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

After a longer than usual Christmas break, it came as no surprise that students settled very quickly into a familiar routine. Within the first hour of the first day, classrooms were ‘humming’ with all manner of learning. There was a genuine excitement around being back at school, catching up with friends and for so many of our young ones, exploring the world of school for the very first time. Should you have any concern regarding your child’s education at St Albert’s, or even if you would just like to say hi, I am on duty every morning in the playground around 8:30am or email me directly principal@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

Today is Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the Catholic Church. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that Christians are entering a season of penance and was originally a solemn day. But over the centuries, in anticipation of the Lenten fast that would begin the next day, Shrove Tuesday took on a festive nature!
Brothers & Sisters

The old English word Lent has the meaning of Spring, a new growth. Let us this Lent heed what Pope Francis is urging upon us, to allow our sense of the mercy of God to invade us, growing us anew. “Think of the love the Father has lavished upon us”, Scripture says. It also says, “Be still and know that I am God”. Let that be our Lenten resolution, to stop and listen a minute or so each day, to allow God to be God for us within. “Lord, if you want to you can heal me! Of course I want to!” Jesus replied. “Have mercy on me God in your kindness; in your compassion blot out my offence”, prayed the Psalmist. Let us turn those phrases over in our hearts each day in Lent. Simple, but it will draw us to encounter with Mercy, the heart of God.

+ G.J. O’Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie

Please join our school and parish community for a Vigil Mass at 6pm today, February 9 in St Albert’s Church as we also welcome our Sacramental Candidates for Reconciliation.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2016
The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”. As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Throughout Project Compassion 2016, inspiring stories from Malawi, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Cambodia and India will show how education, training and sharing knowledge can empower individual communities to transform their futures and create lasting change.

Together we can empower the world’s poorest people with the opportunity to learn, grow and create change.” Bishop Greg O’Kelly

SCHOOL BOARD AGM
Next Tuesday, February 16 @ 7pm in the school library is our school board Annual General Meeting. At the meeting we thank and farewell retiring board members, Sean Drake (Chair) and Steven Inglis (Finance), for their extraordinary and sustained commitment to the St Albert’s community over many years. Two vacancies are now open for your consideration onto the 2016 School Board. A nomination form is included with this Newsletter. Please ensure the form is returned no later than Monday, February 15, 3:30pm.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT – TONIGHT, FEBRUARY 9
On planning our Information Evening this year, I made the mistake of simply looking at the calendar and slotted in 7pm as the general start time. After checking last year’s Newsletter, I was reminded about the staggered start. My apologies for the confusion, it was certainly not a decision on my part to restructure the evening. Start times this year have been adjusted slightly to accommodate the presentation of Sacramental Candidates (Reconciliation & First Holy Communion) at the 6pm Parish Mass.

6:00pm  R/1  Mrs Sharona Edwards / Mrs Alison Uren
6:30pm  4/5  Mr Brogan Whitelaw
7:00pm  2/3  Mrs Karen Cash
7:30pm  6/7  Miss Melissa Leach (Mr Czechowski will also lead an open forum concerning the Friday afternoon contingency)
Announcement of 2016 SRC Representatives
Please join with me in congratulating elected members of our 2016 Student Representative Council (SRC). Erin Harrald will coordinate the SRC this term as part of her role as Pastoral Care Worker.

SWIMMING - update
I received an email from Riverland Swimming advising that due to a lack of instructors and a number of carnivals scheduled, they are unable to support our request for lessons this term. We will now look at locking in a time mid-late Term 4.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE, 2016
Tuesday, February 9 – 6PM   Presentation of Sacramental Candidates (Parish Mass)
Tuesday, February 9   Parent Information Evening
Wednesday, February 10   Ash Wednesday (10am)
Tuesday, February 16   Little Albee’s commences (9-11am)
                        School Board AGM (7pm)
Friday, February 19   Year 4/5 Assembly

Sincerely

Brett Czechowski
Principal

Our Lady of the River Parish
Sunday Loxton Masses
Sunday 14 February – 9:00am
Sunday 21 February – 11:00am
Parish email: olr@bigpond.com
YEAR OF MERCY HOLY DOOR
Pastoral Support News

GARDEN PRODUCE SALE
The SRC will be selling fresh produce from our school vegetable garden before assembly in week 3, Friday 19 February. We will be set up just outside the hall as you enter. Please bring small change.

MONDAY BREAKFAST
The first breakfast went really well.
A free breakfast will be served from the kitchen server every Monday morning between 8:30am and 8:40am.
We will have toast, fruit, cereals and apple juice and during Terms 2 and 3, warm Milo will also be available.

Best wishes
Erin Harrald
Pastoral Support Worker
Parents and Friends News

P & F REPRESENTATIVES
6/7 Class  Gina Nitschke  
           Lily Hansen  
           Sheridan Alm  
4/5 Class  Merridee Seiboth  
2/3 Class  Mimma Perre  
R/1 Class  Carlee Vowles  
School     Jenny Hicks  

Please do not hesitate to approach any of the above people if you have any questions in relation to the Parents and Friends Association of St Albert’s. We have one or two meetings a term which are conducted in a casual informal way. Everyone is more than welcome and encouraged to come along to any or all meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS
We would like to encourage parents to please inform the school if your child has any type of achievement or has put in an outstanding effort towards something. As a school, we would like to acknowledge their achievement, and encourage and help them to report on it for assemblies.

SPORTS DAY CATERING
We will be looking for help in the areas of transporting eskies, tables, etc. to the Loxton oval, serving, cooking the BBQ, making burger mix and chopping onions on the day and also picking up food and drink supplies the day before. If you are interested in helping out in any of these areas, please let me know. A request and time slot form will be sent out to all families soon.

P.E.W.S. –
Tuesday March 1, 2016 - 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
Parent Education & Well-being Session
for parents of children aged 12 years and under.
Developing Resilient Children
No cost – Tea, coffee & light supper supplied.

Books essential as seats are limited
To book, contact:
St Albert’s Catholic School – 85845110
or Email: info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au
A St. Albert’s Catholic School Parents & Friends initiative.

2016 AUCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE
This year’s Auction date is Saturday 13 August. Please try to keep this date free!!
It will be held at the Loxton Sporty Club. This year will be the 20th Anniversary of our Auction, which was started in 1996 by Principal, Peter Shearer.

The theme for this year’s Auction is 1950’s as St Albert’s was started in 1956.

If anyone has any 1950’s furniture or any items suitable for decorating the venue in a 1950’s theme, that could be loaned for the evening, please send an email to jennyh@stalbert.catholic.edu.au or info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

Jenny Hicks
School P & F Contact.

RESPECT • HONESTY • TRUST • PRIDE • SUPPORT
Community Notices

LOXTON AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
2016 AGM & DINNER
Wednesday March 16
At the Loxton Hotel
Dinner 6pm - AGM 7pm
All interested persons are welcome to attend.
Please RSVP by Friday 11 March, 2016 to
Sue Schultz on 0428876511 or
loxtonbasketball@gmail.com

2016 PRESENTATION NIGHT
Sunday 6 March 2016
at the Loxton Football & Sporting Club
meals available from 6pm
presentations commence 7pm
Adults $10 Kids $6

GIVE, GAIN & GROW
Personal Development Program designed to
assist people in gaining the skills, knowledge,
attitudes and behaviours to manage life,
learning and careers in self-directed ways.

Starts Wednesday 2 March
9:30am – 2:30pm
for 6 weeks (1 day per week)
In Loxton
Presented by Rachel Thiele & Sheree Cameron
Please register your interest
with Sheree of MiFreedom Coaching on 0439349701 or
Career development Centre on 85808500

MY TIME PROVIDER
Supporting parents of children with disabilities
Free program for mums, dads,
grandparents and anyone caring for a child up
to the age of 16 with a disability, chronic
medical condition or special needs.
Free crèche available for children 0-5 years.

When: Tuesdays during school terms. Term 1
sessions commence on Tuesday 16 February
2016, however group members can join the
program at any time.
Time: 11:00am to 1:30pm.
Venue: 1 Jellett Road, Berri (located at the
Vine Community Church).
For more information, please contact:
Riverland Facilitator
Tracy Minogue - 0487315416

LOXTON NORTH NETBALL CLUB
Pre-season – Everyone welcome
Tuesday 9 February
Registrations
Will be on line –
exact opening dates will be emailed.
2016 Selections
A1 & A2 – Tuesdays – 8 & 15 March
A3 – C2 – Wednesdays – 16 & 23 March
All Juniors – Wednesdays 16 & 23 March
Contacts: Renee Williams
renandben@me.com
Kara Haslam 0400711404

NATURE FOUNDATION SA
- Water for Nature Open Day
- Nature Roundup
- Hiltaba Grand Working Bee
- Para Woodlands Tree Planting
- Tiliqua Lizard Crawl
- Treasure Hunt for Nature
- Annual General Meeting

www.naturefoundation.org.au

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**Little Albee’s Playgroup**

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

**ALL WELCOME!!**
Alison Uren
alison@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

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**Community Notice**

**2016 LOXTON MARDI GRAS**

Theme: “TELL US YOUR STORY”

**Friday 26 February**
10am – 4pm Loxton Quilters Display in **Uniting Church Hall.**
7:00pm -Free family movie – **East Terrace lawns**

**Saturday 27 February**
9:00am - Street Activities begin
10am – 4pm -Loxton Quilters Display
9am – 2pm - Craft ‘n More fete **Anglican Church Hall**
10:45am -Parade commences
12:30pm - Lunch and Bands **at the Rotunda**

**Ambassador Announcements**
5pm – 10pm – Nippy’s Loxton Gift.

**Sunday 28 February**
8:30am Mardi Gras Appreciation Service **Rotunda East Terrace**
www.loxtonmardigras.org.au

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**Uniform Shop**

**UNIFORM SHOP TERM 1 – 2016.**

**OPEN....... FRIDAY MORNINGS**
8:30 am to 9:30 am

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
UniformCoordinator.

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**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

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