Thursday, 6th March, 2014 - Term 1 Volume 6

Student Absence
Please leave a Voice or Text Message on 0429 823655 or email absentee@stjoptli.catholic.edu.au prior to 10:00am to advise of Student Absence.

School Board Elections
The School Board has received nominations for its four vacancies for the 2014/2015 School Year. Five nominees have been put forward, therefore parents are asked to vote for their preferred candidate. A letter was emailed to families who subscribe to our School Newsletter on Tuesday, and a number of hard copies were sent home to those families who do not subscribe. If you wish to vote you can either download the voting slip or collect a hard copy from the front office.
We have extended the closing date to tomorrow, FRIDAY, 7TH MARCH 4 PM.

Note for Primary Parents about Secondary Sports Day
All Primary students may wear their Sports Day colours ie. PE uniform with their red/ yellow/ blue Sports Day top that they wore last week. This will encourage team spirit and support on the day.

Uniform Shop News
• Winter Skirts - Available Now.
  If your require a winter skirt for Term 2, please see the Uniform Shop ladies during their Opening Hours.

• Secondary Sports Day Shirts Have Arrived!
  Please collect and pay for them at the Uniform Shop on Monday and Wednesday of next week during normal Uniform Shop opening times - 3.00 - 5.00 pm.

Parent Community Group Meeting - Advance Notice
Monday, 17th March will be when the Parent Community Group meet for the first time this year. If you would like to be a part of this group, please come along at 7.00 pm in the Staff Room. We will be discussing our direction for the year ahead. We would love to hear your ideas.

• Can you please help? Our School Canteen needs you. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Canteen on this day, please contact Val at the School on 86823655. Even if you only have an hour to spare, we would be very grateful.

Other Dates to Remember
• Monday, 10th March - Public Holiday
• Tuesday, 11th March - School Board AGM at 7.00 pm in the School Staff Room
  - Ready4School at 9.00 am - 10.30 am
• Wednesday, 12th March - Literacy Parent Course at 9.15 am - 10.15 am
• Friday, 14th March - Secondary Sports Day
• Tuesday, 18th March - St Joseph’s Day Mass at 12.00 pm in the Church
  - Literacy Parent Course at 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
• Wednesday, 19th March - LEP District Athletics Day
• Tuesday, 25th March - Literacy Parent Course at 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
• Wednesday, 26th March - St Joseph’s School Open Night 4.30 pm - 7.00 pm
• Friday, 28th March - Spencer Gulf Athletics Carnival at Port Augusta
  - Ready4School at 9.00 am - 10.30 am
**Little Saints Playgroup**

Every Wednesday at 9.30am - 11.00am in the Church Hall. Please contact Amanda at the School on 86823655 for more information.

**Music News**

Lee Rogers will be the new Voice Tutor starting Term 2. For all current and new enrolments please fill out an application form for Music Instrumental Tuition from the Front office or Music Office, or phone Carolyn Coulson at the school for enquiries.

Junior Primary Choir will also be starting up soon under the direction of Lee Rogers. Information regarding the first rehearsal will be sent out soon.

All tutors have positions available for Term 2. Please collect an Application form for Instrumental Music Tuition from the Front office or Music Office.

**Sherpa Kids Vacation Care**

Please return your expression of interest form to the School Front Office as soon as possible.

**St Mary of the Angels Youth Mass**

St Mary of the Angels Youth Mass will be on Saturday, 22nd March at 6.00pm, 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.

**Tasman Football Club**

The Tasman Football Club are holding their Registration Evening at 6.00 pm on Friday, 14th March at the Ravendale Clubrooms.

**Imperials Netball Club**

Registrations now due for Winter Season 2014 from Under 9’s to Senior Grades. Email imperialsnetballclub@hotmail.com for a form or for further information call Jessie on 0431218556. All new players and families welcome.

Grading nights will be: Tuesday 11th March and Tuesday 18th March - U11/U13 at 4:30pm, U15/U17 at 5:30pm, Seniors 6:30pm

**Wednesday & Friday Special**

**Hamburger with Cheese**

$4.50

**With Cheese & Coleslaw**

$5.00

**Canteen Roster - Week 6 Term 1**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 10/3</th>
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<th>Wednesday 12/3</th>
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<th>Friday 14/3</th>
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<td>9.00 - 11.00am</td>
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<td>Secondary Sports Day</td>
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**Secondary Sports Day**

If you can spare some time on Friday, 14th March at the Secondary Sports Day, the Canteen ladies would be incredibly grateful. Please phone Val on 86823655 at school if you are able to help.

Helpers are also required to help with events throughout the day.
DEAR PARENTS, STAFF, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Your child’s education is affected by the policies enacted by our State government and we hope that this flyer provides you with information that is useful to you as you decide how to vote.

We are writing to you at this important time as we consider the policies of the political parties who are contesting the State Election on Saturday 15 March 2014. There are many issues that South Australians will consider as they cast their vote. The purpose of this flyer is to provide you with information about the position the two major parties have taken on issues of significance for us as a Catholic education sector.

The recurrent funding of Catholic schools was recently finalised in an agreement between the State Government of South Australia and the Australian Government. This agreement was made after the Gonski Review which received such strong media attention as it unfolded. The agreement has secured the funding for Catholic schools for the next four years. There are however a number of other vital issues for us as a sector and the positions of the two South Australian major parties in relation to them are presented for your consideration.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the children and young people in our Catholic schools.

Professor Denis Ralph
Chair
SA Commission for Catholic Schools

Dr Paul Sharkey
Director
Catholic Education SA
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<th>COMMITMENTS SOUGHT</th>
<th>LIBERAL PARTY</th>
<th>LABOR PARTY</th>
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<td><strong>1 Capital Funding:</strong> South Australia is one of the few states and territories which does not provide funding to support non-government schools to undertake major building projects or smaller projects such as classroom modification and other refurbishment. These projects are largely funded by parents and school communities. What support for capital works will your party offer to non-government schools in new or disadvantaged areas if you are elected to government?</td>
<td>We are aware that this issue is of major concern to non-government schools in South Australia. If elected a Marshall Liberal Government will consider sympathetically providing assistance once budget circumstances improve.</td>
<td>A re-elected Labor Government will work with the non-government sector to ensure that the funding deed includes the flexibility to allow schools to fund capital from recurrent State Government funding. The total value of the interest rate subsidy has been rolled into the Better Schools arrangements. Thus the overall value of the State Government’s previous investment is maintained and will be indexed and guaranteed across the life of the agreement.</td>
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<td><strong>2 Early Learning:</strong> The importance of early learning is being increasingly appreciated within our community. Will your party support the development of early learning centres in the non-government sectors if you are elected to government?</td>
<td>A Marshall Liberal Government would be happy to discuss with the non-government sector with regard to their plans for early learning centre development.</td>
<td>Representatives from DECD and CESA have met in 2013 in relation to CESA’s interest in early childhood services. I support the prospect of agreement being reached on a flexible use of the existing funding provided to CESA ($1.145 million in 2012-13), whereby the funding would no longer be tied to the eight existing locations and could be used, together with funding provided via the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education initiative, to expand service provision in new locations.</td>
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<td><strong>3 Year 7 Funding:</strong> South Australian Yr 7 students are funded at a lower rate to students in many other Australian states and territories because they are classified as Primary students. This is unfair because South Australian Yr 7 students are required to study the same curriculum and sit the same tests as their interstate counterparts. What will your party do to address this inequity if you are elected to government?</td>
<td>The State Liberals have committed to begin the transition of all state Yr 7 students from Primary into High School (over 8 yrs from 2016) consistent with the national curriculum requirements. This will provide appropriate specialist teaching to improve educational outcomes and to bring our Yr 7s into line with their peers interstate. Negotiations will begin with the Commonwealth to ensure this funding inequity is addressed and that all students, including those at non-government schools, receive funding at the appropriate secondary level.</td>
<td>The Labor Government agrees that Yr 7 students should be funded at the secondary rate – regardless of where they go to school. We will continue to lobby the Federal Government to change the funding classification of South Australian Yr 7 students from primary to secondary.</td>
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<td><strong>4 Year 7 Infrastructure Grants:</strong> If South Australian Yr 7 students are deemed to be Secondary students, how will your party support the non-government sectors to meet the capital demands of more specialised learning spaces?</td>
<td>Refer to answer above.</td>
<td>The State Labor Government has no plans to transfer Yr 7 to High School as there is insufficient evidence to show that this results in better educational outcomes. A decision for the Catholic sector to do so is a matter for their sector.</td>
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<td><strong>5 Allied Health Support:</strong> Currently the state government provides funds to support students with special needs to access allied health services. If elected to government will your party continue this funding at least at current levels?</td>
<td>A State Liberal government would continue this funding.</td>
<td>The Labor Government introduced this support in 2013 and has recently pledged an additional $150k per sector to continue to assist students in private schools to access allied health services until the end of 2015.</td>
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<td><strong>6 Access to buses:</strong> Students in non-government schools have difficulty accessing government provided buses in some regions. How will your party work with non-government schools to provide better access for their students on these buses?</td>
<td>The Liberal party has committed to a full review of the DECD school bus system if elected with particular reference to access to non-government students to bus transport. This is consistent with our support for choice in education and our desire to create reasonable equity in the provision of education resources for regional South Australians. We would be consulting with Catholic Education and affected local school communities as an important part of this review.</td>
<td>Labor is committed to the principles within the School Transport Policy. The policy has been in place since 1985 and enjoyed the support of successive governments. It treats all students equally, by providing transport assistance to their nearest government school, when they live 5km or more away from it. The State Government will consider changes to the policy, if a proposal is put forward that does not significantly alter the cost structure or equity arrangements enshrined within it.</td>
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<td><strong>7 Recurrent Funding:</strong> A recurrent funding agreement from 2014 to 2019 has been negotiated and signed by the South Australian government and the Commonwealth. How will your party honour this agreement?</td>
<td>The State Liberals will honour the funding agreement matched by the current Federal Government.</td>
<td>Labor guarantees that we will deliver our share of the full six-year State commitment to the Better Schools funding regardless of what the Commonwealth does. The State Labor Government forged an historic six year Better Schools funding agreement with the previous Federal Labor Government. We expect that agreement to be honoured.</td>
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2014 State Election Update

Dear families,

In the lead up to the State Election to be held on 15 March 2014, the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities asked both major parties questions about their position in relation to four issues of importance to the families of 50,000 children and young people who are educated in South Australian Catholic Schools.

Their responses are provided below for your information and consideration.

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<tr>
<th><strong>Family Engagement in Schooling</strong>: 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?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Labor Party</strong></td>
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<td>Labor recognises the important role that parents and family play in a child’s education. Parents are the first teachers a child has – and it is clear that when parents are engaged with education (it positively impacts on) children’s achievement.</td>
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<td>This is why when we developed our Numeracy and Literacy Strategy, we had a strong focus on parent and communities’ engagement, developed the Great Start website which has online resources for parents to support their children’s numeracy and literacy development in their first years and increased PIE grant funding for Catholic school communities by $5,000 in 13/14.</td>
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<td>A re-elected Weatherill Labor Government will work with the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities and other parent groups to run Parents in Education Week including a Parents in Education Summit.</td>
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Authorised by Ann Bliss, Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities, 121 George Street, Thebarton SA 5031
**Early Learning:** How will your party support the development of Early Years’ Services in the Catholic sector if it forms government?

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<td>Representatives from the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) and Catholic Education SA (CESA) have met throughout 2013 in relation to CESA’s interest in early childhood service provision. Labor supports the prospect of agreement being reached on a more flexible use of the existing funding provided to CESA (51.145 m in 12/13) whereby the funding would no longer be tied to the eight existing locations and could be used, together with funding provided via the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education initiative, to expand service provision in new locations.</td>
<td>A Marshall Liberal Government would be pleased to discuss with the non-government sector with regard to their plans for early learning centre development.</td>
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**Capital Funding:** What support for capital works will your party offer to Catholic schools if it forms government?

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<td>A re-elected Labor Weatherill Government will work with the non-government schooling sector to ensure that the State Government funding deed includes the flexibility to allow non-government schools to fund capital from recurrent State Government funding. The total value of the interest rate subsidy has been rolled in the Better Schools arrangements. This means that the overall value of the State Government’s previous investment is maintained and will be indexed and guaranteed across the life of the agreement.</td>
<td>We are aware that this issue is of major concern to non-government schools in South Australia. If elected, a Marshall Liberal Government will consider sympathetically providing assistance once budget circumstances improve.</td>
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**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?

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<td>The Labor Government agrees that Year 7 students should be funded at the secondary rate – regardless of where they go to school. We will continue to lobby the Federal Government to change the funding classification of South Australian Year 7 students from primary to secondary. Forcibly moving Year 7 students into high school is not the only way to achieve this nor is it a guaranteed result given the classification requires legislative change from the Federal Government.</td>
<td>The State Liberals have committed to begin the transition of all state Year 7 students from Primary into High School (over 8 years from 2016) consistent with the national curriculum requirements. This will provide appropriate specialist teaching to improve educational outcomes and to bring our Year 7 students into line with their peers interstate. A Marshall Liberal Government will begin negotiations with the Commonwealth to ensure this funding inequity is addressed and that all South Australian students, including those at non-government schools, receive funding at the appropriate secondary level.</td>
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