FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

Yesterday we celebrated Harmony Day. We began the morning with a Harmony Day Assembly prepared by the IT and Marketing Team. What a delight it was to see many of our children dressed in clothing that is representative of their nationality, listen to our choir sing ‘Imagine’ (the song they sung at the opening of the Nara Peace Bell) and watch a Nepalese and African dance, performed by two of our Year 6 students, Sharadda and Lottie. Topping off the fun we had a Cultural Fun Food Day for lunch. Thankyou to Mrs Smith who cooked and served over 140 bowls of either Butter Chicken or Veggie Curry!

Next week we celebrate HOLY WEEK. As a leader of a Catholic school I feel privileged and am truly grateful to be able to walk the Easter story with my school family, the children, parents, staff and parishioners of St Vincent’s. I encourage you to join us. Every day next week at midday, a class group will lead us through an Easter reflection. I can assure you that participation in these reflections will enrich your Easter experience.

The ACT Catholic schools enrolment period is only a few weeks away. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, tell your colleagues St Vincent’s OPEN DAY is coming up soon. Although this day is often pitched to the 2019 Kindergarten student, families who are looking at the option of St Vincent’s for other grades are also welcome and encouraged to come for a walk through. Our Open Day this year invites preschoolers to experience some time in their future Kinder classroom.

Excursions are an integral part of the teaching and learning cycle at St Vincent’s and this week a number of classes have had the opportunity to broaden their learning through the opportunities planned by their teachers. Photos and reports later in this newsletter.

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING Congratulations to the 23 swimmers who will represent us at the regional competition held on Tuesday 27th March at the AIS. These students met the qualifying times to progress to the next level of competition. We wish them well for their events.

I look forward to welcoming families to next week’s Holy Week reflections and thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Lina Vigliotta
lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 25 March
Palm Sunday

Wed 28 March
Easter Egg Raffle
2pm

Friday 30 March
Good Friday Holiday

Monday 2 April
Easter Monday Holiday

Tuesday 3 April
School Photos

Wednesday 4 April
Athletics Carnival

Sunday 8 April
Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival

Friday 13 April
Last Day Term 1

PARISH OF ST MATTHEW’S AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil-6pm
Sunday-10am
Parish: 6251 1525
**ST VINCENT’S SPORT**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
- Belconnen Zone Swimming- Tuesday, 27 March (Please ensure you have returned your permission note and payment or advised Ms Luchetti if you are unable to attend)
- School Athletics Carnival- **Wednesday, 4 April 2018**
- Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival- Sunday, 8 April 2018- If you are interested in being the parent coordinator on the day, Ms Luchetti would love to hear from you. Teams will be announced this week.

*Ribbons for the Cross Country will be presented at Assembly this Friday, 23 March.*

Congratulations to all students for their fabulous running and cheering at the Cross Country carnival on Monday.

**TRIALS**

During the year various sports will be conducting trials, I will advertise these as they come up. The ACT School Sport web address is [https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/](https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/) if you would like to register your child for trials.

- ACT 12&U Boys basketball (please check school sports website for more details and registration)
- 12&U Belconnen Rugby League Trials next Tuesday and Wednesday

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**EASTER RAFFLE**

The SCC are holding an Easter Egg Raffle this year. To help support this fundraising effort we are asking that each child or family makes an Easter Egg donation. This can be given to your class teacher or dropped into the office any time before Tuesday 27 March. Raffle tickets were sent home on Tuesday. The raffle is scheduled to be drawn at 2pm on Wednesday 28 March (Week 8). Thank you in advance for your ongoing support in our fundraising ventures.

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**Year One Blue Excursion**

This term Year One Blue has been learning all about healthy food choices. This week we went on our excursion to the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets.

Lots of fun was had by all as we explored the markets. We classified each of the shops and sorted some of their produce into the five food groups.

After all of our hard work we ate our fruit break and had a play at the famous mushroom park.
Year 2’s Excursion to the Botanical Gardens

On Wednesday this week Year 2 Yellow visited the Botanical Gardens to participate in the 'Pond Dipping' and 'Habitat Hunters' educational programs. We discovered slaters, tadpoles, water divers and many more mini-beasts finding their home in a pond.

Our guide Barbara also led us in investigating the mini-beasts, animals and birds that inhabit the different biomes found within the Botanical Gardens. A great time was had by all!

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War Memorial Excursion
- Year 3 and 4

This Term Year 3 and 4 have been learning about events we Celebrate and events we Commemorate.

Our excursion to the War Memorial investigated the special Commemoration of ANZAC Day. The children explored the contribution and qualities of Australian servicemen and women and the enduring legacy of their service on our history.

During the program the students had the opportunity to write a personal commemorative message on a wooden cross, which will be placed on a grave of one of the fallen in a cemetery overseas.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear families and friends,

For a Sabbath Week it has been fairly busy! However today being Thursday we have Christian Meditation, a designated time to engage in stillness, silence and simplicity. I look forward to this time each week and I am trying to find more time throughout the day to meditate.

Radford Year 10 Drama Performances
St Vincent’s students were treated to performances by Year 10 drama students from Radford College this morning. Lots of laughter could be heard from the audience; it was a perfect event for Sabbath Week! It is great that we are able to open our doors to other members of our local community.

NAPLAN Practice Test
This morning our Year 5 students participated in a NAPLAN practice test. Today’s test did not assess student performance. It was an opportunity for the students to experience the types of items they will see on NAPLAN Online and related functionalities. Year 3 students will have opportunities to participate in practice tests over the coming weeks. I invite all parents, not just parents of students in Years 3 & 5, to become familiar with NAPLAN Online tests. You can do this by visiting the public demonstration site, http://bit.ly/naplanonline This level of familiarisation is worthwhile to help all students understand and be comfortable with the format of the online testing platform.

Earth Hour
Tomorrow, St Vincent’s students will participate in Earth Hour to show we care about our planet’s future. Millions of people around the world choose to mark Earth Hour by going ‘lights out’ for 60 minutes. From 1 – 2pm all classrooms will switch off lights and devices in support of this worthwhile cause.

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

AWARDS
We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

KINDER YELLOW: Lucy N, Nicole S
YEAR 1 BLUE: Emily H, Anik F, Rohan H
YEAR 2 YELLOW: Jennifer T, Zara M
YEAR 3 BLUE: Sam W, Jacob D, Finn M
YEAR 4 YELLOW: Tahlia T, Sarah M, Chloe P
YEAR 5 BLUE: Eleni M, Harry M
YEAR 6 YELLOW: Flynn R, Leah S
YEAR 6 BLUE: Daniel L, Lottie D

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

Maegan C, Jayla M
Palm Sunday
On Palm Sunday (25 March), at St Vincent’s Church 10am Mass, our children and families have been invited to participate in the Procession of the Palms. The children can form a block as part of the procession or stand with their families. We look forward to seeing many of our families at this important beginning of Holy Week.

Holy Week
This weekend marks the beginning of Holy Week, with the celebration of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds waving palm branches and proclaiming Jesus as the King. The next major event during Holy Week is Holy Thursday. On Holy Thursday Jesus shared the last meal together with his disciples (Jewish Passover) which was the first Eucharist. At this meal Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep. On Good Friday, the church, through the Stations of the Cross, commemorates Jesus’ arrest, his trial and crucifixion. Easter Sunday sees us celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

We will be reflecting on these important events next week. At 12pm, each day, our whole school community will gather to take part in Prayer Reflections led by each of the classes. We warmly invite and encourage any members of our community who are available, to attend these prayers. The details are in the table below, including where each reflection will be held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 26 March</th>
<th>Tues 27 March</th>
<th>Wed 28 March</th>
<th>Thurs 29 March</th>
<th>Tues 3 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K and Yr 6</td>
<td>Yr 3</td>
<td>Yr 4</td>
<td>Yr 5</td>
<td>Yr 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday in the Indigenous Garden</td>
<td>The Last Supper in the School Hall</td>
<td>The Garden in the Native Garden</td>
<td>The Stations of the Cross in the School Hall</td>
<td>The Resurrection in the School Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peace and best wishes,
Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

Canteen
Order your children’s lunches online – www.flexischools.com.au
This week’s Special is: Lenten Special-Fish & Salad-$4.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 March 2018</td>
<td>Kinder Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March 2018</td>
<td>Canteen Closed-Good Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.’
(Psalm 46:10)
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

SCHOOL STUDENT BANKING
Due to Easter there will be no School Banking next week.
Thanks

FROM THE PARISH
OF ST MATTHEW AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL

EASTER MASS TIMES
The Easter Triduum will be celebrated at St Matthew’s Church:
Holy Thursday- 29 March  Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.30pm
Good Friday -30 March Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm
Holy Saturday-31 March  Easter Vigil at 7.00pm
Easter Sunday Masses-St Matthew’s Church at 8.30am and St Vincent de Paul’s Church at 10.00am
Stations of the Cross on Good Friday- St Vincent de Paul’s Church at 11.00am

ALE APPRECIATION NIGHT
Back for its 4th year is the St Vincent’s Ale Appreciation Night.
Parents and friends are invited to come along and be educated about the history and science behind a selection of ales.
The evening will be hosted by our local brewer extraordinaire Mr Charlie Newton.
(This is a not for profit event)
When:  Friday, 23 March at 7:00pm
Where:  St Vincent’s
Cost:  $30-Includes pizza and beer tastings
RSVP:  hamish.meagher@cg.catholic.edu.au

ST VINCENT’S
SCHOOL PHOTOS
This year’s school photos are scheduled for the morning of
TUESDAY, 3 APRIL.

All children will need to wear their summer school uniform on the day.
The photo envelopes are due on Tuesday, 3 April and all children must return them either before the photo day or on the day, whether or not they are buying photos. Please have a look in your child’s bag if you haven’t received it.
Again this year, families have the option of having a family sibling photo. Forms for these photos are available from the Front Office. Please note that these need to be paid to the school separately and cash or credit card are the only forms of payment accepted.
If you are a split family and require an extra envelope, please contact the Front Office.
Thank you
Ride2school Day - Friday 23rd March

Our school is pleased to be part of the Ride or Walk to school program, encouraging our students to ride, walk, scoot, skate board or even roller-skate to school! Overwhelming evidence shows that kids who use active travel to get to school are more alert and ready to learn and it contributes to getting their recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Another big bonus is it reduces the number of cars coming to school each day for pick up and drop off. Even if it’s only part way, we’d love to see lots of our students riding and walking each day.

Larissa Dann

PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING (P.E.T)
Supported by Parentline ACT

Learn respectful communication skills for a peaceful, gentle approach to parenting, without the use of punishment or reward. P.E.T helps children and parents develop resilience, emotional intelligence, confidence and consideration. The course is powerful, proven and practical. Yell less, and enjoy your children more. Build relationships that last a lifetime.

For more information: visit www.parentskills.com.au; read P.E.T. on a Page; and join the Parent Skills Facebook community.

The 24 hour course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential.

$390 pp for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook).

Course begins: Tuesday, 8th May 2018 (minimum number of participants required); Time: 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm; Place: Weston, ACT.

Enjoy P.E.T. with Larissa Dann, accredited P.E.T. instructor.

Resource blogs: www.parentskills.com.au/blogs/larissa; Contact: info@parents skills.com.au
2019 Enrolment Period

*St John Paul II College* 2019 enrolment period will be from Monday 7 May – Friday 25 May 2018. Applications can be submitted during this time directly to the College office.

**Try High School Day – 6 April 2018**

We invite current year 6 students to join us for Try High School day on the 6th April 2018 from 9.45am to 12.30pm. Students will have the opportunity to meet some of our JPC students and staff. Become familiar with the layout of our school whilst having some fun and experiencing ‘classes’ in a high school setting.

Please register for this event through trybooking.com: [https://www.trybooking.com/UWLX](https://www.trybooking.com/UWLX)

*Note: Students from Gungahlin Catholic Primary Schools do not need to register – please speak to your school*

**Open Evening – Thursday 10 May 2018**

For year 7 and prospective new families in other school years. Tours and Information sessions will run every 1/2 hour starting from 4.00pm and the last tour will be at 6.00pm.

**Senior Information Evening – Thursday 17 May 2018**

Information session for students moving into Year 11 & new Year 12 students for enrolment in 2019

Tours & Information Expo – from 4.00pm in the Hall

Principals Address at 5.30pm

Visit [www.jpc.act.edu.au](http://www.jpc.act.edu.au) for all enrolment enquiries and the link for booking Try High School Day

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*St John Paul II College*

1021 Gungahlin Drive

NICHOLLS ACT 2913

Tel (02) 61634800