



St Anthony's Catholic School

382A West Tamar Rd. Riverside 7250

Ph. (03) 6327 3618

March

Thur 2nd

8.30 – 9.30 am SPC Band
Program meet and greet

Parent Teacher interviews
3.30 – 9.00 pm

Mon 6th – Wed 8th

Grade 6 at Camp Banksia

Wed 8th – Fri 10th

Grade 5 at Camp Clayton

Wed 8th

Commonwealth Banking Open
Day 8.30 – 9.30 am

Thur 9th

8.30 – 9.30 am SPC Band
Program commences

Mon 13th

Public holiday – no classes

Mon 20th – Sun 26th

Catholic Education Week

Thur 23rd

NIJSSA Swimming Carnival

P & F Annual General meeting
6.30 pm – change of date

Fri 24th

Student free day – no classes

Thur 30th

School Board AGM 7.00 pm

No 3

Wednesday March 1st 2017



Dear families & friends of St Anthony's Catholic School,

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Today is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. On Ash Wednesday, we wear a small cross of ashes on the forehead. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

Today as Father Martin and several staff applied the ashes to each forehead, they spoke the words: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" which is really just another way of saying "Walk in the footsteps of Christ". The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass, and everyone is invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance.



During Lent, we focus on prayer, giving something up (e.g. a thing - chocolate is often popular -, a behaviour, a negative way of thinking etc), saying sorry (penance) and alms giving (raising money for those not as fortunate as ourselves). Each year during Lent, we participate in Project Compassion. Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.



Project Compassion raises funds and community awareness about important global issues, and Caritas Australia's role in empowering our neighbours across the world to build a brighter future. This year's theme is 'Love your neighbour.' You can find more information about Project Compassion here: <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>, and there is even a Project Compassion Lent Calendar app available at <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar> that you can download to your phone for daily notifications and reminders during Lent.

Project Compassion Mission Boxes

Today we have sent home to each family, a small collection box for Project Compassion. This year's focus for Caritas Australia demonstrates how love for our neighbours can transform lives. Project Compassion shows the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. At our fortnightly assemblies, the Mini Vinnies team will present some stories about the people we assist. We thank you for your support in this. Mission boxes should be returned at the end of Term 1.

Shrove Tuesday

Ash Wednesday is always preceded by Shrove Tuesday (or pancake Tuesday as it is more popularly known). Yesterday your child may have come home a little sticky having indulged in a pancake or two courtesy of the generous donations of pancake mixture, maple syrup, lemons etc from Bank of Queensland, our families and their friends. Thank you to the wonderful parents who came along to flip pancakes and get to know each other. The students certainly appreciated it! Thanks also to those parents of children with allergies who sent along a "safe pancake" for their own child so that they could join in too.

I am in Hobart until Friday. Angie Burnell is Acting Principal in my absence.

Looking forward to seeing you around the school.

Anita

A Cunningham

PRINCIPAL



Anthony House Claims Swimming Shield

An exciting days swimming resulted in Anthony House claiming the House shield in a dominant display. Anthony led the carnival for most of the day, and could not be overhauled despite the best efforts of the gallant Clare & Francis House teams.

Special mention must go to Sophie Hinds of Clare house who broke four records on a great day of racing, with the Gr5 Girls 33m & 66m Freestyle, Breaststroke and Butterfly records all falling on the day. Great effort Sophie.

The whole carnival was very competitive with all students putting in a huge effort in all races to try to gain maximum points for their house teams.



Many thanks to the Riverside Pool team and to all the parents who put their hands up to help out on the day. The school is unable to put on events like this without the support of the school community, so everybody involved – students, volunteers and teachers all deserve a big pat on the back for what was a great day.

Nick Stacey



Emergency Practice

Within the next eight weeks we will hold an unannounced emergency practice with staff & students, to test our response to a potential scenario that staff identify a threat warranting the school go into lockdown (opposite to evacuation).

Like fire evacuation drills, we recognise the worth to test this process. We have plans in place to make this practice as least disruptive as able.

If you have queries you are welcome to call our Safety Officer, Simon Natoli on 0400 105 476.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2017

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) commenced in Australian Schools in 2008. Each year all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in common tests which assess:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2017 are Tuesday 9th May, Wednesday 10th May and Thursday 11th May.

The benefits of participating in NAPLAN testing:

- NAPLAN tests the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy.
- NAPLAN results provide valuable information on how your child is progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level.
- The NAPLAN tests provide you as parents with an individual report that shows your child's results and a comparison of your child's performance against all other Australian students in their year level.
- Teachers see the NAPLAN results to determine your child's areas of strength and where future focus is required and how best to provide support or extension activities.
- School Teachers use the NAPLAN Toolkit to analyse your child's results. The Toolkit provides detailed information right down to the individual question with links to teaching strategies.
- Principals, senior staff and others use NAPLAN results to inform school planning and to allocate resources and support including informing decisions around targeted programs and initiatives for individuals and groups.

The best way you can assist your child is by helping them to feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, please visit the national NAPLAN website at <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html>

Music Lessons

Some vacancies are now available for piano/guitar lessons. Enquiries to Mrs Antel (or phone 63273304).

Commonwealth Bank Open Day

Anyone who needs assistance with opening new school banking accounts Michelle from the Commonwealth Bank will be available on March 8th from 8.30 – 9.30 am at school.



Parents & Friends AGM

Next P & F Meeting will be the AGM to be held in the school library at 6.30pm on March 23rd, 2017. This will also be a wine and cheese night so come along, learn about what the P & F do within the school community and help to brainstorm some ideas to help us move forward in 2017. This will be a year to celebrate community spirit, so your input and ideas will be gratefully accepted. Please note that all nominees must have a current WWVP Check.

Please RSVP your intent to attend (for catering reasons) to the office or to Nicole Thomas on 0417 386037 or email nicandnut@netspace.net.au

School Board Nominations

The AGM for the Board of Management will be held in April and nominations for Office Bearers are now being called. The Board of Management is primarily responsible for the finance and property of the school, working in conjunction with the Principal. Anyone wishing to nominate is asked to speak to the Principal's Secretary, Nicole Cullen, and collect an information package and nomination form. Please note that all nominees must have a current WWVP Check.

P&F Nomination Form

I..... (name)

nominate for the position of -

Chairperson Vice Chairperson Secretary Treasurer

Class Representative Grade

Signed (nominee)

Signed (seconder)

Please return to the school office or the P & F Executive