You are the light of the world.
Let Jesus shine through you to others.

24 February 2016
Term 1 No. 3

Dear Parents, Friends & Students of the St Denis School community

Welcome to Week 4

Lent
Project Compassion is Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal which brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year's theme is *Learn More, Create Change. What can we do to make a difference in the world?* To find out more visit the [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

Mass
On Friday we have our first whole school Mass for the Year. I warmly invite those of you who can, to join us for this celebration of the Eucharist at 9:45am. We welcome back Fr Peter, who will celebrate this Mass with us.

Twilight Picnic
Please highlight Friday 11th March for the Annual School Picnic. This event, organised by the P & F is a fabulous opportunity for parents to mingle and meet new members of the school community. It is also a great night for the students in our school to have some fun. I look forward to welcoming you to this, the first social event on our calendar.

MJR
Two of our staff members are heading to Tasmania today to attend a Making Jesus Real Conference in Hobart. We wish them well and look forward to hearing their feedback on return.

Before & After School
Parents are reminded that there is no supervision on the playground equipment before and after school. At the moment we have some of the younger children playing on the senior equipment, after school. In the interests of student safety, we ask that children do not play on the equipment before and after school and remind you that parent supervision of children is required after pick-ups.

Family names for those parents who use the drive through will be distributed this week. Please use these as it assists in the smooth running of the drive through, especially for those of us new to the school who are not yet familiar with the faces or cars. Thank you.

Swimming Carnival
Don’t forget our swimming carnival next Tuesday 1st March at Bayswater Waves. The program of event can be found further along in the newsletter.

His Holiness Pope Francis is a source of inspiration for us all. Each newsletter for the rest of the year will conclude with a quote from his holiness. I hope you find his words of wisdom thought provoking.

"Education is an important mission, which draws young people to what is good, beautiful and true." Pope Francis

Kind regards

Kerry Hewitson
Principal
**PENANCE/RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS**

Mass this weekend at St Denis Parish will be extra special as the Sacrament of Reconciliation candidates and their parents pledge their commitment to prepare for the sacrament to the best of their ability, with the prayerful support of the parish community. The students and their families may choose to attend the **Saturday 27 February Mass at 6.30pm OR Sunday 28 February Mass at 9.00am** (which is also the Year 3 Family Parish Mass).

**WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

On Friday 26 February, the Year 4 class will lead the school community in the celebration of the Eucharist at 9.45am, St Denis Church. Parents are most welcome to attend.

**YEAR 2 FAMILY MASS**

A big thank you to the families that attended and participated in last Sunday’s Year 2 Family Parish Mass.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Please put your compassion into action this Lent by contributing to Caritas’ Project Compassion. Each classroom has a box.

Our generous contributions will help Caritas work with communities to reduce poverty and injustice around the world.
Why has the furniture changed?
New methods of teaching and the increased use of technology mean the traditional arrangement of a single desk facing the front is no longer the best environment for student learning. Children need a variety of spaces for working individually, collaboratively, for creating, for presenting and for increased movement. Traditional classroom environments limit all of these opportunities. Research shows children in schools with contemporary furniture are moving up to 15 minutes more a day. Just as learning has gone from ‘knowing facts’ to ‘how to use the information’, classroom environments have moved on too.

What has changed?
The Year 6 classroom now has a range of rectangle tables and round tables. There are a variety of seating options including ergonomic chairs, stools that promote movement and balance, couches and an ottoman. We have a standing work area, new bookshelves to divide spaces and a stage for collaborative work and presenting. Furniture is now coloured in grey, teal and raspberry, providing a soothing environment.

Why are you using the word ‘space’ so much?
This type of learning environment is characterised by the spaces. Each space or area has multiple uses. The glass tables are a work space, a brainstorm and recording space. The stage is a presenting space, a display area, a collaborative work space. The bookshelves create a reflective space, a partner work space, or a quiet discussion space.
Where will my child sit?
There is a seat for every child in the class, however these are not allocated in the traditional way. Each child will start and end the day at their ‘home’ spot, which will be allocated for the term. They then choose where to sit for activities.

How will my child know where to sit during the day?
Just as they did with the old desks, students will move around the room for different activities and lessons. The class will be practising choosing places to work. They need to learn the best place for individual learning, group activities, partner work etc. Children will be supported in making decisions about where to work.

What about their posture? I don’t want them laying on a couch all day!
They will be too busy working to lay on a couch! The school has invited an Occupational Therapist to speak to the class about posture, choices of seating and length of sitting time. The chairs have a flexible back, making them more comfortable and ergonomic for sitting. The stools have a rounded base causing students to engage core muscles and sit correctly to stay balanced.

My child isn’t coping with the change, help?!
Recent visits to other schools and speaking with teachers suggests that it will take the class approximately 3-6 weeks to adjust. Give them time to develop skills, learn and reflect. Discuss with your child the types of choices they are making and activities they are completing to assist their transition. Miss Waters is always available to discuss any concerns or questions.

My child isn’t in year 6. Will they be able to use it?
Other staff members have been invited to bring their classes in to use the Year 6 space for activities. As long as they leave it clean and tidy, we’d love to share it with others!

Can I come and see it?
Visitors before 8:45am or after school are most welcome. Year 6 parents will have some classroom open mornings and afternoons in the next few weeks to see the children in action, this will be followed by an invite for the School Board and P and F to visit. At the end of Term 1 a general open afternoon will be held for the rest of the school community.

Thank you to the P & F for making this happen! The St Denis staff appreciates your ability to be forward thinking and recognising the benefits this will have on the learning of the Year 6 students.

We look forward to other classes being upgraded in the near future.
Welcome to the beginning of another school year in YEAR THREE!

The year has started with a bang – the Year Three Class has had a taste of making and preparing pancakes for Shrove Tuesday! We have been planting green beans in the vegie patch and have been keenly monitoring their progress by practising our measurement skills in mathematics.

We thoroughly enjoyed our swimming lessons. We have learnt many new skills and enjoyed the cool refreshing water on those superhot 40 degree days!

The class reverently and beautifully led the whole school in our Ash Wednesday Liturgy. We really enjoyed learning more about Lent and the forty days leading to Easter.

We have been learning all about “Making Jesus Real” and how we can best treat ourselves and others living more like Jesus in our daily lives. These are just a few of the activities and fun things we have been doing and sharing with one another.
Q: If you could choose anyone else in the school for the next MJR award, who would it be?
A: Isha in Year Two, because she's nice.

Q: How did you feel when you found out you had won the award?
A: I felt really shocked and surprised!

Q: What's one of the things that you're going to do with Denis the Bear?
A: I'm going to take lots of photos of him.

Q: Why do you think you won this award?
A: Because I'm quiet and try to be kind to others.

Q: Were your parents happy when they saw you win the award?
A: Yes, very happy!

Q: If Denis was a different animal, what would you want him to be?
A: A dog.

Interviewed by the Y6 Communications Committee
Congratulations to Nelly and Danny on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Rhiannon Scarleth Maiden. Rhiannon was born on 18 December, weighing 3.5kg. Nelly thanks everyone for their warm wishes and prayers.

Please note carefully - New change from 2016 onward

The Archdiocese of Perth implemented a new Sacramental Policy several years ago which mandated that all sacramental celebrations should now be parish based celebrations. As in the past, the school will continue to fully prepare the children for the Sacraments, however, it is the responsibility of the parents as the first teachers in the faith to ensure that they have enrolled their child at our parish.

You will need to bring a copy of your child’s Baptism certificate to the enrolment afternoon so that it can be kept with the form that you will need to fill in.

If you regularly attend a different parish it is also perfectly fine for your child to receive a Sacrament in that parish, you just need to let both the school and the other parish know that is your wish.

Reconciliation prior to Confirmation and Holy Communion
An important part of the preparation for a Sacrament is that the children receive Reconciliation prior to their next sacrament. Reconciliation is available at the parish every Saturday between after the 8.00am Mass & again between 5.30pm – 6.00pm.
From the Social Worker

Dana Kerford is a Teacher, Friendship Expert, and the Founder of internationally-recognized friendship programs, GirlPower & GoodGuys.

GirlPower and Good Guys workshops are coming up in Perth with Dana...below is just a snippet of what's being offered.... Go online and book in soon to secure your place.

Well worth the time and effort!

Kind regards

Jane

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Friendship Fires (For Girls in Years 5 & 6)

Date: Wednesday March 9, 2016 — 9:30 to 11:30am
Location: 31 Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley, WA, Australia
Venue: Judith Cottier Theatre - Perth College
Presenter: Dana Kerford
Price: $31.82/person

Join Dana Kerford, Canadian Friendship Expert and Founder of GirlPower & GoodGuys, during her visit to Western Australia!

In this workshop, girls learn the 4 Friendship Facts, qualities of a True Friend, and how to use the Friend-o-meter to assess healthy versus unhealthy friendships. They will learn the importance of standing up, how to put out those common Friendship Fires™, and how to deal with mean-on-purpose behavior like ninja. We also discuss their digital world and some tips for keeping friendships healthy online.

- Note: This is a girls-only workshop for girls in Years 5 & 6, not a parent-daughter workshop.

Heart of Friendship (For Girls in Years 3 & 4)

Date: Wednesday March 9, 2016 — 12:30 to 2:30pm
Location: 31 Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley, WA, Australia
Venue: Judith Cottier Theatre - Perth College
Presenter: Dana Kerford
Price: $31.82/person

Join Dana Kerford, Canadian Friendship Expert and Founder of GirlPower & GoodGuys, during her visit to Western Australia!

With the help of their dolls or teddy bears, girls learn the Friendship Facts, qualities of a True Friend, and how to use the Friend-o-meter to assess healthy versus unhealthy friendships. We also discuss the importance of standing up, how to put out those common Friendship Fires™, and how to deal with mean-on-purpose behavior like ninja.

Special instructions
Girls need to bring along a doll or teddy bear to the workshop.

- Note: This is a girls-only workshop, not a parent-daughter workshop.

Registration online via https://urstrong.com/event
The ‘Rock and Water’ Program – Saturday 12 March 8.30-12.30. $60 per pair. West Leederville Primary School, 58 Northwood Street, West Leederville.

Physical exercises are constantly linked with mental and social skills. The Rock and Water program leads from simple self-defence, boundary and communication exercises to a strong notion of self-confidence. The program offers a framework of exercises and ideas to assist boys and girls aged between 8 and 14 years to become aware of the purpose and motivation in their life. Topics include: intuition, body language, mental strength, empathic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualising. For further information and to enrol please phone 6164 0200.

One more week to register.

Girls and Boys in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited to register for the upcoming netball season commencing in Term 2. Information sheets and Registration forms are available in the office and registrations close Friday March 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Philippa Craigie at philippa@craigue.net or on 0438899167.
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9.00 – Opening prayer and introduction

11.45 – Presentation/Conclude
170 Years of Quality Education
Mercedes College celebrates 170 Years of quality education in the Mercy tradition.

To register please go to:
www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/openday

OPEN DAY
14 March (Mon)
9.30 – 11.30am

Mercedes College
T: 9323 1323 • www.mercedes.wa.edu.au
A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd

SERVITE COLLEGE
Warmly Invites all families to a Special Tour of the College Campus
THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY at 4.30PM

We look forward to presenting to Parents/Guardians and children the exciting newly created Resource Centre at Servite representing an innovative and progressive learning environment for students.

This is a great opportunity for you as a family, to be provided with information on the Educational Opportunities at Servite College for your children’s future.

Please contact the College on 9444 6333 or email to: admin@servite.wa.edu.au to register your interest, so that we can welcome you on the day.

Jeff Allen, Principal