FROM THE PRINCIPAL
The term is well and truly underway and both teachers and children appear to have settled in smoothly to a new year of teaching and learning.

What a fantastic gathering we had on Friday evening at our Welcoming BBQ. The evening was very well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome new and old faces. Thankyou to Jo Dykes and her army of helpers, and to all of you who contributed with a sweet or salad. There was a great sense of community and I am very thankful that such an evening can be organised with no fuss and great commitment.

Congratulations to all the children who competed at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival last weekend. From all accounts you represented our school with great pride and sportsmanship. A particular mention to Alicia in Year 3 who came 2nd in the 9 year old 50m freestyle, and the Senior Girls Relay team who came first. Both have won themselves the opportunity to compete at the MacKillop Swimming Trials in Sydney, later this month.

NSW Catholic Schools Week is being celebrated next week, 6th-12th March. This is an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day. The theme this year is ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’ As part of this celebration we will be holding our Kindergarten 2017, Open Morning, from 9.15am-10.15am. This is an opportunity for members of our community to visit our school, walk through our classrooms and capture a glimpse of what we offer here at St Anne’s. Please let family and friends know about this event. The School Handbook and Enrolment packages will be available.

Parish Lenten Reflection Evenings: A reminder that these are being held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in Sacred Heart Church. Everyone is most welcome to attend. There have been some excellent local speakers talking about aspects of the Year of Mercy. This week the guest speaker is Dr Penny Vine, who will talk about refugees.

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, last Sunday’s Gospel prepares us to hear Lent’s call to conversion and repentance. It reminds us that God doesn’t ever give up on us, even when we disobey him. Instead, God helps us as we work on changing our actions to become more like the loving person that he wants us to be. The Season of Lent reminds us just how much God loves us.

Enjoy your week,
Liz Johnston.

Albury Gold Cup: As in previous years, Albury Gold Cup has been declared a half day public holiday (Friday, 18 March), therefore our school will be closing at midday.
Children can be picked up from 11.15am.
Please note that buses will not be running at this time.
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

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be taken on Thursday, 17 March -
• Students will need to be in their correct summer uniform.
• Order forms for photos will be sent home one week prior, on Thursday, 10 March.
• Every child should receive a blue coloured order form for individual photos.
• The eldest child in each family should also received an orange coloured form for family photos.
• Spare copies of order-forms will be available from the office.
• Photos may be ordered on-line (see order forms for details), otherwise order forms with correct money must be returned to the office by 9am on photo day.
• If paying by cash, please enclose correct money, order envelopes are not opened at school, they are given directly to the photographers. Please also note that the office will be unable to supply any change for photo orders.

MEN’S AFL / PGA NIGHT
When - Friday 1st April (no joke!)
Where - SS&A Club
What - Come along and enjoy watching the AFL match between Richmond and Collingwood. Also, as part of the evening there will be an opportunity to play ‘X-Golf’ (indoor golf simulator) with prizes for the ‘St Anne’s PGA winner’.
Cost - Light dinner and drinks at your own expense (depending on numbers we can order finger-food platters). $10 to participate in golf.
This event replaces our former evenings in the school hall. We may have another event later in the year. For the event to go ahead, we need numbers so please contact the school (6025-1281) to register your name and reserve your place by Wednesday March 9th.
Chris Lewis

KINDER 2017 ‘OPEN MORNING’
On Wednesday, 9 March we will be having an Open Morning here at school for families with a child who will begin Kinder in 2017. Whilst current families with a child beginning Kinder next year are of course welcome to come along, it is not essential, it is primarily for new families to have an opportunity to have a look around our school, visit classrooms and collect an Enrolment Package.

XAVIER ‘YEAR 6 INFORMATION DAY’ & PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
On Thursday, 10 March our Year 6 students will attend an Information Day at Xavier High School. The session will run from 10am - 2.30pm and students will be provided with pizzas for lunch. St Anne’s students will walk to and from Xavier with St Anne’s staff.
On Thursday, 10 March there will also be a Parent Information Evening. Further information about this evening and tour booking information will soon be placed on the Xavier High School website www.xhsww.catholic.edu.au

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.

Please do not send nuts or nut products to school.
STUDENT BANKING
Wednesday is student banking day. Application packs for new accounts are available from the office.

BUS PASSES
All children should now have a bus pass. If your child is waiting for the arrival of their pass, please contact the office so that we can give your child a letter to show their bus driver in lieu of a bus pass.

EASTER RAFFLE
The FUNdraising Committee are organising the annual Easter raffle. The raffle will be drawn on 24th March. A proportion of the proceeds will be donated to Caritas with the remainder to the school’s fund-raising efforts.
Each family is invited to make a donation to be used in the raffle. We would welcome donations of one item per family, such as:
- ONE egg OR a suitable allergy friendly non dairy alternative
- Easter colouring book or small story book
- Cellophane for wrapping baskets
- Small baskets suitable for prizes

Raffle tickets will be sent home with the eldest child in each family today.

YEAR 3-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
When - Wednesday, 16 March
Where - Alexandra Park

Information notes have gone home to children in Yrs 3-6 regarding this Carnival. Please return signed permission slips to classroom teachers by Monday, 14 March.

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL
We are very grateful for all the help that we receive during the school day from our parents and grandparents. We just wanted to remind everyone that it is essential to sign our Visitors Book in the office every time you come into school to help. Please note that there is also a Visitor’s Book in the Canteen for helpers to sign.

A Quick Bite...
7 reasons to grow your own vegies.
You may need very little convincing but here are our top reasons:
1. Tastes Better. Home grown are fresher and tastier.
2. Better for health. Nutritional value is better when fresh and not stored for long periods.
3. Food Safety. The more a food is handled the greater the risk.
4. Save Money. You no longer have to worry about prices going up.
5. Environment. No packaging, no greenhouse emissions and doesn’t travel thousands of kilometres
6. Children. They are much more likely to eat vegetables if they have been involved in the growing.

For more information visit in

A Quick Bite...
5 tips for selecting your vegie patch site.
Before you get started with your vegie patch…consider these things:
Sunlight: Vegetables love an open, sunny spot and on average six hours sunlight each day. To get the most from this run plots North -South.
Shade: Try to plant your garden away from trees. Their shade can block the sun and their roots can take all the water.
Water: Make sure water is nearby and mulch with straw to retain water.
Soil: Nutrient rich soil is a must. Add compost where possible to enrich your soil. Fairly flat ground with good drainage is best.
Wind: If the area is windy consider making a windbreak especially for tall vegetables like corn and broad beans.

For more information visit
St Anne’s Welcome BBQ