Edition 5: 23rd February 2015

Lord God,

You knew what it was like to be different …….. Sometimes it’s difficult not to go along with the crowd, even when we know they’re wrong.

We have to be strong and brave.

But someone has to be first to change from wrong to right.

Help each one of us, Lord, to be courageous in our daily lives;
to hang on to what is good, honest and true, and be a fine example that shines out, so that others will want to follow our lead. Amen

New Students

We extend a warm welcome to St Edward’s School to Matthew (3G) and Lydia (2E) Tocknell and family from Hillvue Public School, Tamworth.

Years 3 & 6 Family Mass

A big thank you for the turn out yesterday at the Years 3 & 6 Family Mass. These Family Masses are a chance for our families to meet in the focal point of our Parish, the Church. It was lovely to see so many children present. Thank you to the families who supplied the delicious morning tea. It is a wonderful opportunity for us all to stop and take a break to pray together as a School Community. Again I thank you all for your continued support of these important days for our School Community and I encourage even more families to attend our next Family Mass on Sunday 22nd March.

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 this 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 tomorrow Tuesday 24th February at 9.00am. Parent Association 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:

**PRIMARY YRS 3 - 6 (Week 6):** Mon 2nd March – Fri 6th March

**YRS 1 & 2 (Week 7):** Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March

A note will go home to parents regarding interview timeslots and you will be required to indicate your preferred preferences. Please note due to time constraints, these interviews are strictly limited to 15 minutes only & we encourage all parents to attend.

St Ed’s Medical Action Plans

Medical Action Plans will go home this week to all families who have children with Asthma, Seizures, Diabetes and Anaphylaxis. Parents are asked to update these forms, including signature from your family doctor ASAP.

Parents of students who have been diagnosed with any of the above medical conditions since enrolling are asked to advise either school office ASAP so a Medical Action Plan can be processed and sent home.

NRMA Bus Safety Program – Kinder Students only

Tomorrow, 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.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will be celebrated this year across NSW/ACT from the 8th March to 14th March. The theme for CSW 2015 is ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’. The theme ties in with the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on Christian Education, ‘Gravissimum Educationis.’ The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

All families (K – 6) are invited to celebrate with us by attending our St Edward’s Breakfast at the Primary Campus on Monday 9th March from 7.30am – 8.30am.

Following the breakfast, there will be a Liturgy at 9.00am at the PRIMARY Campus (School Hall), followed by open classroom visits until 11.00am. Parents and visitors are welcome to stay and share morning tea with the Primary students in the school grounds (maybe pack a picnic).

After morning tea, there will be a Liturgy at 11.35am at the INFANTS Campus (Infants Hall), followed by open classrooms until 1.10pm. Parents and visitors are welcome to stay and share lunch with the Infants students in the school grounds (perhaps pack a picnic).

This is an ideal opportunity to support the community of St Ed’s and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day. We hope you can join us!

VALUE FOR THE WEEK: “DOING YOUR BEST”
School Fees
Fees paid for the full year in advance by Friday 6th March 2015 will receive a 5% discount on the Tuition fee ONLY. Amount to pay including discount are $1,111.00 for 1 child (saving of $49), $1,963.60 for 2 children (saving of $84.40) and $2,465.20 for 3 or more children (saving of $110.80). EFTPOS, Cash, Cheque or Direct Deposit (BSB: 082 105 ACCT: 001 001 044 using your Surname & Acct No. as reference) accepted. Please note a $2 fee will be incurred for Credit Card payments.

Dental Health Check – Year 1 students only
Darling Dental, a private Tamworth Surgery, is kindly offering free dental health checks to our Year 1 students ONLY on Thursday 5th March 2015. A consent form went home a few weeks ago to every Year 1 student and if you would like your child’s teeth checked this form needs to be completed and returned by this Friday 27th February. Thank you to the families who have already returned their child’s form.

ENROL NOW for Kindergarten 2016
Is your child commencing school in 2016? or do you know of family or friends who would like to enrol their child in Kindergarten at St Edwards?, then please fill in an Enrolment Form and return it as soon as possible. Enrolment Forms are available from Angela at the Infants Office, or Leanne at the Primary Office.

Pastoral Care
Thank you so much to the parents of St Edward’s School for your generosity. What an overwhelming response we have had to our request for Pastoral Care Volunteers via the newsletter. To date, we sit at around 30 volunteers already! Our target of 60 is looking completely achievable. We ask that if you are able to assist, and have not returned the Pastoral Care Sheet, you do so as soon as possible, or ring either school and leave a message for Sally Clarke or Amy Elliott.
If you know someone in our school community who is sick or in hospital, or who has had a recent loss in the family, or if you find yourself in need of a little extra help, please let us know – we can only help when we know of people who need assistance. Thank you again for helping us help others. If you have any queries, please feel free to ring either Sally or Amy and they will answer questions you might have.

Guitar & Piano Lessons at St Ed’s
Parents don’t delay if your child is talking about learning to play the guitar (Yr 3 – 6 students only) or piano (K – 6). St Ed’s is so lucky to have been offered the services of talented tutors from the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music…..Mr James Craswell (Guitar) and Mr Todd Power (Piano). What a time saver it is for parents because these tutors come direct to St Ed’s for lessons during school time, so we ask that you please support them! Enrolment forms can be collected from either the Primary or Infants Office. For more information, please phone the Conservatorium on 67 666 911.

Vocal Group Tuition at St Ed’s
St Ed’s is also fortunate to have Sally-Anne Whitten who is running vocal group lessons again this year at school. Lessons are a basic introduction to music and vocal principles, and are focused on getting students involved in learning basic elements of music and singing in a fun environment. Lessons are $10 a week, and students must have a permission slip filled in to be able to start tuition. If you have filled out a permission slip last year, please do fill in another one again this year with your current details, so Sally-Anne can keep track of her enrolments. Enrolment forms are available from either school office, or if you have any questions, you can contact Sally-Anne on 0412 093 469 or email sawhitten85@gmail.com

Missing at the Primary
Missing following our recent Swimming Carnival is a blue sports polo, size 10, clearly labelled and belonging to Elissa Groth in 5M. Parents are asked to check your child’s belongings to ensure your child has the correct polo. If found, please return to Miss Mace or Mrs Richards at the Primary Office.

CANTEEN NEWS – IMPORTANT CHANGES
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).

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

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 24th Feb</td>
<td>Grant &amp; Wendy Lee</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25th Feb</td>
<td>Kylie Gillies</td>
<td>Nicole Williamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 26th Feb</td>
<td>Kylie Taylor</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th Feb</td>
<td>Mel Murphy</td>
<td>Maryanne Maher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd March</td>
<td>Sarah Berlynn</td>
<td>Julie Whalan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carissa Smith</td>
<td>Adam Jones</td>
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<td>Shayne Kapeller</td>
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Student of the Week (first name shown) & Curriculum Award (second name shown)

Curriculum Focus: English

Congratulations!

KBC         3M          Ethan Allen
Sam Studte  3M          Jessica Collins-Woods
Juliet Mettam | 0          Caitlin Jackson
KL          4O          Gillian McGrath
Riley Graham | 0          Zach Lee
Sophia Spreadborough | 0        Isayah Monk
KR          4P          Robbie Lay
Jayden Howe  4P          Luke Davis
Charlie Carroll-Williams | 5L        Jackson Walton
1M          5L          Ryan McKinnon
Jasmine Williamson | 5L        Elijah Allan-Sauders
Fraser Cox   5L          Kaitlin Young
1P          6C          Liam Thompson
Adrian Lu    6C          Taylor Gambrell
Caitlin Dunstan | 6C        Olivia Whitemore
1R          6G          Joshua Cruickshank
Jimmy He     6G          Georgie Griffiths
Rubie Cathro | 6G          Chelsea Newlan
2E          6G          Olivia Whitemore
Fletcher Norman | 6G        Joshua Cruickshank
Annabelle Stuart | 6G        Georgie Griffiths
2R          6M          Chelsea Newlan
Sam Atiken   6M          Georgie Griffiths
Hannah Briley | 6M          Chelsea Newlan
2U          6M          Georgie Griffiths
Padraig Maher | 6M          Chelsea Newlan
Jack Benjamin | 6M          Georgie Griffiths
3B          6M          Georgie Griffiths
Kyra Mihell  6M          Georgie Griffiths
Cooper Schubert | 6M       Georgie Griffiths
3G          6M          Georgie Griffiths
Jayde Elliott | 6M         Georgie Griffiths
Charlotte Bridge | 6M   Georgie Griffiths

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House Award
Primary: MacKillop Gold Infants: Therry Blue

Pride & Presentation Award
Primary: 6G Infants: KL

Respect Rules Award
Congratulations to all of 5A for greeting all teachers and guests with a bright and chirpy good morning whenever we visit. Also congratulations to Liam Thompson from 6C for helping younger students in our school.

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.

Wise Words for Families - Make time for talking and listening with your children
- Listen to your children when they want to talk, have strong feelings or have a problem.
- Healthy communication includes talking about all kinds of feelings, including anger, joy, frustration, fear and anxiety. Talking about feeling angry is different from getting angry, though, and learning the difference is an important step for a child learning to communicate.
- Children think differently from adults. There are a lot of things they don’t know and a lot of things they don’t have the words to talk about. When talking to your child, try to remember how it was when you were a child and how you were generally attracted to those people who really listened to you. Try not to butt in when your child says something ridiculous or wrong or is having trouble finding the words – let him finish what he’s saying and then respond.
- Use language that your children will understand. Sometimes we forget that children don’t “get” everything.
- Listening is not just about hearing words, but also trying to understand what is behind those words.
- When listening, try not to jump in and cut your child off or put words in his mouth. Children appreciate this as much as adults!
- To let your child know you are listening, and make sure you’ve really understood, repeat back to him what he has said and make lots of eye contact.
- Show your interest by saying such things as, “Tell me more about ...”, “Really!” and “Go on ...” and asking your child how he feels about the things he’s telling you about.
- Avoid criticism and blame. If you are angry about something they have done, try and explain why you want them not to do it again and appeal to their sense of empathy. Read more tips about giving praise.
- Work together to solve problems and conflicts.
- Be honest with each other.

By Michael Grose www.parentingideas.com.au

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.