Dear Families, Staff, Students and Friends

Thank you to all the families that attended our Parent Education Evening on Tuesday night, which had a very positive feel. If you were unable to attend please ensure that you take the time to view the presentations, which have been uploaded on to Year level blogs http://www.sttorquay.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/43/p/learning-community-blogs/

Next Thursday we have another important Parent Education Session. We strongly advise you to attend the ‘Finding the Balance’ seminar presented by Georgia Manning. This seminar will cover online safety, how to set limits around screen time and creating a healthy balance at home between technology and free creative play, more information below.

I would particularly like to thank the army of parents that cooked and served up Pancakes to the children on Tuesday. We are fortunate to have so many parents that are willing to give up their time to support the school. The now ‘traditional’ teacher pancake pursuit was won by Michael Low while the parent stroll was taken out by Richard Blackley. We are all now looking forward to the ‘Parent/Teacher Dash’ at our School Athletics day.

As yesterday was Ash Wednesday, the Year 3 – 6 students and their teachers went to Mass at St Therese and received the ashes. The children’s respect and reverence during the service was outstanding. Congratulations to all involved.

Regards,
Darren Gibbons
Acting Principal

If you wish to advertise here in the Newsletter, please email Tess at info@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au
**R E News:**

The Church season of Lent marks the time of preparation for Easter, the greatest feast of the Church. During Lent, we are asked to focus on changing our lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In doing these, we try to become more like Christ in his love for God and others by dying and rising to new life. At St Therese School, the students will work towards a greater understanding of why Christians focus on these things during Lent and will look at ways they can implement them in their own lives at school and at home.

**Reconciliation**

Families of all students in Year 3 have received information via email in regard to Reconciliation. Parents/carers of students in Year 4-6 who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and are already baptised in the Catholic Church, should contact Peter Caddy via email. I will send you a copy of the note with details of the Sacrament.

pcaddy@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

Parents of students intending to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation please remember the following dates:

**Presentation Mass at St Therese Church**, 8:45 AM on Sunday March 1.

**Reconciliation Family night**, 7:00 PM at St Therese 5/6 learning space on Tuesday March 10.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Therese Church** on Wednesday March 25 at 4:00 PM 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: The 6:00 PM time slot is quickly filling and positions for this session are limited.

**White Stole**

Children making their Reconciliation will require a white stole which they will also use for their Eucharist and Confirmation when the time comes. As part of their home preparation, these stoles will be decorated with a Reconciliation symbol. Families will be given examples of these at the Family Night. If you wish to purchase one from the school, you can do so at a cost of $7.

**Parish General Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Parish General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 24 February at 7.30pm in Lisieux Place, St Therese Church, Torquay. Please keep the evening free. Your presence at the general meeting is an expression of interest in our parish community.
Student Pick up:
Students are in school care until 3:30 every day. It is therefore a legal requirement that students are signed out at the office if they are leaving the school grounds before 3:30, unless they are catching the Anglesea bus.

Finding the Balance
Comprehensive Cyber Safety & Wellbeing Parent Seminar
This unique seminar helps parents to establish a healthy balance between screen time and downtime each day so children can flourish mentally, physically and socially as well as assisting parents about online safety

Don’t miss this essential parent night!
7pm Thursday 26th February at St Therese
Presented by Georgina Manning
Please bring your iPad and iPhone to learn how to set restrictions on these devices.

To register your place for this seminar please go to the following link: http://tiny.cc/findingthebalancestt

Schools Clean Up Australia Day:
Friday February 27
On Schools Clean Up Australia Day, February 27, students should bring gloves from home to participate in picking up rubbish around Torquay.
The 5/6 Sustainability Leaders will organize some certificates and spot prizes to give to students who help out on this day. These are the areas the levels will focus on:

Prep – school grounds

1/2 - school grounds, Grossmans Road and Illawong drive.

3/4- Cosy Corner to Fisherman’s Beach

5/6- Jan Juc Creek and Torquay Surf Beach area.

Parents are welcome to attend. Your child will be able to give you the times that they will be cleaning up (these will be in the morning before lunch)
You do not need to sign an excursion form as this falls under the local excursion forms you have already signed.

Conall and Chloe
Sustainability Leaders
P&F News

Pancake Day
A big thank you to Tania Huxtable and all of the parents who helped at our very popular Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day. A special mention goes to the 5 mums who cooked over 1000 pancakes for all our children. Always a very successful morning and great to see so many smiling faces!

Rock On family fun night
... Party like a Rock star and have your chance to win an iTunes card!

**When:** Saturday 21 March
Costume contests, entertainment, prizes, pizza & sausage sizzle. Win one of our “best dressed” categories and get an iTunes card so start planning your costume NOW! See flyer below for more details!

Help for the night needed ASAP! Please contact Aly Boland alysonboland@hotmail.com or 0438 020 698

Classroom Co-ordinators!
Any enthusiastic parents out there who wish to volunteer as a classroom co-ordinator please read on. This would involve organising and advising parents of informal social functions as well as reminding parents about school initiatives. Thank you to all of those who have offered to help thus far. Please email Imelda Lindsay imeldalindsay@gmail.com

Sushi Day

**When:** Wed 25 February
Place your child’s name, classroom, order and correct money on a brown paper bag. Bags are placed in a container in each learning area. Vegetarian, chicken and tuna are available. Prices:

- **Snack pack:** $3.50
- **Lunch pack:** $7.00

Sports Day Sausage Sizzle

**When:** Tuesday March 24
Each year we run a sausage sizzle on school sports day and volunteers work on a rotation basis for an hour or two. It would be great if you could volunteer a little time. Please contact Marisa Joseph marisa.joseph@gmail.com 0418503444

Easter Egg Raffle

**When:** Friday 27 March
Our annual Easter raffle has been very successful in the past and involves children donating an Easter egg or Easter related item and placing it in the box in the office to be raffled on the last day of term. Tickets will be sold on the day. Helpers needed on Thursday 26 March to help wrap the prizes. Watch this space for more details on ticket prices & sales.

Contact: Michelle Jones sm.jones@hotmail.com

Second-hand uniform shop

**When:** Open every Wednesday 3.15 - 3.45 pm.
We are looking for one or two volunteers who can be on call just in case Kristin or Caz can’t make it.
Contact Kristin kristind71@yahoo.com

Stay Connected If you would like to get involved and help with ‘Just One Thing’ or be updated with the latest P&F news, please contact Deb Adams at 72debbielouise@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Community News:
Sacred Heart College Open Day  Tuesday 24 March 2015
Option 1 - Tour 1:  4pm followed by information session 5.30pm
Option 2 - Tour 2:  5pm followed by information session 6.30pm
For more information, please contact our Registrar, Mrs Judy Smith on 5222 0490
Sibling enrolments close Friday 20 March 2015
Closing date for general enrolments is Friday 22 May 2015

St Joseph’s College Open Day  Monday 23 March 2015
Register online for open day at:  www.sjc.vic.edu.au
9.00am-12.00noon Student guided tours during normal school program with last tour leaving 11.30am
Year 7 Applications for 2016 close Friday 22 May 2015. Limited places available for Senior School.
• Quality Catholic education
• Strong academic focus with a well rounded education
• Positive outcome for all boys
• Excellent modern facilities
• Extensive VET, VCAL and School Based Apprenticeship program
• Shared VCE classes with Clonard College and Sacred Heart College
4.00pm-6.30pm Student and staff guided tours of the facilities with last tour leaving 6.00pm
Tours leave every 15 minutes from the Peter Cannon Performing Arts Centre. Parking will be available at O’Driscol Oval on Queens Road. Enter via Gate 5.
135 Aphrasia Street, Newtown / Ph: 03 5226 8100 / E: sjcoffee@sjc.vic.edu.au

Saint Ignatius College Geelong  2015 OPEN DAY Sunday March 22nd
11am-2pm Information sessions at 11am and 12.15pm
Year 7 – 2016 Enrolment Applications close Friday 22nd May 2015 Online applications for Year 7 Academic Scholarships are now open. Applications close on Friday 10th April, 2015 Visit www.ignatius.vic.edu.au Download an Enrolment Application, submit an online Academic Scholarship Application
A Jesuit Partner School
27 Peninsula Drive, Drysdale 3222 Phone: 5251 1136 Registrar: Gail Myers Email: registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au

Music Lessons AT school – Meagan Birch:
Piano, keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele, Drum or Singing Lessons
Private & Group of 2 Lessons
During &/or After School Hours at School
Come & try music lessons without committing to the full term.
To enrol in, or to obtain more information please contact Meagan: mbmt@bigpond.com
Providing Music Lessons in local schools since 1985.

Surf Coast FC Club Day:
When:  Sunday 22nd February Time:  3pm-5pm
Where:  Banyul Warri Reserve – Torquay North Sports Precinct
Find out how to register for MiniRoos Kick-Off (4-9 years), MiniRoos Southern Hub matches (5-11 years) and the local Geelong competition (11-17 yo)
• Sausage sizzle and canteen will be open
• Kids activities and Penalty Shoot Outs
• Registration and Team Information for all players and parents For more info go to www.surfcoastfc.com.au

Sunbear Festival:
FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL, CELEBRATING CHILDREN’S LOVE OF ANIMALS
Sunday February 22 10 – 2pm  Danawa Community Garden, Spring Creek Reserve   $5 entry
Garden Workshops, Sustainability & Animal Conservation, Art Workshops, Entertainment, Market Stalls and heaps more.
Official Opening with Sun Bear Boy Noah 10.30 – 10.40
BYO Cup and Plate and receive a discount on food and drinks.