Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 3.

Thank you for attending the Meet-the-2016-Staff Evening last Thursday. I hope that you were able to visit your child’s classroom and learn more about the curriculum and upcoming events for this year. I know that the school staff value establishing a good relationship between home and school as early as possible in the year. I am sure that the staff are also available to be contacted if you need to follow up any matters in relation to your child’s education throughout the year.

Congratulations to our new Kindergarten students who completed their first two weeks of ‘big school’. They have done a great job in settling into the school and learning their class routines. Kindergarten started full days yesterday.

Staff News
From this Monday Mrs Bernadette Wilson will be on 3 weeks long service leave to enjoy some family time and travel to New Zealand for a special event. Relief has been organised to cover her classes.

Successful Sweetheart/Heart Kids Day
Thank you for supporting this fundraiser and for encouraging your children to do the same. Over $800 has been raised from our school community which is fantastic. This is a strong show of support for the students affected by heart disease or a heart condition and also a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness. Well done everyone.

Parents and Friends’ Association – Notice: Annual General Meeting
As per the first two newsletters for 2016, please be aware that the P&F AGM and first General meeting for 2016 are scheduled for this tomorrow (Wednesday) evening at 7.00pm in the School Library.
Swimming Carnival
The annual St Anthony’s Swimming Carnival is on this Thursday at Tuggeranong Pool. Thank you to Mr Greg Rick for planning for this event and for the staff and parents/volunteers that are assisting or will assist on the day. There is a lot of specialist roles with swimming to get the timing, places and recording right for selection to the next level. There is also lots of confidence building for the non-swimmers and emerging swimmers through novelty events and shorter swims. There is also the role of encouraging students to do their best as well as barrack for their particular house! Whatever role you have on Thursday – thanks for your upcoming efforts.

ELC Meetings
This week there are a couple of meetings to be held at St Anthony’s to plan for the new ELC. The meetings are to discuss the finer details of how the ELC will operate so that we can plan for upcoming Catholic Schools Week and the Enrolment Period when the ELC will be a major focus. The community should receive more information in coming weeks.

School Clean
Just to make you aware that the school underwent some extra cleaning in the recent school holidays to ensure that every area of the school was looking great to start the year. Among the areas that received special cleans were the toilets, hall, carpets, walls, windows, sinks, walkway roof, outside walls of portables and general purpose areas. Hopefully we can keep the standard of cleanliness high!

Congratulations to our 2016 School Leaders

Parliament
Prime Minister: Charlotte Flor
Deputy Prime Minister: Natalie Cao

Parliament Leaders:
Year Six
John Oakey-Brown
Sera George
Josh O’Regan
Sean Wooden
Molly Scott-Cameron
David Tao
Tom Hansen

Year Five
Lila White
Monique Hillborn
Matthew Petrie
Harry Menham
Frances Malone

Sports Captain:
Bradman
Captain: Owen Quantrill
Vice Captain: Leila Spackman

Gilmore
Captain: Alex Hawkins
Vice Captain: Angela Lyons

Paterson
Captain: Kaiyu Lumsden
Vice Captain: Dylan Neindorf

Fraser
Captain: Kaycie Arena
Vice Captain: Halle Rigney

Well done to the above students for being elected to these leadership roles. I’m sure you will all be great role models.

God Bless,

Greg Walker
Principal
‘INTO THE DESERT’

Into the Desert has been written by Shane Dwyer, the Senior Coordinator for Faith Formation & Spirituality for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He has 25 years’ experience as a formator in the Catholic faith, and as a program writer, spiritual director and seminar presenter. He holds a postgraduate degree in Catholic theology with a specialisation in Spirituality.

The heart of this program is the readings provided by the Church for Lent and Easter. An extract from the readings for the day is provided (normally the Gospel) with a reference to the full reading provided. If all you do is to allow yourself to encounter this word on a daily basis throughout Lent – to contemplate it, think about how to live it, and pray in response to it, then you will have fulfilled the program’s primary purpose.

Tuesday Week 1 of Lent

**Encountering the Word**

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” [Full text: Matthew 6:7-15]

**Contemplating the Word**

Reading Jesus’ words today I am reminded of the battle between Elijah and the prophets of Baal (see 1Kings 17). There we see the prophets seeking to attract Baal’s attention with extended chanting and an elaborate dance. Elijah taunts them: ‘chant louder, dance harder…perhaps your god is asleep.’ Nothing happens. Whereas when Elijah prays he just whispers a simple prayer…and the fire falls from the sky and consumes the sacrifice.

The teaching of Jesus and the account of this event in the life of Elijah are both premised on a conviction concerning where God resides. God is as close as your breath. He is everywhere and he is within you. Words don’t attract his attention, love does. If our words are an expression of love, be they ever so humble, God hears and responds.

Words can be a problem for those on the Christian spiritual quest. Words are easy and can become a substitute for action. Words can lull us into a false sense of security: we can articulate what we believe and we might imagine that that is enough. Jesus did not witness to the presence of God with words alone. He did this, in the first instance, through who he was (his very being), which then flowed into what he did. It began with being, which then flowed naturally into doing. Words come last. Jesus used his words only to communicate his experience of being and doing. This is what evangelisation is.

Words that are not backed up by being and doing are of very limited value. If people see that we say one thing and yet do another, they rightfully become suspicious. If they sense that we are deliberately trying to present ourselves in one way and yet the reality is that we are another, they can become angry. On the other hand, if they see that what we say is reflected in our own lives, our words have authority.

I can’t help but think that a big part of why the Catholic Church is attracting particular attention, in light of the Royal Commission into sexual abuse, is because our words are so lofty (love, peace, forgiveness, healing, salvation), but our behaviour has not always incarnated those words. Words designed to paper over actions have no place in the lives of those who are called to live the Gospel.
Being the Word

There are many reasons why we delay setting out on the journey to become the word of God for the world. One reason can be disenchantment with the Church. We can wonder why we should try to live the life God is calling us to, if we are feeling let down by those whose role is to help us on that journey. The fact that others struggle and fail can become our excuse to not take God’s call seriously. The problem with this approach is that we all struggle and fail. That doesn’t exonerate us from the need to pick ourselves up again and get going. We are responsible for the choices we make and for our failure to act.

Ultimately you and I are responsible for whether or not we live in response to the invitation God has made to us. Yes, we appreciate (and perhaps expect) the support of others – particularly our leaders. If we feel we have lost confidence in the Church we can feel justified in walking away from our faith altogether. Many have done precisely that. However, in the end it will be you standing alone before the One who has called you into being. I’m not sure whether excuses about how unimpressed we were with what other people may or may not have been doing is going to cut it.

There is nothing going on in the Church at the moment that is preventing me (or you) from living in response to Jesus Christ. I may alternate between being pleased or disappointed by what I experience in the Church, but in the end I alone am responsible for the response I make to Christ. The fact is, no matter how bleak things can appear to be, there is nothing preventing you and me from living in accord with the life into which we have been baptised. No matter the circumstances, each of us is responsible for the choices we make.

Speaking to the Word

Spend a few minutes in prayer to the God who is as close to you as your breath. Ponder the reality of God’s presence and contemplate the thought that God has something for you — a plan that is as unique as you are. Don’t worry about what that plan is, nor about what you are to do. Your role is simple: sit in God’s presence and wait.

Remain silently in God’s presence for as long as you feel inclined, or opportunity will allow. Then bring before God any sincere prayers of intercession that you have. Instead of asking God to do things for you, ask that he might achieve whatever he wishes through you.

Finish by praying the great yet simple prayer of praise to the Blessed Trinity: Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Community Prayer

There will be no Community Prayer this week due to the swimming carnival.

Sacramental Enrolment Forms

Last week students in Years 3, 4 and 6 were given Sacramental Enrolment forms. Thank you to all those families who are beginning to send in them in to the front office. Please return these forms no later than Tuesday 15th March, 2016 with a copy of your child’s baptism certificate.

More forms can be found at the front office, the school website and the skoolbag app.

“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)

Orla Rutledge
Religious Education Coordinator.
Student of the Week:
Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded student of the week for their class this week:


Certificates will be presented to students at Friday morning assembly.

OOSCA News
If your child is going to be absent from a booked session you need to notify OOSCA. If notification of absence isn’t received you will be charged an administration fee (absent notes to classroom teachers do not account for OOSCA). Please note that you are required to update all contact information with both the school and OOSCA – this information is not shared between us.

Clothing Pool
The Clothing Pool will be open this Wednesday from 3.00pm – 4.00pm.

We will open every second Wednesday from 3.00pm – 4.00pm in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

New items: St Anthony school bucket hats $11 each. Sizes S, M, L

Pre-loved clothing: Boys Shorts $2, Polo Tops $5, Girls Skorts, $5, Jumpers $5, Summer Dresses $10.

Please note we do not have credit card facilities so please bring along your cash.

St Anthony of Padua Parish Information
Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent commencing at 7pm

The annual parish trivia night will be held on Saturday 2nd April, please save the date.

Happy Birthday to:
Angel B, Christopher C, Christy E, Dhanveer R, Jason B, Arabella Mc, Amber S and Chevonne V-R.

Have a wonderful day!

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser last Friday. The school community have currently raised over $800 and the fundraising page is still open. It was lovely being able to tell a past student who has congenital heart disease, now in Year 10 of the fundraising efforts of her old school. She was very happy with our efforts.

It is wonderful to be a part of this school community with so much generous and caring people. Special mention to the Ramos brothers who gave their own pocket money to the cause. That is very kind.

If you didn’t get the chance to make a donation please visit our fundraising page by clicking on the link below.

https://sweetheartday2016.everydayhero.com/au/stanthonys

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

ST ANTHONYS NETBALL
Registrations for the winter netball season are due next MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY. Instructions and information for completing the online registration are on the Skoolbag app and the website under 'notes for parents'. Grading for year 5 and 6 players may be required during the week beginning 29 February. All teams will be allocated by 8 March. Looking forward to a great season!

School Disco
Our first disco for the year will be held on Friday 4th March. Kinder – Year 2 5pm-6:20pm and Years 3-6 6:30-8pm. The theme is fluro (the brighter the better).
**Library News**

**Family Reading Time:** This year in the library during week 3 of each term, we are going to have **Family Reading Time**. Last year we enjoyed reading by torch light during Book Week, we thought we might do it again first term.

Parent(s)/Carer(s) and Siblings you are invited to the Library to read with your child.

When: This Thursday Morning 18th February.
Where: Library
Time: 8.30 – 8.55 am
Bring: Torches

We look forward to seeing you.

Danielle Richardson
Teacher Librarian

**Parents and Friends’ Association Annual General Meeting**

This year the first meeting of the Parents and Friends’ Association (P&F) is to be held on:

**Wednesday 17 February at 7.00pm in the School Library**

All parents and friends are members of the P&F and are invited to attend. It would be great to have a strong representation of parents with students from a variety of year levels. This will ensure we can work together to further support all staff, parents and the students in 2016.

The meeting will start with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) reflecting on the achievements of the association from 2015. All executive positions on the P&F will be declared vacant (as is the case at the start of each school year) and nominations called for to fill the roles in 2016. I encourage you to consider taking on a role within the P&F to continue the great work of previous members and also to bring in new ideas and initiatives.

Following the AGM the first General Meeting for 2016 will commence, chaired by the executive members elected.

Our parents, friends and extended family members are an asset to St Anthony’s School and contribute wonderfully to the school community and the each students time at the school.

**Traffic Reminders**

Drop off and Pick Up: The lane closest to the school is for **BUSES ONLY**, until a teacher instructs you that it is clear for pick up purposes. No cars are to use this lane in the mornings.

If using the drop off and pick up zone you are not to get out of your vehicle this is a flow through area. If your child requires help to exit your car you need to park in the car park to assist them.

**NO RIGHT TURN:** Cars are not allowed to turn right into the school from Wheeler Crescent during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Buses excepted.

Please abide with these rules. It helps with the efficiency of these busy times and to keep your children safe.

---

**St Anthony’s Canteen**

Open Tuesday - Friday
6231 4022
Manager: Mrs Maree Alchin

**Roster of Volunteer Helpers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17 February</td>
<td>Peta Crowder 9am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bec Benton 9am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 18 February</td>
<td>Carole Coulton 9am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19 February</td>
<td>Selina Walker 9am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vicky Schmidt 9am-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sue Kemp 12-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jodi Stewart 9am-12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEEK FOUR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 23 February</td>
<td>Lea Huber 9am-12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24 February</td>
<td>Sue Duckett 9am-12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Helpers always welcome – drop in and have a chat.

**Claim the dates:**

School Disco – Friday 4th March
Tuck Day (Pizza) – Wednesday 16th March
Athletics Carnival (Helpers Needed) 1st April

Flexischools On-line Ordering
Want to be a Buffalo?

The Tuggeranong Buffaloes would like to invite all players, new and old, boys and girls, from under 6’s through to under 16’s, to play with us for the 2016 Rugby League season.

There is also a girls division for U13’s to 15’s or U16-18’s

Register online now at playnrl.com.au/register or come down to one of our rego days

- 14th February at McDonalds Tuggeranong from 10am to 1:00pm
- 21st of February at Kambah oval Number 1 from 10am to 1:00pm

For more information check out www.thebuffaloes.org or facebook