

St Philomena's School, Moree

Tuesday 26th May, 2009

55 Boston Street, Moree NSW 2400

Term 2 , Week 5

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From the principal

As part of our **Education Week** celebrations, this week's newsletter gives a great perspective across the grades. We hope you enjoy it! If you can, drop in to the school on Thursday to our **Open Day** and spend some time in your childrens' classrooms.

In terms of our **Rudd Government building work** I am able to provide the following updated information. The official site for our **new school hall** can be confirmed as the current Infant's playground. This playground area will be relocated. It is anticipated that the massive and beautiful Moreton Bay can be retained, as part of this development. There was much discussion and suggestion as to where this building should be positioned, each location having merit and disadvantage. The final decision was the location suggested by the Project Managers, employed by the CSO. A soil test was taken on Friday and a survey of the site (and overall school facilities) will be conducted in early June. Our re-roofing project is at the tendering stage. It is all happening!

As a containment measure to protect school communities and to slow down the spread of **swine flu**, we have been informed that students returning from overseas travel from *nominated regions* (currently Mexico, USA Canada, Panama and Japan, but changing constantly) will be required to abide by a one week quarantine exclusion period from school. This does affect us. The requirements and directives of the Health Department will be followed explicitly. I will keep this information updated until this risk is officially over.

Karen Jagers

WEEKLY REFLECTION

FAMILY MASS – 31st May

The date set for the Family Mass is this Sunday 31st May. Volunteers are needed for the readings, singing, welcome, collection, procession of gifts, and morning tea organisers. If you think you can help, Please contact the Presbytery on 67522886, Sr Margaret 67527945, or Nora Carrigan on 67542247.

Thank you, **Sr Margaret T. Cusack rsj**

THE ASCENSION

The Feast of the Ascension was celebrated on Sunday this week. We are told by our pastors and the Biblical text (from the Acts of the Apostles) not to worry about, nor need we know about times or seasons which Jesus says the Father has fixed by his own authority. So, we should leave it at that!

“Why do you stand so crestfallen, you good men of Galilee?”

“We weep for our Lord and our Master, who has gone from us here recently.”

So go the song lyrics from Kevin Bates (I think)... The two men in white robes question the Apostles, and they answer.

It is not that these things are not important, but that they lie second to our faith. What we believe has happened and will happen is important, but it is our continuing faith that sets out the map for our journeying on to Christ and the Father.

Last Sunday also saw a great gathering of parents and guardians with their First Communicants in preparation for 14th June, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, on which day the youth of the Parish will receive Communion for the first time. There were over thirty children at their meeting, and as many parents, working through an understanding of the Eucharist. These meetings will continue each Sunday after the 9:30am Mass until First Communion Day on 14th June with a Parish Mass at 11:00am.

Next week we enter into the fiftieth day – **Pentecost** – when the promised Holy Spirit was to enter more fully into the lives of the disciples, to gather them and to give great honour to the Trinity. The “Birthday of the Church” is celebrated on Pentecost Sunday.

Here is our Prayer for our First Communicants:

Let us pray to the Lord who gives himself in the Eucharist, that this sacrament may bring us salvation and peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave the Eucharist as a memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your holy body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Every good wish, **Pat Clancy.**

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Education Week—OPEN DAY this Thursday

On Thursday, 28th May St Philomena's will be holding Open Day. We invite all parents/guardians to visit classrooms at any time during the day. You will be able to come and see all of the wonderful things happening in your child's class. Lunch is at 1.15pm and parents are welcome to join their child/ren for lunch. We hope to see you on Thursday.

To help you during Open Day the following classes will be out of their classrooms at these times:

KM	11.20-12.20	Computers
KO	12.15 - 1.15	Computers
1B	10.00 – 10.30	Library
1R/2R	2.15- 3.15	Computers
2SO	9.00-10.00	Library
Year 4	12.05-1.15	Sport
Year 5	9.00 – 10.30	Sport
Year 6	9.00-10.30	Sport
	11.20-12.00	Library

Amanda McLeod

UNIVERSITY COMPETITION DATES:

Computer Skills	Wednesday 27 th May
Science	Wednesday 10 th June
Spelling	Tuesday 23 rd June
Writing	Tuesday 23 rd June
English	Tuesday 4 th August
Maths	Wednesday 19 th August

Cathy

Downes

SCHOOL FEES – NET BANKING

For families who pay their accounts by the term, the school is now able to offer the option of internet banking. Accounts rendered have been sent home with today's newsletter and you will note that our bank account details now appear at the top, just above the statement date and account number.

Should you decide to pay your school fees in this manner, please remember to **quote your account number** in the description field of your internet banking transaction. **Without this information we will not know who to match the payment to.**

Maree Lovett

SECONDARY NEWS

15 Years CCC Rugby League

On Thursday and Friday of last week Matthew Jarrett (Year 9) was representing Northern Country in the NSWCCC Rugby League Championships held in Tamworth. The Northern Country team was selected in late Term 1 and comprised of students from the Lismore, Maitland Newcastle and Armidale Dioceses.

Matthew's team played 4 games over the two days:

Game 1: Southern Country: 22 - 6 loss : Matthew playing the whole game at 5/8 and kicking a goal.

Game 2: NSW Independent Schools : 20 – 4 loss: Matthew played ½ the game at 5/8

Game 3: Metropolitan Catholic Schools (the eventual winners) : 14 – 4 loss

Game 4: Metropolitan Catholic Colleges: 18 -12 loss with Matthew converting both tries.

Matthew commented that the games were played hard but fair. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience and now knows his game will benefit greatly from the intensity that he was able to muster in Tamworth. Well done Matty.

Bingara Carnival

This Saturday we have a number of teams travelling to Bingara to compete in the All Schools Carnival. St Philomena's will be represented by our Year 7/8 and 9/10 netball teams as well as our 14years and 16years rugby league teams. We wish all players the best on the day. Students who are travelling on the school bus we will be departing from the Boston Street gates at 7.15am.

Sean Baldwin

PRIMARY NEWS

AEDI - Kindergarten

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a new initiative being implemented by the Rudd Government. Pamela O'Neill and Catherine Moylan will be completing these questionnaires this week. The questionnaire will cover physical health and wellbeing, social competency, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge. The data collected through the AEDI can be used to inform communities about the health and development of children in their area and can be used to better target and develop support and services that can help children in their first five years of life.

Amanda McLeod

Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners is a wonderful book resource for parents to help their child with their oral language, reading, writing and spelling. The book emphasises the value of praise and encouragement, listening to children, and supporting them as they 'have a go' and experiment with language.

Parents as Partners includes:

- Concise explanations of the Developmental Continua in the four areas of oral language, reading, writing and spelling so parents can follow their children's literacy and language development
- Practical suggestions for helping children at each phase of their development

Resource sheets so parents can note their observations and record milestones in their children's literacy and language learning

We have a number of these books available in our school library. If you would to borrow a copy to read, please contact Mrs Bruce in the library.

Amanda McLeod

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Last year we had a number of students who participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Congratulations and thank you to those students who participated.

The Premier's Reading Challenge was initiated in 2001 to encourage reading and the love of quality literature for students. For student in Years 3-6, the challenge is to read a minimum of 20 books by 1st September, of which at least 15 must be chosen from specially selected Premier's Reading Challenge books lists. Students in Years K-2 must experience 30 book, of which at least 25 must be chosen from specially selected Premier's Reading Challenge book lists. Some children have already expressed their interest in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Any students who are interested in participating please see Mrs Bruce.

Amanda McLeod

PRIMARY PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This week students across Years 3 - 6 are presenting their speeches in class. From each grade, up to 4 students will then be selected to present their speeches to the students from K - 6 for the finals. The finals will take place from 9.30 am on Friday 12th June in the school hall. Should your child be successful at reaching this level, you will be notified via a letter.

Thank you, Cathy Downes

Rugby League Training

Year 5 and 6 rugby league training will be held on **Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm until 4.00pm** in the school grounds. All students are welcome but must wear appropriate clothing and wear a mouthguard. Please note training period is 30 minutes duration.

Athletics Training

Primary Athletics training will be held on **Tuesday afternoons from 3.30pm until 4.15pm** in the school grounds. All students are welcome but please wear appropriate clothing and bring extra water.

Armidale Diocesan Cross Country

Last Monday, thirty three primary students travelled to Gunnedah to represent St Philomena's at the Armidale Diocesan Cross Country Carnival.

The school team comprised of Clementine Crawford, Sarah Wyatt, Eliza Bourke, Morgan Botfield, Georgie Gray, Mollie Parkes, Isobel Manchee, Ashleigh Walker, Bonnie Morris, Claudia Adams, Yinaar Allen, Alison Quirk, Regan O'Connor, Angus Carrigan, Patrick Montgomery, Thomas Haddad, Royce Carroll, Roy Munro, Will O'Neill, Will Haddad, Liam Bruno, Charlie Crawford, Tyrone Raveneau, Josh Onus, Beau Haddad, Charlie Wyatt, Sam Onus, Charlie Wareham, Jarrod Bourke, Callum Bourke, Sam McKnight, Jake Smith and Sam Mathews.

Despite the hilly course and the cold and windy conditions all students performed extremely well.

Congratulations must go to two of our students who have been successful in making the Armidale Diocesan Team. Sarah Wyatt was 1st in the girls 8/9yrs event and Clementine Crawford(who is only 8 years old) was 6th in the same event. The girls will now travel to Sydney to compete at the Polding Cross Country on June 19th.

Touch Football Development Day

On Tuesday, 2nd June, Years 3-6 will be participating in a Touch Football Development Day at school. Each year will be exposed to 50 minutes of drills and skills presented by two very experienced Touch Football Development Officers. All students in Years 3-6 must wear their full sports uniform on this day.

Zone PSSA Cross Country

The Zone cross country scheduled for Tuesday, 19th May was postponed due to the weather. This carnival will now take place on **Thursday, 28th May**. Participating students will need to be at the Gwydir Street bus bay at 8.15am on this morning.

St Philomena's Primary and Infants Athletics Carnival

The 2009 Athletics Carnival will be held in weeks 9 and 10 of this term. The carnival will be conducted over two days. On Thursday afternoon, **June 25th** we will be holding the finals for all field events, i.e.; shott put, long jump and high jump. Only primary students can participate in the field events. On **Thursday, 2nd July**, all track and novelty events for Years K – 6 will be held.

Following are the age categories for all track and field events except the 100m sprint, which is age related.

* **Minor boy/girl - Infants**

* **Junior boy/girl - Primary 8yrs – 10yrs**

* **11yrs boy/girl**

* **Open boy/girl - 12yrs – 13yrs**

(These age categories are set down by NSW CPS Polding)

Toni Munro

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

TUESDAY

2.00PM—4.00PM

THURSDAY

8.30AM—10.30AM

CANTEEN NEWS and ROSTER

Wednesday 27th: Pat Sinclair, Bev Smith, Rhonda McPherson, Narelle Carter

Thursday 28th: Amanda Fisher, Lauren Winkley, Deanne Arthur, Helen Johnson, Vicki Haddad

Friday 29th: Jane Angus, Kellie Rae, HELPERS NEEDED

Monday 1st: Rebecca Haddad, Chrissy Adams, Lisa McDouall, Natalee Cooke, Peta Carroll

Tuesday 2nd: Bernadette Seery, Lila Fisher

FISH BURGERS ARE AVAILABLE THURSDAY 4th June (NEXT WEEK)

Fish Burger \$2.80

Fish and Salad Burger \$3.80