during Lent, beginning on Wednesday 17 February.
- There will also be an opportunity to participate in A LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP on a day of your preference at Aranda parish. We will be using the Wollongong Lenten Program 2016 Mercy with Fr Ken Barker MGL and Sister Hilda Scott OSB, Further information pending. Contact the office 62511525
- Some copies of CD for personal reflection ‘Merciful like the Father’ from Archdiocese Canberra & Goulburn with Archbishop Christopher Prowse based on the Sunday Gospel readings during Lent. Cost $5.00

REFLECTION EVENINGS during Lent in St Matthew’s Church Thursday 25 February & 10 March.

SECOND RITES OF RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER 7.30pm:
St Vincent de Paul, Aranda Wed 9 March
St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood, Thurs 17 March

CANTEEN

Order your children’s lunches online – www.flexischools.com.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MORNING 9.30-12.00</th>
<th>AFTERNOON 12.00-2.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 February 2016</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February 2016</td>
<td>4 Yellow</td>
<td>4 Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIFELINE CANBERRA BOOK FAIR

We would like to invite the staff, students and parents of the school to join us for our February Epic Bookfair, and be a part of the largest gathering of book-lovers in Canberra. There are over 250,000 books, comics, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records and more, at great prices.

**WHEN**
- Friday 12 Feb 2016 9am - 6pm
- Saturday 13 Feb 2016 9am - 5pm
- Sunday 14 Feb 2016 10am - 4pm

**WHERE**
Budawang Pavilion - Exhibition Park in Canberra

**MORE INFORMATION**
Saturday is Family Day with fun activities for the kids, including face painting, balloon modelling and a special treat from the Canberra Raiders! There’s plenty of free parking and entry is by gold coin donation. Proceeds from the Bookfair go straight to our 13 11 14 telephone crisis support service - helping to build a resilient community.

Are you the voice of tomorrow?

If you love to sing,

Woden Valley Youth Choir wants you.

WVYC has three choirs of young people from age 8 - 21. Members come from all over Canberra, not just Woden Valley and the choir currently rehearses in Weston Creek. There are currently vacancies in all three choirs. The next round of auditions will be held on February 27th. If you think you have what it takes, are not afraid of commitment and hard work, go to http://www.wvyc.org.au and click on “Joining” to get more information and register to audition.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Parents and Carers of children aged 2-10 years are invited to Bringing Up Great Kids a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation which will be presented by CatholicCare commencing WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2016 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is 3 hours per week over a 4 week period and the fee of $100 includes course materials and supper.

THE JOURNEY THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

Program for parents of Adolescents will be offered by CatholicCare commencing WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH 2016 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is run over 3 weeks and the fee of $80 includes course materials and supper. This course is suitable for parents of children in Primary School Years 5+6 and Secondary School Years 7-12.

Bookings are essential please contact 1800 068 698 free call

LEARNING CHINESE ON SITE AT THE SCHOOL

The FCCCI Chinese School is providing on site Chinese classes to our students three times a week in 2016, after school hours from 3.30-5.30pm in the Music/Italian room of St Vincent’s Primary School, with supervision from 3pm. The cost is $120 per term.

- The Monday class is for complete beginners without any Chinese background or experience.
- The Tuesday class is for elementary level students who have basic foundations.
- The Wednesday class is for intermediate level students who are slightly more advanced.

The program starts in week 1 of term 1 (first class on Monday 1 Feb 2016) however you can continue to enrol throughout the year. If you would like to enrol your children to the Chinese program for 2016, please contact Xiaoli Lin via email: linxiaoli@hotmail.com; or via phone on: 0413 288 021.

ST VINCENT’S SCHOOL BAND

The St Vincents school band will be back this year with rehearsals starting in week 3. New time for band practice is 8:30-9:00am on Friday mornings. If your child is currently having lessons, able to read music and interested in joining the band, please contact Kim Hughes at kimtheconqueror@yahoo.com.

The school also has a variety of music tutors available so if your child is interested in learning an instrument, see Mrs Watson in the Front Office for more information.
**St Vincent’s**

**Parents as Tutors Program**

We are currently organising for this valuable program to begin in 2016.

We would like to conduct the program on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9.00am – 9.40am,

with Thursday being introduced once these places are filled.

**help a child “Learn to Read .... Be a Capable Reader”**

The program will involve working with a child for 5-10 minutes using the guidelines outlined in our upcoming workshop. The time-frame would therefore allow you to work with two/three children per session.

This would be a great opportunity to be further involved with the school and know more of the children at St Vincent’s. A current Vulnerable People’s Card is all that is required and can be easily organised free of charge.

Could you please complete below and return to the school addressed to me by: **Wednesday February 17, 2016**. Alternatively, you could email this information to Rita.Evans@ce.catholic.edu.au I will be in contact with you as the timeslots and rosters are co-ordinated.

With Thanks

Rita Evans

---

Name: 

Child’s Name & Class: 

Preferred Contact Details:
- [ ] Note via my child
- [ ] Phone ____________________________
- [ ] Email ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENT AS TUTOR PROGRAM</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(please tick appropriate area/s)</td>
<td>9.00-9.40</td>
<td>9.00-9.40</td>
<td>9.00-9.40</td>
<td>9.00-9.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only when Mon-Wed is filled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- [ ] I am not available during these times but could assist with ____________________________

- [ ] I am not able to assist with this program at this time.

Signed: ____________________________
CANTEEN NEWS

A reminder that there will be NO canteen tomorrow due to the swimming carnival

Another reminder for parents who use Flexi-schools to update their children into the new class lists for 2016.

If you need instructions on how to set up Flexi-Schools for lunch orders please get an information sheet from the Front Office.

Thank you

Bronwyn Smith, Canteen Manager