Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a wonderful swimming carnival yesterday. It was such a lovely day. The highlights for me were the way that students cheered each other on and the wonderful support from parents who helped. Thank you to those parents who asked ‘what can I do to help?’ and in doing so ensured a smooth and enjoyable day for other children as well as their own.

Parents & Friends
Lorne Thurgar (father of Michael in Year 2 and David in Year 3) has nominated and been accepted for the position of Vice President of the Parents & Friends Committee. Thank you Lorne and we look forward to your contribution in supporting families in our community.

Harmony Day Celebration Reminder
This year we celebrate 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.

Catholic Schools Week
Catholic Schools Week is coming up. It is a time to recognise the work we do in our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools and we will celebrate a number of ways:

- Monday 7th March: Maths Mania: Whole school mathematical problem solving fun in mixed age groups.
- Tuesday 8th March: Italian and the Arts Day: Ms Berry and Signora Marzano will combine their work with students to celebrate Italian culture and the performing arts. We will also introduce the Italian version of our school prayer.

Let Mercy live among us
• **Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} March: Celebrating Reading:** All students will be involved in a variety of reading experiences throughout the day, including reading outdoors. Keep an eye out for information about a Book Drive.

• **Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} March: Publication Celebration:** Students will invite parents to share in their first published pieces for the year.

• **Friday 11\textsuperscript{th} March: Open Day – Primary Learning Program:** Our Year 3 – 6 classes will open for the morning to allow for local families to come to see what we do here at St Benedict’s.

**Lunch time Clubs**

**St. Benedict’s Term 1 Lunchtime Clubs**

<table>
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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Club</td>
<td>Music Club</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>Lunch Budsies</td>
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<td>Kinder – Year 6</td>
<td>Year 6 Leaders</td>
<td>Kinder – Year 6</td>
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<td>Mrs Anderson</td>
<td>Mr Miller</td>
<td>Mrs Anderson</td>
<td>Year 6 Leaders</td>
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<td>S42 Classroom</td>
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Below is a list of the lunchtime clubs that our teachers offer for students. The purpose of the lunch time clubs is to provide opportunities for students to meet others with similar interests to themselves and explore their interests in a way that is relaxed and fun. These clubs are generously provided by the teachers and Year 6 leaders in their own lunch times and as such may occasionally not occur due to other commitments.

**Courtyard Gate**

Each morning the teacher on duty will open the courtyard gate that opens out to the bin area. It will then be locked again after when we line up for morning assembly. This is to assist those students who walk or ride to school, especially those who traverse the crossing, to enter the school grounds without negotiating the carpark.

Thank you for your ongoing care and partnership in your child’s learning.

Matthew Garton

Principal
**Project Compassion**  
**Week 2: Hum Noy’s story - Laos**  
**Knowledge helps our children grow**

Duangmala wishes for a bright future for her eight-year-old son Hum Noy, who is living with a disability. But faced with discrimination and limited learning opportunities, Duangmala feared he might never reach his full potential. Thankfully, a program supported by Caritas Australia has opened up a world of change for this small family.

*I just want him to be able to communicate, talk and understand me... I want him to have friends.*

Duangmala

Duangmala wished for a bright future for her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, who has Down Syndrome. However, she feared he would remain isolated and never reach his full potential due to a lack of support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos.

Thankfully, everything changed when Duangmala and Hum Noy were introduced to the Intellectual Disabilities Unit, which was set up by the Lao Disabled People’s Association with the support of Caritas Australia. This specialised school provides learning support and nurturing care to 50 children with intellectual disabilities in the Laos capital, Vientiane.

Since starting school, Hum Noy’s behaviour and abilities have changed remarkably. He is no longer isolated, lonely or frustrated, and his communication skills have advanced quickly. “Hum Noy is learning how to follow instructions and say the names of his teachers and friends,” says Duangmala proudly. “He likes to draw, play instruments, and when they do aerobics he joins in!”

The program has also opened new opportunities for Duangmala, who received training to become a teacher at Hum Noy’s school. Now, she is hopeful that her son and his classmates can lead more prosperous, fulfilling lives. “It’s important to use our knowledge to help our children grow and develop,” she says. “We are lucky to have this program.”

*I’m proud that my child has a chance to learn and that I am able to help other children through my work.* - Duangmala

See Hum Noy’s story: [https://youtu.be/5s0foikObow](https://youtu.be/5s0foikObow)

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**First Reconciliation**

Thank you to those families who made the most of the opportunity to participate in the Year of Mercy Retreat held in our Parish last weekend. It was a fabulous day and so many people commented on how special it was to pause, learn and pray together.

This coming Sunday, 28th February, will see us gather again to discuss Reconciliation and its place in our lives as Catholics. Children and at least one parent are asked to attend 9:00am Mass and the information session afterwards. See you there! 😊

Meaghan Younger  
*Religious Education Coordinator*
Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their special day last week and this week: Cara H, Taylah G and Bridie L.

Happy Birthday

Weekly Notes

The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website:

- Kindergarten Health Checks – Due by 25th February
- RedGum Book Order – Due by 7th March
- Yr 6 Leader Shirts – Due by 26th February
- Sacramental Information
- Soccer Carnival Volunteers

Dates to Remember

- 4th March – Friday Mass 10am
- 4th March – Ride to School Day
- 6th March – First Reconciliation
- 8th March – School Board AGM 6pm
- 21 March – Harmony Day
- 3rd April – Soccer Carnival
- 4th – 6th April – Yr 5/6 Camp
- 4th – 8th April – Parent Parnership Week

AWARDS OF THE WEEK

KINDERGARTEN
- Amelia J, Alec C

YEAR 1
- Ciru N, Ava DeM, Angus C and William C

YEAR 2
- Michael T, Claudia K and Matthew S

YEAR 3/4E
- Riley W, Joel T and Tahnee T

YEAR 3/4B
- Gabriella S, Zara S and Jessica R

YEAR 5/6Y
- Amber T, Mia C, Liam W and Reimer DeG

HOUSE POINTS

The points for Week 3, Term 1 were Murrmai on 5,302, Arakoola on 3,850 and Tangara on 3,740.

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners:
Murrmai on 5,302!

Well done to Yr5/6S who earned the most house points (2,390)!

Thank you for all help given.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager
**COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**

**Lost and Found Items**
*Lost:* 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.

**Alter Server Training**
St Benedict’s Parish will be running Altar Server training for all existing and interested altar servers after the 9am Mass this Sunday (28th February). All children who have made their First Communion and would like to serve at Parish or School Masses are invited to attend. For further details please contact Helen on 0407 953 812.

**Holiday Programs**

**SWISH Education**
Is running a 3D Printing workshops these coming holidays for students in yrs 2-6. As with all of our workshops the cost is $98 per workshops with CCB and CCR available. A SWISH day runs from 8.30am to 5.30pm and all bookings can be made on our website at [www.swisheducation.edu.au](http://www.swisheducation.edu.au)

The 3D printing workshops will use the CEL ROBOX printers and all students will take something made on the printers home. We would greatly appreciate it if you could let the gifted and talented students at your school know about these workshops.
Please do not hesitate in contacting me via email or mobile on 0412402204 if you have any questions.

*Rebecca Evans*
**Director Education**
**SWISH Education**

**Canberra / Queanbeyan School Holiday Workshops**
We will be running children’s workshops in the ACT area again. We can come to your centre or you are welcome to come to visit us for an excursion.

Please find enclosed some information for the types of workshops we can offer.

Popular session times are:
10am - 12pm / 1pm - 3pm / 4pm - 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Booking dates are as follows:
**Monday April 11th to Friday April 15th, 2016**

**Popular Incursion Workshops:**

1. Lego Construction / Star Wars Battles
2. Clay Model Making
3. Beading, Jewellery & Loom Bands
4. Recycled Craft
5. T-Shirt Painting (You are welcome to supply your own T-Shirts or our wholesale prices are only $3 each (Inc. GST)
6. Ancient Egypt

**Workshops:** The cost is only $135 per hour x 2 hours = $270 plus GST

To make a booking / check availability - please email Rita: admin2@cartoonkingdom.com.au

**Excursion to our Canberra / Queanbeyan Cartooning Camp:**
We also will be running our Cartoon Workshops again in Queanbeyan.
Your group is welcome to come for a one day excursion to our centre.
The cost is only $11 per child and the carers are free.
We open our doors to other groups on **Friday April 15th** to our popular Market Day.

To make a group booking - please email Sylvia: admin5@cartoonkingdom.com.au
We can welcome you from 10am - 2.30pm on the Friday
OLD CANBERRANS’ TWILIGHT HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY
4 WEEK PROGRAM

DATES: Friday 26th Feb, and 4th, 11th & 18th March
TIME: 5:30- 6:30pm
WHERE: Telopea Park School
COST: $5 Donation Towards future development of OCHC Hook In 2 Hockey Program.

Open to all kids aged 6-10, Beginners welcome

◆ Bring a friend
◆ Learn new skills
◆ Have Fun
◆ Get Active!

For more information, Contact Brent Deans
0424 341 104 or brentdeans@mail.com

www.ochc.com.au
The SunSmart App for Smartphones
Search for the SunSmart app on your Smartphone to check the UV Alert daily, set sunscreen reminders and track your vitamin D intake.


Save $$ With Our Early Bird Entry!
We're excited to announce that Early Bird entries are now open for the Australian Running Festival!

Canberra is set to come alive on April 9th and 10th, 2016 with thousands of runners joining us to take part in The Ultra Marathon, The Canberra Times Canberra Marathon, The Half Marathon, 10km and 5km Fun Runs.

Combat those Christmas calories and kick off the new year by setting yourself a fitness goal to work towards - get in while there's plenty of time to train.

Relive the experience. Check out the 2015 video here.

Save on your entry fee for 2016 by taking advantage of our Early Bird Entry Price.