Dear Parents/ Caregivers

In recent weeks, the media has saturated our living rooms with a great variety of reports which reflect the human condition: the floods and tragedies in Queensland; the execution of two Australian citizens; riots in Baltimore; the birth of a new Princess to mention just a few. Lost in this perhaps is the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Nepal. As a diocese, we have been asked to consider how we might respond. Father Boniface Tigga SJ, Regional Superior of the Jesuits in Nepal wrote to his community recently to explain the situation there. He writes, ‘much media attention has been given to the avalanches at Everest base camp because well-equipped foreigners are able to send news via social media; but it is the rural poor in districts around the epicenter who are suffering more profoundly. The destruction of homes in outlying villages has been even more catastrophic than those places appearing in the news.’ Caritas Australia has launched a nation-wide appeal and St Albert’s can contribute to that in two ways. Firstly, today, we will have a BBQ sizzle. On Friday, it will be a casual clothes day with a special prayer service to reflect on the terrible loss of life, the work still to be done and to give thanks for the miracles which continue to unfold. Each student is asked to bring $2 for the sizzle day and then consider another amount, whatever you feel most comfortable with, to donate on Friday. To see where our fundraising dollars are going, please click on the following link, thank you.  

JUNIOR PRIMARY & EARLY LEARNING PRECINCT
I am delighted to announce the launch of our new Junior Primary and Early Learning Education Precinct. The Parents & Friends Association has been the key driver of this initiative and will be the focus of much of our fundraising efforts this year. Landscaping of the ‘back lawn’ will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of our main entrance, but will also allow for the installation of outdoor learning and natural play areas later, in the second phase of the project. A flyer advertising the physical and educational benefits of this project is attached to this Newsletter.

LOXTON PEDAL PRIX
An early fog lifted to reveal an air of excitement and community pride around the 2nd annual Loxton Pedal Prix. St Albert’s School was there, just tucked away on Martha St, and supplied an early breakfast and a hearty lunch to locals and visitors alike. There were BLTs, Burgers and Sausages and yes, they were absolutely delicious! It was a small army of parents, friends and students who helped throughout the day but it was our fearless leader, Jenny Hicks who did the lion’s share of the work and kept us on our toes! Special thanks to Jenny who coordinated our food stall at the prix and to our helpers –Lily, Abby & Damien Hansen, Gary Hicks, Ryan Seaman, Mimma Perre, Michael Tsakarellos, Ashley & Ashlee Montgomery, Stephen Formby, Sheree Cameron, Kerrie-Anne, Zoe and Erin Hughes, Danielle Formby, Justine and Eleni Fogden, Alicia White, Carina and Peta Nicholson and Helen Drake.
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK – BLANKET APPEAL

Catholic Education Week especially celebrates the efforts students make with their own studies; the assistance they give to those in need; the simple joy they bring to one another and to the life of the school, and the generosity and energy they bring to fundraising for charitable causes and supporting those less fortunate – Ms Brenda Keenan, Director of Catholic Education, Port Pirie.

This year, as part of Catholic Education Week, schools in the diocese of Port Pirie have launched a blanket drive to support the winter appeal of our local St Vincent de Paul. Brenda has set a goal of 1000+ blankets from across the diocese. I think we’re up for the challenge! We are asking each family to consider donating a blanket over the next few weeks. Simply bring your blanket(s) to the front office at any time and we will happily pass it on to those who need it most. The four Riverland Catholic Schools will mark Catholic Education Week with a special combined Mass at OLOR on Wednesday, May 20 @ 10:30AM.

GRANDPARENT & GRANDFRIEND’S DAY

In this Year of the Family, we would like to invite our Grandparents or Grandfriends to a very special day at St Albert’s School. We will start the day with a liturgy to give thanks for the way our Grandparents enrich our lives and lives of our families. A morning tea and some light refreshments would then certainly be in order before we step back into the classroom to spend some time with your Grandchild or Grandfriend to see what they do best! Personal invitations will soon be created. In the meantime, however, would please mark this important date in your calendar and advise family members at your earliest convenience...

Grandparent / Grandfriend Day at St Albert’s School

Friday, May 22 from 10am – 1pm
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 ASAP so that an appropriate course of action can be determined before the testing dates.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM TWO
Tuesday, May 5  Parents and Friends gathering @ 7pm
Friday, May 8  Casual Clothes Day – Nepal Fundraiser
Sunday, May 10  Mother’s Day
Tuesday, May 12  NAPLAN (3 days)
Monday, May 18  Catholic Education Week commences
Wednesday, May 20  Combined Riverland Catholic Schools’ Mass - OLOR
Friday, May 22  Grandparent & ‘Grandfriend’ Day

Sincerely

Brett Czechowski
Principal

Our Lady of the River Parish

Loxton Sunday Masses
Sunday 10 May – 9:00am
Sunday 17 May – 11:00am

“The God within us”
A grandfather and his granddaughter stand on a jetty looking into a clear lake. “Grandad,” she asks, “Where does God live?” The old man lifts her on to his shoulders. “Look into the waters of the lake and tell me what you see.” “I see a reflection of me,” says the little girl. “That’s where God lives. God lives in you,” he replies.

Jesus assures us, provided we remain in union with him, we are gifted with a special permanent presence of God within us. Because God dwells in us, we treat each person with utmost respect, as a temple of the divine. We honour them and refrain from doing or saying anything that would harm or detract from the presence of God within them. We try to honour and develop the divine presence within us.
As part of my role as Literacy Coordinator, I have spent time assessing the strategies that the students at St Albert’s are using when reading, in order to make our Literacy program as effective as possible. At the end of Term One we met as a staff to discuss my findings and plan for Term Two. For Term Two each class will participate in a one-hour ‘reading’ block from Monday to Thursday in the library (on top of the Jolly Phonics/Grammar program). In order to cater for every students’ learning needs each class will split into four small groups to participate in activities; the teacher will focus on one group at a time while another adult (Jenny Hicks, Dionne Kassulke or myself) will oversee the remaining four groups. These groups will be participating in activities such as: Rainbow Reading (a program designed to improve fluency and the three reading cues), technology based reading activities (such as Reading Eggs), guided reading, and other activities to support the specific aim of each session. Please keep an eye-out for articles in the Term Two newsletters which will focus on how children learn to become successful readers. Also, I will be encouraging students who just borrow novels to borrow a weekly picture book as well. There is excellent language in picture books that build on vocabulary. Please take the time to read these books with your child. The library is open Monday after school if any parents would like to borrow extra books.

Happy Reading,
Sharona Edwards
Literacy Coordinator

CAN YOU HELP THE 2/3 CLASS?

This term we will be constructing dinosaurs and to do this we need lots of bits and pieces! We would appreciate donations of cardboard boxes, foil or glad wrap rolls, bottle tops, toilet rolls, etc. anything that you consider could be used to construct a dinosaur. Thank you. I’m sure the end results will be spectacular!
Many thanks
Karen Cash
2/3 Class Teacher

BIRTHDAYS

MAY
18 – Billy Tsakarellos

JUNE
3 – Rogan Kennedy
19 – Jack Oates
26 – Portia Size

LITTLE ALBEE’S PLAYGROUP

THIS THURSDAY, May 7 - 9:00am – 11:00am.

Just a reminder that we have a Facebook page called little Albees playgroup which is a great way for me to communicate with everyone.
**UNIFORM SHOP**

**TERM 2**
Fridays – 2:00 – 3:00
or by appointment
between 9am – 2:00pm on Fridays.
Please email – jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au
Uniforms are to be paid for prior to collection.

Jenny Hicks
Uniform Coordinator.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**FREE PARENTING SEMINAR**
**SLEEP AND YOUR TODDLER**
Monday 25 May
7:15 – 9:00pm
Riverview Conference Room
Berri Conference Centre (Berri Hotel)
Bookings/more information:
Phone: 83031660
Email: Health.parentingsa.health.sa.gov.au

**FEDERATION OF PARENTS & FRIENDS**
Flyer
“Putting NAPLAN in Perspective”
Information for parents.

**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**
All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. **Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.**
SA Dental Service participates in the **Child Dental Benefits Schedule**. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the **Child Dental Benefits Schedule**.
To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the **Child Dental Benefits Schedule**, please phone 8222 8222 or visit [www.sadental.sa.gov.au](http://www.sadental.sa.gov.au)

**P & F**

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

**FOR YOUR DIARIES……**
Auction With A Difference
15 August
Theme – ‘Pirates’

**FAMILY PORTRAITS**
Monday 25 May
To book or for more information, please email – jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au
Fundraiser for P & F
We need 25 bookings!!
You receive a 10 x 13” family portrait, a key ring, a wallet size portrait and an A3 pencil sketch.

Jenny Hicks

**COMPUTER NOTICES**

**FREE PARENTING SEMINAR**
**SLEEP AND YOUR TODDLER**
Monday 25 May
7:15 – 9:00pm
Riverview Conference Room
Berri Conference Centre (Berri Hotel)
Bookings/more information:
Phone: 83031660
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