Dear Parents / Caregivers

Catholic Education Week is an initiative of our Director, Brenda Keenan. It’s an opportunity for our diocesan schools to celebrate what sets us apart, what makes us unique. We are inspired by Christ to “live life in all its fullness” and to see this message manifest in the lives of the children in our care. The education and care for children is at the very core of what we do and Catholic Education Week showcases that in a very special way. Included in this Newsletter are two messages of encouragement and endorsement one from Bishop O’Kelly and the other from Brenda Keenan.

Catholic Education Week Activities

Monday, May 18 – Tuesday May 19
St Vincent de Paul Blanket Appeal and final collection of Nepal Earthquake Appeal

Wednesday, May 20
Combined Catholic Schools’ Mass at O Lor (10:30am – parents and friends welcome)

Thursday, May 21
‘Port Pirie Diocese Switches Off’ – we will be reducing our carbon footprint and raising awareness of the need for more sustainable energy sources by turning off lights and air-conditioning. Students may wear casual clothes and if you are able, donate a blanket to St Vincent de Paul

Friday, May 22
Grandparent / Grandfriend Day (from 10am in the St Albert’s Church – see below)

MEA CULPA
Although it may not be considered a ‘cardinal sin’, failing to make any mention of Mother’s Day in the Newsletter leading up to the occasion is probably the next closest thing! It has been haunting me for days now and so I say, most humbly, Happy belated Mother’s Day. I was blessed to be in the company of my Mother, Grandmother and Godmother on May 10. It was a very special day for us all; I do hope yours was, too.

NAPLAN
Despite what appeared to be a rather negative media campaign, NAPLAN was administered at St Albert’s without any hype or fanfare. Students can easily sense anxiety (or ambivalence) around the way we approach NAPLAN and our staff worked well to mitigate that. My message to our students was a simple one: ‘teachers have been making sure you are ready – sometimes without even using the world ‘NAPLAN’ – we only ask you try your very best!’ Data from the tests is usually available around August. We can glean a great many things from the data, and it does inform our teaching, so it is a useful tool for us as educators.

OUR PARENTS AND OUR FRIENDS
The Parents & Friends Association has gathered a few times already this year and our number keeps growing! We have been talking about a range of different topics such as the new Junior Primary / Early Learning Precinct, the role of social media in our school, and our major fundraiser, Auction with a Difference. As Principal, I see the P&F as an advisory body so widespread representation is very important to me. The good news is that membership is free! Once you enroll at Saint Albert’s School you are automatically part of the P&F. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 2 @ 7pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome!
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 to the front office at any time and we will happily pass it on to those who need it most. Thank you.

GRANDPARENT & GRANDFRIEND’S DAY

A few students have expressed concerns that their Grandparents are unable to attend Grandparent/Grandfriend day this Friday. At a recent school assembly, I explained to students that it’s absolutely okay to bring a ‘Grandfriend’ along...perhaps an aunt, uncle, family friend, much older sibling, even mum or dad! The emphasis is really on what makes the relationship special to each child. Grandparents and Grandfriends are important because they help us feel to feel connected. They make us feel connected not only to each other, but to something bigger, to the flow of life, the past and the future.

We honour their important and valued contribution to family this Friday.

Grandparent / Grandfriend Day at St Albert’s School
Friday, May 22 from 10am (meet at Church) – 1pm

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM TWO

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 18</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 20</td>
<td>Combined Riverland Catholic Schools’ Mass - OLOR</td>
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<td>Friday, May 22</td>
<td>Grandparent &amp; Grandfriend Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 26</td>
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<td>Friday, May 29</td>
<td>Year 4/5 Assembly</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 31</td>
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Sincerely
Brett Czechowski
Principal

Catholic Education Week 2015
Diocese of Port Pirie

Pope Francis has described the Church as “the Mother Educator”, a statement that reflects the centrality of education in the mission of the Church. He endorses Catholic schools time again. “Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love. It is like giving life. And love is demanding”. He describes education today as “a key, key, key mission!”

Staff in Catholic schools are concerned not only with the life of the mind and the care of the body, but the growth of the inner spirituality of each of their children. That is why the Church in general and our diocese in particular commits itself so significantly to the education of the young. Teachers do not work alone – they have the support of all those who help the school function, from the reception staff through to all other school activities. To all the men and women conducting our Catholic schools, we give thanks, and invite our parents and students to pay them due honour.

May the schools of our diocese continue to strengthen the mission of the Church to serve the young and prepare the future.

+ Gregory O’Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie
Catholic Education Week 2015: Friday May 15 – Friday May 22

“Come, live life in all its fullness” John (10:10).

Throughout the diocese of Port Pirie we are privileged to celebrate Catholic education each and every day. I see countless examples of students, teachers, support staff, volunteers, parents and parishioners putting their faith into action, living our Catholic values and celebrating who we are as a Catholic community. Catholic Education Week is a time to pause and ‘give thanks’ for the efforts of so many who enrich our schools in and across the Diocese of Port Pirie.

Education is about life and the formation of the whole person. We are called to be proactive in living life to its fullest: a life based on Jesus and Gospel values. We are called to explore life in all its dimensions: spiritual, intellectual, physical and global. Learning is a lifelong and life wide process and engendering a love of learning for life is central to our beliefs. Catholic schools are places of discovery, exploration and hope. They are a means by which our students, staff, families and communities learn what it is to be fully human.

Our energy, vitality and commitment come from this vision. It serves to unite us in a common pursuit of all that is best in Catholic education. It provides strength and direction whether working, learning, praying or celebrating – and here in the Diocese of Port Pirie we have much to celebrate!

During Catholic Education Week our schools are invited to celebrate and share how they are ‘Living Life in all its fullness’…inspired by Jesus in the lives of their students and within their broader communities. While each of our schools across the diocese has its own identity, we all share the same overarching goal of the promotion of the human person – our students are the centre of all our endeavours within the school.

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.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to share with gratitude what happens in our Catholic Schools with the wider community. I encourage staff, parents and friends to take a few moments to visit our Catholic Education – Diocese of Port Pirie website and learn more about our schools; our students, staff and educational communities: [www.cesapp.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesapp.catholic.edu.au)

I wish everyone a happy and life giving Catholic Education Week 2015.

Warm regards

Brenda Keenan
Director of Catholic Education
Diocese of Port Pirie

Our Lady of the River Parish
Loxton Sunday Masses
Sunday 17 May – 11:00am
Sunday 24 May – 9:00am
Sunday 31 May – 11:00am

Year of the Family Prayer
Heavenly Father.

You bless us with the gifts of life and love so powerfully present in our midst through families.

In praise of your gifts we offer you in return our commitment to love and care for one another as family – as our own family, as church family, as school family and as part of the great human family.

In whatever state of life we find ourselves, whether married or single, widowed or divorced, clergy or religious, young or elderly, we commitment ourselves to the task of loving one another, bearing with one another, forgiving hurts and calling each other on to the fullness of your plan for our lives. Father, our world is in great need of the witness of loving families.

Amidst all our joys and struggles, may we never give up on your extraordinary gift of family life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.Amen.
PRESENTATION OF FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES

On Sunday May 24, the First Communion candidates for 2015 are being presented to the congregation during our Sunday Mass.

Please come along and pray for these students:

St Albert’s School candidates are:

- Elleanah Aggetotos
- Zoe Formby
- Maddison Munchenberg
- Nicole Rogerson
- Francesco Perre
- Marc Antoni Perre
- Harrison Seiboth
- Raamah Size
- Axel Edwards

They will celebrate their First Communion with four friends from Our Lady of the River Parish:

- Harry Lipman
- Caicee Lehmann
- Jessica Ridley
- Hayden Rosenzweig

MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary. We thank God for Mary, who through her “yes” allowed Jesus to be born into the world. God calls each of us, through the angels in our lives, to follow God’s will. God gives us our spiritual mother to guide us on the journey.

Let the words of the ‘Hail Mary’ prayer, uttered by the angel and formed by Mary’s life, open our ears to God’s Word and open our hearts to God’s will, that in all things we may grow closer to God in love.

PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 24

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

So when the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection had come, the disciples were all together waiting for this special gift of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, there was a sound; a sound like a rushing mighty wind came from Heaven. The sound filled the whole house where they were sitting.” ACTS 2:2
LITANY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Spirit of Wisdom fill our hearts with your treasure that we may seek you in all things.
Come Spirit of Understanding gift us with deep inner knowing that we may live with integrity.
Come Spirit of Right Judgement guide us with light and truth that we may discern your ways.
Come Spirit of Courage free us from fear and doubt that we may act justly.
Come Spirit of Knowledge enlighten our hearts and minds that we may boldly speak your truth.
Come Spirit of Reverence quieten our restless lives that we may hear your voice.
Come Spirit of Wonder alert us to God’s presence that we may join in creation’s praise.
Contemplate Jesus

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

FOCUS ON LITERACY

How do I know if my child comprehends what he or she is reading?
In order for children to progress into ‘independent readers’ we want them learning skills and strategies that enable them to ‘read for meaning’ (comprehend what they are reading). To better support our children when listening to reading, it is important to understand the key elements that enable a child to read independently.
Independent readers who COMPREHEND what they are reading always ‘self-monitor’ as they read: Does it look right? Sound right? Make sense? As parents we can support our children to self-monitor when we listen to them read by:
1. Understanding and recognising the three types of errors we may make when reading.
2. By prompting the child to re-read, thinking about the element they are missing.

Here is a brief explanation of the three types of errors to look out for when listening to your child read:

**Does it make sense?** – This refers to what the text is telling us; when we use the ‘meaning’ of the text to help us read. Teachers refer to this as ‘meaning cues’.

**Does it sound right?** – This refers to the way words sound together, for example, is it grammatically correct? Teachers refer to this as ‘structural cues’ or ‘language structures’.

**Does it look right?** – This refers to the actual print on the page: the letters, sounds, words and punctuation. For example when we ‘blend’ letters together to read words we are using the print to read. Teachers refer to this as ‘visual cues’ or ‘print cues’.

Here are examples of the three types of errors using the text below:

The tall giraffe was munching on the leaves.
Meaning Error (Does it make sense?)
Child Reads: “The tall girl was munching on the leaves.”
In this example the child has read “girl” instead of “giraffe.” The first three letters in the error are the same as the correct word so the child has attempted to use the letters/print (what the text looks like). The sentence ‘sounds right’ as there are no grammatical errors. However, this child is not using the meaning, as the text is not about a girl, and I highly doubt that a girl would be munching on leaves! So in this situation you would draw attention to the meaning of the story by asking, “Does that make sense? Do you think a girl is munching on leaves?” You could even draw attention to the ‘g’ making the soft sound rather than the hard sound. With this knowledge in mind I would then ask the child to re-read from the beginning of the sentence getting ready for the soft ‘g’ (j) sound.

Structural Errors (Does it sound right?)
Child Reads: The talk giraffe was making on the leaves.
In this example the child has read ‘talk’ instead of ‘tall’, and ‘making’ instead of munching. The first letter is correct in both errors so the child is using the first sound to help him/her read. However, the child is not thinking about the way words sound together or the meaning of the story; what he/she has read does not sound right or make sense. If the child were to continue to read then I would ask, “Did that sound right? Can you have another go at reading that sentence and listen carefully to the way the words ‘sound’ together.”

Visual Errors (Does it look right?)
Child Reads: The big giraffe was eating all the leaves.
In this example the child has read ‘big’ instead of ‘tall’, ‘eating’ instead of ‘munching’ and ‘all’ instead of ‘on’. What they have read makes sense and sounds right however none of the errors has similar letters to the correct words. This means that the child is relying on ‘guessing’ the words according to what fits the picture and what is happening in the text. This is perfectly fine, however they must learn to match their ‘guess’ with what the word looks like. I would respond to this child, “Yes, that makes sense however you are not using the letters and sounds in the words to help you read. Can you read that sentence again but this time focus on what the words look like?”

Ultimately we want children to learn to use all three elements when reading. At school this term each class will pay particular attention to ‘self-monitoring’ what they are reading and ‘re-reading’. Please reinforce this at home by simply praising your child when he or she re-reads.

Happy Reading!
Sharona Edwards

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

RESPECT • HONESTY • TRUST • PRIDE • SUPPORT
CAN YOU HELP THE 23 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
23 Class teacher.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE
Rogan Kennedy
Jack Oates
Portia Size

SCHOOL PHOTOS

THURSDAY 4 JUNE

Order envelopes for school photos are being sent home this week. The envelopes, sealed with money enclosed are to be returned to the school office by TUESDAY 2 JUNE.
There is also an option to pay on line with your credit card, please see the instructions on the envelope.

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.

BUS TRAVEL

FRIDAY 5 JUNE
No buses will be available to transport students to/from St Albert’s school on this day.

The Government buses will not be running as all Government schools in Loxton have a student free day.

The St Albert’s bus will be used to transport students to the Combined Catholic Schools’ Athletics Day at Santos Stadium in Adelaide.

LITTLE ALBEE’S PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS - 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.

Joanne Hondow
Playgroup Coordinator

RESPECT • HONESTY • TRUST • PRIDE • SUPPORT
YEAR 6/7 CLASS

Last week the year 7’s undertook their NAPLAN Tests, all students did a fantastic job and Miss Leach is very proud of the effort they put in!

In other news we have been very busy working with our Reception/Year 1 buddies. Each fortnight the two classes get together to learn, share, and experience different things. One of our favourite activities is ‘making’.

Last term we baked ANZAC biscuits with our buddies to commemorate to 100th anniversary of Gallipoli. We handed these out at the final assembly of term 1.
In Week 2 of this term we did some craft around Mother’s Day. The 6/7’s helped the R/1’s to create a Mothers’ Day book, telling their mum all the things they love about them. We also made some Lavender bath bombs – which turned out great!

Also this term we have started to look at using digital software to edit our photos. So far we have used our tablets to wander around the school grounds and take photos of different textures. We later picked our favourite few photos and started to edit them using the ‘remove background’ tool. We layered the same image on top of each other and changed something subtle. Some people made their pictures black and white with a bold colour focus, others experiments with blurring the backgrounds or using different tone colours.
Finally as part of our cross curricular topic on Sustainability we looked at Carbon Footprints. After Wil, Isaac, Brodie and Seth returned from the first NRM forum with new knowledge on the topic we decided to help the whole class gain a better understanding of what it means to combat climate change. For the activity we chose a type of house, car, and garden. We also looked at where we would get out food from, the type of food we would eat and the type of rubbish we would have. One we designed ‘our home’ we added all the items inside and outside the house and then we could see how much tonnes of carbon we are using. We also talked about tonnes of carbon per house and per person.

Melissa Leach
Year 6/7 Class teacher

**P & F**

**AUCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE (AWAD)**

It is that time of year! Planning for our major fundraiser, the Auction With a Difference, has started. Anyone who wants to be involved with the planning is very welcome to do so. A theme, date and venue have been set – Saturday 15 August – Theme “Pirates”.

We now need to work out the logistics of it all, that’s the fun part!

The Auction With A Difference (AWAD) started 19 years ago with Peter Shearer and has been going strong ever since! Originally the “difference” was auctioning services that the families of the school provided i.e. window cleaning, ironing, car washing, lawn mowing, landscaping, babysitting just to name a few. In today’s busy world, time is precious, and not as many services are offered.

To bring the “difference” back we have added a theme and entertainment to the night. As the years have gone by more and more people are embracing the idea of a theme. Every family is asked to donate goods/services to be auctioned on the night, this can be done individually or bigger items can be donated by getting together with a couple of families and putting an item together.

If you would like to know more about this event come and have a chat to myself, Lily Hansen, Mimma Perre or Ashlee Montgomery.

This year we are attempting to put up for auction a whole school item, to do this we are asking for you to rummage through your draws and find any T shirts that are too small, too big, out of shape, the wrong colour, it doesn’t matter we will be able to use them on our project. If you have any unwanted T shirts please drop them into school, they will be very much appreciated.

**FAMILY PORTRAITS - HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**

Unfortunately we have had to cancel this session due to not being able to fill the minimum number of bookings required.

Jenny Hicks
Coordinator

**RESPECT • HONESTY • TRUST • PRIDE • SUPPORT**
COMMUNITY NOTICES

BOAT LICENCE EVENING
A Boat Licence night will be held on Monday 15 June 2015 in the Renmark Primary School staff room at 7:00pm.
Any interested persons can ring Renmark Primary School on 85865737 to make a booking.
Cost - $35.00 – payable before or on night.
To assist study for the licence, the handbook ‘Recreational Boating Safety’ is available from the Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure at Berri.
For further information
Telephone - Sharyn Robinson - 85865737.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY
Sunday 31 May
Family event
St Peter’s Lutheran Church Peace Hall
4:00pm - kids activities
5:30pm - BBQ tea
Meat provided, please bring a salad and a sweet to share.
6:30pm - Thanksgiving service.
Hosted by the combined Christian Churches of Loxton and Ministers’ Association.

Support your local Hospital
July 4, 2015
“Taste of Greece” night. 6:00pm till midnight.
2 course sit down dinner.
To be held in the Loxton Lutheran Peace Hall,
Tickets available from the Loxton hospital, 8584 8549.
Featuring Belly Dancing and Greek entertainment, bar facilities.
Tickets $40 per adult and $12 for children under 12.
(And if you would like to get a team together and book that would be fantastic!!!!)
Loxton Hospital Complex
Country Health SA Local Health Network – Loxton SA

SPINAL HEALTH WEEK
Poor Coordination? Sports Performance?
Do any of these worry or effect your child?
Spinal Health Week runs from Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May.
Seaman Chiropractic would like to extend an invitation to you (and your child) to receive a full spinal health check and report of findings – FREE!! (normally $140 - $160).
Phone: 85847011 during Spinal Health Week to book an initial consult.
*offer expires for calls made after Friday 29th May*

Address: PO Box 570. Loxton SA 5333 • 13 Geraldton Street, Loxton SA 5333
Phone: 08 85845110 • Email: info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au
www.stalbert.catholic.edu.au