FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I write this piece from the brand spanking new administration section of our school. Whilst we are not entirely bunkered in with all our fixtures and fittings we are able to enjoy what is already on offer which we hope will make things run smoother for all the organisation of our school and will be of improved benefit to parents, teachers and students. It has been wonderful that we can fit our whole staff in our new staffroom as opposed to the previous system of eating in alphabetical order! It is our intention that some parent meetings will also be held in the staffroom. Please be assured your school fees have not been used for Foxtel in the staffroom during the cricket World Cup! I'm sure parents are also appreciating the easy access to the front office from Hill St. Just be careful with parking restrictions!

Whilst we are very proud of what is taking place in our school with regard to new buildings please be assured that this has not activated an "open door" policy with regard to enrolments. As principal I have no intention of "chasing enrolments" simply to fill our bigger spaces. We will only be enrolling families who have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith and the Catholic school system. For a variety of reasons our enrolments in classes vary greatly from 19 students in each Grade 6 class to 30 in each Grade 2. Amazingly in the 1950's and 1960's some class sizes varied between 40 and 60 students in one class! It is our desire to offer all students a quality education in the most caring environment we can provide.

Michael Croke

The Cross

We seem to forget that God calls upon us to take our Cross, and that this Cross must be composed of something; that He requires of us constant watchfulness over our thoughts and words.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Student of the Week: Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week:


New Grant Committee: There are many grants that are offered by Government, Local Council and private enterprise that benefit School communities. We are looking at setting up a committee involving parents who are interested in applying for these grants. If you are interested in being part of this committee please contact me via the school office.

Parent Information Nights: There was a lot of positive feedback from our Parent Information Night for Year 2 – Year 6 last Tuesday night. Hopefully the information was helpful and the new format made it easier for families. This is just one way we encourage communication between parents and teachers to benefit your children. There will be an opportunity for one on one parent teacher interviews in the coming weeks.

- 3B - Week 5 - (Monday 23rd - Friday 27th February) in the Meeting Room at Hill Street
- Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 - Week 7 - (Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March) In their classrooms
- Year 3 - Year 6 - Week 8 - (Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - in Kenna Hall

Please note this year you will receive details of how to book the interviews online. This will simplify the booking process. If you do not have access to the internet you are able to book through the school office.

School Swimming Carnival:
Our carnival will be held on Thursday 19th February at the Orange Aquatic Centre. Thank you to parents who have volunteered to help out on the day. A note went home yesterday to specify your job. If you didn’t receive a note we did not receive your offer to help! If this is the case please attend the Officials Briefing at 9.10am at the recorders table and you will be given a job. Days like this can not run without parent help and your assistance is appreciated.

No Hat Stay in the Shade: Children must wear a hat during play and sport in Term 1. If a child does not have a hat they must stay in the designated shaded area during play. Kindergarten & Year 1 under the “big tree,” Year 2 – Year 4 under the COLA and Year 5 – Year 6 under the shaded area adjacent to the tuckshop.

Peer Support Training: The Year 6 children will take part in Peer Support Training next Thursday in Kenna Hall and Friday at Lake Burrendong. This training allows them to lead a small group of children from K – 5 in order to run the Peer Support Program in our school. We thank the Year 6 teachers and children for their time and effort to ensure the children in our school benefit from this valuable program.

Professional Learning: Mrs Forbes and Mrs Haydon attended the Pat Maths Inservice last Wednesday in Bathurst. Mr Croke and myself attended the Bathurst CEO Compliance day in Bathurst last Friday. Mrs Croke and Mrs Lenehan attended the Pre Lit In-service in Sydney last Friday. Mrs Buckland and Mrs Moriarty attended the Mini Lit In-service in Sydney this Monday and Tuesday. All teachers were released for a half a day last week to plan for the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) this term. Mr Hudson was released to work with a teacher from each grade on Maths programming this week to organise Maths programs in line with Bathurst CEO expectations.

Uniform Policy:
A reminder that we have a “shirts out” policy for boys when wearing their summer uniform. However the expectation is that shirts are tucked in with the winter uniform. A reminder that sport socks must be above the ankle. Please note children are expected to be attired in the correct school uniform each day of the school year (unless they bring a note explaining why they are out of uniform) and to present themselves in line with school dress policy, which stipulates:

- acceptable hairstyles. Extremes of hairstyle are not permitted, these include coloured hair and haircuts or undercut less than a ‘two’ or rats tails
- no bracelets, bangles, necklaces or anklets - a religious medal on a fine chain may be worn
- one small ring only
- no nail polish
- one set of earrings only sleepers or studs; boys: one single sleeper or stud
- long hair to be tied back with ribbons or scrunchy in school colours or pink checked in Summer
- T-shirts under short sleeved shirts are not permitted.

Steve Maguire
FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Ash Wednesday: Today we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a Whole School Mass at 10.00am, and we were delighted that parents, friends and parishioners could join us for this special Mass. During Mass, all children received Ashes on their foreheads. These ashes are made from the burnt palm leaves of last year’s Palm Sunday. They are a reminder that our earthly life is limited, but we will be with God for eternity. Ash Wednesday is a time of fasting for Catholics over the age of 14. We are asked not to eat meat on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday. Lent is a time when we can deepen our awareness of and relationship with God, and look carefully at how we can use the gifts that each of us has received to help others. To assist with this, the Parish will be setting up Lenten Groups. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the Parish House.

Project Compassion: During Lent we look at the plight of children who are living in great poverty in the world. Caritas Australia identify several areas around the world each year where they are able to put their funds to best advantage. The theme for this year’s project is “Food for Life”. Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how to afford or how to access their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate. Through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia is helping the world’s poorest people establish sustainable food, walking with them as they free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future. We too are asked to help these families and communities. Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning how even our small contributions can help to change the lives of these people significantly. Please take the time to talk to your children about how we can help these people become independent.

Conversations With Catholics – Advance Notice! Once again this term we’ll be running our ‘Conversations With Catholics’ discussion groups for any parents who would like an opportunity to find out a little more about our Catholic faith, and why we do what we do. Quite often parents have not kept up to date with Church teachings, or are not Catholics and are not sure why we do what we do. The four sessions, which will run for about an hour each once a week, are designed to be an opportunity to find out a little bit about why we do what we do in Catholic Schools, and what some of the symbols we use mean. The group discussions will be led by Sr Helen Saunders. For those interested in joining these discussions, more information about times and dates will be given in the next few weeks.

Liturgies and Masses for this Term: Here are the Liturgies and Masses for this Term once again. Please feel welcome to join us at any or all of our Liturgical celebrations.

Week 6: Wednesday 4th March: Year 4 Grade Mass 12.30pm (invite Yr 1)
Week 7: Whole School Catholic School’s Week Mass 10.00am (date to be confirmed)
Week 8: Wednesday 18th March: Year 6 Grade Mass 12.30pm (invite Kinder)
Week 9: Thursday 26th March: Year 2 Liturgy: 12.30pm (invite Yr 5)
Week 10: Thursday 2nd April: Whole School Holy Week Ceremonies

Wishing you a great week,
God Bless,
Robyn Petty

Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.

John 14:6
Wow is it week 4 already? The students in Kinder and Year 1 are still finding their way in their new classes and playground. As parents are aware maintaining and organising over 150 students under the age of 7 can be quite a challenge. Therefore we require your assistance in this area by following a few safety rules listed below. This will help us immensely.

- If you have younger children with you when dropping off or picking up at school, please keep them off the equipment in the playground as this is out of bounds in the morning and the afternoon for everyone.

- If you are dropping your child off to school in the morning can you please try and make it a quick drop and go. For the last week there have been many accidents with students in the morning due to many parents standing in places around the playground and not giving the students a place to play. If you really wish to see your child play and interact with others maybe moving to the big tree area will allow the students to meet with their friends in safety as well as allowing the teacher on duty to see what is occurring.

- Please DO NOT use the laneway next to the school for pick up or drop off. This is often very busy with cars and now trucks from the building site. It is the area we have most problems with. It’s a MAJOR SAFETY issue for everyone.

At this stage of the term it is necessary to address these important issues so that we begin the year in a SAFE manner. It is the Duty of Care for all teachers to keep your children safe at all times but we really need your help to ensure this is happening.

We are all enjoying learning the student’s personalities and how they interact and work in the classroom. We expect it to be a great learning year even though it is only Week 4. Working together as a school community is our GOAL.

Belinda Forbes

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

The moon is shaped like an egg: it only looks round because the big end points towards the Earth.
What a busy start to the year 1C have had. We have been looking at Baptism as a way of being welcomed into the Church family. The students were able to role play a Baptism in class and they have been asking their parents about their own Baptism. In English we have been reading stories about Pirates. We have been using these stories to then look at speech marks, nouns and rhyming words. Numbers and addition have been our focus in Maths with the students making number patterns, counting forwards and backwards, identifying numbers and adding groups of numbers together. In HSIE we have taken a special interest in the built and natural environment here at our school. We have also identified different features animals have to survive in different environments. Our Science focus is Mini beasts, we have begun to look at different small animals that we might find in our immediate environment, our backyards and the school grounds. Our Art activities have reflected our themes that we are covering in English being Pirates, Science being Mini beasts, and the natural and built environment in HSIE. We have used various mediums and skills for art; oil pastels, paints, cutting, paper curling, glue and our creativeness. During Health lessons we have been learning about taking care of our own bodies and how blowing our nose and washing our hands can help reduce the spread of germs. The students have also enjoyed their Friday sport lessons where they have been consolidating their skills in running, kicking, catching and playing together as teams, with tabloid sports activities which build on these skills a feature.

Brooke Church & Kim Pellow
SHROVE TUESDAY

KC & 6C Buddies making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

NRL PANTHERS VISIT

We had a visit from the Panthers NRL players on Thursday 12th February. They taught the children all about living a healthy lifestyle, eating right and staying active.
Band: Due to the Swimming Carnival on Thursday, Training Band rehearsal will take place on Friday at lunchtime. Please remember to bring your instrument.

Anne Allan

SCHOOL FEES OFFICE

Due to a computer glitch we have to advise that our computer system failed to generate school fees for the infants children in our schools. Unfortunately this did not come to our attention until after we had sent out school fees for our families. This has now been rectified and we will be sending out new accounts for those families who have been affected. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Kate Sharpe & Gemma Dwyer

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have had birthdays last week and this week: Micaela Pantoja, Isabella Budworth, Emmasen Buesnell, Jack Petty, Aravind Rajkrishnan, Charlotte Lawson, Eliza Mackin, Archie Dunn, Maya Thompson, Jordan Wykes, Riley Sutherland, Sage Fabar-Robey, Makayla Milne, Sienna Murray, Peta Shields, Arabella Gibson, Annabel Dunn, Thomas Horan, Mackenzie Innes, Ethan Baiju, Bridie Corby and Sean Dwyer.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30am</th>
<th>11.30am—2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>J Hobbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>K Harris</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>K Ziola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>D Smith</td>
<td>J Gummer, T Horan, J Cook &amp; M Hurley</td>
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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942

Band: Due to the Swimming Carnival on Thursday, Training Band rehearsal will take place on Friday at lunchtime. Please remember to bring your instrument.

Anne Allan
ORANGE CYMS JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB

Orange CYMS junior soccer club will be holding sign on / information days at St Mary's School Hall, Cnr Byng & Park St from 11am-2pm.
21 February 2015, 11am-2pm
28 February 2015, 11am-2pm

On line registrations are open through www.myfootballclub.com.au

Information is on the website and Facebook
Website: www.orangecymsjuniorsoccer.sportingpulse.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/OrangeCymsJuniorSoccerClub

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Ex-Services Hockey Club Sign-On Day

All current players and potential players, junior/senior (both male and female) are invited to come along and join.

Venue: Orange Hockey Centre, Moad Street, Orange

Date: Sunday, 1 March 2015

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

For more information on our club please feel free to contact:

Makita Kennedy (Secretary) on 0437 640 209 or by email kennahan@bigpond.com

Gail Kennewell (President) on 0452 636 785 or by email gailkennewell12@gmail.com

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LEANNE MIDDLETON GOLF & AUCTION DAY

All proceeds to Leanne Middleton & Family

Saturday 21st March 2015

Manildra Golf Club

12-2pm Tee Off Golf (4 person Ambrose)

- Mega Auction
- Children’s Rides & Games
- Face Painting
- Great Day Out For All The Family

$16 per player (4’sc nday)
$10 for 2nd player

Kids under 12yr Golf con donation

Great Day Out for Families

For Catering Purposes / Please
RSVP by 14th March via Facebook @ www.facebook/manildrafamilygolfday

Or Kim Smith ph 0428 465 013