HOLY WEEK PRAYERS—OUR SCHOOL’S LENTEN PREPARATION FOR EASTER!

Over the final week of Term One our students journeyed through the events of Holy Week by sharing class presentations each day. These presentations were very well responded to by all our students. Our parent community along with preschool siblings of students also supported the work of these classes by attending the daily prayer times. We encourage parents to join us for such gatherings over term two. Our next school mass is scheduled for Thursday, 23rd April at 9am.

VOLUNTEERS RAISE THEIR HANDS FOR TERM 2 PREPARATIONS!

A huge thank you is being extended to all those parents who gave their time to assist our school in being ready for learning for the coming term. Assistance has been given in a number of ways, including book covering, cleaning and garden maintenance.

Living in an era of busy lifestyles, volunteering whilst often inconvenient has a significant role in the positive human wellbeing. In this day and age all of us must experience situations whereby we realise that our contributions are sorted and relied upon.

Our school cannot reach it’s vision of building a connected learning community without the contributions of volunteers.

Please stay aware of volunteering opportunities which will be arising in the future, you support is greatly appreciated.

Current & Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities include:

⇒ Book Covering
⇒ Basic Computer Technology Tasks
⇒ Mowing of nature strip & school grassed areas.

Please contact the school if you are able to offer your time.
LEARNING TOGETHER CONTINUES!

Having completed a very successful term one, we now set our new goals for Term 2. Having settled into our new school, term two will be an eventful and productive term. Some of the initiatives which fall into this term include:

⇒ Naplan (Year 3 & 5)
⇒ Whole School Excursion—Rural Experience
⇒ Sacramental Program— (Eucharist, Year 4)
⇒ AFL Clinics
⇒ Dance/Gymnastics Classes

TECHNOLOGY—A VALUABLE TOOL TO ENABLE, SUPPORT AND ENGAGE STUDENT LEARNING.

Having fine tuned our school network infrastructure we are now ready to roll out student technology devices for use at school. These devices will include Laptop PC’s and iPads.

Students will bring home some Acceptable Use Agreements to be signed by themselves and parents over this week, once this documentation is finalised students will commence timetable skills sessions on the use of these devices and their applications. They will also begin to integrate them into their literacy, numeracy blocks as well in their Integrated Studies and Religious Education classes.

As the term progresses we will also be piloting the use of some online resources to assist the seamless transition of learning between home and school. These resources include:

⇒ StudyLadder
⇒ Google Apps for Education (Google Drive, Docs, Mail, Calendar, etc)

END OF TERM CLEAN UP.

Many thanks to those parents who offered their time on the final Thursday of Term One to clean the learning spaces ready for Day 1, Term 2.

The areas looked fantastic after you had completed your tasks.

This is an initiative which will take place at the end of each term, as our school grows we will require extra support from parents on this day.

We hope to see many more parents on the final week of term 2.

NTH MELBOURNE F.C.—HUDDLE PROGRAM VISIT.

St John the Apostle is partnering with the North Melbourne Football Club and it’s Huddle Program which aims to promote AFL football in the western suburbs.

On Tuesday, 24th March some North Melbourne players visited the school, sharing with students insight on leadership and working together as a team. The talk was followed by a football clinic.

Our association with the North Melbourne football club will be further developed during the Huddle program.

TAKE HOME BOOKS REISSUED

Our curriculum support group worked hard over the Easter holidays to cover books from our school literacy resources. Through their help we have managed to cover most of our take home reading stock. Please respect their work by taking extra care with books your child brings home. Lost or damaged books may incur a replacement fee.

We will continue to cover books throughout the term, once take home reading stock is completed we will turn to the guided reading

TECHNOLOGY VOLUNTEERS GROUP—A CALL FOR HELP!

The arrival of the student technology devices will require some volunteers to assist with preparing these for class use.

We are therefore calling for the assistance of parents to complete the following tasks:

⇒ Set up of Charging Trolley (Laptops)
⇒ Set up of Charging and Syncing Trolley (iPads)
⇒ Barcoding, Labelling & Cataloguing of all student devices
⇒ Assembly of iPad Hard Covers

If you are able to assist with these duties please let us know using the return slip on the attached page. Our first tasks session is proposed for this Thursday, 16th April.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY—DAY 1, TERM 2.

Each year Catholic schools are able to allocate four pupil free days during the year devoted to the professional development of staff.

Our school has pre booked these days and listed them in the parent handbook in order to give families time plan for the care of their children.

Our first pupil free day was set for the first day back after the Easter holidays -Monday, 13th April. We thank parents for making the necessary arrangements which allowed us to work on Term 2 goals and the strategies we will implement to achieve them.

Our next school mass is scheduled for Thursday, 25th April at 9am. We invite all parents to celebrate with us the Eucharist as a school commences First Eucharist preparations for our baptised Year 4 students.

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books used by the students in their literacy blocks at school. This will be a long process as this comprises over two thirds of our purchased books.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
TERM 2 – AFL CLINICS, ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM, DANCE & GYMNASTICS

Physical Education continues to be of high priority at St John the Apostle. Having concluded our Hot Shots Tennis Program, we now turn our focus to Australian Rules Football to teach the fundamental motor skills of the kick and catch. This program will be facilitated by the AFL and will run for 4 weeks.

Following this, students will participate in dance classes for four weeks followed by Gymnastics sessions facilitated by professional instructors. Please ensure that students wear their correct sports uniform each Tuesday & Thursday.

HOMEWORK—“A BALANCING ACT”

Homework is often a sensitive issue amongst school communities. Homework in the traditional sense often does not fit comfortably in the busy routines of today’s working families. Yet other families see it as an opportunity for their child to get “The Edge” in the competition for select entry schools and scholarships.

As school principal, I believe I have a responsibility to create a learning environment whereby each teacher’s time is used to maximise student achievement. This environment cannot be created if teachers are spending hours assigning and correcting homework when they should be strategically planning programs that focus on each student’s point of need.

Whilst we respect families who request extra homework, we expect that they oversee the assigning and correction of this themselves. There are many resources online and commercially available that can assist parents in this area.

In the coming term, as a pilot program, our students will be issued some components of their homework using Studyladder, an online portal which is manageable for primary aged students.

If for any reason your child is unable to complete their homework we ask for parents to write a written note requesting an exemption. This way we are able to enforce expectations fairly without placing undue pressure on students and families.

ST JOHN’S INVITATIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

During the final week of Term 1, sixteen students travelled by bus to the Cambridged Tennis Courts to compete in a school tennis tournament. Congratulations to all players for making the day a great success. Well done to Gladys Taban who won the event with some cracking forehands and sweeping backhands—we hope you mention our school when you win the Australian Open!

MOTHER’S DAY STALL PREPARATIONS.

A big thank you to Donna Sandford and Cathy Kim who have begun the purchasing of gifts for our Mother’s Day Stall.

The sale of gifts is scheduled for Thursday, 7th May from 9am. If you are able to assist in the running of the stalls please let Janet or Jasmine know at the front office.

service being unsustainable in its current form.

In order to continue to provide care services, we have merged our service with our neighbouring school Good News Lutheran College who have found themselves in a similar position. From 21st April, those students will join our before school program and be bussed to school from our site.

Should numbers rise in the future this arrangement will be re-evaluated. A reminder that before and after school registration is done by contacting Quantin Binnah Community Centre.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS COMMENCES WEEK 2, TERM 2.

Those parents who indicated that they were in a position to assist with hearing student reading, please sign in at the front office each day you are available to help. When your working with children check becomes available, please present this to Janet or Jasmine at the front office so we can make a copy for our records.

Remember that parent reading sessions are scheduled Monday—Thursday from 9am to 10am.

We will endeavour to provide some training to parents over the course of the program.

ST JOHN’S WELCOMES MRS ALISON HOLMES TO STAFF.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Alison Holmes as our school Learning Support Officer.

Alison has wide experience in this field and is delighted to be joining our learning community. She will work each day from 9—1:30pm assisting in the implementation of personalised learning support throughout the school.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE - UPDATE

We are extremely blessed to have access to facilities and staff who can provide our working families with before and after school care services.

Unfortunately, our numbers have not reflected the demand indicated by families prior to the start of the school year. This has led to the

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**Community Mass**

Name: _____________________

We will be attending the School Mass, 25th April at 9am. Please place the following chairs for our family: _____ (insert number)

Signed: _____________________

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**Technology Volunteers Group**

Name: _____________________

We are willing to assist with technology maintenance and will attend the first tasks session on Thursday, 16th April at 7pm

Signed: _____________________

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**Mother’s Day Stall**

Name: _____________________

I am able to assist with the Mother’s Day Stall on Thursday, 7th May from 9—11am.

Signed: _____________________

Signed: _____________________