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

Welcome to Week 7
I trust you all enjoyed the extra-long weekend, spent value time with family and friends and are energised for the second half of the term.

Yesterday, staff attended a Professional Development day at the Dyslexia- SPELD Foundation. The focus for the day was analysing spelling errors to improve literacy outcomes and writing well-constructed sentences.

Commitment Masses for Reconciliation & Eucharist
Year 3 students attended their Commitment Mass together with their families on the weekend of 27/28 February. These children are now preparing in class, under the guidance of Mr Franchina to receive this Sacrament of Reconciliation on 30th April.

At the Masses this weekend, our Year 4 students will make their commitment to preparing for their First Eucharist.

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming Carnival on Tuesday 1st March was a great event for both students and parents. Many thanks to Mrs McNamara for such a well organised carnival, also to the parents who volunteered in various capacities, your assistance was very much appreciated. Congratulations to Phillip who won the Carnival for the first time in a number of years.

Gastroenteritis (gastro)
We have been informed of a number of cases of gastro in the school this term. The information below comes from http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/
Gastroenteritis (gastro) has many different causes. Symptoms generally include diarrhoea and/or vomiting. Most forms of gastroenteritis are infectious, so you should be careful not to infect others. If your child is experiencing these symptoms,
‘Do not go to work or school for at least 24 hours after symptoms have finished, or 48 hours if you work in or attend a high risk setting, such as health care, residential care or child care, or handle food as part of your job. ‘
For more information please visit the website
Thank you for your support in this matter.

Twilight Picnic
Don’t forget this Friday is the family picnic. Gates will open at 5:30pm. There are many fun activities organised for the evening. I hope as many families as possible can join us. I look forward to welcoming you on Friday.

‘Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings, for letting our eyes be open to injustice, to open our hearts to those suffering.’ Pope Francis

Kind regards

Kerry Hewitson
Principal
## REMINDERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Twilight Picnic 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun</td>
<td>12&amp;13/3</td>
<td>Year 4 Commitment Masses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15/3</td>
<td>Board Meeting 5:30 pm P &amp; F Meeting 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17/3</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; PP Buddy classes Teddy Bear Picnic after school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18/3</td>
<td>Caritas fun day - free dress - don't forget your gold coin donation for money chain.</td>
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### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COMMITMENT MASS

Mass this weekend at St Denis Parish will be extra special as the First Holy Communion candidates and their parents pledge their commitment to prepare for this 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 12 March Mass at 6.30pm OR Sunday 13 March Mass at 9.00am.

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### Caritas Australia Project Compassion

First Australian Evangeline lives in a remote community that faces many ongoing challenges. She had a limited vision for her future until three years ago, when she started working at the Djilpin Arts Ghanmarn Culture Centre, a community-owned venture supported by Caritas Australia. Today Evangeline is flourishing, with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians in remote communities of Australia gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.** You can donate through School boxes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.
LIBRARY CORNER

BOOK FAIR: This will take place next Tuesday. Sales will be available before school, at lunch time and after school on Tuesday and before school, up to 10am on Wednesday. Parents are welcome to come in at any time if they wish to make "secret" purchases. Visa payments are available. If you like your child to be independent please place their spending money in an envelope with the child's name, class, money amount AND special instructions if there are any (eg books only etc).

BOOK CLUB: Your orders from the last Book Club have been sent home. Please let the office know if there are any problems so they can be sorted.

BORROWING: Most students are making great use of our well stocked library. If your child forgets to return their books they may borrow on another day suitable to their class teacher or any time on a Tuesday. Lost or damaged resources etc will attract a replacement cost.

NEW RESOURCES: We are constantly adding to the collection. I recently purchased a large quantity of Early Childhood titles for the very young students. These should be ready to borrow by next term.

COVERING: In order to put our new titles on the shelves as soon as possible, some help with covering would be appreciated. So, if you enjoy covering books please contact the office with your number so I can call you when I have books ready to cover.

Thank you

Marg Somers
Librarian

Social Media 101 – Cybersafety
PARENT Information Session

The world of social media and technology is fast becoming the centre of young people's universe. Whether they are messaging, posting on walls, snap chatting, pinning or liking, our kids are often more engaged in their online world than the physical world. It is a tedious and challenging task for parents to stay on top of social media trends while monitoring their child's online behaviour. Even more challenging is managing the behaviour that comes as a result of being too "wired" to the online world: lack of sleep, mood swings, and lack of participation in family activities. We are offering a workshop for parents to learn more about social media and technology trends, and strategies for behaviour management. Topics covered will include what sites and apps and games young people are accessing, typical behaviours they are displaying in the outlets, and how to manage them. We will discuss behaviour management strategies around social media, how to stay safe online, and setting boundaries around technology.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School Hall
Thursday March 17th
6.30pm – 8.30pm
Cost - $5

Booking are essential and can be made via Trybooking.com

Enquiries can be directed to Ali Fisher – Social Worker – 9444 9366

Social Media & Cyber Safety Strategies
Honour certificates will be presented to the following students at this week’s assembly:

**Pre Primary**
Quinn Gooch  Charlie Williams

**Year 1**
Harrison Farrugia  Trinity Hasler

**Year 2**
Eli Rodgers  Carys van Bronswijk

**Year 3**
Lucy Smith  Sean Rodriguez

**Year 4**
Neve Hugo  Alex Rogers

**Year 5**
Jessica Pendlebury  Bart Whitehead

**Year 6**
Aidan Bellingham  India Crawford

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**MJR people are Encouraging!**

You should always be on your 'E' game everywhere you go. You never know when you're going to meet someone again and it's nice living an encouraging MJR moment through your actions. – Maree Pullela
On March 18th, St Denis will celebrate Caritas Day which is an opportunity to raise awareness of the work Caritas does with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

**FREE DRESS – 18 MARCH**
As part of our theme, we invite students, staff and parents to donate a gold coin(s), to come to school dressed in free dress on March 18th.
All members of the school community are invited to dress as wild or crazily, or creatively as they like. Our theme is: **acceptance for all and acknowledging our individual differences.**

Our Liturgy and Pastoral Care Committee are keen to also highlight on this day- **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.**

This works particularly well with our MJR attitudes and values of ‘being in charge of your Attitude to life. Each and every one of us has the capacity and ability to make a difference in the lives of others.

**MONEY CHAIN-18 MARCH**
We are also asking all children to bring in their 5c and 10c (we will also accept other coins) to form the CARITAS key message for 2016 -Learning More – Creating Change.

**CAKE STALL-22 MARCH**
The children in Year Four are organising a “Cake Stall’ to raise additional funds for Project Compassion on the 22nd of March. Any families who are willing to assist, by making or baking any treats for this event - please see Mr Franchina.

*By taking part in Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion during Lent, we are working for justice and a fair world. We are helping to brighten our world!*
On Thursday and Friday, the 25th and 26th of February, we attended the Making Jesus Real Conference, in Hobart Tasmania. Not only were we excited to be attending our first interstate conference, neither of us had experienced the chilly delights of Tasmania, which we were looking forward to.

The Conference began on the Thursday, at the Archdiocese of Hobart with Marty and Mitch the creator of MJR. This was a particularly intense day – covering the basics and theory surrounding this invaluable resource. It certainly opened our eyes to the various ways that MJR can be incorporated in all areas of our classroom teaching practices and the numerous ways that MJR can influence a school community, parish, and the students’ self-esteem, and their religious and spiritual life. MJR isn’t a program designed purely for the classroom – but for life! This resource is not structured like many others where there is a particular sequence – it allows for spontaneity and the children’s or schools interests and specific needs at a particular time. It is far more than W.E.S.T. (Welcoming, Encouraging, being able to say Sorry and Thanks, however, this forms part of the basics. It develops resilience, responsibility, independence, and a sense of personal and community awareness. Ownership for actions, behaviours and personal decisions are key ingredients. It centres on Gospel Values and incorporates positive attitudes towards people, to life and to self. Its explicit naming of ‘The Spirit of Jesus’ and ‘God Moments’ – centres the resource to allow individuals to live compassionately with a particular focus on care and concern for one another!

On Friday, we attended the little community and school of St Johns founded in 1843, in Richmond. We were treated to a full day of MJR activities and sessions with the Year 5/6 class in one of the most historic towns in Australia. It has the oldest bridge and Catholic Church in Australia, where we were fortunate to attend mass with these students. We were able to participate and work with students utilising the MJR principles and activities and see the two experts utilise a variety of resources in an interactive and highly engaging manner.

The MJR Conference was not only extremely beneficial to our teaching practices, the way we can develop and strengthen these ideals here at St Denis, but also how we can model and develop MJR to prepare our students for the many challenges they will face in life and how we can support other staff members and the entire St Denis Community using the MJR principles. On a personal note, we would like to thank the school community for their ongoing support of the Making Jesus Real Conference.

“One of the greatest gifts we can give our students, is the realisation that they have the Spirit of Jesus in their hearts and the can recognise His Spirit in them and others.” – Mitch.

Joe Sullivan & Gerard Franchina
We were certainly blessed at Tuesday's swimming carnival. Clear blue skies and temperatures in the mid twenties set the scene for an amazing day. That was, until the first event when the starters machine did not work. Luckily, Janine was able to adapt and soldiered on as Starter with a modified machine.

There were some outstanding races mostly dominated by Philip as well as some entertaining novelty events. The noodle race relay tends to be the highlight of the day for many children as well as the spectators.

Whilst I must remain impartial at all carnivals, I have to say that I was delighted to see Philip win the carnival. It had been 13 years since its last victory and they had been so close in the previous two swimming carnivals. The team led in the 50m events as well as the freestyle relays. The Year 6 boys and girls dominated and led the way for the team. Congratulations Philip.

Final results:
PHILIP – 1137 points
KEANE – 898 points
NOLAN – 696 points

Age champions are awarded to those students in Years 4,5 and 6 who compete in the 100m and 50m events. Points are allocated for placing in the top four positions. Congratulations to the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>1st place</th>
<th>2nd place</th>
<th>3rd place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YR 4 GIRLS</td>
<td>Alessia</td>
<td>Mia</td>
<td>Anita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR 4 BOYS</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Alex S</td>
<td>Nate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR 5 GIRLS</td>
<td>Rebekah</td>
<td>Estella</td>
<td>Sienna Coco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR 5 BOYS</td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR 6 GIRLS</td>
<td>Joanna</td>
<td>Ava</td>
<td>Poppy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR 6 BOYS</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Dahmen</td>
<td>Rhys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The carnival would not have been so successful without the help from the following people. I am fortunate enough to have the support of a number of parents who constantly volunteer and have become an integral part of the carnivals. Thank you again for your tireless efforts.

Janine Del Grossi  Starter
Rania Eskander    Assistant Starter
Rachael Gardiner  Recorder
Kristy Aylmore    Assistant Recorder
Philippa Craigue  Chief Marshall
Laura Krikorian   Marshall
Jacinta Martino   Place judge
Ewen McKenzie      Place judge
Clint White       Place judge
Taryn Bentley     Place judge

Leone McNamara
Sport Coordinator
The Year Five class has been working very hard this term and have a good understanding of how the early colonists must have felt when they arrived in Australia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They have offered viewpoints on what it would be like to be a prisoner in one of the penal colonies in New South Wales or Van Diemen’s Land, and some have even offered valid points as to how the British Empire had been aided by setting up colonies in The Great Southern Land. To further enhance our studies of Colonial Australia, the class will be visiting Fremantle Prison on Thursday, March 17th to learn more about what it would be like as a convict in the Swan River Colony.

In Religious Education, the children have been reviewing the link between the Sacrament of Baptism and being welcomed into God’s family. Linking with the principles of Making Jesus Real, the Year Five students are real W.E.S.T. people, and the class has been very welcoming to visitors to the school – leaving a great impression on those they have met so far this year.

In Mathematics, the class has been reviewing alternate methods to calculate large numbers and have learned to convert between 12-hour and 24-hour time. In addition to this, the class has been hard at work learning estimation and rounding strategies to have a greater confidence whether their calculations in the four operations are correct as well as to aid in mental computations.

In English, the class has been looking at descriptive writing and the effect that the written language has on an audience’s engagement. Roald Dahl’s Matilda provides an excellent example of the use of adjectives to paint a picture within the reader’s mind.