Message from Mrs Staines

Welcome back everyone. It has been an absolute delight to welcome your children back after the December/January break. Kindergarten have settled in beautifully and look like they are old hands. A warm welcome is extended to the new families and teachers who joined our community this year.

Staff were back last week to participate in 3 days of professional development and a spirituality day in the form of a staff retreat at Galong. During this time you were in our thoughts and prayers.

PIN - PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
We extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers to join us at an information evening on Tuesday 10 February at 6pm. During this time we will speak to topics of interest (raised by parents and teachers). If you would like to know more about something in particular we invite you to email your child’s teacher or the Front Office by Friday @ 10am. This will help to inform our presentation and/or feedback to individuals.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
As at the beginning of each school year, we need people to volunteer to help in the following ways. We need to have people nominate for

- Membership of the executive of the community council
- Parent representative for each class including a parent representative coordinator
- Classroom help (contact classroom teacher)
- Canteen

Each role is important and contributes enormously to the smooth running of our school community.

Diary Dates...

- **6th February**
  - Opening School Mass, 9.30am, Church
- **9th February**
  - Stage 2 & 3 iPad Bootcamp
- **10th February**
  - Parent Information Evening, 6pm.
- **14th February**
  - 8am Working Bee
- **15th February**
  - 10am Mass/School Welcome BBQ
WELCOME MASS AND BBQ
We are trialling a new idea to begin the school year by coming together for Mass with our Parish community. Everyone is therefore warmly invited to join us on Sunday 15th February at 10am for Mass and afterwards for the welcome BBQ.

During this mass new families and teachers will be welcomed. Our Kindergarten children will also receive a gift from the Parish Friendship group.

For catering purposes could you please RSVP to the school by Monday, 9th February if your family is able to attend the Mass and BBQ. We will also need some volunteers to help with: set up, cooking the BBQ and pack things away.

SAFETY REMINDERS
The drive through arrangement in the front car park is to provide parents and carers with an easy and safe way to collect children after school. We appreciate your patience and consideration of each other. We need everyone to cooperate and consider the needs of all.

Please try to remember: we are all in the same boat and carpark queues are frustrating; everyone is keen to collect children safely and quickly; cutting through the queue from the Church car park is essentially jumping the queue and not fair to everyone else who follows the correct procedures. At times there will be individuals who need to park or leave the car park and we really appreciate your willingness to accommodate these variations from time to time. When you need to park your car at pick-up time using the bottom region of the carpark would help.

ALL VISITORS NEED TO SIGN IN …
We remind parents and carers that all visitors need to enter the building through the main entrance and sign in at the Front Office during school hours. All other doors are locked from the outside during class times. This procedure is extremely important as it helps us to keep your children safe and in case of emergencies we know who is on the school premises.

If you are filling in the slip at the Front Office for late arrival or early pick-up we need an explanation for our official records. If it is not filled in you will receive an unexplained absence letter when teachers are following up their record of attendance for their class.

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PROWSE REGARDING THE LENTEN SEASON.

Dear Friends,
The Lenten season is soon to begin – Ash Wednesday is 18th February 2015.

As we return to our normal routines, let us prepare in our various communities for this season that recalls our Baptism and stresses its penitential dimension. It is a time of conversion as we prepare for the saving events of our salvation at Easter.

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message for this year, http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html, highlights that Lent is a time of conversion against globalised indifference to those who suffer. The Pope writes: “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Could I ask all in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to prepare now to enter into this penitential season. I attach information regarding the Lenten requirements. Could I also encourage Project Compassion (Caritas) as a pre-eminent way to respond practically to those who suffer. Having recently returned from Beirut, Lebanon, I have seen first-hand the wonderful practical ways that Caritas helps those who are so fragile in our troubled world.

May God bless you, your families, parishes and communities during 2015.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Religious Education News

A warm welcome back to you as we begin a new school year. I hope that you all enjoyed the school holidays and the opportunities it provided to spend quality time with your family and friends.

As a Parish School OUR PARISH VISION for 2015 is:

All the Church - we WORSHIP with an open heart.
All the Gospel - we celebrate the WORD with joy.
All the People - we care for the WELFARE of all.
All the Time - we WITNESS His love in all we do.

Our opening school mass will be celebrated tomorrow, Friday 6th February at 9.30am. At this Mass, our Year 6 leaders will receive their Leadership Badges.

May a spirit of generosity and goodwill prevail in our school throughout this year so that the Catholic education that occurs here is truly an expression of Jesus’ mission. May the special character of our Christian Community be of benefit to the broader community around us.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, FOREVER, Katie Smith, Religious Education Coordinator

A Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers.

We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer holiday.

We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.

Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.

Help us to fulfill your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith.

Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others.

We ask through your name, AMEN

Working Bee Saturday, 14th February 8am -11am - Environmental Garden.

I would ask that as many adults as possible could attend this vital working bee. Matthew Doherty has donated some soil and his tipper truck for the morning therefore we need at least 8 wheelbarrows and shovels. We will be loading the wheelbarrows and tipping them into the new garden beds. In some cases this will mean two people lifting the wheelbarrow and tipping the soil into the garden beds as the garden beds are at five various heights. If you able to assist please the Front Office. The more people that attend the quicker the job will be done. It is the only job to be done. Thank you for your anticipated response. John Bourke, Coordinator

Call for Expressions of Interest for the Sacramental Program Coordinator Position.

Our Parish based family program provides a spiritually enriching sacramental experience as preparation for First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation. We require a committed person/team of people to lead the existing program. Remuneration negotiable. Please contact Fr Richard 6286 1908 or Bern Bryant (Parish Pastoral Council Chair) 0417415706 to discuss further. Applications close COB 25th February 2015.
Canteen Roster - Week 2, Term

In 2015 the Canteen will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It will not be open on Wednesdays.

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<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday, 9th</th>
<th>Tuesday, 10th</th>
<th>Thursday, 12th</th>
<th>Friday, 13th</th>
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<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>Sonia Zilic</td>
<td>Mary-Anne Reitveld</td>
<td>Lena Sergi</td>
<td>Lena Sergi</td>
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<td>12pm-2pm</td>
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CLOTHING POOL
The Clothing Pool will be open Friday 6th February from 2.45 - 3.30pm. New and quality second hand school clothing are available. Uniform orders can be left at the Front Office, with payment in full by cash, cheque, or credit card ($2 transaction fee applies) and it will be delivered to your child’s class on Friday. Hats are usually available at the Front Office (exact money please). Thanks to all the helpers, your work is very much appreciated. Any queries please contact me on 6287 5885. Lauren Maguire, Clothing Pool Coordinator

Help please - Are you looking to help out at the school, but don’t have a lot of time to give? Why not join the team at the clothing pool No experience required as all training is provided. Usually you only have to help out about 3-4 times a term - less if we have enough volunteers. Please email me at lauren.maguire2@bigpond.com if you would like to help out.

Saturday is Family Day with fun activities for the kids and a special appearance by Prime Possum at 10am.

Entry by gold coin donation. Proceeds go towards Lifeline Canberra’s 13 11 14 telephone crisis support service - saving lives in our community.

For more information please visit our website: www.act.lifeline.org.au/item/lifeline-epic-bookfair
Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday this week and during the holidays: **Emma Fouracre, Zachary Thomas, Tom Evenden, Allegra Liakos, Arabelle Eve, Hunter McLachlan, Maddison Cameron, Liam Stoove, Shennelle De Silva, Ethan Morton, Piper Gaskin, Laura Harris, Tejas Nambissan, Kai Muscat, Catherine Bastiaans, Alexander Tryon, Daniel Lane, Sascha Krauss, Ioannis Manouras, Annabel Stooce, Laura Kelly, Samuel Filipovic, James Guthrie, Sophie Davis, Jorge Arguello Flores, Cerys Simmons, Tiana Angelos, Aaron Lloyd, Kiefer Brennan, Killian Menzies, Mikaela Warylo, Thomas Whalan, Holly Verlin, Jaquin Corbit, Eleanor Gibbons, Layla Vecchi, Xavier Robens, Alicia Thomas, Gabrielle Skillicorn, Matthew Copat, Anna-Jane Ryan, Selena Lanzetta, Elsie D’ambrosia, Jasmine Phillips, Lachlan Smith and Maya Smith.**