Edition 4: 16th February 2015

Prayer for Ash Wednesday
Merciful God,
You created us from the dust of the earth, and breathed your own life into our very being. You recreated us in Christ through the waters of Baptism, that we might share in the fullness of life. As we enter these forty days, may our fasting strengthen us to seek your justice. May our prayer lead us to become makers of peace. Amen

Twilight Swimming Carnival
A big thank you to all the parents who supported our Swimming Carnival last Thursday evening. The number of helpers was simply amazing! It was fabulous to also see many ex-students present and helping out in various ways. Huge thanks to Mrs Natasha Gippel for all of her organisation, it ran very smoothly. Days such as these show how wonderful a community we have at St Edward’s School. Congratulations to all the students who participated, cheered and displayed wonderful sportsmanship. Thank you to the parents and students who also stayed behind for the presentation, it really created for a wonderful community atmosphere. A special mention to all the Age Champions and Runners Up and best of luck at the next level of competition.

Parent Information Evening
Thank you to all the parents who attended the Information Nights on Monday and Wednesday last week. It is vital to your child’s education that a positive relationship exists between home and school and that communication between the two is regular and constructive. These nights were great opportunities to begin such a dialogue.

Years 3 & 6 Family Mass – this Sun 22nd February
Our first Family Mass for the year (Years 3 & 6) will be held this Sunday 22nd February at 9.00am at Mary Help of Christians Church in Hillvue Road. The students are asked to provide and distribute morning tea. These masses are for all students, parents and friends of our school, Catholic and Non-Catholic alike. We look forward to seeing many families at Mass this Sunday.

AGM – St Ed’s School Board & Parent Association
A reminder to our parents to please attend and support our upcoming combined Annual General Meeting of our School Board and Parent Association on Wednesday 25th February in the Primary Library at 7.30pm. Several positions will become vacant on the School Board and the P & F. If you would like to nominate for a position, or you know of someone who would like to be nominated on the School Board, please collect a Nomination Form from either school office. The closing date for School Board nominations is Tuesday 24th February at 9.00am. P & F nominations will be accepted on the night. All teaching staff will be in attendance and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
A reminder that all parents will have the opportunity for an individual interview with your child’s class teacher as follows:

- **KINDER ONLY (this week):** Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February
- **PRIMARY YRS 3 - 6 (Week 6):** Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March
- **YRS 1 & 2 (Week 7):** Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March

For Kinder Parents, please contact your child’s class teacher if you haven’t received your interview time for this week.

Curriculum Team
This year we are very fortunate to have extra funding to allow teachers to be released from class to work together to ensure the new curriculums English, Mathematics and Science, are implemented effectively. The team consists of Pauline Long, Assistant Principal; Heidi Le Broc who continues her role of Executive teacher at the Primary Campus as well as being a full-time Curriculum Co-ordinator; Belinda Lane; Alex Brownsmith; Belinda Barry-Guppies and Tim Unwin. We are very excited about the new changes that we will be able to implement in our school and would encourage you to keep updated on our curriculum initiatives by regularly checking our Team Page found under ‘Classrooms’ on our School Website.

Spelling
Over the past few years we have noticed a decline in the Primary children’s ability to spell correctly. This trend is not only evident at St Ed’s but is an Australian wide concern. We investigated how other schools in our Diocese teach spelling and also spent a day observing spelling lessons at St Mary’s School in Grafton. As a result, we are currently revising the School Spelling Scope and Sequence for Kinder to Year 3 students to ensure our programs are comprehensive and developmentally appropriate.

Last year we introduced a Stage 3 Spelling Bee to invigorate Spelling in the Upper Primary grades. This initiative was well received by the students and will be continued in 2015. Years 4 - 6 students will be introduced to a new Spelling Program called ‘Spell It’. This is a comprehensive researched based program developed by the Macquarie University. The Multi Lit Company produces this program along with the Pre Lit, MiniLit and Reading Tutor programs we already have running at St Ed’s.

The Curriculum Team will be presenting Parent Information Sessions on the Spell It Program on the following dates:
- Monday 16th March, 7.30pm in the Primary School Hall
- Friday 20th March, 2.00pm in the Primary School Hall

We would encourage all parents of students in Years 4 - 6 to attend.
NRMA Bus Safety Program – Kinder Students only
On Tuesday 24th February, all Kindergarten students will be participating in our annual NRMA Bus Safety Program. There will be an information and discussion session conducted by representatives of the NRMA, Police and Tamworth Bus Companies. Don’t forget to sign and return your child’s permission note if you haven’t already done so.

Kindergarten & Captains Photos
The Northern Daily Leader will be taking photographs of our Kindergarten students this Thursday 19th February at 9.15am at the Infants Campus, followed by our School and Vice Captains at the Primary. The School Captains photos will be published in the Northern Daily Leader on Tuesday 10th March and the Kindergarten classes will be featured in the Leader on Thursday 12th March 2015.

Child Protection
Under Child Protection Legislation any parent or other adult working with children must complete a “Working with Children Declaration” Form. All new parents/carers to our school who intend to volunteer in the classrooms, sporting functions or in the Canteen must complete one of these forms. For your convenience this form has been sent home today with the newsletter. Please note a 100 point identification check must be presented to the Secretary at either school office when you return your completed form.

All parents/adult helpers must also report to the school office and collect a visitors badge before proceeding to any area of the school.

St Edward’s Drug Education Policy
Last Monday all new Kindergarten families and other new families to our school received a copy of our Drug Education Policy. Please remember to sign and return the front slip to show you have read the policy. Thank you to the families who have already returned their slip. A reminder to all parents if your child requires any medication to be administered at school, a Short Term or Long Term Medication Form must be completed. Under no circumstances are children to self-medicate without teacher supervision. Don’t forget that Long Term Medication Forms must be renewed each year and signed by your child’s doctor.

Student Information
Student Verification Contact Forms went home last week. Thank you to the families who have already returned their form. If you have not, we ask that you complete any changes and return to either school office by this Friday 20th February. We request that all forms are returned, even if all information shown is correct.

McCarthy Catholic College Open Day
An Open Day will be held at McCarthy Catholic College, Tribe Street, on Saturday 7th March 2015 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. All welcome to attend. Please note applications from students attending local Catholic Primary schools close on Wednesday 1st April 2015.

Student School Banking – Important Changes
The Armidale Diocesan Investment Group’s Student Banking (‘Rainbow Club’) has undergone some changes this year. 8 deposits will be required in Term 2, 3 & 4 for students to be eligible for a prize. For Term 1 only, each child has to achieve 7 deposits for a prize. The child may choose either the prize that is available for that term. Also, if the child makes more than 8 deposits during a term then the extra deposits will NOT carry over into the next term. We will still make note of them, however, as at the end of the year we will be rewarding the child at each school who made the most deposits with a very special prize. The minimum deposit is still $1.00.

Bank books are collected each Friday morning, then processed by Mrs Sauer at the Infants Campus and returned the following week. Our school benefits financially from every transaction...these continue to be a free account and generate 30 cents commission each time a child deposits to their Rainbow Club Account at school. If you wish to open an ADIG student account for your child, an application form can be obtained from either school office.

Start your saving today 😊

Student of the Week (first name shown) & Curriculum Award (second name shown)

Congratulations!

Curriculum Focus: Mathematics
KBC  Beau Briskey 3M  Sophie Moriss
   Mia Muzyczka 4O  Kerwin Richards
KL  Grace Munn  KR  Mia Darcy
    Taylah Evans 4P  Harry Lewington
KR  Mia Bradley 1M  Charlotte Ray
    Haydon Allan-Saunders 4S  Luke Gray
1M  Logan Rust  1P  Blake Hutchinson
    DeliKa Boney 5A  Cameron Smith
1P  Zali Kapeller 1R  Laura Sinclair
    Matthew Jackson 5L  Tom Littlejohns
1R  Charlie Cunningham 6C  Chloe Bates
    Daniel Fulton 6C  Michael Lewington
2E  Maddie Stude 2R  Mia Johnson
    Jordan Lewington 6G  Abby Shields
2R  Max Sartori 2U  Rebecca Cameron
    Maddison Morriss 6M  Brendan Scott
2U  Ellie McLroy 3B  Jorja Collins-Woods
    Lexi Maguire  Gabby Miller
3B  Gabby Miller 3G  Lee Kasch
    Ben Shields

Values Award - “RESPECT”
Kinder – Eva Maloney, Chelsea Hayman, Blake Ward
Year 1 – Izaiah Craigie, Khiyan Morris, Connor Craig
Year 2 – Emily Dietrich, Jasmin Dury, Padraig Maher
Year 3 – Kahni Craig, Georgie Berlyn, Sophie Deebank
Year 4 – Lachlan Smith, Brayden Boonstra, Charlotte Collins
Year 5 – Alec Rogers, Jade Reading
Year 6 – Ashleigh Aitken, Abbigale Ryan, Tamika Humphries

House Award
Primary: Kennedy Green
Infants: MacKillop Gold

Prize & Presentation Award
Primary: 6C
Infants: KL

Respect Rules Award - Congratulations to Blake Ward (KR) for displaying respect to fellow students and demonstrating pride in his school uniform.
Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 17th Feb</td>
<td>Kathy Gray</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18th Feb</td>
<td>Kathy Smyth</td>
<td>Sarah Cathro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 19th Feb</td>
<td>Kellie-Ann Hansen</td>
<td>Fiona Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th Feb</td>
<td>Simone Bath</td>
<td>Kristle Nicol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Kylie Newlan</td>
<td>Renee Bultitude</td>
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</tbody>
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Canteen News – Important Changes

Thank you to the wonderful parents/carers who have returned their notes offering to help in the Canteen at the Primary or Infants (or both). I am in particular need of Canteen helpers at the Infants Campus on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you are available to assist, please phone Clare Dubois at the Primary on 6765 7847 as the new roster has to be finalised and sent home this week.

This Wednesday 18th February we celebrate Ash Wednesday and as a result our School Canteen will NOT be selling pies, chicken nuggets, sausage rolls, or any items containing meat.

Please note as a school we will also be observing the Fridays of Lent as special days of prayer and penance. Therefore, no meat or meat products will be on sale in the School Canteen each Friday during Lent. Any children placing lunch orders requesting meat products will be given a vegemite sandwich. Thank you for your assistance in regards to this request. However each Friday until the end of term the following alternatives will be offered as part of the Canteen menu: fish burgers ($2.80) and Macaroni Cheese ($3.00). Macaroni cheese will also be available this Ash Wednesday and every Friday.

Hot dogs will also be available for purchase now through until the end of term on a Thursday ONLY, not Friday.

Please note new stocks of our sports polos have now arrived and are available for purchase from the Primary Canteen or Infants Office at $30 each. We are still waiting for the arrival of sports shorts but will notify parents via the newsletter when they arrive.

RE News

Shrove Tuesday

As the Church anticipates the Season of Lent, the day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally it is a time for using up all the fats and sugars in the home. Rich foods are consumed as the faithful prepare for time of fasting, abstinence, confession and penance.

Ash Wednesday Mass

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Years 3-6 will be attending Mass at 9.30am this Wednesday 18th February.

Years 3 & 6 Family Mass

The first Family Mass of the year will be this Sunday 22nd February at 9.00am in Mary Help of Christians Church. The students and families of Years 3 & 6 are asked to attend and bring a plate to share for morning tea after Mass. All families are welcome to the Mass.

Year 2 Grade Liturgy

Just a reminder that the Year 2 Grade Liturgy will be held next Tuesday 24th February. The Liturgy will commence at 11.40am in the Infants Hall. Parents and friends are most welcome.

Sally Clarke & Amy Elliott

Wise Words for Families

The art of distraction. Redirect children’s attention rather than continually reprimanding them. Grandmothers are experts at distracting a child just as he/she is about to create havoc. Distract a child’s attention from possible annoying or rule-breaking behaviour by asking him/her to help, or to join you in a pleasant activity or game.

Michael Grose

Notes Home Today

- Premier’s Reading Challenge Note (all families)
- Working with Children Declaration for Volunteers Form (all new families)

We are indebted to the businesses that support St Edward’s by advertising on the back of the Newsletter and in return we ask you to support them.

St Ed’s Parent Association News

A big thank you to the following people who helped cook the BBQ at last Thursday’s Swimming Carnival: Bec and Dustin Evans, Caterina Walker, Tanya Young, Carol Rickard and Chief ‘lid lifter’ Amanda Black. It was great to catch up with you all again for our first fundraiser for 2015.

Jen Maloney, President