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

You have put joy and rejoicing in my heart (Psalms 4:7)

At a recent meeting of Riverland Catholic Principals, we commented how quickly students across our four schools have settled into routine this year. This is certainly true of students from St Albert’s. The SRC assembly last Friday was a great moment of welcome for both our Representative Council and students new to our school. I was humbled to learn that some council members in upper primary were elected to the council for the very first time. You could see the incredible sense of pride and accomplishment in the faces of these children on achieving such an affirmation of their character by their peers. The same could be said of their parents, equally proud and hearts pounding with joy. I congratulate the following students on their appointment to the SRC for Semester One...

YEAR R/1
Jake Stewart-Noble
Nyah Uren

YEAR 2/3
Jake Perram
Eira Dalzell

YEAR 4/5
Jack Bertram
Sarah Cameron

YEAR 6/7
Seth Formby
Jenna Vowles

CAPTAINS
Zoe Hughes
Peta Nicholson

(Visiting priest, Fr Cletus blesses members of the 2017 Semester One Student Representative Council at our 10am Parish Mass)
**New Receptions**

Last Monday, 12 new faces began their schooling at St Albert’s including one teacher (Miss Chelsea Gutsche). They all had a very exciting first day and settled into school very quickly. We are so excited to have them join our family! Each student received a small gift from the school at our opening assembly.
Our School Values
When first appointed as Principal to St Albert’s, I posed the following question to staff, “Our school values (Respect, Honesty, Pride, Trust and Support) are nearly 10 years old. Do they still reflect the mission and vision of our school?” This was a vexing question. Over time, values can change – this is true of society generally, of political landscapes, of companies and business etc. Values reflect the expectations, standards and vision of community – these things, by their nature, can change over time. What I learned from asking this question is that some of our values are as true now as they were 20 years ago but others no longer seem to resonate. Some values are given special emphasis at assemblies and in the classroom while others are barely mentioned. For me personally, my struggle is that none of our current values reflect Christian virtues, which is at the heart of our mission here. I would like to lead an evening session with families to explore our school values. The best time for this would be immediately following our school Annual General Meeting. If you would like to share in this discussion please feel free to join with us this coming Tuesday, February 14 @7pm in the school library.

Royal Commission Final Hearing
You may have seen media reports of late detailing the Royal Commission’s final sessions with representatives of the Catholic Church in relation to Institutional Abuse of the young. Bishop O’Kelly has released a special message to the diocese, which is available on request to the school. He writes, ‘Over the next three weeks, the Royal Commission will analyse the evidence presented to it, statistics about the extent of the abuse will be made public, and these will shock and shame us, and the way forward will be explored. It is not enough simply to change the procedures. The Church needs to ask what cultural factors led to abuse, and to the mishandling of abuse by Church leaders and the lack of care for victims. It is our culture that must be addressed, not simply external rules.’

Re-Heating Food
I have had a few enquiries as to the re-heating of food at Recess and Lunch times. Our position has been not to engage the request, given there are so many students and only one microwave which is readily accessible (located in the staff room). We have found that previously, staff would be spending a significant amount of time re-heating food to each student’s liking, which took away from their own lunch break and also their obligation of supervising students during Eating Time. I’m sure families can appreciate our position, given there are 80 hungry souls at the beginning of every Recess and Lunch. If you can provide food which does not require re-heating for your child(ren), it would be very much appreciated.

PE Uniform
We have tried to align the days children wear their PE uniform to assist with the booking of the COLA for sport lessons and for the ‘management’ of uniforms generally by families. Unless a variation to the alignment has been made by the class teacher, we ask students wear their PE Uniforms on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As with any decision of this nature, we will monitor its effectiveness over the short term and provide updates as required.

New Times – Uniform Shop
A reminder that we have had to move the Uniform Shop time to Thursdays (8:45am – 11:00am) or by appointment.

Key Dates
I thought to highlight some of the key dates coming up over the next few weeks...
Parent Information Evening TONIGHT
Tuesday, February 7 commencing at the following times
Year R/1 6pm
Year 2/3 6:30pm
Year 4/5 7pm
Year 6/7 7:30pm

Parents and Friends Welcoming Sausage Sizzle & Social Evening
Friday, February 17 from 6pm
Outdoor Learning Precinct (bring a chair / throw rug, a salad or sweet to share and drinks)
Cordial is available for the kids.

Sincerely
Brett Czechowski
Principal
IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

Tuesday, February 14 @ 7pm
School Board Annual General Meeting
(Library)
Principal-lead exploration of school values

Friday, February 17 from 6pm
Parents and Friends Welcome BBQ @ Social Evening

Tuesday, February 21 @ 10am
Year R/1 Class Mass (St Albert’s Church)

Saturday, February 25
Loxton Annual Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 28 (5pm – TBC)
Presentation of Confirmation Candidates @ Parish Mass

Friday, March 3 @ 2:40pm
Year 6/7 Assembly (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 6 @7pm
Parents and Friends Meeting (Staff Room)

Tuesday, March 7 (Pupil Free Day)
Twilight Sports Day (commences 4pm at Loxton Oval)

Monday, March 13 – Public Holiday
(Adelaide Cup)

Friday, March 17 @ 2:40pm
Year R/1 Assembly (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, 28 February
Shrove Tuesday
Presentation of Sacramental Candidates for Confirmation

ICE BLOCKS
Ice blocks will be for sale every Monday during terms 1 and 4 at the start of lunch.
Zooper Doopers – 50 cents.
Ice blocks - $1.00
Paddle Pops - $2.00
All money raised will be donated to a charity.

BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast will be served from the Canteen window every Monday morning from 8:30 – 8:40am.
Breakfast is FREE and available to ALL students.

Erin Harrald
Pastoral Support

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Your child has received a copy of the first Scholastic Book Club issue for 2017. Please take the time to have a look through the catalogue to see what new books are out there for our students to read. If you wish to make a purchase, please have your order and payment in to school by NO LATER than Friday 10th February. There is an option for credit card payment or to order online which eliminates cash being handled at school. Our school receives 20% from the book sales in which we purchase new resources for our library and classrooms.

“Give the Gift of Reading”

Kind Regards,
Dionne Kassulke

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Community Notices

LOXTON NORTH NETBALL CLUB

Season 2017 Selections are as follows:

Senior A Squad:
Tuesday 28th February & Tuesday 7th March
7pm-8:30pm
Senior B1-C2:
Wednesday 8th March & Wednesday 15th March
7:15pm-8:30pm
Juniors:
Wednesday 8th March & Wednesday 15th March
6pm-7pm

Please register via MyNetball prior to first trials if you intend to play this year. To register, below are the links to both the senior and junior registration forms online. If you have any trouble with this, please contact club secretary at loxtonnorthnetballclub@gmail.com:

Junior link -

Senior Link -

Regards,
Jess McPherson
Loxton North Netball Club Secretary

LOXTON NETBALL CLUB

Information Night/Uniform Fittings
Monday, 13th February 6-7.30 pm
Preseason fitness training
Monday, 13th February 6:30-7:30 pm
Compulsory for people trialling for the following grades 15A, 17A and A1&A2
Team Trials
Juniors: 20 Feb, 27 Feb, 6 Mar 5:30-7pm
A1/A2: 20 & 27 Feb 7-8:30pm
Other senior grades: 6 & 14 Mar 7-8:30pm
All at the Loxton Rec Centre
Enquires or apologies
Meegan phone 0438 553 545
ALL Registrations online – mynetball.com.au
Check our Facebook page for information, changes and updates

LOXTON NORTH NETBALL CLUB

Expressions of interest are invited for SEASON 2017
All junior and senior grades
Please include:
Previous coaching experience, coaching qualifications and grade/s you are interested in coaching.
For further information please contact the club’s president Meegan Frost
Applications by email meegan.frost@bigpond.com or post PO Box 892, Loxton SA 5333.
Meegan Phone 0438 553 545

Address: PO Box 570, Loxton SA 5333 • 13 Geraldton Street, Loxton SA 5333
Phone: 8584 5110 • Email: info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au
www.stalbert.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stalbertsloxton

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