Dear Parents/ caregivers

Welcome back to the new 2013 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. Our school is looking beautiful and a big thank you to the families who responded to the email for the working bee and helped out.

Thank you to the following families: Kassulke, Fogden, Zimmermann, Davis, Nitschke, Fitzpatrick, Drake, Williams.

NEW STAFF

I would like to welcome our new staff members to St Albert’s. Rebecca Goldsworthy is our new Reception/Year 1 class teacher and she has the classroom looking beautiful and is ready and raring to go for a big year.

Alex Tilley is our new Year 1 and 2 class teacher and she will be teaching Monday to Thursday with Raelene Edwards teaching Friday. Alex has put in many hours during the holidays and is very excited about her new class.

Michelle Lueth will be working in the front office on a Wednesday assisting with finances and administration duties.

NEW STUDENTS

As well as new staff we have new children attending our school in 2013 for the first time.

In Reception we have: Sarah Cameron, Axel Edwards and Kyndra De Been.

Year 2: Jack Oates
Year 7: Jonte Reilly

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 staff, we are having a bbq/ quiz night at school for the parents and staff. We will be starting with a bbq at 6:30 on Friday 15th February followed by an informal quiz night in the Parish Hall. More details will follow next week. Book your baby sitters now!!!
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jo and Rhain Hondow on the safe arrival of their little girl Evie May Hondow. Evie was born on the 18th January. We wish Jo and Rhain all the best with their new family.

STARTING FINISHING TIMES

The starting and finishing times for the school day have changed this year. Children will not be 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 than 8:30am. All schools in Loxton are very strict on this and we need to start enforcing this more as a school.

Classrooms open at 8:45 and school finishes at 3:10pm and parents who arrive early may wait under the shelter between 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 5th February. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher and hear what the year ahead holds.

Teachers will go through the curriculum, expectations, routines and homework. Term overviews will be sent home on this night.

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

6:00  Years R/1 Goldsworthy
6:30  Years 1/2 Tilley/ Edwards
7:00  Years 3/4 Mittiga
7:30  Years 5/6 Whitelaw and 6/7 Cash/ Williams combined

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

NEWSLETTER

Just a reminder that the newsletter will be distributed weeks 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 of each term.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Family accounts will be sent home via your eldest child this Friday February 1st.

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. I did list a lot of these events last year for your advanced planning.

Some dates for you in advance:

Monday 4th Feb 9:00 am P&F meeting
Tuesday 5th Feb Parent Teacher night
Friday 15th Feb Parent/ staff bbq/ quiz night
Tuesday 26th Feb AGM 7pm
Friday 15th March Pupil Free day
Wednesday 27th March Twilight sports day
2nd-4th April Parent Teacher Interviews
Saturday August 3rd AWAD
** ALL assemblies and Masses are on the calendar.

Please remember to check the school newsletter where any changes to the calendar will be advised.

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, i.e., for student’s own learning and use of time, unfinished work, etc;

- it develops good work habits;

- if children are unable to fulfil assignments then a written explanation from a parent is required;

- homework should mainly consist of unfinished classroom work or study for tests, projects etc.

**Allocation of Homework:**

- **Receptions:** Reading and sight words
- **Year 1:** Reading and sight words
- **Yr 2:** 10 minutes plus reading
- **Yrs 3/4:** 20 minutes plus reading
- **Yrs 5/6:** 30 minutes plus reading
- **Year 7:** 40 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 10:00 am. Children are to bring a piece of fruit or some vegetables for this brain food, not chips or chocolate bars.

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.

Please remember St Albert’s School has a ‘NO NUTS’ policy, therefore no food brought to the school is to contain nuts, e.g. food bars which contain nuts, peanut butter, etc.

**OUR CONDOLENCES**

I would like to pass on our condolences to Erica Kalman (Our OHSW coordinator) on the passing of her mother last week. Our thought and prayers are with her family at this difficult time.

**R.E. News….**

**Beginning of the School Year**

We ask God to bless us as we embark upon another year of our faith journey at St Albert’s. We especially welcome our new friends who have joined our school community. May we truly sense God’s nurturing love for every person in our school and help one another in turn to become who are called to be.

**Family Mass**

On Sunday 3rd February at 11am St Albert’s School community will celebrate our first Parish Family Mass for the year. If your child/ren can attend, please fill out the return slip at the back of this newsletter. We would love to have every child participating in some way.

**Beginning School Year Mass**

*This year our School Masses will be held on Thursdays at 9am in St Albert’s Church.*

On February 7th the Year 3/4 Class will be hosting our first Mass as we celebrate the beginning of the 2013 school year. It is hoped that this time allows more parents to come along and join in celebrations.

**2013 Sacramental Program**

To assist with planning for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation it is necessary that you register your child/children. Candidates must be baptised Catholic to receive these Sacraments.

- *First Reconciliation is celebrated in Year 2 (17th September 6pm St Albert’s Church)*

- *First Holy Communion in Year 3 (15th September 11am Mass)*

- *Confirmation in Year 7 (11th August 11.30am Mass with Bishop Greg O’Kelly)*

**Regards**

Jason Mittiga
Principal
St Albert’s Catholic School
Please complete the enrolment form at the end of the newsletter and return to school by Friday, 15th February.
If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call the school.

God bless,
Raelene Edwards,
Assistant Principal
Religious Identity & Mission

News from Pastoral Support Worker……

BREAKFAST
Breakfast (free of cost) will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting 8:30am until 8:45am in the Technology Room. Breakfast is not able to be provided after 8:45 so the children do not miss out on lessons.

GAIL PAGE

Physical Education…….

Students in all classes will need to wear their Sport uniform on Mondays and Wednesdays.

SWIMMING
Next week, Monday 4th February to 8th February, students in Years Reception to Year 3 will participate in swimming lessons. A separate note is being sent home to those students.

Please mark in your diaries our Twilight Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 27th March at the Loxton Oval. Pass the word on to friends and extended family to come along to support our students. It is a great day and the stand is an excellent shady viewpoint.

Brad Williams
Physical Education Teacher

Canteen……

Please note canteen is available MONDAYS only and a current price list is with this newsletter.

There will not be a formal ‘help roster’ this term, however I would very much appreciate support if anyone is able to help on Mondays from 10:00am until 1:00pm. A return notice with this newsletter for offers of help and dates.

Accounts – There will be no accounts available, all orders are to be on a cash basis. I will send home a small supply of payment envelopes to start with, however I suggest purchasing a supply of plastic mini snap lock bags and writing your child’s name in permanent texta on the bag. I will send home these bags.

Thank you to those families who have supported our School Canteen in 2012 and I look forward to a great year in 2013.

Julie Graetz
Canteen Manager

Uniform Shop…….

The Uniform Shop will be open Fridays from 2:15 until 3:00 pm.
A uniform List, price list and order form are with this newsletter.
Please also note water bottles are for sale from the Uniform Shop @ $8:00 each. Uniforms are to be paid for prior to collection. Thankyou.

Jenny Hicks
Uniform Coordinator

We need……

Milk bottle tops – off 2L and 3L plastic milk bottles for Literacy.
Birthdays….

JANUARY
3rd – Zoe Hughes – 8
16th – Carlee Nitschke - 12
19th – Erin Hughes – 11
19th – Jai Drake - 12
5th – Maddison Munchenberg - 6
27th – Axel Edwards – 5

FEBRUARY
3rd – Cooper Morgan – 7
3rd – Amalia Polymiadis - 12
3rd – Hayden Nitschke - 13
6th – Blake Davis - 7
9th – Tess Hansen – 6
12th – Laura Alm - 9
12th – Josslin Siro – 8
12th – Yolanda Holland – 11
19th – Mia Fitzpatrick - 12
20th – Lanie Doecke - 7
22nd – Tom Gready – 6
25th – Tiarna Inglis - 10
28th – Kaitlin Francis – 8

Community Notices….

PIANO LESSONS
for Years 1 - 7
Individual 25 min. lessons at school, ($19 per week)
Beginner to 5th grade
AMEB, experienced teacher.
Queries to Maxine Zimmermann
85 876 258

Term dates ….

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Good Friday 29th March.

Return Notices….

CANTEEN RETURN NOTICE

I would be able to help in the Canteen on the following day/s. (Please tick box near date.)

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<td>Monday 1 April</td>
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<td>Monday 4 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Monday 11 March</td>
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Name:............................................................................
Contact phone number:.............................................
Email contact:................................................................

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Family Name ________________________________
I wish to enrol (name) ____________________ for Reconciliation.(Yr 2)
I wish to enrol (name) ____________________ for First Holy Communion (Yr 3)
I wish to enrol (name) ____________________ for Confirmation.(Yr 7)
Signed_________________________

RETURN NOTICE
FAMILY MASS – FEBRUARY 7TH

Our family will be attending and our child/ren
would like to be involved.

Family name..................................................