Let Mercy live among us

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Open House and BBQ last Thursday evening. We had a lovely time together as families and staff, meeting new people and enjoying the excitement of a new year ahead.

Thank you to those who helped cook and serve our BBQ. Thanks to the Parents & Friends Committee (P&F) for supplying the beautiful sausages from Griffith’s Butchers.

All notes that were distributed during the evening or sent home are also available in the Notes for Parents section of our school website www.stbenedicts.act.edu.au.

Our New Courtyard Markings
Thank you to the P&F who have assisted in funding the new courtyard markings for students to play on/with every morning and through selected times during the day. They include a chessboard for our giant chess set, a dart board, some hopscotch panels and some four-square courts.

Thank you to Kirrilly Morrison for making the bean bags for use with the markings.

Harmony Day Celebration
This year we are celebrating diversity and the Harmony Day theme for 2016 is ‘Our diversity is our strength’. We know that many of our students come from a rich background of various cultures and we would like to create an opportunity to celebrate this and learn about them.

On 21st March we would like every child to come to school wearing something or bringing something that reflects the cultural background of themselves or their parents or grandparents.

It is an opportunity for every child to learn more about and identify with their family histories and culture.

Parent Partnership Week
We were to have Parent Partnership Week this week. It has been postponed until Week 10, 4th – 8th April. Our guest speaker, Kaye Lowe, is available at this time to run a session with parents on learning to read.

Parents and Friends Committee
Thank you to the following people who have accepted roles on the Parents & Friends Committee, determined last night at the AGM.

Tracy Kraljevic (President)
We are still looking to fill the positions of:

- Vice President
- Family Sport Coordinator

If you are interested in filling one of these roles please contact Belinda in the Front Office.

School Board
Pru McPherson and Paul Ogden, two of our long-serving members of the School Board will complete their terms on the Board during April.

I sincerely thank them for their enthusiasm, positivity, energy and hard work during this time, helping to shape the school we enjoy today. As a result we are seeking nominations from the parent community to fill two positions on the School Board commencing Term 2.

A note about School Board nominations will go home with students today.

Enjoy the last throes of summer!

Matthew Garton
Principal

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

Ash Wednesday
Thank you to all who helped to prepare and lead our Ash Wednesday Mass last week. It was a particularly prayerful Mass and we thank the children for their reverent participation.

Project Compassion
Our school was visited yesterday by Lulu from Caritas and she brought with her Martin from Malawi. He is featured in this year’s Project Compassion video series. He brought home the reality of the poverty and challenges faced by so many people in other countries. Students in 5/6 were particularly inspired to be ensuring their Project Compassion money boxes are filled by the end of Lent to help those in need. How is your money box going? I’ve taken to popping the gold coins that I receive in change in my Project Compassion box and it’s filling surprisingly quickly.

Find out more about what Caritas is doing in Malawi: https://youtu.be/7xbGfmVfV_g

First Reconciliation
A reminder that all First Reconciliation candidates and their families will be participating in the St Benedict’s Parish Year of Mercy Retreat this Saturday, 20th February. We will meet in the Parish Centre at 9:00am.

Enrolment forms for expressions of interest in the St Benedict’s Parish Sacramental Programs have been sent home and need to be returned as soon as possible. Copies of this are also available on the website.

Mission Opportunities
Communities in Asia, Pacific and Africa are asking for teachers, health and community development workers, administrators, agricultural workers and others. You can assist to mentor local workers in your field of expertise. This will provide opportunities for individuals who have not had the advantage of an Australian education; improve the operations of organisations in vital sectors of local communities and so assist poverty reduction.

If you are unsure about long term volunteering, come and join us for a 13-day guided tour in Timor Leste, which provides an insight into the daily life and work of the communities where our Palms volunteers are hosted.

11th – 23rd April 2016
4th – 16th July 2016
26th September – 8th October 2016
There are limited places. Enquires need to be processed by February 22nd so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online: [www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters)

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator

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**CANTEEN**

**FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 9.00am – 11.30am**
Mary Anne Fletcher
Currently Vacant
**11.30am – 2.00pm**
Sylvie Rodier
Currently Vacant

**MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 9.00am – 11.30am**
Sonia Domitrak
Currently Vacant
**11.30am – 2.00pm**
Sylvie Rodier
Currently Vacant

Thank you for all help given.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager

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**Happy Birthday** to the following children who celebrated their special day last week and this week:
Lewis A, Troy J, Finn W, Cooper E and Michael T.

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**AWARDS OF THE WEEK**

KINDERGARTEN  Peter C, Ruby S
YEAR 1   Isabelle H, Xavier D, Edith B, Zack W
YEAR 2   Jade C, Michael T
YEAR 3/4E  Anshu S, Imogen B
YEAR 3/4B  Lara H, Julia N, Daniel N
YEAR 5/6S  Nikita S, Charlotte G
YEAR 5/6Y  Josephine S, Djanaya B

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**HOUSE POINTS**
The points for Week 2, Term 1 were Murrumai on 3,130, Arakoola on 2,020 and Tangara on 2,220.

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**CONGRATULATIONS to our winners:**
Murrumai on 3,130!

Well done to **Yr 1** who earned the most house points (3,200)!

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**Weekly Notes**
The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website.

- Book Club order –
  Due by Monday 22nd February
- Swimming Carnival Sausage Sizzle
  Due by Monday 22nd February
- School Banking – Each Wednesday
- School Fees
- School Board Nominations

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**Dates to Remember**

- 20 February – First Reconciliation Retreat
- 23 February – Swimming Carnival
- 21 March – Harmony Day
- 4-8 April – Parent Partnership Week

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**Lost and Found Items**

*Lost:* On Thursday a silver watch was lost on the school grounds.

*Found:* Earring, necklace and car charger.

If you are missing items or have found the watch please come to the Front Office.

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**The Journey THROUGH ADOLESCENCE**
The Program is called The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP – P). This program is suitable for parents and carers of children attending primary school years 5 & 6 and secondary school students attending years 7–12.
Nurturing personal and academic growth
from Kindergarten to Year 6

RAP – P will help you:
- Help your teenager to develop a healthy self-esteem
- Help your teenager to gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family
- Manage your stress so you can do your best job as a parent
- Prevent and manage conflict with you teenager
- Promote harmony in your family

The course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3 week period.
DATES: 23rd, 30th March & 6th April
TIME: 6pm—9pm
VENUE: 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill
FEE: $80 (Concessions available) Fee includes light supper & course materials

Bookings Essential Contact 6162 6100
6162 6100

**Woden Valley Soccer Club**
*Incorporating Juniors (U5-18), Mens and Womens State League and Mens Masters Teams in 2016*
Join the largest Junior Soccer Club in ACT!

www.wvfootball.com.au
Registration for 2016 Now open.
Closing Date: 10th March for Juniors
U10-18 Trials for Division 1 and 2 players commence 29th February. Players must be registered for the 2016 season with WVSC to attend.
Please email admin@wvsc.org.au for senior team information.
To Register:
1. Log into the players section of MyFootballClub:
   www.myfootballclub.com.au
2. Select “Woden Valley SC”
3. Select your age group for 2016
4. Register and pay
If you would like to know more, come along to our
WVSC Open Day
Date: Saturday 20th February
Time: 12 to 3 pm

Venue: WVSC Clubhouse
Mawson Playing Fields, off Beasley Street
2016 Season
Seniors Commence 2nd/3rd April
Juniors Commence Saturday 30th April

**Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?**
Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.
You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work, and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Aoife Berenger, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 6283 7606 / 0448 730 305
or aoife.berenger@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across Australia and the Queensland region by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

For any queries please email admin@wvsc.org.au

**VIOLIN TUTORING**
Violin lessons are available at St Benedict’s with Mr Matthew Foster.
For more information please call – 0431683980 or visit the following website: www.mfviolin.com
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.
COME AND JOIN YOUR LOCAL PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB!

NARRABUNDAH PANTHERS

Register now for the 2016 season

Boys and girls aged from U5 to U18

Register online before the 28 February for Miniroos (U5 to U9) or Junior (U10 – U18) at www.monaropanthers.com.au

Trials for U10 - U18 start 16 February

See website for more details!

Season starts Saturday, 30 April 2016

More information www.monaropanthers.com.au

Mum and Dad

You don’t have to miss out! With men and women’s teams in the State and Masters leagues, there’ll be a team for you too!

registrar@monaropanthers.com.au

communityleague@monaropanthers.com.au

Nurturing personal and academic growth

from Kindergarten to Year 6