Dear Parents/caregivers

Thank you to all the St Albert’s staff and parents who attended the get together last Friday night. It was great night and the weather and company was fantastic.

AGM

Our School AGM is rapidly approaching and it is next week on Tuesday 26th February at 7pm in the library. I would like to once again thank Justine for all of her hard work over the last six years for all of her tireless work for St Albert’s. Justine will still be involved and assist when needed to continue to make our school the wonderful school it is.

We therefore, have one spot vacant on the School Board for a two year term, and if you would like to nominate please come in and see me or ring me at school.

PEER COACHING

All the Catholic Riverland schools and Loxton High School have nominated three teachers to participate in a three day intensive course Peer Coaching course accredited Australia wide. We are fortunate enough to have received a grant for the course for $15,000.

The Peer Coaching Program is designed to help schools implement a professional development model that can enhance standards-based instruction by assisting teachers to offer students engaging, technology rich, learning activities. The Peer Coaching Program is designed to train teacher leaders to serve as peer coaches for colleagues. As coaches, these teachers will assist their peers in identifying ways to enhance standards-based instruction and to offer their students engaging, technology-rich, learning activities. In doing so, peer coaches will help their colleagues to develop the necessary technology skills and instructional strategies needed to integrate technology into teaching and learning.

Coaches assist teachers to develop the skills and strategies needed for classroom use of technology by:

• Planning technology-rich activities or projects with individual teachers.
• Identifying resources or strategies necessary for successful learning activities.
• Modeling or team-teaching lessons that integrate technology and engaging learning strategies.
• Reflecting or debriefing on learning activities.
This program contains all the workshops, resources, and links to forums and communities of practice you and your school will need to run this innovative program.

MARDI GRAS

The Mardi gras is in full swing and Alex Tilley has got her team of parents working extremely hard. A letter went out last Friday explaining all the details.
We need to meet outside Loxton Primary School at 10am. It should be a fun morning and we would love to see as many children there as possible representing St Albert’s.

SCHOOL BUS

Due to us using the school bus on camp from Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th March, there will be no St Albert’s bus running on these days. We will still transport children that need to go to OHSC.
Please note this in your diaries.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Last week I presented two Principal awards and they went to Caleb Benn and Taelah Watkins.

Caleb has been a real leader in and around the school and has a knack of making people feel welcome and happy. Caleb is prepared to give up his own time and work with others and I am so proud of him at our school. Well done Caleb.

Taelah has made a very positive start to the new school year and is positive and bubbly in and around the school. It is a pleasure having her here at St Albert’s.

SRC AND CAPTAINS

These will be announced at our week five assembly. I will list the names in the next newsletter.

RAAMAH

Finally I would like us to keep Raamah Size in our prayers as he is recovering in hospital in Adelaide after having a tumor removed from the back of his head. Raamah is recovering slowly and is looking forward to seeing us all soon. I am visiting Raamah on Thursday and will pass on all of our wishes and thoughts.

Regards
Jason Mittiga
Principal
St Albert’s Catholic School

R.E. News....

Shrove Tuesday
Last week our school celebrated Pancake or Shrove Tuesday in the tradition of heralding Ash Wednesday. Pancakes were served at recess as a reminder of the time when Christians were strictly forbidden to use eggs, butter and milk during Lent. They made pancakes to clean out their pantry.
Ash Wednesday

Last Wednesday we gathered for Mass to celebrate the beginning of Lent – the season that takes us on a journey of renewal for forty days until the dawning of Easter. The ashes distributed on Ash Wednesday mark us with the cross of transformation as a sign that we have begun this journey.

As we journey through Lent, we ask God to keep us close and renew us with love.

Ashes made from the charred remains of the palm branches used on Palm Sunday of the previous year are used to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads as we come before God in this time of personal preparation for Easter.

As a Catholic community, Lent is an important time to reflect upon our relationship with God and others. It is a time when we dare to examine ourselves and how we are living our lives and how we can be more for others.

"The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me: my eye and God's eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love.”

(Eckhart: Dominican theologian.)

Our spirituality is as personal as our breath or our fingerprint, but, as we move through the forty days of Lent, we might on occasion, surrender freely to the quiet within us, to rediscover the resources and strengths that are there. We might begin to see better and appreciate more, the value of our existence, to see ourselves with more gratitude and respect and to see others in a like way.

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

For Christians, Lent is a time for us to pray together and talk about our faith; how we live our lives as followers of Jesus. Our symbol is the Cross. The Cross reminds us that in our journey of life there will be difficulties, hardships and sufferings but through them new life is assured.

For families, Lent is a time for us to examine how our lives are going; how we are relating to one another. It is a good time to talk about our strengths and our weaknesses. It is valuable to acknowledge each other’s good points and to encourage each member of the family to use those strengths for the good of the whole family and to help others. In talking about our weaknesses we can help the children to realise that we all have shortcomings. When we are ready to acknowledge our weaknesses, we are well on the way to doing something about them. We can encourage each other to grow by doing all we can to use the gifts God has given us to help others.

I invite families to read together Sunday’s Gospel (Luke 4:1-13) and ask everyone in the family to think about someone who loves them. On a piece of paper write down the things this person will not let you do. Then discuss why the people will not let you do these things.

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In this spirit, this year’s Project Compassion invites us to work with Caritas Australia and with those living in poverty so that we can put love and compassion into action to work for justice and a world of peace.

As a Catholic School we seek to engage every student in initiatives of awareness, advocacy and action with the view that this will become a life-long commitment to the values of charity, service and outreach to those who are disadvantaged and marginalised in our world.
We can talk to the children about the ways we can grow stronger: praying, helping, sharing, doing without something you like, listening to what Jesus tells you etc. Then list specific ways eg doing the dishes, saying ‘thanks’ to whoever makes the meal, cleaning a room, etc. Together, we can choose one practical thing to do each day this week.

As a family you may like to pray together:

God of life you call us every day. May we turn to you and accept your gift of life with gratitude. In times of need be with us and give us courage and strength. Amen.

Prayer in St Albert’s Church during Lent
During the season of Lent, I invite everyone in our School Community to gather together for a short time of Prayer in the Church at 8.45am on Wednesday mornings. There is no obligation but the opportunity is there if anyone would like to experience 10 minutes of quiet prayer reflection once a week. Those who join me in prayer are not expected to do anything other than sit quietly in God’s presence. The invitation is open to all!

Year 5/6 Class Mass
The Week 4St Albert’s School Mass will be hosted by the Year 5/6 Class on Thursday February 21st at 9am. Please keep this time free. Everyone is welcome to join us!

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

From our School Counsellor...

Hello to all parents,

As it is a new year and we have some new families at the school I wanted to offer my warmest welcome to you all. I am the School Counsellor at St Albert’s, Loxton and work every second Monday at the school. I am employed by Centacare which is a Catholic welfare organisation.

Under the Counselling role I may work with children on an individual basis, with siblings or in small group situations.

Issues that are dealt with are anxiety/depression, social skills, grief and loss, family issues, parental separation, violence/abuse and relationship/friendship issues.

In the program students may be referred by a staff member, parent or children may self-refer for Counselling.

Children’s Counsellors work with the understanding that children, young people and their families have a right to confidentiality. However, we are legally required to report any suspected abuse/neglect or intentions of harm to others or self or any threats to safety or life. When this is the case I do need to let the principal be aware that a notification has been made.

If you have any concerns about the above please ring for a chat and I can explain further.

Sharlene Bevington
School Counsellor

News from Pastoral Support Worker……

MINI VINNIES
Chairperson: Kaylee Vowles
Deputy Chairperson: Zac Miller
Treasurer: Jai Drake
Secretary: Shyla Lange
Public Relations/Photos: Ryley Hammerstein and Declan Size
Members: Declan Morgan, Hayden Nitschke, Taelah Watkins and Liam Wormald.

Are you able to help?
I am organising assistance for the Size family as they will be in Adelaide for approximately six weeks while Raamah is recovering. During this time, friends and relatives are taking care of Raamah’s siblings in Loxton. In this newsletter there is a return form for offers of help to donate meals; a few examples, lasagne, stir fries, meat loaves, zucchini/vegetable slices, casseroles, quiches, etc. If you are interested in making a meal for the family would you please complete the return notice by Friday, 22nd February, 2013. I will type up a roster and forward it to you.

GAIL PAGE
PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER
Ph. 0448859009
**Canteen…….**

**RECESS AND LUNCH – Mondays**

Special Food Days will be advised via the newsletter.

Thank you to those parents who have offered to help in the Canteen this term. A roster is below and volunteers are asked to assist from 10:00am until 1:00pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th Feb</td>
<td>Lisa Nitschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th March</td>
<td>Lisa Nitschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Monday 18th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1st April</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th April</td>
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Julie Graetz  
Canteen Manager

**Thankyou......**

I would just like to say thank-you to those who ordered a sausage in bread and a fruit box and who wore casual clothes last week to support me with Junior Ambassador fundraising for this year’s Mardi Gras. $350 dollars was raised for the Mardi Gras.

Thankyou!  
Erin Hughes

**Birthdays…..**

**FEBRUARY**

19th – Mia Fitzpatrick - 12  
20th – Lanie Doecke - 7  
22nd – Tom Gready – 6  
25th – Tiarna Inglis - 10  
28th – Kaitlin Francis – 8

**MARCH**

4th – Nicole Rogerson – 6  
4th – Tia Drake - 10  
7th – Harrison Selboth – 6  
11th – Isaac Edwards – 9

**Uniform Shop……….**

The Uniform Shop will be open **Fridays from 2:15 until 3:00 pm.**  
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.

**From the office…..**

**Reminder - Return Forms:**  
Emergency Form  
Permission to Photograph  
Payment Plan  
Bus travel permission  
Buzz Book permission

**Email address:**  
Please check your records and note that our School’s generic email is:  
[info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au)  
(Previously: [info@stalbert.pp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stalbert.pp.catholic.edu.au))

**Bus travel to/from school:**  
Please note the St Albert’s bus will not be available for travel to/from school 6th to 8th March, i.e. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday due to being used for years 4 to 6 School camp. Travel to OHSC after school will still be available. Please note your diaries!

**Government Assistance**  
If you think you may be eligible for School Card assistance, please either email or telephone the school for an application to be sent home. You will need to have these forms completed and back to the school office by **Friday 8th March.**
School Office
A reminder to families that the school office is to be accessed via the front door only due to confidentiality of school matters.
Opening time: 8:30am until 4:00pm.

Uniform Shop
Access to the Uniform Shop is via the door under the covered area between the Administration Building and the transportable classrooms.
Opening time: 2:15pm to 3:00pm.

For all uniform enquiries/needs at other times, please either:
- leave your order form at the school office,
- email: jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au; or
- write a message in your child’s diary.

Orders will be sent home with your child after payment (cash/cheque or copy of banking receipt received).

Parents and Friends……

Sports day helpers are required on the 27th of March for manning the BBQ and food/drink stall.

This year we are trialing the use of tokens/tickets instead of money to try and reduce the congestion around the food stall.

Help will be required for cooking the BBQ, manning the token booth and serving the food. Please return the slip at the back of the newsletter if you are able to help.

Class time is valuable to the teachers and your child.
For this time to be used to its full advantage it is important that teachers are able to stick to their timetable and not be interrupted (even though the teachers are very friendly and approachable) by parents wanting to know general information.

Therefore the teachers/P&F would like to implement a parent representative for each class.

This means that your photo would be put in the window of your child’s class to make it easy for you to be recognized. You would be the point of call for parents new and existing, who may need to know something about the school.

Can you help? We need……

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

Donations of material appropriate to make Nativity costumes.

Community Notices….

Harvest Thanksgiving Service & BBQ Lunch
Sunday 24th February 2013
Loxton Lutheran School
12:30pm BBQ Lunch.
Meat provided but please bring a salad or sweet to share.
1:30pm Thanksgiving Service.
Community Notices....

45er’s Club
Parish fundraiser.............
How it works is: 45 people pay $20 and each is allotted a number, 1 to 45. Over 10 consecutive weeks, using Saturday Lotto numbers, the first Supplementary number wins $30 and the second supplementary number wins $15. 20 prizes in all and the cost of joining is the equivalent of $2 per week. In all $450 is paid out in prizes and $450 is raised for the church.
It’s a fun fundraiser so, if you’re interested, please give your name and $20 to Jenny Ling at the school office this week.

NETBALL – Loxton Club
Junior Player registration & First Training
Registration tonight 19th February, 5-6pm
At the Loxton netball courts.

ZUMBA FITNESS
Rosie Clark School of Ballet & Tap
www.rosieclarkdance.com.au

CRICKET – MILOin2CRICKET program
Flyers available from school office.
MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.
Your nearest Centre will be run at Loxton Primary School, starting on Saturday 2nd Feb at 9am
The cost of the Program is $65 per participant.
Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies
To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season log on to www.in2cricket.com.au and type in your post code.

FOOTBALL – Loxton Club
Junior Player registration & First Training
Tonight! 19th February 4:00pm.
Contact: Mark Wright 0428822128 or Tim Kassulke 0418839241

LITTLE TOWN EASTER 2013
PONTIUS
Friday 29th March (Good Friday)
Saturday 30th March – 3pm & 7:30pm
Friday 5th April – 7:30pm
Saturday 6th April – 7:30pm
Sunday 7th April – 3pm.
Loxton Lutheran Peace Hall.
$6 adults, $3 children Under 16, $15 Family.
Bookings: Loxton Visitor Centre 85848071.

LOXTON CALISTHENICS
REGISTRATION – Wednesday 20th & 27th February, 5-6pm – Ages 4-18 years.
At the Loxton High School Community Theatre. Calisthenics is a combination of gymnastics, dance, marching and apparatus (clubs and rods)
For more information or if unable to attend please contact - Leanne 0409 841 375 or Rebecca 8584 1354
P & F Return Notice….

P&F BBQ SPORTS DAY
HELP REQUIRED
Write your name in the area where you would like to help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cooking BBQ</th>
<th>Token Stall</th>
<th>Serving food/drinks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6PM – 7PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>7PM – 8PM</td>
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Pastoral Support Return Notice

ASSISTANCE WITH MEALS
FOR SIZE FAMILY

Name…………………………………………

Contact Number………………………………

Email:  ……………………………………….

I am able to provide the following:

……………………………………………..
(type of food dish)

and can deliver to the school by 2:30pm on a

(day of the week)…………………………

Thank you for your offer.
I will contact you to confirm day.

Gail Page
Pastoral Support Worker.