Dear Andrew & Nicolette,

Welcome to Week 2! We are currently making the most of the normality in the school routine to ensure plenty of learning and teaching is taking place before the busyness of the extra activities begin. All students are working diligently and enthusiastically in their new year levels.

Swimming Tomorrow Thursday

The students will attend the Yeoval Pool for sport tomorrow Thursday, instead of Friday. Students will need to wear their school uniform tomorrow and sports uniform Friday.

Three Way Swimming Carnival – Yeoval Pool

Next Thursday 16th February, we will meet with our friends from Yeoval Central School and Cumnock Public School for the 3 Way Swimming Carnival. The students will need to assemble at school first on Thursday morning. The pool canteen will be operating throughout the day however, it is advisable for the students to bring their recess and lunch and just purchase treats from the canteen. Non-swimmers will remain at school on the day but visit the pool at some stage to watch an event or two. We look forward to a day of friendly competition.

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week.
Primary: - Amelia Vaughan, Beau Peacock & Simon Brown
Infants: - Lucy Keady, Prue Vaughan, Hannah Veer

Nick Goard
For embracing life in the Primary Class with enthusiasm and maturity.
Today celebrates the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita. Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in Sudan. She grew up happy and relatively prosperous, saying that as a child, she did not know suffering.

In February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the grueling journey.

For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name. As a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to cruel. In 1883, the Turkish general sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. He was a much kinder master and he did not beat her. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed. After a long and dangerous journey across Sudan, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean, they arrived in Italy. She was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny.

Her new family also had dealings in Sudan had when her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. While she was in the custody of the sisters, she came to learn about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ.

When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave. For the first time in her life, Josephine was free and could choose what to do with her life. She chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters. She was baptized on January 9, 1890 and took the name Josephine Margaret and Fortunata. (Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita).

Josephine became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity religious order on December 7, 1893.

When speaking of her enslavement, she often professed she would thank her kidnappers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church.

During World War II, the people of the village of Schio regarded her as their protector. And although bombs fell on their village, not one citizen died.

In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair. But she always remained cheerful. If anyone asked her how she was, she would reply, "As the master desires."

On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died.

Kind regards

Glen Brown
Principal
Community News

PARKES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Try Rugby
Kicks Off
17 February 2017
5:30pm to 6:30pm
CHENEY PARK

Learn about the game of rugby
Get involved in a family orientated sporting Club
U11’s, U9’s, U7’s and U5’s are Welcome (BOYS AND GIRLS)
Come along to sign up on the day, gold coin donation BBQ dinner provided
$15 for program (includes a shirt for new players)

For further information Ring : Michelle MacGregor 0439 498 033 or Richard Rice 0428 623 210

Through the eyes of Jesus, we at St Columba’s Catholic School Strive to achieve high levels of learning for all.