Dear Parents/ Caregivers and Friends of the Saint Albert’s Community

A few staff were gathered around a table recently and commented on just how quickly the term has gone. When you look back on it the list of achievements, excursions, professional and personal challenges, in-class activities and new learning has been significant. I think we might all be ready for a little break. There’s an old adage about holidays or annual leave: it allows time for the soul to catch up to the body. Last Friday we launched The Year of the Family in a slightly unusual way by joining it with ‘My Team Colours Day’. Sport is a great way for families to connect with and celebrate community. The two themes worked well together and we were pleased to be able to raise money to support the Catholic Missions’ Syrian crisis appeal. In this Year of the Family, our Diocesan Community Partnerships Consultant has provided some resources for families to consider during this last week of term and into the holidays. They are attached to this Newsletter for your consideration. May God continue to bless each of you and your families and keep you safe during the holiday break.

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 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 or in complicated situations, may your love be real and deeply felt. Bestow your blessings on mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers.

Bless brothers and sisters. Embrace those who are alone and feel that they are abandoned. Make us one family for you are Our Father, and we your children.

Make our home a dwelling place of love, respect, understanding, forgiveness and support.
In sickness and in health, in poverty and plenty, in joy and in sorrow, may we never give up on each other, may we never give up on our families, may we never give up on your extraordinary gift of family life.

We ask the intercession of Mary, our mother and Joseph, her spouse, who cared for Jesus in Nazareth, who is our Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

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A MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL

Friends the gut wrenching side of Syria, as in all conflicts calls each human being to consider the one family of God and we in particular, the one Table of the Lord. Our Caritas Australia involvement/response is ongoing regardless of the headlines and is present on the ground floor....something we are quietly proud of. Many of our people are regular donors to Caritas and they receive mail-outs similar to what Bishop Greg forwarded on. Our Diocesan practice for any Appeal/Crisis is to encourage anyone who wishes to respond to do so through our own Caritas or Catholic Missions. It is always a chance to Educate/Remind our people of the ongoing work of the Church often unheralded and without the huge Advertising others undertake. So please encourage people to donate either directly or through the Parish and also to look up the Website of Caritas. Take care. FrPaul

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

On Friday, September 11 our staff were most grateful to spend the day with our Literacy Coordinator, Sharona Edwards. Sharona asked us to look at developing a ‘literacy philosophy’. She challenged us to ensure that no child is left behind when it comes to developing programs around literacy and numeracy. We looked closely at the Jolly Phonics and Jolly Grammar books and developed additional resources to support what we already do in the classroom. Staff commented that they found the day both rewarding and exhausting! I’m happy with that.

While our teachers were busy working with Sharona, a small team from Sizetrans Express moved the shipping container from our old ‘back block’ onto the school proper. The logistics behind such a move were staggering! My thanks to the boys from Sizetrans for your generosity, patience and ingenuity, a job well done.
MEDIA
Both the Loxton News and the Murray Pioneer will be running a feature article this week on our new Literacy Program at St Albert’s. The article describes in some detail the thinking behind the program and just how innovative it really is. In announcing the media release, I also acknowledge the outstanding work of its chief architect, our Literacy Coordinator, Sharona Edwards. Sharona’s passion and drive for Literacy is like nothing I have seen. It is infectious and makes us want to be even better classroom teachers. We are very blessed indeed to have Sharona as a key teacher and advocate for Literacy and Learning at St Albert’s.

Our Facebook page is in its early days of development and so far things are going well. The School Board’s Marketing team is looking at ways to increase our ‘online presence’ and social media is a good start. We also want to make our own webpage a bit more ‘mobile friendly’ and I’ve even learned that we can connect our webpage and Facebook page to a simple Google search! There is so much to learn and share, however, I also want to be sure any security and privacy features are well-tested before any official announcement is made.

NEW MID-SEMESTER REPORT
Our Staff and School Board has now had the opportunity of reviewing the new mid-semester report template and I am pleased to confirm its release on Friday this week. A covering letter will accompany the report which includes an invitation to meet with your child’s teacher at an optional Parent / Teacher interview in Week 2 of next term.

HATS
With the weather just starting to warm up a bit, I reminded students that as we begin Term 4 they must wear their school hat whenever outdoors. There were lots of nods from the little ones and a few groans from some bigger kids...summer is coming.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM THREE/FOUR
- Friday, September 25: End of Term 3, 2:10pm closure
- Monday, October 12: First day of Term Four
- Friday, October 16 @ 2pm: Ripping up the old COLA surface (volunteers welcome!)
- Monday, October 19: Voluntary Parent / Teacher interviews
- Tuesday, October 20: Voluntary Parent / Teacher interviews

Sincerely

Brett Czechowski
Principal
Thank you to all those who collected stickers for St Albert’s. They have now been sent away and the teachers and Little Albees playgroup will soon be able to purchase resources. We will let you know the amount raised and details of the resources next term.

From the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities

With the school holidays just around the corner we thought we would share some great ideas from Nature Play SA – Things to do.

- 25 Things to do in Spring
- Try Geocaching
- Build a Cubby
- Make a Kite

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Vacation Care
We are open: Monday 28th Sept–Friday 9th Oct 2015
Two Sessions Daily: 7.15am–12.45pm & 12.45pm–6.15pm

PHOTOS - ORDERS
If anyone would like to order a copy of the following photos, please email – info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au by the end of this week with your request.
- Choir group photo
- Whole school photo
- SRC group photo.
The photos are 20cm x 25cm and $22 each photo.
Payment may be debited to your school account if you wish.
These photos were taken on school photos day by Focus School Portraits.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

LOXTON LITTLE ATHLETICS
2015—2016 SEASON
Come and Try & Information Night
Monday 12th October, 5.30pm
Loxton High School Oval
New and returning athletes welcome!
For more information contact
Craig Simes 0400670593

FREE PARENTING SEMINAR
‘The Wonderful World of Toddlers’
Wednesday 4 November
7:15-9:00pm
City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre
Presented by Parenting SA –
For more information go to -
www.parenting.sa.gov.au
Government of South Australia.

MEETING

NEXT P & F MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 20
7pm in the Staff Room

FLYERS WITH THIS WEEK’S NEWSLETTER:
These flyers are also accessible on St Albert’s website.
Riverland Youth Theatre – Youth Clubs Term 4 ‘Come and Try’
NETBALL - School Holiday Clinics
2015 Regent Parrot Nest Surveys
ZooWhiz learning parent letter - www.zoowhiz.com

UNIFORM SHOP

TERM 4
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.

UNIFORM PRICE CHANGE
Summer skirt $40.00
Woolworths have given us the left over
accessories to go with their Disney
dominoes promotion; cases, bridges,
mazes, staircases and spinners.
There are numerous things to choose from,
please contact me if you would like some.
On the other hand, if you have dominoes
you do not want, we can also make up
packs for school.
I will keep them until the end of the week
then pass them on to a charity.

Jenny Hicks
Uniform Coordinator.

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

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