Dear Parents,

Remember when our children were emerging from their infancy and were in the “terrible two’s” category? One word they loved to use was “No” and child development experts told us that they were testing their sense of power in their world and were beginning to realise they have some control or choice over the situations they are in. We were told to respect our children’s wishes some of the time, so that they could have a healthy experience of their own power. We were told that when they were teens, their earlier healthy experiences would enable them to make the right choice when their peers encouraged them to do something they may not want to do.

In a similar way, we were told that parents who wanted to be their children’s friend instead of their parent and never said “no” themselves, ran the risk of raising children who have a misguided sense that they are “all powerful”. Their children think that their choices are always right and so they don’t need to respect other people, especially adults or people in authority.

Children need to be eased into decision making from an early age, because as they grow, so do the number of choices they have to make; not only will the number grow, so will the complexity. Making a choice takes a balance of self-confidence and the mental stability to think through the consequences of the decision. As parents, we can model good choice-making skills and verbalise our decision making process, when appropriate, to illustrate to our children how to work through options and consequences. It is important that we teach our children to think well about the consequences of any choice, so the best choice can be made in the prevailing circumstances.

Helpful parenting will offer our children guidance rather than answers and will ask leading questions instead of giving directions. We might have to witness our children make mistakes but this can help them handle wrong choices in the future. Of course, in these circumstances we need to be compassionate and avoid belittling.

One important way to assist our children in good choice making is to encourage them to form positive friendships, because children are likely to make the same choices as their closest friends make. This means that the friends our children have and the choices their friends make, will have quite an influence on our children’s decision making. It would be most encouraging for us, as parents, to know that if we have skilled our own children well, they can be a positive influence on their friends.

As parents, we are constantly under observation by our children. Our children’s ability to make good choices is in our hands. Let us always remember to pray for God’s blessing and guidance in this most important role as parents and carers.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips
Principal
SCHOOL MASSES
There will be a whole school Mass this Friday at 9:10am. All families and friends are welcome.

REC NEWS
In a few weeks time (on Friday 7.8.15) we look forward to celebrating the solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop as a special part of our school history. More about that closer to the time!
Please continue to pray for our students Zoe Walters and Rumiya McGuiness-Bullock, and students from the Parish community, as they prepare for their First Holy Communion on Sunday 23.8.15.
Yours in peace
Anne Kelly

REC

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Our school photo day will be on Tuesday 4 August. Order envelopes and further information were sent home with each child last week. Prices range from $15 to $40 for various packs. Please read the instructions carefully regarding payment and ensure that your child’s envelope is returned to school (even if you are NOT purchasing any photos) by Monday 3 August.
The photographers will be taking the whole school photo at 9:00am sharp and it is therefore very important that your child is at school on time and ready for photos by 9:00am.

YEAR 5 & 6 STEP DAY AT O’CONNOR
Our Year 5 and Year 6 students will be travelling to O’Connor Catholic College on Tuesday 4 August for their second Stage Three Enrichment Program day. They will be transported by bus which will leave school straight after their school photos are taken. Permission notes were handed out to these students yesterday. Please sign and return the notes as soon as possible.

HELP DANIEL TO GET TO MELBOURNE
As a school community we would like to support Daniel and his family in their fundraising efforts to cover the very expensive costs of travel, uniforms, accommodation and levies when he heads off to the National Primary Schools Cross Country championships in Melbourne from 28th to 31st August.
The NSW PSSA has supplied Daniel with several raffle books which he needs to sell to fund his representative run in Melbourne. We are selling tickets at the school office on Daniel’s behalf at a cost of $2 each. We are asking each family to buy as many as they possibly can (aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends included). Please send in your money in an envelope with your names and we will send your tickets home.

THESE FANTASTIC PRIZES COULD BE YOURS!
1st prize: Laptop Notebook Computer
2nd prize: LED TV (approx. 25”)
3rd prize: iPod Shuffle
4th prize: iPod Shuffle
5th prize: iPod Shuffle
Tickets will be on in the office sale up to 7 August.
A Lens on Historical Inquiry
Firstly I'll begin by providing a little bit of background on the NSW Curriculum and the timeline for which it has been revised and updated. While the new syllabuses incorporate the Australian curriculum in NSW, the syllabuses were developed by BOSTES and finalised only after extensive consultation with the education sectors, schools, teachers, parents and the wider community. A timeline is as follows:

2014 - Start teaching English
2015 - Start teaching Maths
2016 - Start teaching History and Geography

Last week, we as a staff participated in a Professional Development Day looking at the new History Syllabus. At this day teaching staff were immersed into the curriculum, flooded with teaching ideas and given numerous materials and resources to teach the Key Learning Area of History. One thing is for sure: We have come away feeling very excited and enthusiastic about the new syllabus!

Your child will use key inquiry questions to provide a focus for each topic in the new History syllabus. There is a more specific focus on the sources of history and the question ‘How do we know?’ There is more emphasis on specific historical skills such as sequencing time, source analysis, historical sources for an investigation, and historical concepts such as viewing an historical event from a different perspectives. Students will develop understanding of Australia's Indigenous and colonial history and how Australia became a nation. Your children will engage in learning experiences where they investigate their personal, family and community history and new topic such as migration will be studied in Stage 3.

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

Robert Kennedy

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

PT&F CORNER
Thank you to the parents who joined us this week for our P T & F meeting. It was a very productive meeting on Tuesday night, with a busy week ahead.

Athletics Carnival
We require Volunteers for the Athletics Carnival next Thursday 6th August 2015. Could all families please supply a cake or slice to sell on this day. If anyone is also available we will require support on the day to help with all aspects for a successful day. A full BBQ will be operating for lunch for the kids as well as adults. You are kindly asked to pre-order your steaks & sausage sandwiches for catering purposes. Just fill out your orders on a bag with the money as normally done for canteen and send it in to school before next Wednesday.

Steak Sandwich (onion/coleslaw optional) $5
Sausage Sandwich $3
Also available on the day will be:
Drinks/Popper/ Milo, Tea or Coffee $2
Cake/slice $1
Other snacks such as chips & lollies will be available for purchase on the day. Hope to see you all there to enjoy the fun in the sun, cheering our kids !!!!

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like to know what is going on, copies of the minutes from our meetings are available in the office at any time.

Kathy Dodd (President) Phone 6778 4774 or Mob. 0423 418 467
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at last Friday’s Assembly (awards were presented for Week 1 and Week 2).

The Principal’s Awards went to:

Primary: Rumiya McGuiness for “An enthusiastic start to Term 3” and Bailey Redmond for “Setting a higher achievement level for a learning goal”.

Infants: M. for “An enthusiastic start to Term 3” and Shyan Dodd for “Setting a higher achievement level for a learning goal”.

Class Awards went to:

Primary: Jack Reddon for “Confident questioning in class activities” and Angela Ryan for “Consistently offering assistance to her peers to enhance their learning”.

Infants: Charlotte Fletcher for “Her efforts in spelling” and Montana Hayes for “Her efforts in spelling”.

Our next assembly will be held this Friday at 2:45pm. All welcome.

Dates to Remember

Mon 3 Aug: Board Meeting 6:30pm
Tue 4 Aug: School Photos
Tue 4 Aug: Yr 5/6 STEP day at O’Connor Catholic College
Thurs 6 Aug: School Athletics Carnival (Walcha coming to Uralla)
Fri 7 Aug: Grandparents Day & Book Fair
Sun 23 Aug: First Eucharist 8:00am

Fri 18 Sep: Last day of term 3.
Tue 6 Oct: Term 4 begins

CANTEEN ROSTER

Mon 3 Aug: Jo Fletcher

NOTE: A NEW ROSTER AND CANTEEN MENU IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.
IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO PUT THEIR NAME DOWN AS A RESERVE HELPER PLEASE LET THE CANTEEN KNOW.
THANK YOU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Aug: Brittany Doran