Dear Friends

Today we enjoyed a special visit from Fr Tony. This gave us the chance to officially thank him for his guidance and support during his time as Parish Priest of Wellington. Annabelle made a special presentation to Fr Tony on behalf of the school. We wish Fr Tony the best for the future as he carries on the work of Jesus.

This Friday we will join with our friends from Yeoval Central and Cumnock Public School for the Annual 3 Way Swimming Carnival. Thank you to all parents who are able to assist with transport on the day. Please remember that the Infants students will remain at school on Friday. Students participating in the carnival on Friday have been given a list of their nominated events. Best of luck to all students for Friday.

This Friday 13th February marks National Apology Day – an important day for many Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people. It is the day when our Prime Minister of the time, Kevin Rudd moved a motion of Apology to the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander ‘Stolen Generations’. The forced removal of so many Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children from their parents, families and communities inflicted profound grief. National Apology Day was a significant step in the journey toward reconciliation for all Australians.

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Holy God, of holy journeying, you travel with us through darkness and despair.
Hear our prayer for your children, here and elsewhere, caught up in the violence of our world.
You call us to move out beyond our boundaries, to walk with others in their journeys, sharing your Spirit of reconciliation.
Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, and open our hearts to your presence, and journey onward in the freedom of your love.
Encircle us with your peace, enfold us in your reconciling arms and enlarge the circles of our love.
Amen

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Student of the Week

Jorja Lees
For embracing her leadership role with responsibility and enthusiasm.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit awards this week.

Primary: Justine Smith, Amelia Vaughan
Infants: Clancy Judd, Thalia Harvey, Tom Kerin
Swimming
All students K-6 will again swim for sport this Thursday. Students will need to wear Summer Uniform on Thursday and Sports Uniform on Friday.

P&F AGM
Monday 16th February 6pm
School Library
followed by a General Meeting.
All Welcome

Mass
Wednesday 18th February
10:15am

Shrove Tuesday
Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is a day to prepare for Lent’s fasting and it has been a tradition for hundreds of years for people to use this day to rid their pantries of any food that is sweet and tempting. Therefore we will again have our yearly Pancake Breakfast at St Columba’s next Tuesday. The cost of the Pancake Breakfast is $2 per person and parents are welcome to join us. All money raised next Tuesday will be donated to Caritas Australia.

Ash Wednesday Mass
A School /Parish Mass to mark the beginning of the season of Lent will take place at 10:15am next Wednesday 18th February. On Ash Wednesday many Christians receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. This powerful sign has been used by God’s people for hundreds of years and reminds us that we are not perfect. The ashes remind us to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. There will be a morning tea at school following mass. All are welcome.

Lenten Prayer / Reflection Evenings
Mrs Brown will again lead a Prayer/Reflection evening during the season of Lent. The first evening will commence next Thursday 19th February in the school library. Anyone is welcome.

Opening School Mass & Presentation of students for the Sacraments
Sunday 22nd February
8am
Egg and Bacon Roll Breakfast to follow
Please bring cake/slice plate to share
**First Aid for Parents**

This is a 2 Day Workshop covering all aspects of First Aid. These are important skills for any parent especially those with children who have an eye for adventure. Parents who are ready to re-enter the workforce this is a great qualification to add to your resume. For our hidden hero’s in the community running community events and activities for children these skills are essential to help you keep our precious children safe and cared for.

- **When:** 17th & 18th March 2015
- **Time:** 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Where:** WINS, Swift Street, Wellington
- **Cost:** FREE
- **Bookings:** Bookings are essential
- **Childcare:** Unfortunately no childcare can be provided as this is a Red Cross requirement. Content within the course is deemed traumatic for children.

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**Dubbo Junior Rugby Union Club Inc**

**Wallaroo Registration Information**

**What is Wallaroo Rugby?**

Wallaroo Rugby is for players from the ages of 5 to 11 (U7, U9, U11) and is played on a Friday night at Victoria Park from 5pm to 7pm.

U7 is two handed touch and U9 and U11 play tackle with modified rugby rules.

The competition runs for approx 12 weeks from May through to August. Gala days are held in the region for Wallaroo’s most Sundays, but these are optional.

Wallaroo Rugby provides a path for rugby skills in a great family environment.

**REGISTRATION DAYS**

Golden West Holden, Bourke Street, DUBBO

- **Friday 13th February 2015**
  - 4pm – 6pm (free BBQ)

- **Friday 20th February 2015**
  - 4pm – 6pm

**Cost $90 (Includes shorts and socks)**

**Contact:**

Mark O'Donnell
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0427 403 826
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. **Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve**
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   If your expectations are too high, your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their abilities and interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. **Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home**
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time**
   Maximize your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. **Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes**
   Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. **Skill children to work with others**
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. **Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties**
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. **Participate in class & school activities**
   There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve their learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. **Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgements calls about your child.

10. **Talk up what happens at school**
    Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by taking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.