Dear Families,

My wife would be stunned to hear that I even know next Tuesday is Valentine’s Day. I certainly have not been caught up in the commercialisation of the event in recent years. In the medieval Church calendar, 14th February actually commemorated two Valentines: the first a beloved Christian priest who was beheaded outside Rome in 269 A.D.; the other a bishop of Terni, about 60 miles from Rome, also beheaded a few years later. Legends attribute affectionate letters from prison to both Valentines.

If indeed we are to celebrate love next Tuesday, then maybe we should take shopping and money out of the equation. Love is about giving of oneself, rather than one’s possessions.

May we all take next Tuesday as a reminder to give our children and all we love an example of the power and light of love in our lives. May we always do our very best to be a light for our children, to honour and respect each individual we meet, no matter our differences.

Let’s see what we can do, rather than give, to everyone we meet next Tuesday.

There has been a fantastic buzz of activity, focus and learning around the school since we returned last week. Classes have settled into new routines, with children already working to demonstrate new learnings. Thank to parents for having the children come to school ready to listen and learn, and thanks to all our staff for such a great start to the year.

Welcome
We offer a warm St Clare’s welcome to our newest students and their families who commenced with us in the last week: Cooper (6 Red) and Harry (3 Green) Olson and Matilda Atkinson (5 Red).

Uniform
Thank you for ensuring the children started the year dressed well. It helps develop a sense of pride in self and the school when children take the time to present themselves neatly in their uniform.

Meet and Greet
It was great to see so many families meeting the teachers and mingling with other SCA families at last night’s event. Thank you the many people who went out of the way to introduce yourselves. I continue to be super impressed with the warm welcome I have received. Thanks to the Community Council, Parent Network and staff for cooking up a feast.
School Fees
School Fees statements will soon be emailed to families. We hope that by sending these electronically, families will always have access to the paperwork, and not have to worry about losing their invoice. Fees are due by Friday 3 March. If you would like to set up direct debit arrangements, please contact the office. Please contact me if there are going to be any difficulties in meeting this expense. We have a Fee Assistance Policy in place to help families who find themselves either in short term or long term financial difficulties.

Tuckshop Help
We have a great tuckshop that does a great job of feeding many. However, we are seeking the help of more volunteers. It’s a great way of getting involved in the school, so if you are able to help, please complete the attached form and return to school as soon as possible.

Opening Mass
We’d love to see you at our Opening Mass, this Friday in the School Hall, from 9.30am.

Email Contact
Staff are always happy to receive parent emails and will endeavour to answer them as swiftly as possible. Please note though, that, as we work face to face with the children, staff will often not read their emails until the afternoon or the following morning.
My email address is matthew.egan-richards@cg.catholic.edu.au. (Yep, it’s a long one!)

It was once said...
“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” – Albert Einstein.

Blessings to you and your family.

Matt Egan-Richards
Principal

SCA NEWS

This year the Year 6 students will be bringing the SCA community a weekly news segment using new green screen technology.
Each week a link will be sent out via Scoaps enabling you to access the video.
Please feel free to provide us with feedback.
This week’s link is: https://youtu.be/LJRvB5Z7lSw
At St Clare of Assisi, we are all striving to live like our patron saint, Clare. We aim to do this through our four school ‘Rays of Light’, which are Faith, Community, Learning and Leadership.

This year at St Clare of Assisi we will be focusing on and learning more about our second ‘Ray of Light’, which is Community. As we learn more about what it means to be part of a community each term this year, we will focus on a different theme. Term One is Relationships, Term Two is Inclusion, Term Three is Justice and Term Four will be the theme of Action.

Your child will be doing work in class on these themes and as a school we will be celebrating them through school masses and prayer celebrations. We invite you to chat to your children about what these themes mean to them and how they think they can demonstrate these each day at home, at school, in the parish and at weekend masses, and in the wider community.

Opening School Mass Friday 10th February 9:30am in the School Hall
The Year 6 Leadership badge ceremony will be celebrated at the conclusion of mass.
Congratulations to the following Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>Avtar Sandhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Stephanie Grubb, Gracie Paciorek, Andrew Pook, Liam Saxon, Grace Weir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Savannah Apoderado, Isaac Cooper, Kallum Harley, Jordan McGurgan,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joel McNamara, Lily Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Chase McKay, Haren Rupanagudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Kayla Blue, Patrick Emerson, Angela Philippa, Tanishqa Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Madeline Campbell, Sarah Hansen, AJ Palmer, Rhys Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Ben O’Toole, William Perrott, Nic Stirzaker</td>
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White cards are presented to the recipients on Friday Morning Assembly at 8.45am

Spelling in 2017

This year the staff will be looking at the way that we teach spelling. Research shows that effective spelling instruction requires students to draw on their phonetic knowledge, the meaning of the words they are trying to spell and visual strategies (does the word look right).

Research has also shown that spelling lists and tests are not effective ways to teach spelling. Learning words by memorisation, through looking, covering, writing and checking does not teach spelling and writing words in rainbow colours are also not effective ways to teach spelling. Spelling tests only benefit those students who do well on them, and generally benefit their self-esteem rather than spelling ability.

As a result, the teaching of spelling at SCA will begin to look very different to how it has previously. We are moving away from using lists and banks of words to practise at home (with the exception of Kindergarten practising reading their sight words aloud). There will be no look, say, cover, write, check or partner testing using lists of words in homework or in class. Instead you will see your children learning to spell through the reading and writing process. They will be using inquiry to investigate how words work and make meaning.

Teachers will be providing learning experiences for students that involve them using the four forms of spelling strategies; Visual, Morphemic, Phonological and Etymological. Teachers will provide spelling lessons that include explicit instruction and that use a multisensory approach to engage students, ultimately aiming to help students develop a love for words, spelling and literacy as whole.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact your classroom teacher or myself.

Jo Thomson
Coordinator
Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday 9th Feb</th>
<th>Friday 10th Feb</th>
<th>Monday 13th Feb</th>
<th>Tuesday 14th Feb</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>E. Mowlam</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>C. Tunningley</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>H. Philippa</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>M. Watson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

URGENT HELP REQUIRED - the canteen cannot operate without the assistance of parents.
If you would like to help in the canteen in 2017 please contact Michelle on 6294 1860

SCHOOL FEE INFORMATION

Do you have a child in a systemic Catholic High School? Such as St Mary Mackillop or St Clare’s College ....

Have you returned your Systemic Fee Note? This note is for parents with children attending a systemic high school. Our records must reflect this to enable the sibling discount and Building Fund to apply to the High School. You can access the note on the school website. If you haven’t returned this form, please do so as a matter of urgency. School Fees will be emailed out to parents this week and it is imperative we have the correct information.

School Fees are due for payment by Friday Week 5 each term. Payment can be made by BPay, Credit Card, Direct Debit, Qkr! and Eftpos.

Qkr! Online is here ...

https://qkr.mastercard.com/store/

You must use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox as your browser.

As advertised over the last few months, Qkr! is now the payment method used at SCA for canteen lunch orders. The above link will enable you to use Qkr! on your computers. Below are once again the instructions to download the app onto your phone or tablet which is the easiest method.

Qkr! (pronounced- Quicker) is a FREE app to enable mobile payment for school-based accounts to save parents time. The app enables parents to use their smartphone or tablet to make payments for school fees, lunch orders and excursions without having to give their children cash to carry to school.
Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

**Step 1 Download Qkr!**

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app

**Step 2 Register**

Select your Country of Residence as ‘Australia’ and follow the steps to register

**Step 3 Find our school**

Our school will appear in ‘Nearby Locations’ if you’re within 10km’s of the school, or search for our school by name.

**Step 4 Register your children**

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.
Add your children’s details in Student Profiles

Select ‘Add student profile’

Add each child’s details

Manage each child’s details in Student Profiles

Purchase school items

Select a menu from our school

Select child you are ordering for

Select your items

Tap ‘Checkout’ then confirm and pay

Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet

At checkout select which card to pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted by the school.

Once your payment is approved you can continue to the home page, or view your receipt.
Volunteers are a very precious resource for the canteen and we cannot survive without your help. Please consider adding your name to the roster.

A new canteen roster is being prepared for Term 2. We welcome Mums, Dads, Carers, Grandmas, Grandads, Nans and Pops. Everyone is welcome to give us some of their time and become a part of our school community.

The morning shift goes from 9.00am to 11.20am. In this time, we cook cakes, stock shelves and fill lunch orders with dry food and have that all important cuppa. Recess is at 11.00am and we serve the children till 11.20am. The afternoon shifts start at 11.20am and goes until 2.00pm. We prepare the hot food, make sandwiches etc. and fill the lunch baskets ready for the 1.20pm lunch bell.

We have a wonderful playroom so small children are more than welcome. Roster yourself with a friend and have a fun time and most importantly, the children get a real buzz when they see you in the Canteen.

If you are interested, please complete your details below and return to the Canteen. Your help will be much appreciated.

Michelle Wood
Canteen Manager

NAME..................................................
PHONE.............................................
CHILD’S CLASS...............................

☐ MONDAY  ☐ WEEKLY  ☐ 9.00- 2.00
☐ TUESDAY  ☐ FORTNIGHTLY  ☐ 9.00 - 11.20
☐ WEDNESDAY  ☐ MONTHLY  ☐ 11.20 – 2.00
☐ THURSDAY
☐ FRIDAY

If unable to make scheduled roster, please ring and arrange with someone on the roster to swap shift/day etc. Do you give permission to have your phone number printed on the roster?

YES☐    NO☐
Congratulations

Lachlan Buckley 4B and Charli O’Malley 4Y have been selected in the ACT Under 10’s Oztag teams to compete at the State Cup Competition this weekend at Coffs Harbour.

Well done and good luck, Lachlan and Charli!

SCA Coffee Club

Coffee, chat and chill .......... sound like something you may be interested in???

We meet at Coffee Guru Lanyon, Friday at 9am after school drop off.

The first get together will be Friday 17th February. Everyone is welcome.

The Parent Network
Attention parents with Children in Sacramental Years

Enrolment for the Sacraments of: Confirmation, First Eucharist and/or Reconciliation will take place
Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 February
5.30pm-6.30pm
Holy Family Church, Gowrie.

SCHOOL BANKING

School banking is BACK! Don’t forget to send your bank books down to the front office each Friday morning in the blue bag.
Not only are you helping your child save for the future but also it is a great fundraiser for the school.

If you have 10 tokens or more from last year then why not redeem them now for some great new rewards! Term 1 rewards are:
- Colour Change Markers
- Cyber Handball

So get in early before they run out!

If you have any questions regarding school banking or want to know more information on how to get started I will be in the Front office at school from 8.45am this Friday or you can contact Robyn Baker on 0402 449 291

SWIMMING CARNIVAL NOTES

Dear Parents,
Please note money needs to be returned with your child’s swimming carnival notes.
If you are driving your child to and from the carnival it is $4 per child for pool entry. If your child is going on the bus it is $10 per child, this payment covers bus and Pool entry.
Notes will be returned home if payment is not received. Thank you for your assistance.

Rugby League 7’s Gala Day
Yrs 3/4 and 5/6

For children interested in competing in the Rugby League 7’s Gala day: The children will compete against other schools from the south side of ACT and the emphasis of the day is learning the sport, participating and having fun. There will be a combined Yr 3/4 competition and a Yr 5/6 competition. Yr 5/6 is full tackle and Yr3/4 have a slightly modified tackle.

Where: Phillip District Oval
When: Wednesday 1st March
Cost: $5
Transport: Bus
Note: On school website
Starting back again Monday 13th February
SCA Playgroup!

When: Monday Mornings during School Terms
Time: 9:00am - 10:30am
Where: SCA OSHC Room (After School Care Building)
Who: It is open to all in our community for parents with babies to preschool aged children.

It will be an informal session where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies can meet in a relaxed and friendly environment. Adults stay to interact with other adults and to play with their children.

Come and have a cuppa - tea and coffee provided - while the kids play.

If you require any further information please contact:
Emma Phelan on 0414 300 871