



# St Philomena's School, Moree

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

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Term 1, Week 3

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In recent weeks the media certainly has reported on educational items which have ensured we sit back and listen. In regard to the Prime Minister's plan for the billions of dollars allocated for **spending in schools**, at this point in time, I have no information to share. Many Department of Education schools have already received good news of their windfall and have priority plans in place to upgrade their schools plants and equipment. Secondly, the raising of the **school leaving age** is one which has drawn much debate.

Since the beginning of the year, **new executive staffing appointments** which are relevant to the K-6 school have been finalised.

Acting Assistant Principal: Amanda McLeod      Acting Curriculum Coordinator: Cathy Downes

As part of this flow-on, Nerida Finlayson is joining the **staff in a part-time capacity**. Congratulations to Amanda and Cathy and we welcome Nerida to the 2009 teaching staff.

Kate and Tom Chatfield have extended their family with the safe arrival of Henry! Our best wishes to them as they enter the parenting phase of life!

Yesterday we assisted the **Victorian Bushfire Appeal** as part of the collective Moree schools initiative. The very generous sum \$1400 from St Philomena's will be added to the appeal. Your support in this financial aspect is much appreciated. The **NSW Rural Fire Service** also has an appeal in action. Their initiative, as you would have seen in the Moree Champion, is for **toys**. If you have toys which now supersede your family's needs or your children are happy to make an offering from their toy box, we will assist the NSW Rural Fire Service in this collection. We ask that the toys are clean, in good order and ready to be loved by needy child. Donations can be sent in to classrooms and then centralised in the front office.

Following our Mass on Friday, we continue the year with blessings bestowed to us. Our 2009 leadership **Prefect Body** were inducted into their leadership positions. Pledges of service and responsibility were made by:

Year 10 School Captains:

Daniel Kirk and Brittany Tucker

Year 10 Prefects:

Shane Smith and Olivia McLaren

Year 6 School Captains:

Charlie Wells and Paige Clissold

Year 6 Prefects:

Nicholas Murray and Alison Quirk

**Karen Jagers – Acting Principal**



### **WEEKLY REFLECTION    6<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

With the new school year well and truly underway, I am most hopeful that we will be able to have a few interested parents join with staff to work through issues relating to the formation of Liturgies and Retreats that will be held throughout this school year. **If you as a parent or guardian are interested in helping, please contact Pat Clancy within the next week.** Parents and Guardians are always welcome to join us in these preparations.

I have been involved in many meetings over the past few weeks, both on-campus and off-campus. The meetings are a valuable time in which we are able to develop agendas for the immediate present and future focus of the Religious Education curriculum. **Parent comments are welcome in these early stages before every aspect of the program is formulated and set.** As students and teachers delineation of courses get underway, many individual differences between students and classes are noted by

teachers delivering the courses. Adapting the teaching methods, especially in Religious education classes may make a valuable contribution to your child's pastoral care.

**Continued prayer about and for your child makes a great deal of difference to the outcome of eleven years of education.** The back-to-basics push and pull of the community's interest in education is really crying out for parent participation in the courses set by the Board of Studies and individual schools.

**The teaching of prayer and meditation in all classes** at Saint Philomena's School sets the tone and predicted outcome of an engaged, interested and developing student framework for reference to the outside world. **I will be visiting all classes** in the school and interesting students in prayer that can make the difference to a student's life and learning.

Opening the world of prayer for your child offers another dimension that may otherwise have slipped by; what is needed is a prayer that is captured in song for each student to learn. May their prayer-song be one of great joy over the coming years.

Prayer:  
Awake my soul, O Lord my God.  
Make of my life a song of joy  
In Jesus Christ.

Every good wish,

Pat Clancy.



**Any parents or guardians interested in helping with Retreats and Liturgies throughout this year please contact Pat Clancy on the School number.**

## SECONDARY NEWS

### Hot Maths

I have been collecting email addresses from students over the past fortnight in order to register St Philomena's students to Hot Maths. Sadly I still only have email addresses for about 60 students. For Hot Maths to be the success I think it can be at St Philomena's we need to have the vast majority, if not all of our students registered. Parent's email addresses can be used or a new email address can be set up using Google Mail at no cost.

**Hot Maths is a unique fully interactive mathematics learning system** developed by a specialised learning design team. It covers the early and middle secondary curriculum. It's also beneficial for advanced primary students and senior secondary students who need to target a particular topic for revision. HOTmaths aims to improve maths performance by complementing the learning your child does at school with unlimited access to online learning at home.

### Parental benefits of Hot Maths.

With a HOTmaths Unlimited account, your child can register you via the SHARE MY PROGRESS link in the CONTROL CENTRE. This will give you password access to the parent section where you can familiarise yourself with the HOTmaths content and connect with your child's learning:

- Tutorials with worked examples, interactive animations, challenging activities and open investigations
- Printable worksheets with tasks, games, puzzles and solutions
- Walkthroughs with step-by-step explanations and targeted feedback
- Questions that are individually designed and graded into four levels
- Scorcher for skills building
- Dictionary with lesson links to check maths terms

HOTmaths Unlimited presents each lesson through several learning options, including text-and-graphics tutorials with dictionary links, investigative worksheets and Working Mathematically activities, step-by-step walkthroughs with explanations and targeted feedback, interactive animations, and assessment questions at four levels of difficulty to challenge students' skills of comprehension, application, interpretation, understanding and extrapolation.

As you can see Hot Maths is an excellent resource for students and parents. For me to register your son/daughter for Hot Maths I require an email address from them so they can access the Hot Maths site. Then they have 24 hour internet access to Maths. Life could not be more exciting.

### **Youth Activities In Moree**

Just a reminder to students (primary or secondary) that water polo is on every Wednesday afternoon at 6.00pm at the local pool. There is no cost for students to play and they will have a great time and enjoy improved fitness from the activity.

If you are a current junior darts player or would like to play darts in Moree, there is a registration afternoon next Monday at the Moree Services Club commencing at 5pm. This is another wonderful opportunity for our local youth to take part in competition, represent Moree and make some new friendships.

### **Ron Halliday visit.**

On Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> Ron Halliday from the New South Wales Police Force spoke to year 10 and year 9 students about cyber bullying, mobile phone use and the responsibilities we all have as users of the latest technology. Students were quite shocked at how far reaching their responsibilities lie as they use their computer, their phone, chat with their friends or post information about themselves on the internet. It was also quite scary to hear about the tricks that internet predators use to gain information about those they are in contact with.

I think you can safely say that our youth should never have their computer in their own room. It needs to be out in the open where parents and other family members can monitor what is being viewed.

### **Information night for secondary parents**

Secondary staff will be present in the library from 6.30 this evening to discuss issues with secondary parents. At 7pm we will all move to the hall for a parent information session with Ron Halliday from the NSW Police Force. I would advise strongly that parents attend as the information presented is vital for them and their sons and daughters.

### **Year 10 traineeships**

Information concerning traineeships provided by Woolworths is available from Mr May. The traineeships involve part-time study through TAFE as well as completing 100 hours of part-time work at Woolworths. Students in Year 10 who intend to complete Year 11 at Moree Secondary College in 2010 are invited to apply. Please see Mr May for further details.

### **Careers Expos**

Two careers expos are to be held in Tamworth for interested Year 10 students. Although it is early in the year, I encourage students to take advantage of any opportunity to further their knowledge of the variety of careers options available to them so they can make a more informed decision later in the year.

- **Australian Defence Force Expo.** This is being held at Beersheba Barracks, Tamworth (12/16 Hunter River Lancers depot) on **Thursday 05 March** and will provide information on both full and part time careers in the ADF. This includes apprenticeships, traineeships, officer and general entry in both the Army and Air Force.
- **Health Expo.** This is supported by the University of Newcastle and will be held at Tamworth Hospital on **Wednesday 25 March.** Students who are interested in a career in the Health industry would find this expo of particular interest.

Any **genuinely** interested student in Year 10 who would like to attend one or both of these careers days is to see Mr May for further information. There will be costs attached to these trips.

### **Secondary Swimming Carnival**

Last Wednesday's swimming carnival was colourful, loud and a very enjoyable day. Students from all ages and all abilities competed to earn valuable points for their house - however it was Mighty Mercy who regained the shield. A huge thank you to all the parents and friends who came to support the students and to all staff that assisted on the day. The team to represent St Philomena's School in the Diocesan Carnival to be held on Friday March 13 in Gunnedah will be announced in the not too distant future.

### **House Results:**

First Place - Mercy  
Second Place - McAuley  
Third Place - Goretti  
Fourth Place - Savio

## Individual Age Champions

Age Group	Champion	Runner-Up
12 Years Boys	Jayden Walker	Zachary Faulkner
12 Years Girls	Acaysa Haddad	Jacqueline Rowe
13 Years Boys	Brennan Sinclair	Blake Cosgrove
13 Years Girls	Heidi Morris	Paige Whibley
14 Years Boys	Brendan Murray	Angus Smith
14 Years Girls	Sophie Henderson/Maddison Brazel	Georgie Venz
15 Years Boys	Luke Stahlhut	Daniel Bye
15 Years Girls	Lisa Morley	Lucinda Stahlhut and Demi Sabine
16 Years Boys	Angus Croft	Asher Wilde
16 Years Girls	Lori Depczynski	Brittany Tucker

Casey McCowan

## PRIMARY NEWS

**Year 5 & 6** need to bring in 2 litre plastic soft drink bottles and plastic jars eg: golden circle screw top fruit containers for science experiments

### INFORMATION EVENINGS K-6

Tonight, Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, the school has organised short evening Information Sessions for each grade. The purpose of the evening is to offer to the parent group information about curriculum, excursions, homework tasks or perhaps sacramental programs that will form your child's learning and development over the course of 2009. Parents/guardians who have more than one student in K-6 may choose to send both husband and wife. Alternately, parents should choose the grade for which they believe they are most in need of information. Parents who wish to meet more formally with their child's teacher will need an alternative appointment time to address this.

**Kindergarten:** 6.00 – 7.00pm (Cluster)

**Years 1 and 5:** 6:00- 6:30pm (classrooms of 1R and 5MD)

**Years 2, 3, 4, and 6:** 6:30- 7:00pm (classrooms of 2SO, 3F, 4PV, 6D)

Amanda McLeod

### Sport and Library Days K-6

The following are days your child/ren are required to wear their sports clothes (please note that 3-6 need their swimming clothes on Thursday) and library bags.

#### Sports Days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday - Swimming 3-6	Friday
4PV	4C 5MD 5D/6D 6M	KM KO 1B 1R/2R 2SO 4PV	3L 3F 4C 4VP 5MD 5D/6D 6M	KM KO 1B 2SO 3F 3L

#### Library

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3F	KM 2SO 5MD 6M	KO 1R/2R 5MD	1B 6M	4C

K-6 Staff

### **Primary Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to all the students in Years 3 – 6 on their fantastic participation, awesome commitment and unwavering sportsmanship at the swimming carnival last Thursday. I am very proud of all students for their efforts.

Thank you to all parents and staff for their assistance in helping to organise the day. Days like this would not exist without the ladies in the front office, our very multi talented, dedicated staff and our fantastic parent body – thank you very much to everybody concerned. Very big congratulations to all our house captains for helping and encouraging team spirit and participation on the day.

The results were as follows:

#### **Winning House: McAuley**

**Junior Boy Champion:** Josh Chisholm

**Junior Boy Runner Up:** Max Gaynor

**Junior Girl Champion:** Zoe Jones

**Junior Girl Runner Up:** Emily Dowton

**11yrs Boy Champion:** Josh Walker

**11yrs Boy Runner Up:** Charlie Wyatt

**11yrs Girl Champion:** Ashleigh Walker / Bonnie Morris

**Opens Boy Champion:** Charlie Wells

**Opens Boy Runner Up:** Callum Bourke

**Opens Girl Champion:** Meg Spain

**Opens Girl Runner Up:** Nicola Long

### **Diocesan and McKechnie Shield Swimming Teams**

As a result of many outstanding performances at our school swimming carnival a number of our Primary school students have been selected to participate in the Armidale Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Inverell on Thursday and / or The McKechnie Shield in Moree on Friday. To be able to participate in the Diocesan Carnival students must satisfy the qualifying standards for each event as set down by the Armidale Diocesan Sports Council, so congratulations to those students on qualifying.

We wish the following students all the best of luck for Thursday and Friday:

Charlie Wells, Bede Carrigan, Charlie Wyatt, Josh Walker, Angus Carrigan, Josh Chisholm, Max Gaynor, Will O'Neill, Cameron Ledingham, Tom Winter, Callum Bourke, Max Fisher, Royce Carroll, Riley Carroll, Jock Livingston, Bonnie Morris, Ashleigh Walker, Meg Spain, Cassandra Turton, Heidi Jones, Zoe Jones, Amelia Crowe, Sarah Wyatt, Mollie Parkes, Celine Depczynski, Emily Dowton, Nicola Long,

### **Primary Sport – Life Saving**

This Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, all students in Years 3 – 6 will be participating in a Life Saving Aquatics Program for sport. It is an expectation that every child shall participate in the program as aquatics is a compulsory unit of the PDHPE program.

Students will travel by bus to the Moree Pool at the following times:

**Years 5/6 9.00 - 10.30am**

**Year 4 10.30 – 12.00am**

**Year 3 12.00 – 1.30pm**

Students will be required to wear full sports uniform on these days. Years 5 and 6 are expected to wear their swimmers to school. Years 3 and 4 get changed into swimmers before travelling to the pool.

**Students will need \$2.50 for pool entry and \$2.50 for the bus. To be collected each Thursday.** Students will need to bring sunscreen, towel and extra water on these days.

Any parents interested in helping out in any of these sessions please let Mrs Munro as soon as possible.

## P&F NEWS

The P&F will be holding its Annual General Meeting this Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

The AGM will be held in the staff room at 7.00 pm or in the Science room depending on attendance. After the AGM there will be a short general meeting.

At the AGM all positions are declared open and a committee is elected for 2009.

### Nominations for the following positions will be sought at the AGM.

President:	Chair of meetings and represents the school at official functions.
Vice President:	Supports the President and committee and chairs meetings where necessary.
Secretary:	Deals with all P&F correspondence and takes minutes at meetings.
Treasurer:	Deals with and handles all monies with regards to the P&F.
Canteen/Catering Support:	Supports and assists Kristy Gray in her role as Canteen Supervisor.
Fundraising/ Social Coordinator:	Coordinates P&F fundraising and social events at the school.
Gardening/Maintenance Coordinator:	Assists and coordinates P&F working bees at the school.

The P&F is a fabulous way to get involved with the school, meet and make new friends and learn more about the school. It is a great way to support staff and the future of our children. Come along and join in the fun. All welcome.

The P&F is looking forward to a great participation and attendance of Parents and Friends of St Philomena's in 2009.

For more information please contact Andrew Pitman on 0427688377

## UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

### OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY

2.00PM—4.00PM THURSDAY

8.30AM—10.30AM

### School Japaras

The uniform shop is now taking orders for the school Japara coat. **These coats are available by pre-ordering only.** A non refundable deposit of **\$50.00** must be paid when placing an order. Orders will close at 10.30am, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. Late orders will not be accepted. The japara is the only coat your child can wear to school on wet or cold days during winter. Extra japaras are not held in stock, so if you want one you must order now.

Prices: Child sizes 4-12 \$95    Adult sizes: Small – XXXL \$115

We now have in stock Primary sports shorts, paint smocks, Secondary sports shorts and sports hats. Still waiting for shorts and shirts.

Terry-Anne Sharples

## CANTEEN HELPERS

**Wednesday 18 Feb:** Kate Ledingham, Bernadette Fernance, Lyn Hamilton,

**Thursday 19Feb:** Helen Livingston, Felicity Manchee, Cath Cannington, Karen Gall, Ruth Matthews

**Friday 20 Feb:** Joan Newnham, Christine McCumstie, Coral Spenz-Black, Toni Haddad, Nicole Davidson, Gabrielle Price, Jane Angus

**Monday 23 Feb:** Sandy Dillon, Nerida Finlayson, Zeljana Cikota, Helen O'Neill, Jenee Smith

**Tuesday 24 Feb:** Katrina Squires, Colleen Kuypers, Toni Munro, Sara Sampson, Colleen Knox