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1 December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

P&F Sundowner

A final reminder that the P&F is having a terrific Sundowner this Friday 2 December at 6.00pm on the Annexe Oval. This promises to be a fun family night, so bring your picnic blankets, camp chairs, drinks and nibbles along for a great social night with music, including the School Choir performing. I hope you got your pizza order in so you don't need to worry about dinner!

Traffic and Pedestrian Access to School

From the start of next week, Monday 5 December, there will be **NO PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICLE ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL THROUGH THE STAFF CARPARK**. This whole area will be blocked off as road work progresses with the new carpark and drive-thru. All pedestrian traffic will have to enter the school via the church gate near Pre-Primary or the pedestrian gate at the church carpark.

As the staff carpark will be unavailable, those staff who have been using this carpark will need to relocate to the northern end of the basketball courts. The southern end of the basketball courts (closest to the playgrounds) will remain for parents doing pick-up in the afternoon. The inconvenience and pain is almost over and the results will be well and truly worth it, so let's all make sure that we continue to show patience and consideration so everyone walking and driving gets safely through the last week of school for the year.

We're on the Move!

Over the next two weeks our staff will be busier than usual as nearly half the classes in the school prepare for a shift of venue. The move of our Kindy and Pre-Primary classes into the new Early Childhood Centre, has created some classroom availability options. As a result, our Year One classes will be moving into the old Pre-Primary classes and the Year Two classes will be moving into the current Year One classes. This will leave the current Year Two classes empty and these will be utilised next year as extra support rooms for teachers and TA's to use when providing support and literacy programs to individual and small groups of students.

What we really need from parents is donations of any packing or removal boxes that you may have stashed away in the garage or shed at home. With 7 classrooms full of resources, stationery, art supplies, toys, games, books and equipment to shift, we need every box we can get our hands on to pack it all up ready for moving in the new year, once we have the keys to the new Early Childhood Centre.

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Fri 2 Dec	LAST DAY FOR SCHOOL BANKING 2.00pm Year 6 Dancing
Mon 5 Dec	K1 Leisureplex
Tues 6 Dec	K2 Leisureplex
Wed 7 Dec	Reports & Work Folders released 6.00pm Praise & Thanksgiving Mass
Thurs 8 Dec	1.30pm Graduation Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Fri 9 Dec	PP – Yr 5 Outing Yr 6 Outing LAST DAY OF YEAR FOR STUDENTS
Sun 11 Dec	9.00am Family Mass
Wed 1 Feb 2017	TERM 1 2017 COMMENCES FOR STUDENTS

Any cardboard packing boxes or other suitably strong boxes you wish to donate can be dropped off at any of the Kindy, Pre-Primary, Year One or Year Two classrooms. Your assistance and donations will be greatly appreciated.

Where Were You?

Last night we held our ACM (Annual Community Meeting), except that when I looked out at the faces present, it appeared to be more like a staff meeting. Excluding members of the School Board and P&F Committee, there were no more than a dozen other parents in attendance at the ACM. Staff outnumbered parents 3 to 1. We have approximately 270 families in this school and allowing for single parent families, that



still equates to around 400 parents who are part of our school community. So why is it that only a dozen parents could make the commitment to attend the ACM? Now, I do realise that we would have had many families with genuine reasons for not being able to be there last night, but equally that still leaves many others with no excuse.

Let's focus on the middle word of the event title - Community. What does that mean? What does it stand for? Perhaps a simple definition would be a group of people that come together for a common or shared purpose. Historically, Catholic schools have always been very much about community. Our origins are intertwined with that of the parishes of which we are a part. Catholic schools were established to serve the needs and demands of parish families who wanted their children to have a Catholic, Christian education. Before government funding for non-government schools existed, Catholic schools were totally dependent on the school fees and charges that parents paid, along with donations of money raised from raffles and cake stalls etc. held after Mass every weekend. Back then the whole community rallied round to ensure the local parish school survived. Virtually everyone in the parish felt part of the school community, because they all actively contributed money, donations, time and labour to keep it running.

Times change and so has Catholic education and Catholic schools. As those who attended last night's ACM would know, school fees and charges now comprise less than 20% of the money needed to operate our school and we are very much dependent on the grants from both the State and Federal Governments for the bulk of our operating income. While church attendance has slowly but inexorably declined over the last 30 - 40 years, Catholic school enrolments and the number of Catholic schools has increased at an even greater rate.

Perhaps somewhere along the line that sense of community has been slowly but inexorably declining as well? Queenies is in some ways a very unique school in several ways:

- Historically, we have not been full or near capacity for over 20 years. Over the last 10-15 years our enrolment numbers have averaged around 75-80% of capacity.
- This has meant that we have had the places available to accept families that could not find a place at the Catholic school in their neighbourhood because they were full. The result of this is that we draw our families from a very wide area. Whereas most primary schools will generally draw their students from 4-5 suburbs around the school or parish base, we draw our student intake from around 12 - 16 suburbs.
- So this means that we have a much more diverse range of families from a wide variety of backgrounds and a more diverse range of demographics.

Maybe that's why our sense of community is struggling somewhat? Maybe we need to work that little bit harder to build and maintain our sense of connectedness or community with each other? But how do you do that when we can't get people to gather together?

As I have said time and time again, we can only achieve what we do with the help and active support of all of our families. It is the participation, involvement and support of you, our parents, that has always enabled us to achieve what we have. Your desire to help and support your children to have an education in a caring, supportive and engaging school environment where there are rich and diverse learning opportunities for them to discover, explore, play and learn should be the common purpose that brings us all together and unites us as a school community. We're here because of the children - our desire and passion to provide the best we can for them should be the shared focus of every single parent and staff member.

I know you all love your children very, very much and would do anything for them. I know that you love the "family feel" that Queenies has always had. So why do we find ourselves in a situation where year after year there are less people volunteering, less people willing to lend a hand, less people willing to give up an evening, less people willing to spare a couple of hours? Are we that time poor these days that we can't find two hours to attend an ACM to show our support for the School Board, P&F Association and Staff that work so tirelessly to create the school that you've chosen to send your children to?

As I would have explained to many of you at your enrolment interviews, you are not just enrolling your child in a school, you are joining a school community. A community which we invite you to be part of, to get to know the staff and other families, to take an active interest and involvement in. It is exactly that which makes us the school that you chose for your children to be educated at. It would appear that we have an increasing number of families who are unable or unwilling to come along to school and be involved on any level. Perhaps some of you

may think that because you pay your fees your obligations to the school end there? Nothing could be further from the truth! We expect our families to take an active interest and involvement in our school and this should extend to more than just turning up to a sports carnival.

If the current rate of decline in parent involvement, commitment and participation in our school continues, then I'm really fearful that within 5 years or so we'll not have a P&F anymore, no fundraising, no discos for the kiddies, no extra resources for the classrooms, no social events for parents and families, no school fair etc. Just imagine how much poorer our school will be in spirit if that happens.

Reminder

Our Praise and Thanksgiving Mass will be taking place in the Parish Church next Wednesday 7 December commencing at 6.00pm. Wouldn't it be great to see the church packed with families coming together in a sense of community spirit to give thanks for the wonderful year we have had?

Peace and best wishes,

Shaun O'Neill

Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Advent – First Sunday of Advent



Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. This is a time of gathering together and waiting for the coming of Jesus, who is Saviour of the world.

In the front office, a Nativity scene has been set up, along with an Advent wreath with the first purple candle which is the candle of Prophecy or Hope. The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle. Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent, where the second purple candle is lit - the candle of Preparation.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas

The Christmas Hampers will be presented at next Monday's morning Assembly to a representative from the Riverton chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society are extremely grateful for the generosity that is shown by the community of Queen of Apostles. The donations given make a huge difference to the lives of many families in the area and help to make this Christmas a really special one – so Thank You!!

End of Year Praise and Thanksgiving Mass

We will once again come together as a whole school community to celebrate the end of the year and thank Christ for the blessings that have been part of our year. Our final Praise and Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 7th December starting at 6:00pm. The Mass will be held in the Church. All families are asked to attend this final Mass. Students are asked to dress in their school uniforms and will sit with their class. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sacramental Dates for 2017

The Queen of Apostles Parish wish to advise families with children in Sacramental years that enrolment for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation will be on Saturday 4th February 2017 at 9.30am in the Parish Hall. You may enrol earlier by filling the enrolment form (available on the parish website: <http://www.queenofapostleschurch.org.au/page3.html>), and handing it in at the Parish Office (55 Tudor Ave, Riverton) along with the \$30 enrolment fee. A copy of your child's Baptism Certificate is also required (if the Parish does not already have one).

For further information please contact Ashley Almeida on 0403317731

	Confirmation	Reconciliation	Eucharist
Enrolment Masses	Weekend of 11/12 Feb	Weekend of 18/19 Feb	Weekend of 25/26 Feb
Parent/Child Workshops	6.00pm Wednesday 10 May	6.00pm Wednesday 23 August	6.00pm Wednesday 30 August
Rehearsal	9.30am Saturday 3 June		9.30am Saturday 9 Sept (4.1) 9.30am Saturday 16 Sept (4.2)
Actual Sacrament	10.30 Sunday 4 June	6.30pm Tues 5 Sept	10.30am Sunday 10 Sept (4.1) 10.30am Sunday 17 Sept (4.2)

Russell Wylie and Julie Galbraith
Assistant Principals

SCHOOL NEWS

IMPORTANT - Are You Report Ready?

An electronic copy of your child's Semester 2 report will be available on SEQTA Engage on the afternoon of Wednesday 7 December. It is important that you are able to access SEQTA Engage to be able to download and/or print a copy of your child's report. **Paper copies will not be issued by the school.** Families should have set up their own login usernames and passwords for the Semester 1 reports, and new families have been sent emails to do this. If you cannot access SEQTA Engage please contact the school office **before Wednesday 7 December.**

Families with children in Year 6 or who are leaving Queen of Apostles at the end of the year should print or save reports as they will not be able to be accessed once the student has left the school.

To check if you are report ready go to: <https://goa.coneqt-p.cathednet.wa.edu.au/> Please click on this link to see you get to the appropriate web page.

Work sample folders will also come home on this day. Please take the time to go through the work your child has completed and see the progress they have made this year.

A reminder that the last the last day for school banking for this year is tomorrow, Friday 2nd December. There will be no more banking after this week.

Year 6 Graduation



This year, our Year 6 Graduation will be held on Thursday 8th December in the Hall. The celebration will begin with the children from Pre-Primary to Year 5 forming a guard of honour at 1:30pm with the formal ceremony beginning straight after this. All parents are invited to witness the Year 6 students finish their Primary School years at this celebration.





School Photos

We have been advised by Kapture Photography that all sports and/or special team photos taken this year will be removed from their website at the end of this term in readiness for next year's photography. This is your last chance to view and purchase these photographs. Please visit www.kapture.com.au and access the gallery using our school code: **6FU5LA**

This code can also be used to purchase class or individual photographs should you have missed out earlier in the year.

Uniform Shop News

Just a reminder to all families that the Uniform Shop has only one more trading day this year! If you do not already have your uniform needs sorted for 2017 you may have to wait in a queue next week! We will be open for extended hours, 8.30-10.30am and 2.00-3.30pm. We are open on the Wednesday before school starts (also extended hours), but **this opening day is designed for new families to the school**, and there is traditionally a very long wait!

The new sport socks and the second hat order are still on schedule to be delivered for the first week of school. If you have ordered these items they will be delivered to your child's class when we receive the stock.

So, from the Uniform Shop, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a wonderful holiday break. I look forward to seeing all of your children beautifully turned out in their new uniforms for 2017!

Fiona Agostino, Uniform Shop

Out of Stock

Small yellow hats
Medium hats all colours
Navy socks 13-3, 2-8
Winter skirt size 14

Library

All Library books should now be returned. There will be no further borrowing for the rest of the year. The library will be closed during weeks 8 and 9 for stocktake and annual maintenance.

Kerry Miller

Hello from the School Social Worker

Holidays with children are a great time for a family to catch up and enjoy time together. However, holidays with children are also about planning for short attention spans and where possible short travel times. Here are some tips:

- Plan more breaks and fewer activities.
- Have plenty of stops for meals and drinks to keep energy levels up.
- Look for activities and local attractions to keep children entertained.
- Plan down time for yourself too.
- Involve children in the planning to get them interested and excited.
- Stick to a few basic routines, like bed times and mealtimes.
- Have children immunised.
- Take a supply of baby wipes and hand sanitiser!

Regards, **Tracy Small**

ON THE COUCH WITH THIS WEEK'S QUEENIES HERO

Congratulations **Kate Fabling** and **Darren Yiu** for being chosen as this week's Queenies Heroes.

Our readers would love to know the following :

Kate:

How long have you been coming to Queenies?

8 years

Who is your own hero or inspiration?

Julie Andrews and Saint Francis

What is your favourite food?

Tacos and Vegemite on toast

What do you hope to be when you grow up?

Anything to do with fashion or a psychologist

This must be a proud moment for you, is there anyone you'd like to thank?

Social Justice, teachers and parents



Darren:

How long have you been coming to Queenies?

1 year

Who is your own hero or inspiration?

Mr Iannello

What is your favourite food?

Chips

What do you hope to be when you grow up?

Soccer player

This must be a proud moment for you, is there anyone you'd like to thank?

My class

OSH CLUB

The Queen of Apostles OSHClub holiday program dates for the upcoming school holidays are as follows:

12th December to 23rd December 2016 - 7am until 6pm AND

3rd January- 27th January 2017

(Exception 26th January 2017 Australia Day holiday)

PD days on the 30th and 31st January 2017 will be confirmed at a later date

We will have a large variety of exciting and engaging activities, incursions and excursions during our summer school holiday program which will be released within the next couple of weeks!

For more information contact Lyn on 0431 310 180

We hope to see you all there! :)

QUEEN OF APOSTLES PARISH

Sunday Family Mass Volunteer Roster

We require volunteers to prepare children for a Family Mass next year.

These Masses are held once a month at 9am on Sundays.

If you are able to assist with this roster or would like further details, please contact Melissa Edmonds (Co-ordinator) edmonds.melissa@qoa.wa.edu.au

QUEEN OF APOSTLES FAMILY MASS PERMISSION SLIP

Please complete the reply slip below giving permission for your son / daughter to read at **the 9am Family Mass on Sunday 11th December.**

Kelly Gostt – 0417 910 602

Family Mass Co-ordinator

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QUEEN OF APOSTLES PARISH REPLY SLIP

I give permission for my child _____ of class _____ to read at **the 9am Mass on Sunday 11th December.**

Parent's signature

Date

COMMUNITY NEWS



Mercedes College

Victoria Square
PERTH WA 6000

Early in 2017, Mercedes College will commence interviewing Year Five students who are due to start Year Seven in 2019. If you are considering enrolling your daughter at Mercedes and have not yet requested an information pack, please contact Mrs Julie Lamb on 9323 1340 as soon as possible.

Further information about enrolments is available on our website, www.mercedes.wa.edu.au.



*The Council and Staff
of the Parents and Friends Federation wish you all a very
Happy and Holy Christmas
and we look forward to seeing you
in Term 1 2017!*



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



**AUSTRALIA DAY
26th January 2017**

**South Perth Foreshore
(West of the Flag Pole)**

GREAT AUSSIE BLOOD GROUP

every body counts



at
greaaussiebloodgroup.org.au

**Guinness World Record
Attempt @ 6pm**



FORM THE BIGGEST HUMAN BLOOD DROP

On Australia Day we come together to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. So on January 26th 2017 thousands of people throughout Perth will head down to South Perth Foreshore in South Perth and join the celebrations in 'The Great Aussie Blood Group' 'every body counts' Guinness World Record' attempt to form the world's biggest human blood drop! The Great Aussie Blood Group Guinness World Record attempt is not only an opportunity to celebrate the 'uniting of people' but also to increase awareness that blood disorders can happen to anybody, at any age, at any time, with no real warning!

REGISTER @ greaaussiebloodgroup.org.au or FOR MORE INFO CALL 9368 7589

LET'S BREAK THE RECORD AND BE PART OF HISTORY!

Registration \$10 per person or \$30 family of 4 { 2 adults, 2 kids } { Includes hat & certificate }



For info about road closures and activities on Australia Day, go to City of South Perth www.southperth.wa.gov.au
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