



St Philomena's School, Moree

Tuesday, 23rd June, 2009

55 Boston Street, Moree NSW 2400
Phone: 6752 1577 Fax: 6752 4250

Term 3, Week 9

Website: www.stphilomenasmoree.nsw.edu.au

Email: stph_mor@arm.catholic.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the end of 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), agreed on landmark educational Australian reforms. These had foundations in early childhood development, schools and vocational education and training. The following information provides interesting updates on this focus, for the community.

The much spoken about **National Curriculum** is on the way and within reach. The first stages of implementation will commence, in part, in 2011. It is anticipated that it will take several years for full implementation, K-12, to be achieved. The body responsible for the design and development of the National Curriculum is **ACARA** (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority). Should you be interested in learning more about the National Curriculum, ACARA's website will be informative <http://www.acara.edu.au>

In accordance with other aspects of national participation goals, the **Education Act** has been amended to include changes for youth. As of January 1st 2010, the **new school leaving age** will be implemented. In effect, what this means is that a student can no longer leave school on their 15th birthday. Students are now required to stay at school until aged 17 or be attending a TAFE course, undertaking a course with a registered Training Organisation, undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship, combining some form of education/training with part-time work or be engaged in employment for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

The recent **Australian Early Development Index** (AEDI) surveys completed by our Kindergarten staff are assisting to provide information for early childhood development in order for planning of further initiatives and support in this area.

On a local level, both Secondary (Yr 7-10) and Primary (K-6) **Athletics Carnivals** will be held next week. These are great days, full of spirit, competition and fun. The carnivals have opportunities for inclusion of everyone. These days do not have an "option component". Family members are very welcome to join us on the day.

Education Tax Refund – Don't forget to claim

As the end of the financial year (30 June 2009) approaches, we would like to remind those parents, carers, legal guardians and independent students eligible to make their Education Tax Refund claim.

How do I claim the Education Tax Refund?

- **In your tax return.**
- **If you don't lodge a tax return, claim on a separate form or over the phone.**
- **If you use a tax agent, make sure you ask them to claim for you.**

The Education Tax Refund lets you claim up to 50% of eligible education expenses for school children. If you are eligible, you can get back up to \$375 for each primary student and up to \$750 for each secondary student. You can claim things like text books, stationery and even internet costs.

If you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child at primary or secondary school, you will be eligible. Some other people are eligible too, to find out more about this and other information such as what you can and can't claim go to australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund or call the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.

📌 **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

Karen Jagers - Principal

WEEKLY REFLECTION

One of the most powerful expressions of Jesus' involvement in the real life of the chosen apostles is given here in his Calming of the Storm. Jesus, with the apostles had sailed over to the other side of the lake. Some other boats were with him. The storm grew into a gale. The apostles were frightened as the boat was almost swamped. Jesus, asleep in the stern, had not a care in the world. The apostles woke him to help them. They were going down... **Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea "Quiet now! Be calm!"** and that is what happened. Jesus also added "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:35-41).

Of course they were filled with awe and stated: **"Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him."**

Why is it that we so often **underestimate** the power of Jesus; the power of one who can change any situation; and what has this story got to do with any of us today? **Many people have sidelined Jesus today.** A fifth of local parishioners go to Mass each week. We see only one tenth of our Catholic children at Mass, and we wonder if they have ever experienced a moment of grace in their lives. We would be surprised indeed if all our Catholic children were able to attend Mass each week. It is noticeable those who do.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of those young people who do not attend Mass. I believe that the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of parents unable to bring their children to the liturgy. I believe that Christ is working in their lives; that he knows the difficulties, that he feels their pain.

For many of us, **time for ourselves is never there!** But I understand also that if I wish to give thanks to God for what has occurred in my life, accepting the good and the bad, that I can give thanks for the time that Christ has given over to myself and my family, and in the **Eucharist = THANKSGIVING**, we are called to give over to God. Can we do it as a full and committed community? **Jesus calms the storms in our lives if we give over to Him!**

Every good wish, Pat Clancy.

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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

P.O. Box 636 ✽ 125 Barney Street ✽ Armidale NSW 2350 ✽ Phone (02) 6772 7388 ✽ Fax (02) 6772 9285
Email cso@arm.catholic.edu.au

23rd June 2009.

Dear Parents of St Philomena's School,

Bishop Luc Matthys, Bishop of Armidale, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Karen Jagers as Principal of St Philomena's, Moree from the beginning of Term 3, 2009.

Karen has a *Bachelor of Education* and a *Diploma in Teaching* from the former Armidale College of Advanced Education and a *Certificate of Religious Education*.

Karen has a long association with St. Philomena's School, commencing as a classroom teacher in 1981. In the years since, she has gained experience teaching across all the Primary years and is developing her experience and knowledge of the requirements of the Secondary curriculum Years 7 to 10. Karen has gained valuable leadership experience during her time at St. Philomena's School including periods as a Coordinator 1, Coordinator 2 and Coordinator 3. Karen also has extensive experience in the role of Assistant Principal. She has been the Acting Principal of the school since the beginning of 2009.

During her time at St. Philomena's School, Karen has been actively involved in the growth and changes within the school, most especially during the development of the school from a Primary school to a K-10 school. Karen has broadened her experience by accepting the role of Acting Principal at St. Joseph's, Mungindi for a period during 2007. In the same year she was the Acting Assistant Principal K-10, for Term 3. Her participation in a number of School Audits throughout the Diocese has been another valuable professional experience.

Karen has been a committed member of the St. Francis Xavier Parish, having been a member of the Parish Council both as a parishioner and as Acting Principal. Karen and her family have been long standing members of the Moree community.

Karen is looking forward to continuing her involvement in and leadership of the St. Philomena's School community and I know you will join with me in giving her every support as she undertakes this important position.

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Johnston
Diocesan Director of Catholic Schools

PRIMARY NEWS

K-6 Semester One Reports and Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews.

On Thursday 9th July, Semester 1 Reports will be sent home. The Report follows the Australian Government requirements for reporting. This is the first of two written reports you will receive this year. The Report indicates student achievement at this point in time using the **Common Grade Scale A-E**. The grades that have been allocated to a student have been determined using a **combination of data**, gathered by the teacher. To help each parent fully understand and appreciate their child's/children's Report, *it is essential that parents take the time to read and understand the grading scale*. To this end it has been provided for you to ponder over and become familiar with. There are key words which clearly differentiate achievement.

Supporting each other the Report, Portfolio and Parent/Teacher/Child Interviews have been designed:

- 1 To keep you informed about your child's progress throughout the year.
- 2 To make you aware of your child's level of skills.
- 3 To enable you to take the opportunity to share in your child's achievements and discuss them at home.
- 4 To give you an opportunity to communicate with teachers and comment on your child's progress.

Three way interview opportunities (**parents / teacher / child**) will be held on **Thursday 30th July**. **This is the first Thursday back at school for Term 3**. Each teacher will be available from **3:30 pm onwards** into the evening. This interview occasion is an opportunity to affirm student progress, however specific concerns should also be addressed on this occasion. An allocation of 10 minutes has been made for these interviews. **Where possible, please allow the interview time to be free of siblings with parent/ / teacher / child only.**

All students and parents are required to be part of the interview process. Please complete the slip below and return it to the school within the next few days to ensure your preferred time can be organised. It is important that comments made about your child's work are phrased in a positive and encouraging manner during discussion at home and school.

In summary, our reporting process in the K-6 school will be:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Term 1 | Portfolio containing work samples/Term 1 Progress Report |
| Term 2 | Semester One written Report / highly recommended parent/teacher/students interviews |
| Term 3 | Portfolio containing work samples |
| Term 4 | Semester Two written Report / optional parent/teacher/students interviews |

Amanda McLeod

About the Common Grade Scale (Reference: NSW Board of Studies)

The Common Grade Scale shown below can be used to report student achievement in both primary and junior secondary years in all NSW schools. The Common Grade Scale describes performance at each of five grade levels.

- A** The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.
- B** The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
- C** The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
- D** The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.
- E** The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

Please complete by listing all children's names and return to the school as soon as possible.

Return all requests to one child's class teacher to ensure the same time slot is allocated to your family. *Notes confirming interview time will go home with your child on Thursday July 9th.*

Preferred time: (Please circle).

Thursday July 30th

3.30 – 4.30pm

4.30 – 5.30pm

5.30 – 6.00pm

6.00 – until finish

Please list ALL the names of your children, so that we can place the times as close together as possible.

Child's Name _____ Class: _____

Child's Name _____ Class: _____

Child's Name _____ Class: _____

Child's Name _____ Class: _____

All responses are processed on the day they are returned. Earlier responses have the most potential to be slotted into the preferred times.

5MD Sports

Sport for 5MD students will change from Thursday to Wednesday for the remainder of Term 2.

Katrina McCumstie

Junior Josephites Association:

The next JJA meeting will be on Tuesday 30th June at 1.30pm in the hall.

Sr Margaret Cusack

SPORTS NEWS

St Philomena's Primary and Infant's Athletics Carnival

The K-6 Athletics Carnival shall be held on Thursday, 2nd July (Week 10). For 3 – 6 students, the carnival will be conducted over two days. On Thursday afternoon, 25th June, from 12.30pm the finals for all field events, that is, shot put, long jump and high jump will be held. Students have been trialing for these events over the last two weeks during sport and PDHPE lessons. Students and parents will be notified as to which events they are in. The track events will be held on Thursday, 2nd July from 8.45am. *All K-6 students will be participating in both 100m and 200m events.*

As usual we are seeking the invaluable help of parents for Thursday, 2nd July. If you are able to help in any of the following areas please fill out the form below and return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

I can help at the Athletics Carnival in the following capacity: Recorder / Timekeeper / Judge

Times Available: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Childs Name: _____ Class: _____

Polding Cross Country

Last Thursday Sarah Wyatt and Clementine Crawford travelled to Eastern Creek to participate at the Polding Cross Country Carnival. The sun was shining so it was a great day for running. Both girls ran extremely well with Sarah coming 4th and Clementine 11th, in the 8/9 yrs girls event. Sarah will now travel back to Eastern Creek to participate in the PSSA Cross Country Carnival on 31st July, 2009.

Athletics Training

All primary students are welcome to attend athletics training this Tuesday afternoon from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. Please bring suitable clothing and extra water.

Football Socks:

Several pairs of football socks are still outstanding from the Legends of League day held recently. Please send them back to school as soon as possible. Thank you

Toni Munro

Secondary Athletics Carnival

The annual Secondary Athletics Carnival will be held on Wednesday 1st July on our school oval. It is an expectation that all students be present on the day and compete in at least TWO track events. Throughout the day there will be events held for all levels of ability so all students can get involved and earn valuable points for their team. During PDHPE lessons, students have been preparing for the field events in which we will run the finals on the day of the carnival. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately in their house colours and ensure they are wearing suitable footwear at all times. Any parent or community members wishing to assist or observe on the day are more than welcome to do so. So, come on down next Wednesday to St Philomena's school oval, join the festivities and remember...GO MERCY.

Casey McCowan

CANTEEN ROSTER

Wednesday Pat Sinclair, Bev Smith, Rhonda McPherson, Narelle Carter
Thursday Lauren Winkley, Deanne Arthur, Vicki Haddad, Helen Johnson
Friday Angela Ward, Jane Angus, Jane Davis, Vicki Peddle
Monday Amanda Fisher, Deanne Vanderstock, Letia Armstrong
Tuesday HELPERS NEEDED!

Helpers are also needed for the 1st and 7th July, If you could help on any of these days please phone the canteen on 67511349.

UNIFORM SHOP opening hours

TUESDAY 2.00pm—4.00pm THURSDAY 8.30am—10.30am

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday 24th June: *School Board meeting *State of Origin SRC Fundraiser in the School Hall 7pm – 10.00pm
Thursday 25th June: *Primary Athletics Carnival – Field Events Only
Friday 26th June: *Year 5 assembly – commencing 2.10pm in the hall.
Saturday 27th June: *P&F Bonfire Night
Monday 29th June: *Yr 7 Reconciliation
Tuesday 30th June: *K-6 Mass Group A

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.



Ask those who came last year about how much fun it was !

Yes, it's on again

**St Philomena's P&F
Social Family Event
Bonfire Night and Dinner**

[weather permitting!]

in the paddock - under the stars
Saturday 27th June
from 5.00pm

East on Inverell Road for 7 km, then turn right on Terry Hie Hie Road and follow for 8.7 kms. Venue on left. Scout Leaders will occupy the kids with a night time adventure Great food, great fun, great company, kids encouraged.

Not your average evening!

This year there is a small entry fee which will be collected on the night to cover costs

\$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children

BYO beverage of your choice BYO Chairs
For further information phone Andrew Pitman 0427668377

RSVP Please by Monday 22nd June 2009 by returning this tear off portion to the school
P&F Camp Oven & Bonfire Night 2009

Name

Yes *I will attend* *Approximate number of Adults* *number of Children.....*

No *I am unable to attend*

