FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Week 4 has commenced and the staff and students have well and truly settled in for a new year of learning.

Last week saw us celebrating two very important events- Ash Wednesday and our Opening School Mass. Both celebrations were very meaningful and the children participated with great reverence. I was most thrilled to receive an email from a lady complimenting the behaviour of our students. The email reads as follows: “Hi I just attended Mass at North Albury and I would like to pass on how impressed I was with the students' behaviour. I have been to many school Masses over the years, this was my first at North Albury and the students were a real credit to your school. It was a lovely mass.” It just goes to show what thoughtful students we have and how they value the important role that faith plays.

Congratulations to our 2016 Student Council (pictured) who were presented with their badges during Friday's Mass. I'm very much looking forward to working with these students throughout the year and know that they will lead by example. Following is a list of these students: School Captains: Skye and Brady, Vice Captains: Joel and Desire, School Councillors: Harry, Sophie, Shreya, Sam, Ashleigh, Alex and Grace.

Congratulations to the students who competed at the Deanery Swimming Carnival yesterday. They represented our school with great pride. A special mention goes to Lani and Halle who were age champions in their respective age groups- congratulations! Good luck to all those swimmers who made it through to the Diocesan Carnival.

Just a reminder about our welcome BBQ which will be on Friday 26th February. A separate note has gone home about this. This is a great opportunity for us all to celebrate the new school year, catching up with old faces and meeting new ones. I look forward to meeting many of you during this evening. Thanks to Jo Dykes and her helpers for the organisation of this event.

I would like to welcome Tanya Gordon to our staff. Tanya has been appointed in a Teacher Assistant role, working 16 hours per week in Year 5. Congratulations Tanya and I hope you find your work both enriching and rewarding. I will be attending my first Principal’s meeting in Wagga this week. I am looking forward to this as it will be a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues. I’m certain that I will come back with new knowledge and ideas.

As we begin our week, let us be mindful of our Lenten journey. It is easy for us to confuse our needs and our wants. Many of the things we need are provided to us so readily that we seldom think about these things; we take them for granted. We sometimes wish for more than we need and are easily tempted to confuse things we want for things we need. During Sunday’s Gospel we heard about how Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert. One way to think about the temptations described in this Gospel is to describe them as temptations to want more than we need. Jesus didn't need to prove that he was the Son of God, he didn't need power and glory, and he didn't need to test God. Jesus knew that God would give him all he really needed. Jesus wants us to know this, too. During Lent we can practice resisting the temptation to think that we need more than we have been given. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to correct our perceptions about the things we “need” and the things we “want.” They remind us of our dependence on God and they help us to remember that God gives us everything we need. When Jesus rebuked the devil he quoted Scripture. Each of these Scripture quotations was about having trust in God. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask for God's help to resist temptation in our lives. We say, “Lead us not into temptation.” Perhaps during Lent we need to be recite this prayer more frequently, remembering that God gives us everything we really need.

Enjoy the week. Warm regards, Liz Johnston.
SCHOOL FEES
School fee statements for Term 1 were sent home today. If paying by direct deposit please ensure that you include your account number (as shown on your fee statement) and your surname, with each deposit, for example “1234 Georges”. This will help ensure that payments can be allocated to your account quickly and accurately.

SWIMMING REPORT
We had a very successful day at the Deanery Swimming yesterday. At this event we compete against the other two Catholic Albury primary schools as well as Holbrook, Culcairn and Corowa. We had some outstanding relay results and some excellent individual efforts. A big thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to timekeep throughout the day. It is refreshing as an organising teacher to know you have such great help at hand.

We had two age champions for the day which is a great effort. Well done to Lani (11 Year Girl Champion) and Halle (12/13 Year Girl Champion). We had 36 swimmers represent the school on the day and will have 15 represent the Albury Deanery on the 25th of Feb at Leeton. We will be acknowledging all of these students and any other successful swimmers from our School carnival at our Swimming Assembly, being held this Friday at 11:40pm in the Hall. All Welcome.

EDIBLE GARDEN - THANK YOU!
We are establishing an Edible Garden here at school and had a working bee last Sunday to set it up. A huge 'Thank-you!' goes to Cate Bell for generously sharing her gardening expertise with us, also to the crew who installed the boundary sleepers on the Saturday prior. Thank you to the hard-working team of parents, teachers, spouses and children who spent Valentine’s Day here at school spreading soft-fall and constructing our new garden beds. We had planned for a second working bee, however the work was all completed over the weekend! The garden will provide produce for our Canteen and our children are very excited and keen to begin planting.

UNIDENTIFIED SCHOOL FEE PAYMENTS
We have received two payments that we cannot identify-
1. Received on 5/2/16 with the reference “Dr Christopher”
2. Received on 23/11/15 from WAW Credit Union, without any reference.

Please call the office URGENTLY if either of these payments might belong to you

WELCOME BBQ
Come along to meet other school families and enjoy a free BBQ!
Friday, 26th February, 5.30-7.30pm

Notes about our Welcome BBQ were sent home with the eldest child in each family, spare copies are available from the office. Whilst the BBQ is free, for catering purposes we need to know attendance numbers, so please return your note by this Friday, 19th February. We hope to see you there!

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesdays 8.30-8.45am and Fridays 3-3.30pm.
Size 10 and Size 12 polo shirts are now in stock and available for purchase.

LOST YESTERDAY AT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Pair of school sports shorts, labelled with owner’s details. Please check that your child has not taken these home accidentally and return to school if found. Thankyou.

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DEPARTURES
If your child arrives late for school or leaves early, you will need to come into the office with them to fill out a late/early note. These notes are given to your child’s classroom teacher who will record the details on the official electronic record of attendance. As the class rolls are marked as soon as the school day begins, a late note must be completed if ever your child arrives after the bell has rung. If you ever need to collect your child early, please send a note in to the classroom teacher in the morning so that your child can be sent to the office in time for you to collect them. Please note that you will also need to fill in an early leaver note when you arrive to collect them.

Please do NOT send nuts or nut products to school.