Commissioning Mass

Yesterday we were joined by Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ and the Port Pirie Director Ms Brenda Keenan for the Commissioning Mass. Staff, Board Members and Senior Leaders attended.

Following the Mass Brenda spoke to staff about the privilege of working in a Catholic School.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Next week we celebrate Shrove Tuesday (known as Pancake Tuesday). Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasised eating plainer food and refraining from food that would give pleasure. In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy, or eggs.

Ash Wednesday follows Shrove Tuesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on our foreheads as a celebration and reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday.

Congratulations

Mitchell Hamlyn in Year 12 at St Joseph’s School recently received a School Based Apprenticeship with MJ and K Beckmann Plumbing and Gas Fitting.

Mitchell spent time working with them during the Year 11 VET course where he was part of the Doorways2Construction Program.

This apprenticeship will end in December. Mitchell is from Elliston and is a third year Boarder at St Joseph’s. Mitchell is very excited about the prospect of learning this trade.

Good Luck

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all teams (Penola, Tension and MacKillop) the very best for the day – I know you will all have a great time and try your best at all that you attempt.

Mobile Phone Policy – Draft for 12 months

The mobile phone policy in Draft form has been ratified by the School Board for a 12 month period. It will be reviewed at the end of the year. For a copy of the policy please visit the School’s website.
In the past couple of weeks, I've been privileged to enjoy the great progress being made in writing in the Foundation classrooms, the Year 7 – 9 Assembly, visiting Playgroup on “Spots and Stripes” day and to witness the excitement in the build up to Sports Day. There’s always so much happening in Primary classes and I’m impressed by students’ and teachers’ ability to adapt and make the most of every learning opportunity.

**Active After School Communities**
We are pleased to be part of the Active After Schools Communities initiative again this year and to offer students a chance to learn and practise new skills, with qualified coaches, in a non-competitive environment. This term our AASC program is offering football/ netball skills on Monday afternoons and Gymnastics on Thursday afternoons. Our new PE trainee, Justin Thompson, is coordinating these activities.

**Student Support**
Our school has been accepted into a pilot project called the **Trauma Sensitive Schools Project**, which is facilitated by the Catholic Education Office’s Behaviour Education Team and the Australian Childhood Foundation. It involves professional development for members of the Leadership Team and the formation of a Project Team to assist our school to identify children who are experiencing trauma, with the aim to support the learning and wellbeing of all.

Bernadette and I attended training last Thursday and Friday and I look forward to sharing information with staff, students and parents to ultimately benefit the school community.

Our **Special Education Consultant** from the CEO also visited last Tuesday. Claire Bencini will be working with us this year to support students with additional learning needs and to assist us with collecting and using data to improve our teaching.

**Literacy**
The resources we have been waiting on have arrived and we are launching our new Levelled Literacy and Intervention programs with classes and small groups.

Thank you to all who responded so promptly to the plea for help in quickly covering and organising books to expedite this process!

**Sports Day**
Students from Foundation to Year 7 are looking forward to the Primary Sports Day tomorrow. Please refer to the Sports Day Code of Conduct and ensure your children are appropriately dressed for full participation in their events. Junior Primary students will be dismissed at 12.00. Afternoon supervision will be provided for those who are unable to be collected at this time.

I encourage all students to do their best and enjoy the day. Good luck to all teams!

**Congratulations**
Four of our Year 7 students have been selected in the Lower Eyre Peninsula Softball Team for the SAPSASA State Carnival at the end of March.

Well done **Brooklyn George, Mia French, Chloe Howe and Amelia Rusden**.

**A Great Start**
On Monday, we saw the start of the Senior Choir’s journey. Ms Denise Rothall, a choir trainer from Adelaide, worked with students from Years 5 - 7 who have opted to participate in the Combined Catholic Schools Choir. The performance will be at the end of Term 3 at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide.

Our choir teacher is Mrs Nola Williams.

**Karen Browne**
Deputy Principal
F-12 Beginning of Year Liturgy

On Friday 14th February, the school community gathered in the gymnasium for the Beginning of Year Welcoming Liturgy. This was a chance to welcome all new students and families to our school community. The Year 12 students welcomed our new Foundation students to St Joseph’s through the “Shake and Take” ceremony. Student Representative Council Members, Boarding House Leaders, Primary and Secondary Sports Captains and Music Captains were also presented and blessed.

Our 2014 school theme of “Who is our Neighbour?” was launched by Principal, Bernadette Lacey who encouraged students to always seek to be the best they can be, and to look for ways they can help everyone around them, their neighbours.

JJAMM

On Saturday 15th February, I accompanied School Captains Tom Barbala and Georgina Hughes to the five day JJAMM Retreat in Sydney. Please read the accompanying report in this week’s Newsletter for information about our experience.

It was a privilege and honour to spend time with these two fantastic students who were outstanding ambassadors of our school, and to see their development as leaders in a Josephite School.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with them as they implement some of the ideas they gained from their time away.

Year 7-12 Leadership Workshop

This Thursday, Karen Browne, Richard Horgan and myself will spend time with our Year 7-12 SRC and Boarding House Leaders at a Leadership Workshop at the Port Lincoln Racecourse.

This time will be an opportunity to reflect on the role of leader, particularly in a Josephite school, and to start making plans for the year ahead.

Sacred Stone

On Friday 21st February, students from Years 6-12 attended seminars from visiting group ‘Sacred Stone’. This band visits schools around South Australia and their mission is ‘To inspire and motivate young people to discover their true worth through the love of Jesus Christ’. The theme of the seminar was ‘Friend Request’ and through personal stories and performing modern rock songs, they delivered valuable messages about being a good friend – online and in person. Some of the key values they imparted were putting yourself in someone else’s shoes; not passing on rumours; looking at more than physical image; and having each other’s backs.

The group were very entertaining and delivered a strong and important message.

Lent

Lord, as young people growing up in Australia we are blessed with safety, security and a beautiful natural environment. We give thanks for opportunities to experience ‘life to the full.’

Let us join together in prayer and support for the communities who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

During this season of Lent, we ask that you bless all people’s efforts to build a safe place for people old and young to grow and flourish in.

Amen

Next Wednesday, 5th March marks the beginning of the Church’s season of Lent. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent leads up to the season of Easter, the most important time in the Church’s calendar. By praying, fasting and giving alms we are reminded of Jesus’ death and Resurrection. Jesus brought the promise of hope for all people so that we may “Have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10).

Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday which is traditionally a time for families to rid themselves of luxury items (such as flour and eggs), prior to the time of fasting over the next 40 days. All students next Tuesday will enjoy a pancake at school on this day. Please refer to the letter that went home this week about this event, all support and assistance will be appreciated.

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The Year 10-12 SRC will attend Parish Mass at 7.45am, and collect the ashes that will be distributed back at school in various liturgies. At 9.00am the Year 7-12 students will gather in the Church for a liturgy, and F-6 students will attend liturgies later that morning also. Our School Captains and Vice-Captains will distribute the ashes at the primary liturgies.

At these liturgies we receive ashes as a sign to remind us to ask forgiveness for the times when we could have been more loving members of our family, our school community and our global family.

Kate Benjamin
Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission
Maths Help and General Tutoring
The last few years has seen our Maths faculty offering an out of school session for all Year 7 – 12 students who may require some extra help in regard who may require some extra help in regard to their studies of Maths. These sessions have now begun every Monday after school from 3.30pm to 4.15pm. Maths Help will be held in the Resource Centre. All students are welcome. My thanks to the Maths faculty for their generosity in conducting this activity.

Similarly, some staff have volunteered to offer General Tutoring on TUESDAY Nights after school from 3.30pm – 4.15pm. Students from Year 7 – 12 are welcome to come to the Resource Centre at this time.

Study Skills

Answers to some general questions about student study techniques.

1. Some students don’t seem to know how to study, what should they be doing?
   Sadly many students think that studying for a test just means reading their notes over and over. This is the slowest and most ineffective way of studying. Studying involves 3 steps. The first is make study notes or summaries on what they have been learning. The second is to learn the notes by testing themselves over and over on the information to be retained. The last step is to do as much practice as possible – the more different questions they can do, and preferably under time constraints, the better they will be prepared. Remember that we all learn in different ways so there is scope to allow students to use techniques that suit their individual learning style, such as recording notes to listen to.

2. How can students get more organised?
   The first step is to work out what area of organisation you want to target. Books, computer files, locker, diary, desk, folders...the list goes on. There is no point saying to a student 'you need to be more organised'. Instead, identify an area where there could be improvement. Then, with your child, work out specific strategies to implement to address this issue. Once this issue is under control, then move onto the next problem.

Richard Horgan
Deputy Principal

Wednesday and Friday Special: Seafood Salad
Seafood Salad & Lettuce Long Roll $6.00

NO MEAT PRODUCTS IN CANTEEN ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH MARCH
(as it is ASH WEDNESDAY)

St Mary of the Angels Parish Mass Times
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am

Uniform Shop Hours
Monday & Wednesday
3.00pm—5.00pm

School Board Nominations
The School Board AGM will be held on March 11 at 7pm.
There are four vacancies on the Board. For nomination forms please contact Di Drennan.
Tenures are for a two year period.
Nominations close next Monday, 3rd March.

SSSSA Swimming Championships
Good luck to the nine swimmers who are competing at the SSSSA Swimming Championships being held at the Marion Swimming Centre next Monday.
They are: Maddy Izzo; Kale Olds; Henry Lambert; Maxwell Lambert; Yemaya Coleman-Smith; Brooke Traeger, Coen George; Xanthia Clark and Madeline McShane.
On Saturday 15th February, School Captains from 19 Josephite schools around Australia and New Zealand gathered for the annual five day JJAMM Conference – a leadership conference for student leaders in Josephite schools. The 38 students and 19 staff gathered at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, which is the location of Mary’s tomb.

Students were led in a variety of different activities focusing on the spirit and leadership of St Joseph, Fr Julian Tenison Woods and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – important and inspiring people for the members of these school communities. A visit to the museum at Mary MacKillop Place enabled the student leaders to learn more about their story and their inspiration for establishing the Sisters of St Joseph and Josephite education throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The students then travelled up to the Central Coast to Kincumber to stay at the St Joseph’s Centre for Spirituality and Education. This place was originally St Joseph’s Boys Home and was established by Mary MacKillop in 1887 for boys, and later girls, who had lost one or both of their parents due to war or other circumstances.

Here they have travelled in the footsteps of these remarkable people, while planning initiatives and projects to take back to their own schools. After being posed with the questions of “If Mary MacKillop or Fr Julian Tenison Woods came to visit your school, what would they affirm or challenge?” students have come up with a variety of exciting new ideas to implement on their return to their school.

School leaders from St Joseph’s School Port Lincoln, Caritas College Port Augusta, Mary MacKillop College Kensington and Mt Carmel College Rosewater have represented South Australia at this conference. Each of these school communities should be proud and inspired by the tremendous leadership abilities and ideas these students have developed.

The following is the closing reflection that was written and read out by one of our school captains at an evening liturgy in the Church at Kincumber.

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The name resonates throughout each and every one of our schools’ mottos, ethos and very existence. She lit the flame that has been burning for 125 years and continues strong. She began as a Nun, a Brown Joey, a Josephite. Now she is Australia’s first Saint and a role model for each and every one of us in this room, where she once walked. Although we come from far and wide, city and rural, Year 10s and 12s, we are joined on the simple principle of JJAMM. Although this may not mean much to other schools it means something larger than life to us. It is our own little sect. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Raising money for the 3rd world countries, the children on the streets and various charities. We are continuing Mary’s vision and if she was here today I am sure she would be as astonished, inspired and grateful as I am, with every one of you here. 125 years on and we, young Josephite leaders, are at the forefront of the coming generation. We stand together with the community, except we are different, very different. Shine bright like a Josephite.*

*Tom Barbala, School Captain,*
*St Joseph’s School Port Lincoln*
School Card and Financial Assistance

If you think you may be eligible for School Card and have not yet applied for 2014, please call into the school office and speak with Sharon McEvoy. Alternatively you can download a form from the School Card Website [www.decd.sa.gov.au/goldbook](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/goldbook)

Families who are not eligible for School Card may be able to receive some assistance directly from the School Board. This requires a written letter to the Principal, Mrs Bernadette Lacey, together with a Financial Assistance Application. This form is also available from the Front Office.

Student Absence Protocols

If your child is unwell or absent from school for any reason, please use the dedicated ABSENTEE LINE to contact the school – 0429 823655.

Be aware that this phone will not be answered and should only be used for absentee voice or text messages. Please **DO NOT** use this service after 10:00am

To ensure accurate recording of your student(s) attendance at school, please provide the following:-

- Student’s full name
- Year Level
- Pastoral Care Class
- Reason for the student’s lateness or absence
- Alternatively an email detailing the above information can be sent to absentee@stjoptli.catholic.edu.au

To ensure that you do not receive an unnecessary absence text from the school, this communication needs to be received by 10:00am.

We recommend that if you know your child will be absent or late in advance you write a note in their diary which is to be counter-signed by their Pastoral Care Teacher.

School Sailing - Are you Interested?

If you are interested in trying out for the School Sailing Team, the squad is looking for a few extras to join their team. Years 7 - 12 students are welcome to come out to training, which is held after school on Wednesday and Sunday mornings from 8.30 am at the Port Lincoln Yacht Club.

[Look how well we did last year.](#)  

[Come along and give it a go!](#)
Beginning of Year Liturgy
2014 Commissioning Mass
MFS take powerful RAP message to Year 11s

Firefighters from the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) will be taking a powerful road safety message to Year 11 students on Wednesday, 12th March. The firefighters will be delivering the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP).

The MFS RAP, is a successful program presented by MFS firefighters in Secondary Schools throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia. The program has been running for nine years, delivering in excess of 680 presentations to over 79,000 recipients. Statistics show that road crashes are one of the biggest killers for 16 - 24 year olds throughout Australia.

The MFS firefighters present a hard hitting and emotional RAP where they give the students the opportunity to see the consequences of bad decision making. Their message is through ‘Concentration and Commonsense’ almost all road crashes are avoidable.

The program is a classroom presentation which takes students through the realities of road crashes. A feature of the presentation is a road crash survivor relating his or her experience and making an impassioned plea for the students to learn from their mistakes.

St Mary of the Angels Youth Mass

St Mary of the Angels Youth Mass will be on Saturday, 22nd March at 6.00 pm, followed by a Sausage Sizzle, Snacks and Sodas.

We are looking for any children (young or old) to be a part of the Mass for Readers, Welcomers, Prayers of the Faithful and Singers. There will be singing practices with Kym Rowe in mid-March. Call Anna on 0427609698 if you are interested in participating.

‘myfuture’ Website

The re-launch of myfuture website was announced in December, 2013 by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education Senator Scott Ryan. This site hosts a wealth of information to help people make better informed career decisions. The upgraded website includes a new Assist Your Child feature, which is designed to meet the needs of parents who have the biggest influence on children’s career choices.

The portal also offers new features for students, including a forum where they will be able to talk online to industry Professionals from a range of fields. The new mobile versions will also make the site easier to navigate through smartphones and tablets. The changes to myfuture were developed after in-depth research involving business and industry, young people and those who help others develop career related skills.

Miss Hurrell’s Class Likes School …

- I like school because Miss Hurrell is nice.  (Annika)
- I like school because we get to play with our friends.  (Mabel)
- I like school because we learn camera words.  (Harper)
- I like school because we do P.E.  (Aidan)
- I like school because we get to do ‘Show and Tell’.  (Astrud)
- I like school because we do literacy games like memory.  (Thomas)
- I like school because you get yummy hotdogs in your lunch order.  (Jiba)
- I like school because we get to play football on the oval.  (Hrishi)
- I like school because we do Music lessons with Mrs Rowe.  (Elodi)
- I like school because we are allowed to play on the playground.  (Ruby)
- I like school because I get to go to After School Care, and it is fun.  (Lucia)
- I like school because my brother in Year 12 is my Buddy.  (Seajay)
- I like school because I like playing ‘Sunshine Online’ on the Smart Board.  (Erin)
- I like school because we get to dress in our team colours for Sports Day.  (Makenzie)
- I like school because I like talking to the teachers on Yard Duty.  (Nina)
Waybacks Netball Registration
Wednesday, 5th March, 5.00 - 6.30pm. PLNA Clubrooms. Please email waybacksnetball@hotmail.com, if you are unable to attend.

St Mary’s Netball Club
Pre-season training for all Senior players (including 17/U and 15/U) will be held on the grass next to the Hockey Fields at 6.30 pm on Tuesday evenings. Senior trial dates will be advised.

Registration Day will be held at the Ravendale Netball Complex on Sunday, 2nd March at 10.00 am - 12.00 pm.

Junior Grading will be on Tuesdays, 11th, 18th and 25th March at the Ravendale Netball Complex. 11/Under 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm; 13/Under 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm and 15/Under 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm.

New players and Coaches welcome. Registration packs have been forwarded to all existing players via mail. We are seeking coaches for all grades. Please contact Ashley Traeger on 0409693175.

RDASA (Riding For the Disabled Association)
RDASA Port Lincoln Centre needs volunteers to assist with Tuesday classes. During school terms from 9.30 am to 12 noon and/or 12 noon to 2.30 pm. They are also looking for volunteers for ‘Feed and Yard Roster Duty’. 6 days a week AM or PM, which helps take care of our RDASA horses. Volunteer training is provided. If you can help, please call the following volunteer: Ros Trotman - 0448052711. www.rdasa.org.au

Learn to Sail
Starting 1st March, 2014 Saturday morning 9.30 - 11.30 for five weeks (not including Adelaide Cup weekend). $50 per person for five weeks. Members are free. Ages 8 - 12 year olds. Come along and have a try it is great fun. Port Lincoln Yacht Club. For more information please contact Paul Harris on 86823181.

Dyslexia Support Group Meeting
The next Dyslexia Support Group Meeting will be Tuesday, 4th March at 7.00 pm at Community House, Port Lincoln. All welcome.

Have You Returned Your Forms?

Do you like seeing photos of your children involved in School activities?

If so, it is important that you return your forms to the Front Office as soon as possible.

We also need these forms for communication purposes.
The Australian Navy Cadets is a voluntary youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Australian Navy. Each unit has its own name and identity and is staffed by Australian Navy Cadet Officers and Instructors. Cadets learn about sailing and seamanship, and are encouraged to explore their own potential. Cadets also learn leadership skills and effective communication; they develop confidence, pride and self-discipline. But at the top of the list is FUN! And the Australian Navy Cadets has oceans of it.

What training activities are involved?
Activities are organised through the Unit training programs as part of a National Program. Unit training usually occurs on one day or night a week as a ‘parade’, and on some weekends. State training camps and courses are mostly for five to eight days.

Local Unit
Port Lincoln’s Australian Navy Cadet Unit (TS Flinders) is located at 12 Brougham Place (just over the Dublin Street bridge). The Staff Administration Officer, Sub-Lieutenant Margaret Grzywacz is in charge of Recruiting and can be contacted at the Unit Administration Office on Friday nights either in person or by phoning TS Flinders on 8682 6631 or Mobile 0418 859 860.

What is the cost of joining TS Flinders Australian Navy Cadets?
- Cadets are not required to pay a joining fee, however, fees are charged per school term and are payable and due at beginning of each term – invoices are posted out
- $25.00 per term or $100.00 per annum.
- Special arrangements for payment are available.
- Family discounts are also offered.

What uniform is worn & what is the cost?
- A cadet will be issued with the uniform of the Navy.
- Uniform is supplied ON LOAN so there is no charge.
- However, it is the responsibility of the cadets to ensure that uniforms are laundered/dry cleaned and kept in a good state of repair.
- These uniforms remain the property of the Royal Australian Navy which are to be returned to TS Flinders when membership of the ANC ceases.

When, where & how often to Cadets meet?
- Parades are held every Friday evening from 7.00pm – 10.00pm
- TS Flinders is located at 12 Brougham Place (just over the Dublin Street Bridge), Port Lincoln

Contact Details:

**Officer in Charge**
- Petty Officer Derik Kollep
- Mobile 0429 824 265

**Staff Administration Officer**
- Sub-Lieutenant Margaret Grzywacz
- Mobile 0418 859 860

This week representatives from the Australian Navy Cadets came in and spoke with some students about the Cadets. They are looking for new recruits.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For Vacation Care
St Joseph’s School

We are excited to be looking at expanding our service to include Vacation Care. We are asking families to complete this survey to show their support. Please return your survey to School Front Office, attention Megan, by Wednesday, 12th March 2014 to enable us to start the process as soon as possible.

Please indicate the number of children who would attend and tick the appropriate day below to indicate which service you would use:

Vacation Care

<table>
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<th>Bookings</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<td>Permanent 8am-6pm</td>
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<td>Casual 8am-6pm</td>
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*Please note that prices are subject to change due to excursions and incursions.

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
Phone Numbers: Home________________ Mobile: __________ Email: ________________________________
Name of Child(ren): ___________________________ Age: __________
_________________________ Age: __________
_________________________ Age: __________

Thank you
Megan
Sherpa Kids Port Lincoln
1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING PARENTING COURSE

A three-session program for parents and carers to help manage difficult behavior in children 2-12 years old is being held at Centacare Catholic Family Services at 32 Mortlock Tce, Port Lincoln

Learn:

✓ How to discipline without arguing, yelling or smacking
✓ How to sort behaviour
✓ How to handle challenging and testing behaviours
✓ Choosing your strategy, the three choices
✓ Using emotion coaching to encourage good behaviour
✓ 7 tactics for encouraging good behaviour

Registration Fee:
The course costs $60 for one parent or $100 for both parents. Please contact Centacare for more information.

Register for this course by contacting Robyn Nielsen at Centacare Catholic Family Services on (08) 8683 0733

What people are saying?

What a relief to come across a program that preserves the dignity of the child, maintains the self control of both the parent and the child and is actually easy to remember when memory is the first thing to go!

I realized quickly that the 1-2-3 Magic can be a magnificent preventative measure that any parent can use to avoid raising a child, who later down the line, needs excessive discipline or grows out of control.

For more information contact Robyn Nielsen at Centacare Catholic Family Services on (08) 86830733
ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™

PARENT COURSE

Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems

A three-session program for parents and carers

at Uniting Care Wesley Country SA

80 Oxford Tce

on March 14th, 21st and 28th at 9:30-11:30.

Learn:

✓ Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
✓ New understandings of adolescence
✓ A three-option model & flow chart for decision-making
✓ Self check-in, first - for parents.
✓ Building relationship with your teenager and making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them
✓ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore

Registration Fee

The course costs – No Charge

Register for this course contact: Marie Klander 86827903, Sharon Betts 86827910 or Andrea Nicholls 868827904

What parents have said…

A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome.

A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.

Who’s running it?

The trainer for this course is Marie Klander (Family and Relationship Service) who completed Parentshop’s Engaging Adolescents training in March 2011

For more information contact: Marie (FaRS) 86827903

• An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective •
Parent Voice in Education – State Election 2014

Dear Families,

In the lead up to the March state election, the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities has presented to the major parties its four key policy priorities on behalf of parents who have chosen a Catholic education for their children.

These priority issues – funding for year 7 students, investment in the early years, capital funding for Catholic schools and family engagement in schooling - go to our core goals of choice, equity, quality and parent voice in education.

We recently wrote to the Minister for Education and the Shadow Minister for Education seeking their party’s responses to the following questions in relation to these issues.

1. Status of Year 7 in SA: What will your party do to address the current inequity in funding for students in Year 7 in this state if it forms government?

2. Early Learning: How will your party support the development of Early Years’ Services in the Catholic sector if it forms government?

3. Capital Funding: What support for capital works will your party offer to Catholic schools if it forms government?

4. Family Engagement in Schooling: Parents and families are central stakeholders and partners in education. How will your party support a state wide initiative to strengthen family engagement in schooling if it forms government?

We also wrote to every state Member of Parliament calling on them to advocate on behalf of families in their electorate with children in SA Catholic schools as the parties determine their responses.

You may wish to contact your state Member of Parliament directly asking them to do the same.

Party response to these questions will be of most importance to families in Catholic schools and we will ensure that these are forwarded to families in a timely manner prior to the election.

Kind regards,

Ann Bliss
Executive Director

Authorised by Ann Bliss, Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities, 121 George Street Thebarton SA 5031