

**DO SMALL
THINGS WELL**



St Theresa's Primary School

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St. Theresa's School
is owned and
operated by St.
Theresa's Parish
Albion

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EDITION

...newsletter

Dear Parents,

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which is the first day of the Church season of Lent. Lent is our 40 day time of preparation for Easter the most important day in the Church year. During Lent, we are called to prepare for Easter by doing extra acts of kindness and charity, by fasting and abstaining from excesses and by paying more attention to our spiritual and prayer life. On Ash Wednesday, we are particularly called to be mindful of our own mortality and renew our relationship with God by reflecting on times in our lives when we have failed to live as we should and by asking for forgiveness. At Mass on Ash Wednesday our foreheads are marked with the sign of the cross with ashes of the palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration to remind us of these things. Next week we will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.10 a.m.

On Tuesday of this week the Grade 5 & 6 classes attended two very unique Marine Education excursions which saw the Gr 6 class sail on Port Phillip Bay on a 30m catamaran. I wish to thank Greg Woolford for organising these experiences and thanks also to all of the staff who attended.

A special word of thanks to everyone who helped out for this week's sad parish funeral. Thanks especially to Doriana Cooper, Sally Patkin and Michelle Neddelkovski.

This week Marie Gamwell and Helen Cozmescu ran some workshops for people who wanted to learn how to be more effective classroom helpers. Our thanks to Marie and Helen and well done to all of the parents who attended. We look forward to your help in the classrooms.

Last night the Fundraising Committee met for the first time in 2017. This dynamic group of parents raises funds for our school to improve things for the children. This year they are raising funds to go toward improving our playground. All parents are welcome to attend future meetings. We ask that you support the efforts of the Fundraising Committee.

Student Behaviour Management

I am currently writing an article for you that I will publish soon, summarising Catholic Christian principles that underpin the way we deal with children who engage in inappropriate behaviour.

The paper will also outline and summarise the Government, Catholic Education Commission and Catholic Education Melbourne policies and regulations that also direct our own local practices.

A third pillar that I will address in the article is the strong academic research that underpins what we do.

Finally, I will address principles that inform our practices in relation to inappropriate behaviour from children with special learning or behavioural needs.

Our practices aim to protect the safety of children who may fall victim to inappropriate behaviour from other students but they also aim to restore relationships and teach children how to live and act appropriately. This requires a balanced focus which can sometimes be misinterpreted by parents of children who feel aggrieved as being 'soft' or not punitive enough on the perpetrator.

A balance also needs to be struck in relation to the privacy of all involved. This can result in 'aggrieved' parents feeling that they are not fully informed of the consequences for the child who has misbehaved. The school will always provide an outline of the actions it will take without compromising the dignity and privacy of the child (and their family) who has behaved inappropriately.

We expect that all Parents and Guardians will support the School's policies and the ethos of the school.

I wish to remind parents that speaking badly about other children, or worse, agitating against them is totally at odds with what this school is on about and what it stands for. Sadly, I have heard instances of this sort of behaviour recently which is very disappointing.

Along with the article I will also publish appropriate grievance procedures that parents can follow if they are dissatisfied with anything in relation to school practices.

Parish Mass Times:

Monday:	
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	9.00 am Queen of Heaven 10.30am Mother of God. (Polish)
Thursday:	9.00am Mother of God.
Friday:	9.00am Albion 6.00pm (Polish, Mother of God)
Saturday:	6.00pm (Vigil) Mother of God.
Sunday:	10.30am Albion 9.00am Mother of God, (Polish). 9.00am Queen of Heaven.

DATES AND EVENTS

March

1st Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.10 am
3rd Peace Day for reconciliation candidates
6th Lent Paraliturgy
8th Sacrament of Reconciliation
13th Labour Day – No School
14th Lent Paraliturgy
22nd Advisory Board Meeting
31st Last Day of Term One

April

18th First day of Term 2
25th No School – ANZAC Day
26th – 28th Gr 5 & 6 Camp

May

3rd No School – Staff P.D
12th Mothers' Day Mass
12th High Tea for Mothers 11.30 a.m.

P/1 Pancake Tuesday

Next Tuesday is Pancake Tuesday. P/1 children will be making pancakes. The ingredients will be: milk, flour, egg and sugar. Could you please let your child's teacher know if you do not want your child to participate in this activity.

Have a great weekend.
Yours sincerely,

Robert Macklin
Principal.

