Dear Parents/ Caregivers

The Passion of Our Lord is an evocative time for Christians. It forces us to change how we think about things. Weeks of reflecting and preparing come to a sudden end and then, like the dawn, all things are new! Alice Camille, religious educator and author writes, ‘Easter is truly a verb, a dynamic event pushing upward from the darkness into the light.’ In many ways Easter is an inner movement, a force from within that stirs the heart and mind into action. It’s a force that challenges us to grow and become something greater than we may have otherwise thought. Saint Paul is a great example of this. Christianity might only have been a footnote in history if it weren’t for the evangelising work of Saint Paul and the other disciples. Anyway, I’m not sure where I’m going with all of this, and I can get carried away, but the underlying message is a simple one.

Easter reminds us our faith is built on a foundation of dynamic and inspiring events. We are called to respond to these events each year, to be the ‘Easter verb!’ Our calling now moves from the preparation of the interior during Lent and shifts towards the exterior as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 24.

I was delighted at the support and subsequent attendance of Parent / Teacher interviews last week. Classrooms were busy with discussions about learning and strategies around improvement. The evenings also affirmed the hard work and perseverance of so many. Although the interviews are now concluded, please do not hesitate to speak with the class teacher, or myself, should you have any questions or concerns about your child’s academic or pastoral wellbeing.

Thank you for the many blessings of the term; it has certainly been a rich and rewarding one! I mentioned to staff this morning that holidays should be a time for the soul to catch up with the body. I trust your holidays will do just that and bring you peace, rest and renewal.
SAPOL EDUCATION VISITS
Today Constable Chris Evans from SAPOL visited our school to talk about bullying and how to stay safe online. There were two sessions, one for R-3 and the other 4-7. The R-3 session had an emphasis on bullying and answered questions like: how to recognise a bully; how can you respond; what options do I have; who can I talk to; what support is available and what are ‘safe houses.’ The 4-7 session was very much about how to stay safe online and how to control your ‘digital footprint.’ We looked at privacy and geo-location settings. We learned that once you upload an image it is no longer your property, which came as a bit of a shock to some! The Australian Federal Police has developed a new website to help teachers and parents navigate their way through this ever-changing digital landscape. I am keen to incorporate the explicit teaching of these themes into the curriculum. http://www.thinkuknow.org.au

School leaders accept SAPOL program information on staying safe on line.

FIRST DAY – TERM TWO
A reminder to families we begin Term 2 on Tuesday, April 28. The day prior, the combined staff of all four Catholic Riverland Schools will gather at OLOR for some training and development on Assessment in the Inquiry Model.

LAST DAY – TERM ONE
Families and friends are invited to attend our final assembly of the term. The SRC will be in charge. Each class has planned a small reflection and we will also commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing in a very special way. To conclude, our promotional video will be launched to the school community before being posted on the school website. I commend our SRC assembly to you (1:30pm this Friday in the Parish Hall).
TERM TWO PLANNER
A monthly planner for Term Two has been published and an electronic copy is attached to this Newsletter. We will probably experiment with various designs this year as a new one is released each term. The idea is to settle on one of these designs with a view to publishing a full-year calendar in 2016. Next term’s monthly planner can also be downloaded from our website...

NAPLAN (re-advertised)
The dates for this year’s National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests are Tuesday, May 12 – Thursday, May 14. All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as parental beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. These issues should be discussed with the Principal early next term so that an appropriate course of action can be determined before the testing dates.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE & TERM TWO
Friday, April 10  SRC Assembly in the Parish Hall, 1:30pm
               Last day of Term One: 2pm finish
Monday, April 27 Pupil Free Day (first day, Term Two)
Tuesday, April 28 Term Two begins

Sincerely

Brett Czechowski
Principal

MUSIC

Congratulations to
Peta Nicholson, Ellen Alm and Mikaela Schwarz who gained soloist parts in this year’s Riverland Music Festival.

Karen Cash
Music Coordinator.
**UNIFORM SHOP**

**FRIDAY 10 APRIL**  
By appointment only.  
Please email jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au for an appointment time.

**TERM 2**  
Fridays – 2:00 – 3:00  
or by appointment  
between 9am – 2:00pm on Fridays.

Uniforms are to be paid for prior to collection.

Jenny Hicks  
Uniform Coordinator.

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**P & F**

**MEETING**  
Tuesday 5 May  
7:00pm  
in school staff room  
ALL parents/caregivers welcome.

For your diaries.....  
**AWAD** – 15th August  
Theme – ‘Pirates’

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**BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL**  
10 – Dylan Vrakking  
25 – Thomas Nitschke  
30 – Kiera Richardson

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**LITTLE ALBEE’S PLAYGROUP**

**This week….. Thursday 9 April – 9am to 11am**

Just a reminder that we have a facebook page called little Albees playgroup which is a great way for me to communicate with everyone.  
Joanne Hondow  
Playgroup Coordinator

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