

St Philomena's School, Moree

Tuesday, 3rd March 2009

55 Boston Street, Moree NSW 2400

Term 1 , Week 5



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

UPSKILLING of staff is part of a workplace responsibility and need. Always there is change to know about, ideas to share and more to learn. All this is essential, despite the length of experience in the industry. At a school level we refer to it as **professional development** and it upskills staff across our school, not just teaching staff. On most occasions it takes our staff out of Moree to larger regional centres. Often it is organised by the Catholic Schools Office specifically for its staff, while other times systems join to offer access to all schools. Casual staff are employed to replace the regular teacher on these occasions. Our membership of the CAP (Country Areas Program) group this year, along with all other Moree schools, will afford great opportunities for professional development for our staff. Additionally, the Catholic Schools Office generously supports our new and beginning teachers with specific professional development and grassroots support. This takes the model of time and mentoring, to assist them develop their knowledge and skills as they commence their careers. I would like to assure the parent community that in the absence of the regular teacher on any given day, the teaching and learning program is maintained, as a priority...Rare occasions do occur when casual staff are unable to be accessed.

At St Philomena's, staff are generous of their personal time to ensure that students have access to extra-curricula opportunities. As parents of the children who are benefiting from these opportunities, on your behalf I thank them. **Excursions** of a major nature; Nymboida and Warraymalaya take place in Weeks 7 & 8 for Secondary students. Your support with the prompt return of permission notes and medical forms will be appreciated.

Further news on the **Rudd Government spending for education** suggests that we will be the beneficiary of finances to establish a multi-purpose centre and undertake further maintenance to our school plant. *The basis of this allocation of money is primarily designed to create jobs.* There is great speed around the process whereby all this will happen. "Use the money quickly or forgo it", is also part of the instruction. I will keep you updated as the information becomes more specific.

Thank you for the partnership in education that we share with you. **Karen Jagers Acting Principal**

Our Mission is to provide students with a Catholic Education in a caring, disciplined environment where striving for excellence and respect for others are promoted.

Reminder: PUPIL FREE DAY FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

WEEKLY REFLECTION 1ST WEEK OF LENT, 2009

Next Monday sees the first of our School Houses celebrating the Feast Day of their Patron. First off the mark is **St Dominic Savio (who lived from 1842-1857)**. Dominic was born in northern Italy in 1842. When he was four, he disappeared. When his mother searched for him, she found him very quiet, in a corner on his knees, hands joined in prayer. When he reached the age of five years he became an altar boy. When he was seven, he received his First Holy Communion. On that day Dominic chose a motto for himself. He made a promise to the one he prayed to: Jesus. He promised: "**Death, but not sin!**" He prayed every day to be true to his promise.

When Dominic was twelve he attended a school run by St John Bosco in Turin. He missed his family but was happy to be at school. Here, at this school he would learn everything he needed to become a priest; to become a priest was Dominic's great goal. He was a good student, but he had a lot of fun as well. Other people knew that they could depend on him if ever they needed.

Once **Dominic broke up a fight between two angry boys** and he was armed only with a crucifix. Another time he noticed a group of bigger boys huddled in a circle. He soon realised that they were reading pornographic magazines. He grabbed the magazines and ripped them up. Dominic was angry. One of the boys asked what was so wrong about what they were doing. Dominic said: "If you don't see anything wrong, this is even worse."

One day Dominic began to feel sick and was sent home to his family to get better. His sickness grew worse. A priest visited him and prayed and cared for him. Dominic realised he would not be going back to school. He knew now that he would not be able to become a priest. **Just before he died, he tried to sit up. He said to his father, "I am seeing wonderful things."** He rested his head on the pillow and closed his eyes. Dominic died in 1857, he was fifteen years old. **His feast Day is March 9th each year.**

So, next week, on Monday, be aware that it is Dominic Savio's Feast Day. We should all help our Savio House celebrate the life of this young man and the House that bears his name.

Our Prayer

Dominic did not become a Priest, but he still became a Saint. May we too become Saints following in the footsteps of Dominic and Jesus, We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every Good Wish, Pat Clancy

Sincere thanks to Lucy Wareham, Vicki Haddad and Michael Murray for their kindness in organising for the Year 7 Gathering Days BBQ lunch last Friday. Others, who have time, are most welcome to help out if they have the time at the Year 9 Retreat on Tuesday, 10th March, 2009 at the same venue. If any parent, guardian or friend of the School is interested in helping out please come between 12 noon and 2:00pm. **Pat Clancy.**

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL FEES

For families paying their school fees by the term, please note that accounts were due for payment by last Friday, 27th February.

If you are experiencing difficulty with this, please contact the office for an appointment to see me.

Bev Northey

Verification reports:

Thank you to those parents who have returned the verification reports. There are still many outstanding. Please send any that are at home to school as soon as possible. Teachers will be reminding the students this week to bring them in.

Bev Northey

SCHOOL BOARD

NOMINATIONS

NOW OPEN

See form attached to this newsletter

K-10 CELEBRATION OF FEAST DAYS – Dominic Savio

In 2009 each of our house groups (Savio, Goretti, Mercy and McAuley) will be celebrating the Feast Day of their Patron. Our first day of celebration is next Monday with the Feast Day of Dominic Savio (the Patron Saint of Boys). All members of Savio have the opportunity to dress in their house colour of red. We are asking for a coin donation from members of Savio that will be donated to the Children’s Mission. Throughout the year the other house groups will be asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause on their celebration day. **Amanda McLeod & Sean Baldwin**

Family Mass

The next Family Mass is on Sunday, 15th March at 9.30am followed by a cuppa.

It is also the Anniversary of the refurbishment of the Church. Volunteers such as readers, welcomers, singers, servers, bell ringer, people who take up the gifts, and people who bring a plate and help with morning tea are welcome. Please notify Sr Margaret, Mrs Nora Carrigan or the Parish Centre if you are able to help at the 6.00pm or 9.30am Masses.

In the Season of Lent, it is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and others and to help us celebrate this occasion.

Sr Margaret T. Cusack rsj

The first meeting of the newly formed Junior Josephite Association (JJA) took place today at 1.30pm. All forms should be returned to class teachers by now. Holy cards and medals will be given out to new recruits.

Sr Margaret Cusack rsj

Hotmaths

Hotmaths is up and running throughout the secondary department. All students have been given a user name and password so they can access the site at home or at school. Staff have run lessons in the past week using the Smartboards and the Hotmaths site. These lessons have proved the effectiveness of Hotmaths with a high level of student engagement in the learning process. The message with Hotmaths is the more you use it the more you will benefit from it.

Sean Baldwin

Secondary Disco

The Term 1 secondary disco will be held in the hall this Thursday night. Come along and enjoy some seventies fun.

Time: 7pm – 10pm

Venue: School hall

Theme: Hippies

Cost: \$5.00 / student or \$7.00 / family

Canteen: Cold drinks and food to be sold on the evening.

Prizes: Lucky Door, Best Dressed and Best Dancers.

Alana Goldman

Secondary Workbooks

It has become evident that the secondary spiral bound workbooks are not withstanding the rigors of life in a folder and/or the new locker system. At Friday Secondary Assembly, students were advised that the folder **DOES NOT** have to be used as the spiral books are not appropriate for use within the lever arch folders that have been allocated to all secondary students as part of the Year 7 – 10 book bags. A different folder has been sourced, unfortunately it to was also found to be inappropriate. The short term solution to this problem is – **DO NOT use the folder**. With care the spiral books will withstand life in a locker and a school bag as this is all that has been used by Years 7 and 8 over the past few school years. Please remember that the spiral books **MUST be used** and it is not appropriate to remove the spiral and place the pages in the folder as this becomes difficult when teachers wish to collect student workbooks for marking and review.

Additionally, it is also important that when books (both workbooks and textbooks) are stacked within the locker, they must be stacked as if they were books on a library shelf. This will assist the easy removal of the appropriate books for each subject.

I apologise for this significant oversight and will endeavour to correct the problem for the 2010 school year.

Alana Goldman

PRIMARY NEWS

Reconciliation reminder

Just a reminder that the Year 2 children who wish to make their First Reconciliation are required to register at one of this weekends masses. The Mass times are Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 7:30am and 9:30am. Thank you the children & parents who have already registered. Please also send the white

form marked with classroom teacher back to school for our records.

Thank you **Dayna Raulston, Trish Siddins and Catrina O'Mullane**

BANG! CRASH! TAP!

Bang! Crash! Tap! is the latest sensation to come from Australia's dance group the Raw Dance Company. This energetic fusion of beat boxing, tap dance and drumming features the nation's best up and coming drummer, Gene Peterson teaming up with Australia's Got Talent's Dr Rhythm and two Raw Dance Company dancers.

The Raw Dance Company's ***Bang! Crash! Tap!*** will be visiting Moree on **Thursday 26th March**. The ***Bang! Crash! Tap!*** performers are available to hold one primary workshop in Moree during the day. The cost of the workshop is \$5.00 per child with only 10 students from years 3-6 able to attend. Due to the limited numbers able to attend the workshop, those students interested will need to send in \$5.00 with the permission note below to myself by **Wednesday, 4th March**. If the numbers exceed 10 students we will conduct a ballot draw to choose the 10 students attending the workshop.

Amanda McLeod

I _____ give permission for my child/ren _____

to attend the ***Bang! Crash! Tap!*** performance on Thursday 26th March 2009. I understand that my child will be walking down to the Moree Secondary College Multi-purpose Centre with a teacher. I have enclosed \$5.00.

Signed _____ Date _____

SPORT NEWS

Cross Country Training

Any student in Years 3 – 6 interested in cross country training is welcome to attend a training session on the school oval, Tuesday afternoon, 3rd March, from 5:00 until 5.30pm. Students must bring appropriate running gear and extra water.

Toni Munro

Armidale Diocesan Rugby League Trials

Good luck to Matthew Jarratt, Holt Cubis and Daniel Ryan who are travelling to Inverell this Friday to play in the trials for the Armidale Diocesan 15 year's rugby league team. If chosen to represent the Armidale Diocese, the boys would play in the NSWCCC trials to be held in Tamworth early term 2. Play well lads.

Sean Baldwin

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 19th 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

Terry-Anne Sharples

CANTEEN HELPERS

Wednesday: Jenny Johnson, Cate Hunter, Natasha Berry, Margaret Catterall, Christine Taylor

Thursday: Jenny Carrigan, Jeannie Clissold, Emma Huggett, Lidia Mathews, Vicki Peddle

Friday: Sonia Rowe, Kylie Smith, Shayne Quirk, Brenda Rees-Smith, Jane Angus, Janine Collier

Monday: Kerrie Gaynor, Sharon Lawson, Sandy Dillon

Tuesday: Stephanie Burrow, Michael Montgomery, Dannielle Robinson, Jenny Durack

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thursday: 5th March

Yr 7-10 Disco 7pm – 10pm
Primary Swimming
Yr 10 ADF excursion - Tamworth

Friday: 6th March

Secondary Diocesan RL- Inverell

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March

First Reconciliation Registration at weekend masses

Monday: 9th March

Yr 5 Reconciliation
Dominic Savio – Feast Day
Opening of Moree District Court

Tuesday: 10th March

Mass for Primary K-6 A group
Yr 9 Retreat - \$10

Moree Junior Soccer Club

Junior Soccer will be holding registrations on Saturday 7th, 14th and 21st March, 2009 at Ron Harborne Oval from 10am to 1pm. Cost per player: \$8

Terry-Anne Sharples

P&F NEWS

It was great to see a greater number of the school community attend the AGM held on 18 February, 2009. The P&F Committee hopes that this will continue and encourages parents and friends to come along to the meetings and find out more about the school. It is a great way to make friends and have fun.

The following people were elected.

President: Andrew Pitman

Vice President and Board representative: Brett Arthur

Treasurer: Michael Murray

Secretary: Lidia Mathews

There are 3 non elected positions that are still to be finalised - stay tuned. Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month **the next meeting is on 18 March 2009**. We hope to see you all there! **P&F Committee**

ST PHILOMENA'S SCHOOL PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The St Philomena's P&F are holding this year's Race Day on Easter Saturday, April 11th 2009. This follows a very successful event held last year. Thanks again to Bill Poulos and Sean Baldwin for all their tireless efforts in organising the day. Last year a fabulous day was had by all and this year the event is again shaping up to be a blast.

As everyone can see by Bill's information pages in the last two newsletters things are off and running. This is an opportunity for the school and wider community to come along and have fun and enjoy this social event.

The P&F committee would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping at the event, even a small amount of time volunteered is welcome. The P&F especially welcomes the new families to the school, everyone would love to meet you and it is a great opportunity for you to meet other families. There is a special call to our Secondary students who would like to help with the Kidz Corner.

The P&F is looking for volunteers who can help out at the working bees for setting up on Good Friday at 9.00 am and the pack up at 11.30 am Easter Sunday. We also need volunteers for the Barbeque Tent and Kidz Corner and at the front gate to take info for the gate prize. Many hands make light work.

Andrew Pitman
President

Please fill in the forms below if you can help and send them in to school. It would be much appreciated.

NAME : _____

CONTACT DETAILS : _____

	<p>I would be willing to help on the Barbeque Tent</p> <p>Please circle time</p> <p>Time 1.30pm 2.00pm 2.30 pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 5.00pm</p> <p>Coordinator Lidia Mathews 0427 608 130</p>
	<p>I would be willing to help on Kidz Corner, jumping castle and activities area.</p> <p>Please circle time</p> <p>Time 1.30pm 2.00pm 2.30 pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 5.00pm</p> <p>Coordinator Bernadette Seery 0427 228 803</p>
	<p>I would like to help on the front gate to take info for gate prize</p> <p>Please circle time</p> <p>Time 1.30pm 2.00pm 2.30 pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 5.00pm</p> <p>Coordinator Lidia Mathews 0427 608 130</p>
	<p>I would like to help on Good Friday for Set up 9.00 am</p> <p>Coordinator Lidia Mathews 0427 608 130</p>
	<p>I would like to help on Easter Sunday Pack up 11.30 am</p> <p>Coordinator Lidia Mathews 0427 608 130</p>

ENTRY PROCEDURES FOR UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS

Once again, students across Year 3 to Year 10 have an opportunity to enter six International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) and one Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) competition. The aims of the competitions are to monitor individual progress, recognise and reward achievement and provide a comprehensive analysis of student performance.

All of the Australian Schools Competitions provide an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external situation. They can also be used to monitor individual progress in a range of subject – related skills and recognise and reward achievement at all levels.

We would like to encourage the students to enter as many of the competitions as possible. It is a great experience to participate in external testing.


This year, we are again aiming to make one entry for the year, for all six competitions. A calendar of the tests will be provided below. ***We are asking for the tear off slip below to be completed and returned with the entry fee as stated per competition.*** All entries will need to be returned to the classroom teacher ***no later than Friday 13th March 2009.*** ***Please place the entry slip and money in a sealed envelope and label with your child's name, grade, and with the heading on the envelope UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS.***

COMPETITION	GRADES	COST	COMPETITION DATE
Computer Skills	Years 3 to 10	\$6.60	Wednesday 27 th May
Science	Years 3 to 10	\$6.60	Wednesday 10 th June
Spelling	Years 3 to 7	\$8.80	Tuesday 23 rd June
Writing	Years 3 to 10	\$12.10	Tuesday 23 rd June
English	Years 3 to 10	\$6.60	Tuesday 4 th August
LOTE – Japanese	Year 8 ONLY	\$8.00	Thursday 6 th August
LOTE – Japanese	Year 9/10 Elective ONLY	\$11.00	Tuesday 4 th August
Mathematics	Years 3 to 10	\$6.60	Wednesday 19 August

This is the only opportunity which will be given for entry across the year for all competitions. It makes handling money and entry forms much easier. We will not be providing further chances to enter or pay. All entries will be sent away on March 20th.

Cathy Downes
Curriculum Coordinator K-6

Alana Goldman
Secondary Curriculum Coordinator

 _____
Please complete the form below indicating which competitions your child/children would like to enter:

Student Name	Class	Science	Computer	Maths	English	Writing	Spelling	LOTE - Japanese	TOTAL