Dear parent/s Caregivers

Welcome back to the new 2012 school year at St Albert’s Catholic School. It has been a long break and I am sure the children are looking forward to a big year ahead.

NEW STAFF

I would like to welcome our new staff members to St Albert’s.

Lisa Hardbottle is the new Year 1 and 2 teacher and has settled into life at St Albert's extremely well.

Brogan Whitelaw is the new Year 6 and 7 teacher and he is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Julie John will be teaching two days a week in the Year 5 and 6 class and comes to us from St Joseph's Renmark.

Mary Geddie will also join the staff as ICT support for teachers. Mary will be here every Tuesday.

Erica Kalman from Our Lady of the River School in Berri, will be assisting us with OHSW and is excited about branching out to another Catholic school in the Riverland.

NEW CHILDREN

As well as new staff we have new children attending our school in 2012 for the first time.

In Reception we have: Tess Hansen, Maddison

Year 2 : Anthony Adams

Year 4: Jarrah Frahn

Year 7: Keith Adams.

Welcome to all these children, I am sure you will enjoy your time at our wonderful school.
As a way of welcoming all of the new families and teachers, we are having a Family Fun Day at the Loxton Pool on Sunday 19th February at 2pm. Please lock this in your diaries and more details will be provided in the coming weeks.

UNIFORMS

The new skirts have arrived and are on sale now. The sports shirts will be here next week.

STARTING FINISHING TIMES

Just a reminder of the starting and finishing times of the school day. Children are not supervised at school until 8:30am when a teacher will be on yard duty. Bus children who arrive before 8:30am will be supervised. Please make sure you do not send or drop your children off any earlier. All schools in Loxton are very strict on this and we need to start enforcing this more as a school.

School finishes at 3:15pm and parents that arrive early can wait under the shelter outside the classrooms and canteen. There are tables and chairs for people to sit at.

PARENT TEACHER NIGHT

The Parent Teacher night will be held next Tuesday 7th February. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your teacher and hear what the year ahead holds. Teachers will go through the curriculum, expectations, class routines and homework expectations.

We have staggered the times so that you have the opportunity to see each teacher if you have more than one child.

6:00 Reception
6:30 Year 1/2
7:00 Year 3/4
7:30 Year 5/6
8:00 Year 6/7

There will be teachers on duty to look after children during the sessions.

SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 1

At the end of the week you will receive a term calendar outlining all the events happening in term 1. Please make sure you display this in a prominent place in your house so that you are up to date with our school events.

Some dates for you in advance.
7th Feb - Parent Teacher Night
19th Feb - Family Fun day- Loxton Pool
20th Feb - Pupil Free Day
22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday
28th Feb - AGM- School Board
9th March- Pupil Free Day 2
20th-23rd March- R-3 Swimming lessons.
21st March – Year 3 sleepover
21st-23rd - March Years 4-6 camp
30th March - Twilight Sports Day
5th April - Holy Thursday – End of term dismissal 2:15pm

*ALL assembly and Mass times are on the calendar.

HOMEWORK

At St Albert’s, homework is important and we aim to make it relevant and worthwhile for your children. This year homework will be on three nights; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with Wednesday being a family activity night.

At St Albert’s we believe homework is important because:

- it provides a link between home and school;
- it extends learning beyond the boundary of school;
- it is a positive way of communicating the child’s development and what areas are being covered in the curriculum;
- it develops responsibility, ie, for student’s own learning and use of time, unfinished work, etc;
- it develops good work habits;
- if children are unable to fulfill assignments then a written explanation from a parent is required;
o homework should mainly consist of unfinished classroom work or study for tests, projects etc.

**ALLOCATION OF HOMEWORK**

Reception: Reading and sight words  
1/2 15 minutes plus reading  
3/4 30 minutes plus reading  
5/6 40 minutes plus reading  
6/7 (Year 6 40 minutes plus reading)  
(Year 7 50 minutes plus reading)

**BRAINFOOD**

Research tells us that children learn best when they are energised and engaged on the task at hand. A nutritious breakfast is paramount and the most important meal of the day. Brain food is also extremely important and at St Albert’s we have this at 10am.

Children are to bring fruit or vegetables for this brain food, not chips, cake or chocolate bars. Remember St. Albert’s also has a ‘No Nuts’ policy.

Please make an effort to ensure the brain food is nutritious and healthy for your child, therefore providing your child with maximum learning opportunities for the whole day.

**SAFETY**

*As a safety courtesy, I would like to ensure families are aware that the laneway from Geraldton Street across to Anzac Crescent is now open to cars. It has been previously used as a walkway with no through motorised traffic.*

*God Bless*  
*Jason Mittiga*  
*Principal*

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**Physical Education......**

Welcome to a new school year. Term 1 is going to be particularly busy, with many carnivals and our own Sports Day. I will try and keep you updated with dates and information via the newsletter, so please make sure you read this section each fortnight.

**SAPSASA SWIMMING**

The SAPSASA swimming carnival is on Friday the 24th of February at the Loxton Pool. I will be going around to classes this week asking for nominations.

The SAPSASA athletics, football and netball carnivals will also be staged this term. Our own twilight St Albert’s Sports Day is Friday, March 30th.

Attached to this newsletter is an information page in regards to SAPSASA. It outlines selection policies and general information that may assist you in making decisions about your child’s participation in SAPSASA Sport.

**FOOTBALL CLINIC**

Adelaide Crows will be holding a clinic  
When: Thursday 16th February  
Where: At the Berri Football Club grounds.  
Cost: Free.  
Ages: Strictly 5-13 years.  
Time: 4:30 pm to 5:30pm.

The Crowmania Caravan will be at the clinic with some great specials.

Please come and see me if you would like an entry form. Forms need to be returned by 8th February, 2012.

*Brad Williams*  
*Physical Education Coordinator.*
**Pastoral Support Worker**

Welcome back to the school year! I hope you had a blessed Christmas and are refreshed from the holidays.

I thought I would share information about the Mini Vinnies Program that I run in each Riverland Catholic School.

**Mini Vinnies** is a group of upper primary school students who get together to help people in need within their school and local community. Mini Vinnies introduces children to social justice issues, to the St Vincent de Paul Society and to living faith through action. The young people get to talk and share ideas and concerns, have fun and to support each other. The Vinnies model of "Faith in Action" is a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality and connecting their beliefs and values with service activities. All of these things help to make their faith real, meaningful and relevant.

I am looking forward to working with the students again this year and will keep you informed on the projects they choose to undertake.

*Have a good week and God Bless.*

GAIL PAGE

**Playgroup – Little Albees**

Come & join us at Little Albees Playgroup
A place for children & parents to come along & enjoy playing in a social, safe and fun atmosphere.

Each session includes craft, free play, shared fruit and story time.

Each term also includes a fun filled excursion out of the school and a cookery session.

**Thursdays 9am-10:30am**

**Commencing 9th Feb 2012**

**For more information**

contact Claire Dalzell on 0407716105

**Literacy....**

Welcome back to another year of school. I hope that all of the children enjoyed a well, deserved break and are eager to get back into school routine.

It would be great if everyone could start the year by recording what they have read into their diary each night.

We have a high focus on reading at St. Albert’s which means it is an expectation that each child reads every night at home and records this in their diaries.

You may notice that your child may be reading readers lower than where they reached last year. It is important that the students get back into a routine and feel confident with their reading. There is no point giving students readers that are too hard as they will lose interest. Teachers will be monitoring this over the first couple of weeks and I am sure it won’t take too long before they are back to where they were.

Over the years, St. Albert’s has developed a great collection of library books and readers. It is important that we look after these resources as they all cost money. Thank you to those families who returned books after the holidays.

If you have any books at home please return them to the library as we are trying to do a stock take of all our resources.

I lot of this information will be discussed more at next week’s Parent Information Night.

*Kind Regards*

Joanne Hondow
Curriculum Coordinator
Save the Date!
On Saturday 25th February, Loxton will be holding its annual Mardi Gras.
This year’s theme is ‘Year of the Farmer’.
Our float will be based on the story ‘Charlotte’s Web’. Students will need to dress up as characters from the story. More information will go out in the next newsletter.

Joanne Hondow
Coordinator

Birthdays….

JANUARY
5th – Maddison Munchenberg – 5

FEBRUARY
3rd – Cooper Morgan – 6
3rd – Amalia Polymiadis - 11
6th – Blake Davis - 6
9th – Tess Hansen – 5
12th – Josslin Siro - 7
12th – Laura Alm – 8
12th – Yolanda Holland – 10
19th – Mia Fitzpatrick - 11
20th – Lanie Doecke - 6
22nd – Tom Gready – 5
25th – Tiarna Inglis – 9
26th – Jesse May - 12
28th – Kaitlin Francis – 7

Community Notice……..

JUNIOR MARDI GRAS AMBASSADOR FUNDRAISER FOR THOMAS ALM
BBQ Lunch At St Alberts
Wednesday February 15th
Order form attached.

Canteen…..

OPEN MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS for recess and lunch orders.

PRICE LIST attached.

CANCEER ROSTER (Family name)
February 3rd – Anne May
February 10th –
February 17th – Alm
February 24th - Benn

Julie Graetz
Canteen Manager

Uniform Shop……..

The sports shirts are expected to be delivered Week 2 of this term. Orders will be sent home via your eldest child.

SHOP OPENING TIMES
Friday 2:45 – 3:15 pm

The Uniform shop will be closed Weeks 3, 4 and 5 of term 1. Please take time this week to check your child/ren’s uniform requirements and have your orders in to me Monday Week 2 (February 6th).

Skirts are now in stock.

Jenny Hicks
Uniform Coordinator. (After Hours: 85845898)

Term dates…….

Term 1 30/01/2012 - 05/04/2012
Term 2 23/04/2012 - 29/06/2012
Term 3 16/07/2012 - 21/09/2012
Term 4 08/10/2012 - 14/12/2012
Good Friday – 6th April.

Parents and Friends……..

NEXT MEETING:
Monday 20th February 2012
at 7:00pm
**Creative Play…….**

This year I would like to get some creative play happening during some of the lunch periods. I would like to set up boxes with different themes:

- **DOCTORS / HOSPITAL BOX**
  with gowns, masks, doctor's equipment, nurse's hat (from days gone by), blankets.
- **OUTBACK BOX** with hats, cowboy / Indian clothes, billies, lanterns, hobby horses, sleeping bags.
- **FAIRY / ELF BOX**
- **FIREMANS BOX**
- **CHRISTMAS / EASTER BOX**

Just to name a few. Please keep this in mind when cleaning out the dress up/ toy box or shed. Any donations would be gratefully received.

Kind Regards
Jenny Hicks

**Community Notices…….**

**JUNIOR GOLF**
Junior Clinic Program.
Everyone welcome – equipment can be provided.
- Term 1 times: 4:30 – 5:30pm. Cost: $5.00
  - February 17th & 24th.
  - March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.
Renmark Golf Club.
Jamie Clutterham, SA Golf State Coach.
www.jcgolf.com.au

**AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS**
Mobile Unit Visiting Loxton February -
  - Wednesday 8 – 12pm – 6:15pm.
  - Thursday 9th – 12:30 pm – 8:00pm
  - Friday 10th – 8:00am – 1:00pm.
Before you donate, eat something, drink four good sized glasses of water and bring photo ID.
Community Recreation & Sporting Club
Further information: 131495.
W: donateblood.com.au

**FAMILY FUN DAY**
Free Carnival
**Sunday 12 February** - 11am – 2pm
Meet Adelaide Thunderbirds players.
Kids’ fun and games/Face painting/ Jumping castle/Yummy food.
ETSA PARK
155 Railway Terrace, Mile End.
www.adelaidethunderbirds.com.au

**PANCAKES GALORE**
Shrove Tuesday – 21st February.
FROM 5:30 PM
At grounds of Anglican Church of the Resurrection, William Street, Loxton.
ALL WELCOME!
Savoury and Sweet pancakes
$10 per person – eat as many as you can!
Soft Drinks available.
Pancake racing – from 6:00pm – organize your teams of two now.
For more information, please contact Louise Burgess on 0437278617.