

Our News...

May 26th 2017

Newsletter No# 15

TO THE COMMUNITY OF ST MARY'S... GOD IS GLORIFIED IN ALL THINGS



We are officially half way through the term which is hard to believe! This week there is a feeling of calmness and engagement in our learning spaces! Our learners are so adaptable and enjoyable to teach that they can quickly go from the crazy chaos of Catholic education week, straight back to focused learning!

Thank you to our parent community for making alternative arrangements for Monday's closure day. It gave our staff the shared time to collaborate around our student behaviour policy, we completed data analysis for mathematics and explored our curriculum planning structures. It was a hugely valuable day, so thank you.



This week our learners were learning outside of the learning spaces as some took part in the social fishing network with Sacha and our friends at St Joseph's and St Patrick's. Some of our Senior leaders attended the Business Friendly Breakfast at Factory & Field where they got to listen to the career possibilities available in Cohuna.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 1st June: Yrs 3 - 6 Gymnastics
- 2nd June: Community Reconciliation walk @ 12:30pm
- 7th June: Whole School Class Mass @ 12:30pm
- 8th June: Yrs 3 - 6 Gymnastics
- 12th June: Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
- 15th June: Prep - 2 take part in Gymnastics
- 16th June: Lightning Premiership & Reports home
- 19th June: P&F Meeting @ 7:30pm



The 27th May - 3rd June our Nation takes part in Reconciliation week. As part of this week we reflect and repent for the wrong doings of our Indigenous people and look forward to a brighter future. On Friday 2nd June we will walk as a collective community and join with our other local schools in Garden Park to listen to music and traditional story. It is a wonderful community initiative and we welcome our parents. A form has been released on our App for our families to complete.

Thank you to those families who have expressed interest for private instrumental lessons. I will communicate with Kate early next week and we will action from there. The expression of interest ends today.

On Tuesday 20th June we are lucky enough to have Tracey Farrell who specialises in mental health of children and adolescents coming to provide some professional development for our staff as well as our parents. We will send home an invitation next week with further dates and details. Tracey is well known in her field and we are lucky to be able to benefit from her expertise. Everyone of our children will at some point experience some degree of anxiety so great parental learning for us all.

The Year Two learners last night embarked on their first school camp. How magical that they were able to have this experience at Treetops. The teachers could not speak more highly of the kids as they explored the bush lands, went spotlighting, threw a line in and sang around the fire to the guitar! Thank you to the teachers and Ryan O'Mahony for ensuring our kids were safe and most importantly had a great time!

Lately we have had some concerns around our bus traveling behaviour. In the very near future the staff and learners will revisit our expectations of traveling to and from school. I will send home our agreed expectations for parents to be aware of also. I know you will support the school on this.

During pick up and drop off times can we please ask our parents and carers to ensure no preschool children are climbing on the rails outside the Year 2 learning space or library. We would hate for anyone to be hurt unnecessarily.

There has been a great deal of media coverage lately around government funding contributions to Catholic Education. I have included some correspondence from Ben Higgins our head Accountant from CEO Sandhurst. I hope this clarifies those concerned.

God Bless - Jasmine Ryan (Principal).



Pippa Reid - 28th
Zoe Pollock - 29th
Lainie Spring - 1st



Federal Government Funding

Recently, the Federal government released an online school funding estimator that included notional Federal government school funding amounts for our school in 2018 and over a 10-year period to 2027, based on the proposed new 'Quality Schools' program. Several local and state newspaper articles have been written comparing the notional Federal school funding amounts to local State schools.

I would like to clarify that the figures presented do not reflect the total government recurrent funding received by our school and that we are a member of a centralised system of Victorian Catholic schools. Any comparisons made using those figures alone do not reflect the fact that State schools are majority funded from the State government (approximately 80%) with the remainder from the Federal government (approximately 20%), whereas Catholic schools receive a larger proportion of Federal government funding compared to State government funding.





The figures in the online estimator are notional and based on 2016 school census data that do not reflect the actual funding amounts that would be received by our school.

Our school is very well resourced and supported by the Catholic Education Office that provide transparent funding models that are much more complex and needs-based than the proposed Federal government recurrent funding model.

We will continue to campaign for a fair share of government funding while highlighting the importance of providing a choice to families that wish to provide their child a Catholic education.

Ben Higgins

Assistant to the Director: Finance & Resources




The Australian Government Mobile Service Centre is supporting rural communities by providing convenient access to Australian Government payments and services. This specialised vehicle offers a wide range of face to face and self service assistance for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

You can visit the Mobile Service Centre:
In front of the Visitors Centre, King George Street
COHUNA

Wednesday, 14 June 2017 9.30 am to 4 pm

Experienced staff travel with the Mobile Service Centre and provide friendly, face-to-face service, information and support. On this trip, the Australian Taxation Office will be available to assist with advice and information about tax and superannuation. If the assistance you're after is not available, arrangements will be made for someone from the relevant organisation to contact you.

For more information, go to humanservices.gov.au and search for Mobile Service Centre or call 132 316.



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Department of Human Services

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CANTEEN NEWS...

The winners of the grade 5/6 election last term, 'The Foodies', are giving students the chance to purchase treats from the canteen at Monday recess times.

Students may bring along \$1 for raisin toast and/or \$1 for a hot chocolate. The canteen will be open as usual for lunch orders.

Smart Phone Donations wanted for Virtual Reality

Virtual reality allows people to dive into new worlds and have experiences which are usually impossible to achieve in the classroom. We are currently collecting old smartphones in order to use the app 'expeditions' with the Google Cardboard viewers. If you have any old smartphone which you are willing to donate please bring them in. If they are locked please provide the passcode or turn off locking before bringing them in. This would be greatly appreciated!