Dear Parents and Guardians,

SACRAMENTS

First Eucharist change of Mass dates: 22/23rd Aug & 29/30th Aug. If you have concerns regarding the change of dates please contact the office.

HOMEWORK SURVEY

As part of our review of our Homework Procedures and Policy, the School Board has developed a survey to gain feedback from parents. As homework involves ALL students at St Laurence’s, we ask that all families find time to complete the short survey. This is an online survey which is accessible via: http://goo.gl/forms/j4GdBSnh6q

For those who are unable to complete the survey online, a paper copy is available from the office. The survey will remain open until next Monday 3/8/15. The results of the survey will be discussed at our next Board meeting. I thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Wednesday August 12th, will be a student free closure day at St Laurence’s. This day has been put aside for Staff Development and Learning. The focus for the day is on Wellbeing, Student Support and the School’s ABC, (School Wide Positive Behaviours) approach. It gives us an opportunity to work with a professionals in the fields of student support and wellbeing, and allows us to reflect, evaluate and plan for the better ways in which to meet the needs of your children.

With sure and gentle love, God is our shepherd. Let us pray together:

The Lord is my shepherd, I need nothing more. You give me rest in green meadows, setting me near calm waters, where you revive my spirit. You guide me along sure paths, you are true to your name. Though I should walk in death’s dark valley, I fear no evil with you by my side, your shepherd’s staff to comfort me. You spread a table before me as my foes look on. You soothe my head with oil; my cup is more than full. Goodness and love will tend me every day of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I shall live.

Love of all loving, your compassion is without limit. We turn toward you, the one who says: Do not fear, for I am with you’ (Isaiah 41:10)


STUDENT FREE DAY
WEDNESDAY, 12th AUGUST

Extra sticker sheets are available from the Safeway or the school office.
PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

To contact P & F members email: stlaurencepandf@gmail.com

NEXT P & F MEETING IS Tuesday, 21st July at 7m in the staff room.

HOT LUNCHES ON THURSDAYS DURING TERM 3

NEW ADDITION TO HOT LUNCHES

Beef Spring Rolls – 50 cents each

ROLLS ARE 10CM LONG

GIirlS WINTER TUNICS: Girls winter grey box pleat tunics are available from Beleza School Uniforms 6B Seymour St, Traralgon. Phn: 51 765 007.

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LIBRARY / FRENCH NEWS

2016 PREP ENROLMENTS

Have you enrolled your child for preps 2016? If not, please do so immediately so we can include them in class structures for next year.

2015/2016 EXITING FAMILIES

If you are not returning to St Laurence’s in 2016, we would appreciate it if you could please contact the office as soon as possible so we can factor this into next years class structures.

AFTER SCHOOL BUS ARRANGEMENTS

If your child/ren’s information regarding afternoon buses has changed since the beginning of the year please contact the office so we can adjust our bus list.

Please remember to call the office if your child IS NOT catching the bus on any afternoon. Buses run late when we are waiting for students who are not going on the bus that afternoon.

LIBRARY: Due to the confusion as to when odd and even weeks occur, many students have missed out on borrowing. To help remedy this situation I will be opening the library for the first half of lunch time on Thursday for students who missed out on borrowing the previous week. Could you help your children to remember to bring their books every Thursday in their library bags. Hopefully this will go some way towards ensuring that your children have books.

On another note, sometimes students will borrow books which are above their reading level. Whilst they cannot read these books, you can. Please take the time (yes, I know that can be difficult) to share these books with your child. The time you spend reading or sharing books with them will be time that you will treasure. It sends your child a clear message that you value them and that you value reading.

ART: I love collecting recycled materials. I collect: corks, metal lids, eg milo or coffee lids, jars, clear plastic soft drink bottles of all sizes, wool, fabric, plastic bags, plastic containers, meat trays, sushi fish and dip containers and wrapping paper. Please ensure that any donated items are clean. I especially need clean plastic water/soft drink bottles at the moment.

FRENCH: French Day is fast approaching - 21st August. My grade 5/6 students are busily preparing for this day. The students want to run a French market with food and handmade goods for sale. At the end of the day, after school there will be a cinema session especially for parents to attend. I would love donations of small to medium sized jars (about the size of jam jars), lollies and small toys for our market. More details to follow. Merci.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PREP / 1E & 5/6C CLASS MASS THIS FRIDAY, 31ST JULY AT 9:30 IN THE CHURCH. ALL MOST WELCOME TO ATTEND.

WINTER BEANIES $5

NO DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

It is policy of St Laurence’s that there are to be NO dogs in/on the school grounds even if on a lead. Assistance dogs accepted.

2ND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

We have a selection of 2nd hand uniforms for sale at school.

Please call Krista on 0409 585 080 OR Rachel on 0408 624 062

We have several Size 4-6 Jumpers $5

ST. JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, Wonthaggi

Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha

St. Joseph’s Primary, Korumburra
Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair. Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble. —Yehuda Berg

COMMUNITY NEWS

STOLEN: From Leongatha Sunday morning 26/7/15. A Rowville horse float. Light brown/tan with white roof. Reg B41 399. Has a dint in roof and very rusty. Tailgate is white with 2 stickers — one says ‘Caution Horses’ the other ‘Polo Cross Association’. Please contact the Leongatha Police Station if you have seen this float around or know of it’s whereabouts.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GIVE BLOOD

LEONGATHA DONOR MOBILE
Location: Southern Health Building,
Koonwarra Road Leongatha
Monday 17 August 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Tuesday 18 August 11:30am – 6:00pm
Wednesday 19 August 10:30pm – 6:00pm
Thursday 20 August 8:30am – 4:00pm
Friday 21 August 8:30am – 2:00pm

New donors are welcome!!
To book your appointment please call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au
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EARN & LEARN

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY. START COLLECTING STICKERS WITH YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING, PUT THEM ONTO A STICKER SHEET OR POP THEM IN THE ST LAURENCE’S BOX LOCATED IN THE LEONGATHA STORE OR IN THE FOYER AT SCHOOL.
Program ends on Tuesday, 8 September 2015. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

Simply pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it’s completed, just bring it back to school and put in the box in the foyer marked EARN & LEARN. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we’d like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at school.

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We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at school.
Gift shops seem to be filled with 'inspiring words' posters of love, joy, peace, every journey starts with one step and so on. One caught my attention recently - enjoy the little things in life because someday you will realise they were the big things.

We can take a lot of things for granted, often the very things that deserve our gratitude. We do this with both people and possessions, always with the assumption that whenever we need someone or something, they or it will be there. We often hear that we don’t know what we’ve got until it’s gone. The truth is, we knew what we had, it never really occurred to us that we’d ever lose it.

Taking things for granted means that we make the extraordinary things in our lives to be very ordinary. But the ordinary is holy, sacred. We call something sacred because it brings us into touch with God. The ordinary is filled with mystery, wonder, marvel, and even the miraculous. Giving ourselves time to stop and reflect is never wasted, time to allow ourselves to understand that we don’t know everything, we don’t control everything, that the seeds of joy, happiness, satisfaction lie in the ordinary, everyday. Unfortunately, most of the time we don’t see this because we try to claim it, own it, mould it to what we want, develop it, make money out of it, or just use it without much thought. When Jesus told us to become ‘as little children’, perhaps He might have been asking us to ponder and to wonder, like little children, to ask questions and just enjoy what we have.

Theologian Karl Rahner was once asked whether he believed in miracles. “I don’t believe in them,” he replied, “I rely on them to get me through daily life!” What are the daily miracles in my own life? Just waking up in the morning, being able to see and hear, to taste and feel – having companionship, friendship, someone to love and being loved, having food and shelter... but there are other gifts - my need of others for example.

“In my weakness is my strength,” St Paul writes (2 Cor. 12:10). Sr Joan Chittister wrote:

“I never understood that passage nor did I like it until, struck with polio as a young woman, I began little by little to realise that if I ever walked again, it would not be thanks to me, it would be thanks to everyone around me who formed the human chain that kept me human. When I could not move, they carried me. When I could not work, they found functions for me that justified my existence. When I could not find a reason for going on, they liked me enough to give me back a sense of human connectedness.

There are times in our lives when we become very dependent on other people, in times of sickness or in times of loneliness or bereavement or just when we discover that we are not a stand-alone, self-sufficient super-person. We need other people, their gifts, their love, generosity, compassion, patience, wisdom. Other people need - they have a claim, as it were, on my own gifts when they need me as I have needed them.

We come to realise that we are gifted firstly by what we can do for others and secondly in my need for others. That’s what Paul is trying to tell us.

It can be hard to appreciate just how much we need other people and, in turn how much we are responsible for others, how much they need us. Today that responsibility can amount to signing Internet petitions or copying and pasting of social network statuses or messages or signing up to social media sites to facilitate collective action or advocacy. They have their place. Such actions make us feel some sense of satisfaction, that we have ‘contributed’ to a cause and they can contribute to political or moral pressure. Often these activities are all collected under the rather pejorative term “slacktivism.” Generally, they tend to require minimal personal effort from the slacktivist.

Such responses are less helpful if they encourage us to think of ‘poverty’ or injustice or racism or whatever else we are asked to sign up for/against primarily as a problem to be solved, a cause to be fought and won. In recent times we have had wars against poverty, drugs, terror, cancer, ISIS, against... well you name it! There was even a war against war movement! The trouble is that makes it look as if poverty, or terror or cancer or whatever is an enemy, a thing to be destroyed. It tends to de-humanise those who are poor or those who are suffering under or fleeing from terrorist movements or those who are addicted to drugs or who are ill or in disadvantage.

But any such war is about people. It is not a war to defeat something but it is above all about recognizing the humanity of people who are disadvantaged and recognizing our own humanity, our solidarity with them.

People in poverty, addicted to drugs or living in terror have the same dreams, similar needs and the same desires to live as the people who are not. Some desires may be heightened or intensified but we all want to live in peace, safety, freedom and harmony – those gifts you and I enjoy virtually every day.

When we come to some personal acquaintance or understanding of the lives of people who are disadvantaged or suffering or oppressed, we shall come to see them not just as a cause or problem to be solved. Then we may be prepared to accept responsibility for such people if we know them as persons and not as some media-created image.

We can’t possibly know everyone, but we can come to know ourselves - our strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and dreams, what we love, what motivates us where we fall down and something about our faults. In so doing we may come to understand others, we may come to understand that we share a common humanity with them, that they are not unlike us. Then will we go out to other people and help them realise their hopes and dreams just as we can.

Regards
Jim Quinnlan

Email: jquillan@dsci.net.au

28 July 2015