Let Mercy live among us

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to our Soccer Carnival Committee who has been working hard behind the scenes to organise this important event. It requires a lot of work and I appreciate all of the effort that the team is making. It will be an excellent day. I ask all families to please consider putting in the volunteer registration forms that were sent out earlier this term. New ones can be printed from our school’s website. Every child will benefit from the funds raised through this Carnival for many years to come.

More exciting news is that Michelle Heyman, striker for The Matilda’s, is agreed to be the ambassador for the Soccer Carnival. We thank Michelle for her encouragement and support throughout the lead up to the carnival.

New school timetable
Beginning next week and for the remainder of this term we will trial a new school timetable. There are no changes to the timetable that impact on the start and end to the day but there are some simple changes for classes that parents would be wise to be aware of.

With the changes to the Australian Curriculum and the implementation of more focused strategies for literacy and numeracy development we would like to reserve more significant time for learning during the earlier stages of the day, the prime learning time, before children tire out.

The school day will look as follows:
- The morning bell will ring at 8.55am in order to line up and have morning assembly before going into class.
- This will be followed by a two hour block from 9.00am to 11.00am that will largely be used to teach the English curriculum.
- Recess will follow from 11.00am to 11.30am, involving 15 minutes of play then 15 minutes of eating time as we have been doing since the middle of last year.
- After this, students will undertake another two hour block from 11.30am to 1.30pm that will be made up of mostly Mathematics, followed by some Religious Education.
- Students will then eat lunch from 1.30pm to 1.40pm and play for 30 minutes.
- At 2.10pm students will go into class and undertake a short 1 hour block of learning time involving an inquiry into an area of Health, Science, History, Geography and other areas of the curriculum.

As you can see, the only real change to the timetable is pushing back lunch for half an hour.

Nurturing personal and academic growth...
...a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.
This general timetable will be interspersed with lessons such as Gymnastics, Library, Performing Arts and Italian. However, the new timetable will allow for more focused and uninterrupted time on literacy and numeracy development.

**Will students get hungry?**

We have noticed that many of our students prefer to eat earlier in the day than later. We will ensure that fruit break occurs at the beginning of each day and that at Recess students are encouraged to eat well. Parents are encouraged to consider ensuring that their child has substantial food for Recess and that the children understand that they can eat as much as they need earlier in the day, saving smaller portions for lunch time if they wish.

It will take a little time for the teachers and students to get used to the change; however, we are confident that students will reap the reward of receiving more opportunity for focused instruction earlier in the day. We will review the new timetable at the end of this term and make any relevant changes.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Matthew Garton
Principal

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**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Project Compassion**

**Dominic's story - Papua New Guinea**

Creating a harmonious future

Participating in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program has empowered Dominic and the people of his village to create a new way of life, far from the violence and gender inequality of the past. I find much happiness when I see my community in peace, and my children safe.”

Dominic

Read more about Dominic and his story at http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-3-dominic

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**First Reconciliation**

We keep in our prayers Sebastian, Layla, John, Claudia, Teresa, Grace, Ashley, Marcello, Johny, Maxima, Ventura, David and Jacinta as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend.

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**First Friday Mass**

This coming Friday, 4th March, is our First Friday Mass for the month of March. Our focus will be on Catholic Schools’ Week, which is celebrated 6th – 12th March. Yrs 5/6 have prepared this Mass. Parents are most welcome to join staff after Mass for morning tea in the Library.

Meaghan Younger

Religious Education Coordinator
Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their special day this week: Alain K, Amelia J, Jessica R and Mia B.

**Weekly Notes**

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

- Yr 5/6 Excursion National Gallery of Aust. – Due by 7th March
- Canteen Special Lunch Day – Friday 18th March – Notes Due by Monday 14th March

**Dates to Remember**

- 4th March – Friday Mass 10am
- 4th March – Ride to School Day
- 6th March – First Reconciliation
- 8th March – School Board 6pm
- 11th March – School Open Day 9am-12pm
- 16th March – Yr 5/6 Excursion – NGA
- 18th March – Canteen Special Lunch Day
- 21 March = Harmony Day

- 3rd April – Soccer Carnival
- 4th – 6th April – Yr 5/6 Camp
- 4th–8th April – Parent Partnership Week

**AWARDS OF THE WEEK**

| KINDERGARTEN | Tessa P and Alec C |
| YEAR 1       | Lucia M, James N and Angus C |
| YEAR 2       | Hugo R and Lailani A |
| YEAR 3/4E    | Taylah G and April A |
| YEAR 3/4B    | Jordan C, David T and Zara S |
| YEAR 5/6S    | Michala O |
| YEAR 5/6Y    | Georgina K, Alexander M, Nandan T and Sophie B |

**HOUSE POINTS**

The points for Week 3, Term 1 were Murrumai on 6,002, Arakoola on 4,200 and Tangara on 3,740.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our winners:**

Murrumai on 6,002!

Well done to Yr 1 who earned the most house points (800)!

**Clothing Pool**

The school Clothing Pool will be opened each Friday straight after assembly, 2.50pm to 3.15pm.

**Student Banking**

School Banking 2016 is set for the Outback.

A Taree student was the winner of the 2015 Disney Land competition – wow what a lucky girl...

This year there is a family trip to Australia Zoo, where you’ll get to meet Bindi and Robert Irwin plus much, much more.

Bankers need to make 15 or more deposits by the end of Term 3 2016 and they will automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

Good luck...
Lost and Found Items

Found: Earring, necklace, Silver watch and car charger.
If you are missing items or have found the watch please come to the Front Office.

THINKUKNOW PRESENTATION @ SFX

ThinkUKnow is an internet safety initiative which aims to raise awareness of the issues which young people face online and whilst using mobile phones. It is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia, and is now proudly supported by ninemsn and Datacom.

St Francis Xavier College will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on **Wednesday 9 March at 6pm, in the College Theatre** and all parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend. This presentation will cover topics such as how young people are using technology to have fun, online grooming, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content and e-security.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about how young people have fun online, how you can help them to stay in control on the net, and how to report a problem.

**The presentation is tailored for the adult audience and we ask that young people are not present.**

For more information, you can visit the ThinkUKnow Australia website at [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au) or contact Sue Sturgiss, AP Student Wellbeing, on 6258 1055.

Please RSVP by Monday 7 March to school.office@sfx.act.edu.au, or by phone to 6258 1055.

We look forward to seeing you all at the presentation.
St Benedict’s Primary School
Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah

Catholic Schools Week
OPEN DAY

Friday 11th March
9am - 12pm

Visit our Years 3-6 Primary Program
A school community where every student
builds confidence, character, independence and leadership

“Providing high quality care and educational programs for children from birth to 6 years”

Vacancies Available. Enquire Now!

Symonston Kinder Haven
A: 22 Wormald Street, Symonston
P: 6228 1544
E: symonston@kinderhaven.com.au
www.kinderhaven.com.au
Eastern Suburbs Juniors Rugby Club is a local non-profit sporting club.

We promote a positive and friendly environment for primary school kids to come and play and enjoy the game of rugby!

Your school is in our catchment area and we would like to provide you with some take home postcard flyers to distribute to your students through their individual class teachers.

All the latest information regarding the club can be found on our website at http://www.eastsjrc.com/.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you would like to discuss any of the above further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0400 123 681, or by e-mail.
LEARN NEW SKILLS AND IMPROVE YOUR GAME! 3 DAY SPORTS CAMPS 6 TO 16 YEAR-OLD GIRLS AND BOYS

Learn and develop sporting skills with a quality three-day coaching experience for players of all standards. Our structured skill development programs are delivered by a panel of experienced and talented coaches at first-class facilities. Providing that extra WOW factor for the kids, our coaches are supported by guest appearances from top level state and national sports men and women. Also, we always ensure that children are placed in age, friendship and skill appropriate groups.

For more details regarding our camps and coaching panels, please visit our website australiansports camps.com.au or call 1300 914 968 or email admin@australiasports camps.com.au