Dear Families,

Advent

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.

Advent Reflection

The weeks leading up to Christmas are always full of things that need to be done before the year ends. We race through the day, often without reflecting on what Advent is really about. As busy as most of us are, it is important to stop for a little while, to reflect and live the Advent experience.

Evergreen branches also symbolize Christ. As evergreens stand firm against the barren winter, Christ stands firm against the barrenness of sin and death, beckoning us to eternal life. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that all is complete in Christ and that all is brought to perfect union in him.

Classroom Mini-Working Bee

In the last weeks of school, we request that each class have their own MINI-WORKING BEE. Many jobs need to be completed in all classrooms to prepare them for 2015, eg. washing of chairs and tables, dusting, cleaning out cupboards, washing dirty walls, sorting games etc. If you are able to assist, please speak to your child’s teacher to organise a convenient time. Teachers will really appreciate any help they receive.
WORKING BEE

Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to the upkeep of our facilities! The photos show the efforts completed by many families who attended. Your efforts have ensured our grounds and buildings continue to look great.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM DONATIONS

If you have any school uniforms that you no longer need, could you please donate to the second hand uniform shop.
PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last night over 200 parishioners gathered to celebrate their year’s work at our annual Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed the food and the company of those who gathered.

2015 ORIENTATION

Over the past couple of weeks, the class teachers have been putting a great deal of time and effort into placing students for 2015. Parents are reminded that many factors are taken into account when classes (for the upcoming year) are formulated, as we are obviously striving to achieve a balance in areas such as gender, academic ability, co-curricular strengths, talents, class dynamics, etc. Please remember your child is placed in a grade where they will work to the best of their ability (not necessary with all of their friends). Orientation will occur next Tuesday 9th December.

2014 & 2015 ADVANCE NOTICE:

- School finishes for 2014 on Friday 19th December at 1.00pm.
- Parent/Child/Teacher chats will be held on Thursday 29th January 2015 for all families (more information to follow soon)
- School begins on Friday 30th January, 2015 for Preps (only)
- Year 1-6 children begin on Monday 2nd February, 2015.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE 2014

After school care at Movelle Primary School will conclude on the 12th December. Before school care will conclude on the 19th December.
EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

The children have been fortunate in being able to have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities/experiences around the school and also at other venues across Melbourne for our students in the last week………

Senior School Life Be In It/ Healthy Eating

The children learnt about how food is distributed from the Wholesale fruit and vegetable market to Melbourne! They then enjoyed a selection of fruit and vegetables.
Year 3/4 children went to the Aquarium as they have been learning about marine life…….
PREPS OUT N ABOUT DAY
This day began with the Preps arriving at school in their pyjamas and heating breakfast at school. This was then followed by an excursion to the zoo…….
ST JOHN’S FIRST AID TRAINING
Yesterday all children from P-6 were engaged in a St John’s Ambulance First Aid training session. Students explored how to recognise an emergency situation and call for assistance as well as how to maintain a clear away. They explored the DRSABCD Action Plan, basic CPR and bandaging. All children received a First Aid certificate.

REPORTS
Children’s 2nd semester Reports will be sent home on Friday 12th December. If you have any questions about your child’s report please speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

2014 YEAR 6 GRADUATION AND FAREWELL CEREMONY
On Monday 15th December, all Year 6 families are encouraged to attend the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony starting at 7.00pm with a prayer service in the Church followed by presentation of certificates.
YEAR 4/5 CAMP MEETING
Camp Meeting for current Year 4 & 5 Families (in preparation for 2015)

Next year we are planning on taking the 2015 Year 5 & 6 children on a Melbourne City Camp. This will be a two night three day camp where children will be based in Melbourne and spend the days exploring the sights and becoming familiar with many facets of Melbourne. Two camp information meetings will be held on Monday 8th December at 2.30pm (MacKillop Room) and 7.00pm (Senior Building).

Parents are invited to attend either one of these sessions.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

This year we are having a Christmas Hamper Raffle. We are asking each child to donate an item of food or something associated with Christmas, such as bonbons, decorations etc. which will be placed into a hamper. All hampers will be raffled in December. Please send your item with your child on the casual dress day on Friday 5th December.

Christmas Hamper wrapping will be on Wednesday 10th December at 9am.

50 cents per ticket or $5.00 per book which are due back Thursday 11th December.
Raffle will be drawn on Monday 15th December (last year we had over 70 hampers).

PRAYER

Lord, this Advent, give us your Spirit to change our lives and see the divine in unexpected places and people.
In your name
Amen

Thought for the Week

You cannot paint a masterpiece without the paint.
Kay.

Best Wishes

John Kremers
Principal
**PARISH NEWS**

**Christmas Needs You**
Do you realize that with six Christmas Masses this year over 450 parishioners are required to exercise one ministry or another? Each Mass requires 4 Proclaimers, 12-18 Special Ministers of Communion, 6-8 Hospitality Ministers, 12-16 Collectors, 20+ in each Choir, 2 (at least) car park attendants, 1 Mass Overseer, 1 Data Projectionist, 6 handing out Christmas Bulletins, 4 to straighten chairs etc. after each Mass. This does not include the 80-100 required to deliver the Christmas brochures. Signup sheets available from this weekend.

**Great Success**
Last weekend’s working bee was a great success with around 60 parishioners participating. Many jobs were completed. There also was a great spirit among those who came. Thank you, the next working bee is Saturday 14 February. Mark your calendar.

**A Call to Serve**
Last weekend parishioners had the opportunity of committing to at least one Parish Ministry for 12 months commencing from 1 February 2015. Did you make a commitment? Serving others is central to being a Christian. It is recorded John’s Gospel that after Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet he said, “So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (Jn. 13:14). The word “Ministry” comes from a Latin word meaning service. Every Christian should take this instruction of Jesus seriously. Most Catholics serve others by participating in a ministry in their parish. Are you following Jesus’ instruction? In what way do you serve? It does not matter if you are new to Resurrection or you have been here for a long time there is a ministry for you. A description of each ministry is available from the Parish Office or from the Welcome Desk. It may also be accessed from the parish web www.res-parish.org

**Aussie Camino**
Did you know that there is an Aussie Camino? It is from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia. Portland was the last place Mary MacKillop was employed as a lay teacher and it was from there she went to Penola where she founded the Josephite Order. Attempts are being made to establish this as a home-grown Camino along the lines of the Camino Compostella in Europe. Fr Noel has been asked to walk with a bishop and 25 priests to help publicize this walk. He has signed on for the walk before Christmas. Hopefully the walk can be offered to Resurrection parishioners; perhaps next year joining Fr Noel for the Aussie Camino. To find out more about the walk go to www.aussiecamino.org You might indicate expressions of interest for next year and the time of the year that would be suitable for you by emailing Fr Noel noel.brady@cam.org.au

**Pope Francis – Daily Meditations**
Do you know that the Vatican Press Office publishes a summary of Pope Francis’ daily homilies? The summary is less than an A4 size; but they are well worth reading. Simply go to the Vatican site www.vatican.va and scroll onto “Daily Meditations”. Don’t forget to request the English translation. Alternatively you can go to our web site www.res-parish.org and follow the link.

**Adoration during Advent**
During Advent there will be opportunities for parishioners to have some quiet time and prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

The times are:
- Thursday 4 December between 7.30 – 8.30pm
- Monday 8 December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) 6.30pm – 7.30pm
- Monday 22 December 6.30pm – 7pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent**
During Advent there will be additional opportunities for parishioners to experience God’s healing within the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Those opportunities are:
- Thursday 4 December between 7.30pm – 8.30pm
- Saturday 6 December between 9.30am – 10am
- Monday 8 December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) 6.30pm – 7.30pm
- Saturday 20 December between 9.30am – 10am

**Fr Frank O’Loughlin’s Talk on our Facebook**
On Tuesday November 11 Fr Frank O’Loughlin gave a presentation to Resurrection parishioners on understanding the signs and symbols of Sacraments. The attentiveness, energy, questions and the talk afterwards indicate that it touched parishioners at a very deep level. That is interesting because he spoke of bread, wine, water, oil and touch; every day things for all of us. Whilst there was a good number in attendance, one can only feel sad that so many parishioners missed out on this opportunity. Our Comms Group taped the talk and you can find it on our Facebook.