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

A Year of Jubilee – Opening Doors of Mercy

A very warm welcome to you all as we begin our year together. May I take this opportunity to especially welcome those new to our community. It is a great act of trust, indeed faith, which families place in a school when choosing the right education setting for their child. I thank you for placing that trust in St Albert’s. We are a faith community and we are a community of family. We support each other and together we work hard to educate the ‘whole person’ based on the values of the Dominican Order. We are St Albert’s and you are most welcome.

This year, the Pope has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has invited us to open our doors and be ambassadors to corporal and spiritual acts of Mercy (more in next week’s Newsletter). Bishop O’Kelly writes, the practice of the opening of a “Holy Door” in Rome to mark a special year, apparently began late, when Pope Martin V ordered such a ceremony in 1423. The practice grew in later Jubilees, so that when the special Holy Door was opened in the Pope’s cathedral in Rome, other Holy Doors were opened in the various Roman basilicas. Diocesan schools have been asked to consider how each class might prepare a Holy Door. Staff and students are reflecting on this invitation and I have asked each to “open” their Holy Door to coincide with the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Bishop O’Kelly is urging us to imitate the symbolism of the Holy Door, to be ambassadors of Mercy. We are invited to pass through the Holy Door, symbolising that we leave the past and its personal failures behind, and walk through into a new phase of our lives and to experience the love of God who forgives, gives us hope and gives us courage to do what is right and just.

Welcome to Malachi, Anwen, Ellena, Sophie, Piper, Jake, Thomas, Maddie, Gianluca, Nyah and Mrs Uren.

RESPECT  •  HONESTY  •  TRUST  •  PRIDE  •  SUPPORT
STAFFING
We are delighted to have Mrs Alison Uren join the teaching staff of St Albert’s. In addition to coordinating Little Albee’s Playgroup, Alison will be teacher of R/1 in a share capacity with Sharona Edwards. Towards the end of 2015, it was the unanimous decision of the school board and teaching staff that we keep our current 4-class structure. In order to sustain the current model, it would be necessary to reduce our staffing load as Federal and State recurrent grant funding is not sufficient. This was achieved in part with Raelene Edwards taking study leave and myself as Principal absorbing much of her portfolio. It was also necessary to reduce the teaching load of contract staff and Melissa Leach has agreed to work 0.9FTE this year. I am very grateful for Melissa’s support.

As with all staffing contingencies, this new arrangement will be reviewed at the end of Term One.

I thank all staff who have so generously agreed to support a teaching model that maintains our preferred class structure along with the necessary resourcing and support.

STAFF DAYS
On Thursday, January 28 the staffs of all four Riverland Catholic Schools converged on the Loxton Hotel to work with Fr Richard Leonard SJ and explore the theme A Sane Guide to Spirituality in Catholic Education. Fr Richard a Sydney-based Jesuit priest who has travelled internationally as a key-note speaker, clinician, film critic and author. He challenged us to consider the ‘Hollywood’ stereotype of Christ and how to encounter him in a way that is not pious or fundamentalist. Fr Richard asked us to navigate our daily lives to be alert to the demands of the Gospel and its practical applications and inspired us to go out and live and proclaim our own spirituality. It was a wonderful and profound experience that we shared; an excellent precursor to our Year of Jubilee.

Announcement of 2016 SRC Representatives
I invite all Parents and Caregivers to attend the announcement of our SRC Representatives this Friday. Erin Harrald will coordinate the SRC this term as part of her role as Pastoral Care Worker. We will also officially welcome families new to St Albert’s this year.

Friday, February 5 @ 2:45pm - Parish Hall

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
All Parents and Caregivers are invited to attend our annual Parent Information Evening next Tuesday, February 9 from 7pm. The Information Evening is an opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher, to look at an overview of the academic year, support class expectations, look at further opportunities for growth and to network with other families. Students are not required to attend but will be supervised in the playground if baby-sitting is unavailable etc. I look forward to meeting with you then.
2015 SEMESTER TWO REPORTS
I thank members of our community who kindly alerted me to a number of issues around spelling and grammar in our Semester Two reports. The process is such that a number of eyes examine each report, however, it is the Principal who accepts ultimate responsibility as he is the last person to sign the document. My apologies for any oversight. Should your child’s report contain any error, please return it to the Front Office for immediate correction and re-printing. Thank you.

SWIMMING LESSONS
We are currently working finalising a time with Riverland Swimming and I would like all classes to participate this year. As it currently stands, Week 5 has been pencilled in. Hopefully we can confirm the booking by next newsletter.

COMMUNITY AWARDS
On behalf of the Saint Albert’s School Community I extend our congratulations to well-known identities Howard Hendrick and Bill Ebert.
Howard was awarded Loxton’s Citizen of the Year by Mayor Leon Stasinowsky at the Australia Day breakfast. Howard has been a volunteer tutor at St Albert’s for many years and at 92 is an active member of the local Parish.
Bill Ebert OAM (Grandfather to School Captain, Brodie Milich), was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his extensive volunteer work, including us at St Albert’s. We are most grateful to both Howard and Bill for their ongoing generosity and service in supporting our school.

Howard Hendrick pictured with Mayor, Leon Stasinowsky

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE, 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 4</td>
<td>2016 SRC Announced at 2:45pm Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 9 – 6PM</td>
<td>Presentation of Sacramental Candidates (Parish Mass)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 9 – 7PM</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 10</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday (10am)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 16</td>
<td>Little Albee’s commences (9-11am)</td>
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Sincerely

Brett Czechowski
Principal

Our Lady of the River Parish

Sunday Masses
Sunday 7 February
Loxton 11:00am
Sunday 14 February
Loxton 9:00am
Little Albee’s Playgroup

Little Albees will continue in 2016, starting Term 1 Week 3 - TUESDAYS each week from 9:00am until 11:00am.

We thank Joanne Hondow for her valuable leadership of Little Albees in 2015 and are very happy to warmly welcome Alison Uren as our Playgroup Coordinator in 2016. Alison has extensive child care experience having worked at Woodleigh Child Care and as Alison is team teaching with Sharona Edwards in this year’s Reception/Year 1 class, will provide a continuity of social and educational play from playgroup into school years.

ALL WELCOME!!

Alison Uren
alisonu@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

Just a reminder that Little Albees has a Facebook page called ‘Little Albees Playgroup’.

Uniform Shop

UNIFORM SHOP - TERM 1 – 2016.
OPEN ...... FRIDAY MORNINGS
8:30 am to 9:30 am

A 2016 uniform list, price list and an order form is with provided this newsletter
These forms are also available on our web site.

Order forms and any requests for an appointment outside the above time, may be emailed to jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

Uniforms are to be paid for on the day or prior to collection.

Jenny Hicks
Uniform Coordinator.

Community Notice

"Rosie Clark Dance"
...........has positions available!

We do not have a waiting list and encourage all students of any age to join our happy dance family!

We have heard a lot lately that people believe we still have a waiting list; so we are just trying to reach out and advise the wider Riverland community that isn’t so. Thank you, Miss Rosie and Miss Natalie

Weekly......

Mass – Alternate Tuesdays – 10:00am
Assemblies – Alternate Fridays 2:40pm
Library – Mondays
German lessons – Tuesdays
Sport lessons – Wednesdays
Music lessons – Fridays.
Family accounts will be sent home with the newsletter term 1 week 2. These accounts will show the annual tuition. We ask accounts are paid in full by 31 October, 2016, unless alternative arrangements have been made with the principal or you have a regular direct repayment arrangement in place. Thank you.

Office hours:
8:30am until 4:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
8:30am until 3:30pm Tuesdays.

Attendance:
Students arriving at school after 9:30am, leaving school before 2:30pm or attending an appointment during the day are to sign in/out at the school office. This is for safety reasons as well as recording accurate attendance. To assist with attendances and safety, please use your child/ren’s diaries for information on proposed absences, appointments, etc. and any changes to usual after school travel arrangements.

Forms:
Please return updated information and permission forms as soon as possible. The 2016 Buzz Book will be distributed when all forms are returned.

There will be a free breakfast open to all students on Monday mornings, starting in Week 2, February 8. The breakfast will be served from the kitchen servery window from 8:30am to 8:40pm.

We will have toast, fruit, cereals and apple juice and during Terms 2 and 3, warm Milo will also be available.

Thank you to Foodbank for supporting this program.

Hope to see you there!

Erin Harrald
Pastoral Care Worker.

This year, Bryce Westbrook who is a former student of St Albert’s and brother to Reese (Year 4) is an entrant in this year’s Junior Mardi Gras Ambassador.

As a fundraiser, Bryce is going to have a garage sale and is looking for donations for this sale.

If you have any pre-loved items in good condition that you are able to donate, they can be dropped off at 11 Klingberg Street, Loxton (Bryce’s grandparents home) by 10 February, 2016.

Thank you all.

On behalf of Shelley and Bryce Westbrook.

KIDS OBSTACLE COURSE
Fun outdoor fitness

Sunday 7 February - 8am – 12 pm
At Loveday 4X4 Adventure park at Barmera
Unlimited fun for only $15 per child.
No need to book, all ages welcome.

www.dirtwarssurvivor.com
**Community Notices**

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE NIGHT**

Where: Anglican Church, Edward Street, Loxton.
When: Tuesday 9 February
Time: From 6:00pm
Cost: $10 per adult, $5 per child under 12 and families of five or more, $30.

Soft drinks for sale on the night. Eat as much as you like.
Raffles and musical entertainment provided.
More more information, contact Louise Burgess on 0437278617.

**CRAFT N MORE FETE**

*Saturday February 27*

Time: 9am to 2pm
Where: Anglican Church Grounds
Edward Street Loxton
Over 15 indoor outdoor stalls
Gold coin donation entry—includes door prize
Wide range of craft, handmade items, jewellery, candles, wooden products, baby and children items and lots more!

In conjunction with the Mardi Gras Festival.

**LOXTON NETBALL CLUB**

Registration Night
Tuesday, 16th February 6-7pm
Preseason fitness training
Tuesday, February 16th, 7-8pm
Tuesday, 23rd, 7-8pm
For players trialling for A1&2, 17A, and 15A, attendance is expected, however, all intending players are welcome.

**Team trials**

17s/15s: Monday, Feb 29th, March 7th
Tuesday 15th March 5.30-7pm
A1/A2: Tuesday, March 1st & 8th, 7-8.30pm
Other senior grades: Tuesday, March 15th & 22nd 7-8:30pm
All at the Loxton Rec Centre
Enquiries or apologies
Kathy phone 0429 388 938

**Come ‘n Try**

Come ‘n try racing with the LOXTON SWIMMING CLUB
Fun races for all ages who are new to swimming competition.
At the Loxton pool, Pine Avenue.

*Saturday 6 February*
From 9:00am
Come along on the day.
Bring bathers, towel and goggles.
Stay for a BBQ lunch—meat supplied FREE.
Please bring salad or sweet to share and own drinks.
IT’S FREE TO COME ‘IN TRY!
Enquiries to Tracey on 0428509573.

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

**HONESTY**

**TRUST**

**Pride**

**SUPPORT**
Community Notices – Parenting Courses

1-2-3 Magic® & Emotion Coaching
For Parents and Families

A three-session program for parents and carers
Date: Friday, 1, 8 and 15 April
Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm
Where: Relationships Australia SA, 9 Kay Ave, Berri

We will discuss with you ideas about:
• Understanding Behaviour
• How To Handle Challenging And Testing Behaviours
• Choosing Your Strategy, The Three Choices
• Using Emotion Coaching To Encourage Good Behaviour
• 7 Ideas For Encouraging Good Behaviour

Parents will receive a 1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Workbook
Please contact Chelsea, Relationships Australia SA, Berri - 8582 4122 to book.

Session details:
When: Friday, 12 and 19 February 2016
10.00am to 1.00pm
Where: Relationships Australia SA, 9 Kay Ave, Berri

Contact (08) 8582 4122 to book
Developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation

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
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stalbertsloxton

RESPECT • HONESTY • TRUST • PRIDE • SUPPORT