



SACRED HEART NEWSLETTER

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Week 8

Term 1

13th March 2017

Dear Parents,

Recently I attended a Principal's Meeting in Armidale and when we were going through the figures concerning student enrolments, I had a number of fellow principals commenting on the large percentage of increased enrolments for our school. Since this time last year, Sacred Heart has increased its numbers by 42% which was the highest increase by a large margin. When questioned on what I had done to accomplish this, I replied that it wasn't me but it was due to the large amount of teamwork that our teachers, parents/grandparents and students do that makes our school so great. We are still getting there but now other schools in the region and diocese are taking notice.

Last week all Catholic Schools throughout NSW and the ACT celebrated Catholic Schools Week. I was very fortunate to accompany three of our school leaders: Bailey, Genevieve and Scarlett to Moree to celebrate Mass led by Bishop Michael Kennedy with other principals and student leaders of various schools in the Western Deanery. These children did an outstanding job being ambassadors for Sacred Heart and it was the first time that our school blazers were worn which definitely made our leaders stand out.



It is fantastic to see that a large number of parents and students who have expressed interest in participating in after school hours music lessons. I am currently talking with Richard in finalising days and also costs. It looks like due to popular demand that I have to move the piano from the Preschool! Anyway, a final note to interested parties will be sent home in the near future.

Term 1 Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held in the upcoming weeks. These interviews are designed to inform how your child is going with their learning at the moment and also to set learning goals for the rest of the school year. A note will be sent home in the upcoming days regarding times and dates that the interviews will be taking place on.

Have a great fortnight.

Dallas Hyatt



Happy Birthday to **Claire, Himaja and Kaiden** who all celebrate their 9th birthday on 13th, 16th and 23rd March respectively. Also to **Senuli** who turns 5 on 25th March. We are sure all of you will have a great day!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Thursday we remember John Bede Polding, the first bishop of Australia, known as "The bishop of Botany Bay". Born in Liverpool, England, he came to Australia in 1835. The whole of Australia was his diocese. He travelled thousands of miles on horseback to look after the people of the early colony. He helped convicts, aborigines, poor people and the homeless and, like the prophets, brought them hope. In 1857, John Bede Polding founded an order of sisters called the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. He died in Sydney on the 16th March 1877.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



We pray for the children in our parish who are in the final stages of their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Gunnedah this **Sunday 19th March**. These candidates will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Wednesday after the 11.30am Mass and on Friday they will travel to Gunnedah to participate in a Retreat Day, where they get to meet other candidates, complete final preparations and also meet with Bishop Michael Kennedy.

*I arise today
through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
I thank God through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

SPORT

Last Friday was the last day for swimming for Term 1. The main focus for sport for the remainder of the term will be preparation for the School Cross Country that will be held early next term.

We wish Sienna, Miah, Noah and Luke all of the best as they will be representing the Armidale Diocese at the Polding Swimming Trials on **Wednesday 22nd March** at Homebush. These children will recommence training during their lunch break this Thursday, Friday and the following Monday. Please bring pool entry money if applicable.



Good for Kids good for life

WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATIONS

Joining in team sports is a great way to increase your child's physical activity. Other benefits include:

- Teaching teamwork
- Increasing communication skills
- Gaining confidence through interaction with other children
- Teaching children it is ok to lose sometimes
- Making new friends
- And most importantly, having fun!

Registrations for winter team sports open in the first weeks of Term 1 so why not inquire today about what team sports are available in your community?

NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District
PHONE 4924 6499

WINTER UNIFORM ORDERS

Please check your winter uniforms for the start of Term 2. Orders need to be at school by **Wednesday 22nd March** as Ms Traynor will be placing an order on **24th March**, no late orders can be accepted. If you wish to order new Girl's Winter Tunic, you can do so from Grace's Uniforms, Coonabarabran on 6842 1670 or from stores in Tamworth. (**The school has winter ties available.**) Yellow Long Sleeve Shirts are available from the Office along with Tracksuit tops in certain sizes (pants need to be ordered).
NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED SO CHECK NOW!

BOOKCLUB

Bookclub brochures were given out to students last week. If you would like your child to purchase from these brochures there are two options:
**1. Go online and order through the LOOP at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP, follow the steps. 2. Return to the school by cash or cheque (please make cheques payable to Sacred Heart School ~ NOT Scholastic as stated in the brochure)
ORDERS ARE DUE ~ Wednesday 22nd March**

GUNNEDAH EISTEDDFOD

The Gunnedah Eisteddfod is fast approaching and Sacred Heart has a proud tradition of competing at this event for a number of years and as the small school choral champions, we plan to defend our title. The teachers are in the process of working categories we would like to enter in. As soon as we find out we will let you know.

2018 KINDER TRANSITION PROGRAM

From all reports Oscar, Emily, Ali, Jeremiah and Shakira, who are participating in our Kindergarten Transition Program, are having a great time with Mrs Fenton. Over the last two weeks they have been learning the sounds 's' and 'm'. We still have some vacancies available, so spread the word around.

PTF/PAC GENERAL MEETING

Our first PTF/PAC Meeting will be held this **Thursday 16 March at 1.45pm**. Everyone is most welcome to attend as many hands make small work. The focus of this meeting will be on the Drover's Campfire with the organisation of the School Uniform Fashion Parade and other events.

ASSEMBLY

As our aquatics program has now concluded we will be commencing our weekly assemblies from this **Friday 17th March at 2.30pm** to acknowledge and celebrate the fantastic work that is being achieved at Sacred Heart. You are most welcome to come and join us.

CANTEEN ROSTER

17th March ~ Fran Jackson
24th March ~ Kylie Devine

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK House & Grandparents Day

Last Thursday Cox and Namoi renewed their rivalries with our annual House and Grandparents Day.

The day started with sports houses Namoi & Cox splitting up into two teams each to attempt some scientific activities: making the highest tower out of newspaper. Most of the teams accomplished this with a lot of help from their adult spectators with a large number of towers being taller than some of the students! It is lucky that the building inspector wasn't around.

Another activity was to design and create a seatbelt that would protect an egg. This proved to be rather messy as some of the eggs were ejected from their harnesses when impact occurred. Also a classic was revised as the students with a lot of parent help make pirate costumes out of newspaper (we certainly have some very artistic parents at our school).

The parents and grandparents were very enthusiastic about trying all of these activities and there were definitely a lot of smartphones being used as Google provided a lot of inspiration.

The day wasn't all about fun, it was also about raising some money for Project Compassion. The students had a variety of fundraising activities including; a lolly guessing competition, patty cake stall and a money trail where the two houses challenging each other and we ended up raising over \$200.

Everyone enjoyed a BBQ lunch and to complete the day, there were three rounds of trivia. The eventual winners were Namoi with 145 points, closely followed by Cox on 142 points.



Mines BBQ Donations

Many thanks to Mrs Jo Tailby and Mrs Julie Gillham for donating money to the PTF Association that they raised by manning the Mines BBQs. Their money will go to purchasing new resources for the school to help support the children's learning.

Boggabri Swimming Club

The Swimming Club Presentation Night will be held on **Monday 27th March** at the pool from 5-7pm. A BBQ dinner will be provided. Please bring along a plate of nibbles to share.

Gunnedah Show

21st ~ 23rd April 2017

This year there are many opportunities for students to participate in the Gunnedah Show. Opportunities available are: Colouring-In Competition, Children's Literature, Art, Cooking, Handicrafts, Produce, needlework, Photography and Horticulture sections. The programs for all of these sections are available from the Office. All of the show programs can also be downloaded from the web page

www.gunnedahshowsociety.com.au

For more information about a particular section, please phone the show office on 6742 1867.



MARCH

Mon 13th - Electronic Usage Survey Training in Sydney (Mr Hyatt)

Tues 14th/Wed 15th - Leaders of Learning in Armidale (Mr Hyatt & Mrs Howarth)

Thurs 16th - PTF/PAC Meeting 1:45pm

Sun 19th - CONFIRMATION in Gunnedah

Tues 21st - REC Meeting (Mr Hyatt)

Wed 22nd - Polding Swimming Trials in Sydney

Fri 24th - Winter Trials

APRIL

Fri 7th - LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Mon 24th - SCHOOL RESUMES TERM 2

Tues 25th - ANZAC DAY

See more great photos on the next page!!

