



Newsletter – Week 2

Wednesday, 7th February, 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Thank you so much to all parents who were able to join us for our Beginning of Year Mass. Having you there added so much to our Mass.

Thank you to Francesca and class teachers, for all of the preparations and practising for the Mass and to all students who participated with reading, sharing symbols, leading our final song and singing. Thank you to Fr Chris, our celebrant. We were all “letting our light shine”!

CONGRATULATIONS – SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Following leadership speeches, last week students voted for our school captains. Congratulations to:

SCHOOL CAPTAIN: ADELAIDE WHITE
SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAIN: LUCAS PHILLIPS

UNIFORM

As you may have seen in our whole school Seesaw message yesterday, students are invited to wear their House tops on days when it is their sport uniform day (PE and Dance lessons) from now until sports day. This will add to our team spirit and build the momentum as we prepare for our sports day on Wednesday in Week 6.

MEET AND GREET EVENING

A reminder that all parents and carers are invited to attend our Meet and Greet Evening next Wednesday Wednesday 14th February (Week 3)

6.00-6.20pm All parents meet with Michelle MPLA (welcome and introduction)

6.20-7.00 Parents meet with individual teachers (visit the classroom and meet the teacher/s)

* Supervision of children will be provided by teaching staff in the playground (school side) from 5.50-7.15pm, to enable parents and carers to attend the meetings.

HOUSE MEETINGS

Our first House meetings have been held today. Students interested in running for House Captain roles have presented their speeches and we look forward to sharing the results with you.

CURRIULUM INFORMATION

Teachers have prepared curriculum letters outlining the teaching and learning in classrooms and specialist areas for Term 1. You will receive these today for Reception – Year 5.

Our Year 6-8 class will follow a slightly different structure with the curriculum letter coming home at the end of the term, accompanying the parent/teacher interviews.

EVACUATION DRILL

For safety purposes we are required to have evacuation and lock-in drills, so that we know the procedure and have practised it. We will have our first evacuation drill on Monday 12 February just before recess. The staff take care to prepare the students so that they are not worried or scared, however it is good for parents to have a chat at home as well and prepare your child if you think this might be helpful for them.

P & F MEETING

We will hold our first P & F meeting for the year on Tuesday 13th February at 7pm in the Meeting Room (in the office area). All parents and carers are most welcome to attend. Come along and meet other parents and find out a bit about what we do. Drinks and nibbles will be provided and we do have fun when we meet. Come along, we would love to have you there!

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2024

The days when students do not come to school to allow staff time for formation and professional learning are to be known as Pupil Free / Staff Formation days. Following are our Pupil Free / Staff Formation days for 2024:

- Term 1 - Week 6 - Friday 8 March – OSHC open: First Aid training for all staff
- Term 2 - Week 1 - Monday 29 April - OSHC open: Professional Learning
- Term 3 - Week 1 - Monday 22 July – OSHC open: Professional Learning
- Term 3 - Week 9 - Friday 20 September – **OSHC closed:** Staff Reflection Day
- Term 4 - Week 9 - Friday 13 December – OSHC open: Planning and preparing for 2025

Blessings for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE REC

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS THANKS

I would like to start my newsletter by saying a big thank you to our students and staff for their participation at our Beginning of Year Mass. It had a lovely sense of togetherness. During the week, the students learnt some new songs with the light theme. These were Shine, Jesus, Shine! and Let your little light shine. The final song, Let your little light shine had actions. Thank you to our readers who read so well and to the dancers who led the students with the actions.

At the beginning of the Mass, Fr Chris blessed our school candle. The light of this candle symbolises the light of Christ, who has come into our world. Jesus, our Emmanuel, reminds us that God is always with us.

The light of this candle symbolises the flames of Pentecost, when God's Spirit moved the people to proclaim the Good News.

Fr Chris commissioned the staff for a successful year and that they serve the community with heartfelt compassion, kindness and gentleness, humility, and patience. The staff committed themselves to be faithful to the call to live and serve as a presence of Christ, in love and generous service of all those in our school community. The staff will be inspired to act with kindness, gentleness, humility, forgiveness, and patience towards all in our community.



SCHOOL LANTERNS

On Monday, we had the presentation of the school lanterns. Every class and area were given a lantern with the words *Let your light shine*. The groups will use these lanterns during class prayer and other special times in their days.



SAINT OF THE WEEK: SAINT CECILIA

With the beginning of the Festival Choir this Friday, I have chosen Saint Cecilia. Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and singers.

St. Cecilia is regarded as the patroness of music because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married and is represented in art with a musical instrument in her hand.

She is often painted with a flute, organ, roses, violin, harp, Baritone harpsichord, songbird or singing.



FESTIVAL CHOIR

The Festival Choir has students from years 5 to 7 under the guidance of Mrs Bacher. For approximately 17 years, our school has joined other Catholic Schools to form this choir of approximately 300 students. This Festival is over 3 nights due to the number of students participating in this.

We wish Mrs Bacher and the Festival Choir all the best and know that St Cecilia will guide you throughout your preparation period.

SHROVE TUESDAY



Next Tuesday, 13th February is Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Christians went to confession and were forgiven for their sins.

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

The year 6-8 students will be preparing and cooking pancakes for us all on that day. Each class will go to the Sacred Heart Centre before recess to enjoy these yummy pancakes. Students please bring a gold coin donation on the day, all donations will go towards Project Compassion fundraising

We thank Mrs Owen for the donation of pancake mix. If you can donate a condiment such as strawberry jam, apricot jam, maple syrup, lemons etc, it would be greatly appreciated.

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday, 14th February is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is one of the most well known and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

We will be holding the **Ash Wednesday Mass, at Star of the Sea Church at 11:45am**. During the Mass, we will receive ashes on the forehead. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are put on to a person's forehead, we are reminded to do good, with words such as: "Turn away from doing wrong and follow in God's way." Again, we would love to see the families and parishioners at the mass.

LENT

Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. As with Ash Wednesday, it is one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world. Lent is seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up and giving to the poor. Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death, and body resurrection.

CHINESE NEW YEAR AND LIGHT LANTERNS:

The Chinese New Year is celebrated on Saturday 10th February. The light lanterns used in celebration, symbolise driving out darkness and bringing hope to the coming year.



The years of the Dragon include 2024 (this year), 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, and 1952. Dragons are strong and independent figures, but they yearn for support and love. Dragons are wise and adventurous and, at times, temperamental and impulsive.

Some of the Year 6 and 7 students were born in 2012, so in this tradition, this year they are destined for greatness and good fortune.

May the light of God shine brightly upon your life this week.

May people see Christ and his marvellous deeds in your life as you step out today and the week ahead.

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

NYP SUPERKICK (ALL GIRLS) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

