Dear Parents and Students,

This week we had two Lenten ‘Holidays’ due to the feast days of two of the Church’s best known saints – St Patrick and St Joseph on Tuesday and Thursday respectively. St Patrick is not only the Patron Saint of Ireland but also the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Whilst legend has it that St Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland we must remember that it was St Patrick who gifted the Irish people their faith, using the shamrock to demonstrate the Holy Trinity – that three parts can be one. St Patrick’s legacy extends to Melbourne for our parishes, schools and hospitals were first ministered to by Irish priests and nuns. We owe them a debt of gratitude for leaving their homes in Ireland, many never to see their homeland or families again, to dedicate their lives to growing the Catholic faith in Australia.

In honour of St Patrick, Catholic Education Week is always held to coincide with his feast day. Our Year Six school leaders travelled into the Cathedral on Tuesday and joined with students from throughout the Archdiocese in celebrating not only St Patrick but also the richness of Catholic Education today. It is an ‘eye opening’ experience for our students to witness the procession of school banners into the Cathedral and realise that Our Lady of the Nativity School is part of something very big and worth celebrating.

And let us not forget ‘good’ St Joseph – husband of Mary of the Nativity, trusted by God, earthly father-figure of Jesus Christ. It was Joseph who cared for Mary, who witnessed the birth of Jesus, who safely fled with his family to a safe haven (yes, they became a refugee family for a time!) and who, like any other father, spent time teaching and loving his ‘son’ Jesus. Joseph was a carpenter by trade and it is easy to image him spending time with the child Jesus, patiently teaching him about wood and tools, the two of them covered by wood shavings as they created something of beauty. His love of Jesus was without question and he is a wonderful model of fatherhood. Let us honour the integral role he played in the raising of Jesus, his devotion to Mary and his great faith.

Hope heals
When I feel overwhelmed I will look to hope.
Psalm 42:11
Why are you downcast O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
For I will yet praise him, my saviour and my God.

Our Lady of the Nativity Parish Centre
33 Fawkner Street, Aberfeldie 3040
Tel: 9337 8419      Fax: 9331 0205
Parish Administrator: Fr Andrew McCarter
Parish Email: essendonwest@cam.org.au
Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 10:00am

Our Lady of the Nativity School
29 Fawkner Street
Aberfeldie 3040
Tel: 9337-4204      Fax: 9331-2702
Email: principal@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au
School Website: www.olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au
Myclasses access: www.olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au/myclasses
Password: olnparent
Username: parents

"To Love Through Truth"
This week seems to have been very busy although for the children in was only four days. On Monday our Year Six students, teachers and many parents rode into the Botanical Gardens seeking further inspiration for their exploration of the Transdisciplinary Theme ‘How We Express Ourselves’. Along the way they just happened to come across the ‘Terminator’! Arnold Schwarzenegger just happened to be out on his bike exploring Melbourne at the same time as our students and their paths happened to cross. From all reports I think some of the parents with our group were more excited than the kids. [Vilma!!!!] Arnie was so impressed that he put a photo of himself surrounded by our students on his face book page – it got over 200,000 likes! The next day the photo appeared in the Herald Sun!

On Tuesday our school turned green for St Patrick’s Day and in support of our newly established Family Support Group who organised the sausage sizzle, jelly and ‘Guess the Snakes’ competition to raise funds for the group. Thankyou to all who supported the initiative or helped out on the day – especially the Dads who cooked all those sausages! The children had a great day and, as an added bonus, Sr Majella Tracey House enjoyed a visit from their patron, Sr Majella herself who had the children intrigued by stories of sheep on the oval (and sometimes in the classrooms!), snakes and the early days of our school.

On Wednesday our entire staff joined with the staff of Ave Maria to hear guest speaker, Sr Joanne Schatzlein, speak about St Clare and St Francis and the gift of spirituality and charism that both our schools share. St Clare is the other half of our Franciscan story and it was enlightening to hear of her great significance to the Franciscan movement. St Joanne is a wonderful speaker and was also the keynote speaker at the Franciscan Schools’ Australia conference in Melbourne last week.

Our Open Day was held yesterday and our Year Six leaders did a stellar job conducting tours and engaging with prospective families. The students were well-informed, polite and engaging and were spoken about in glowing terms by all who participated in the tours. Their parents should be very proud of these confident and capable young people, as we as a school are. Fine ambassadors!

This morning many of our students took another important step along their faith journey when they received the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. It is wonderful that they received this sacrament of God’s love and forgiveness during Lent.

A few reminders as we approach the end of the term and in preparation for the next:

* No children (or their parents) are permitted to be in the classrooms without a teacher present. This is a duty of care issue for the school. All teachers should be present in the classrooms by 8:30 but occasionally get held up. If there is no teacher present please wait outside with your child.

* We are very grateful for all the assistance given to the learning program by our parents. It’s such a strong partnership that benefits the children immeasurably. However, it is important that confidentially is maintained and therefore not appropriate for a parent to discuss the learning needs of other children. For our programs to achieve the maximum benefit for the children there needs to be a climate of trust.

* Would any families who intend enrolling for Prep next year please do so by next Friday.

* Children finish at 1:30 pm next Friday.

Peace and all good
Anne Doherty

TERM 1 2015

March
Saturday 21st Working Bee

Week 9
Thursday 26th Whole School Photos
Friday 27th End of Term 1 Children finish at 1.30pm

TERM 2 2015

June
Week 9
Friday 12th June Grade 6 Confirmations:
5.30pm-6KS
7.30pm-6M

ST BERNARDS COLLEGE TOUR DATES

Tours of the college for 2015 are as follows:

Monday 13th April, 15th June.
Tuesday 24th March, 19th May, 2nd June, 21st July
Wednesday 15th April, 6th May, 27th May, 3rd June, 10th June, 22nd July, 29th July
Thursday 30th April,

Each Tour commences at 9.00am. Bookings Essential
For further information contact the Registrar on 9289 1103

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to parents that the Curriculum Levies, Capital Fee and Term 1 Fees are all now due.

For Internet Banking details are:

Account Name: Our Lady of the Nativity
BSB No: 083-347
Account No: 526236309

Be sure to include your school fees account number, situated on the top right hand corner of the school fees statement, and your name when using the internet banking method.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

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Our Lady of the Nativity
29 Fawkner Street
ABERFELDIE VIC 3040

2016 PREP ENROLMENTS

Enrolment Forms for 2016 are now available at the School Office.

Enrolments for Prep 2016 will close on Friday 27th March, 2015.

A $50 non-refundable enrolment application fee is payable with each enrolment.

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to parents that the Curriculum Levies, Capital Fee and Term 1 Fees are all now due.

Prompt payment of all the above fees would be greatly appreciated.

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**Mowing Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Area 1</th>
<th>Area 2</th>
<th>Area 3</th>
<th>Area 4</th>
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**Primary Years Program (PYP)**

Did you know?
We are a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate. We achieved this status in December of 2013. As a staff we have been working formally on gaining authorisation for a little while before and definitely since then.

If we are successful in our submission for authorisation, then, we will be (as we have been informed), the first parish based Catholic primary school in Australia to achieve this.

You may have noticed in our foyer, there is a program of inquiry. As stated in the newsletter from last week, it outlines the central ideas the children will inquire into over the course of the year. But it can be broken down further.

Looking across the top, there are 6 headings – these are transdisciplinary themes. The 6 themes that all children inquire into over the course of a year (Prep only have to inquire into a minimum of 4) are – Who We Are, Where We Are In Place & Time, How We Express Ourselves, How The World Works, How We Organise Ourselves and Sharing The Planet.

- In order to develop these units of inquiry, we invested a significant amount of time working collaboratively as a staff last year. We began with our national curriculum documents (AusVELS) and mapped all the standards across the 6 transdisciplinary themes.
- Knowing what could be taught in different areas then allowed us to have a starting point for unit development.
- Next, we reviewed what content and concepts the children had explored in previous years.
- After completing that audit, we were able to plan the concepts, content and direction of the units of inquiry.
- Next was to review the horizontal and vertical articulation of learning. Meaning we looked across the units to ensure that all the units from one year level were different in nature and that no two units from the same theme were similar across year levels.
- Each unit was detailed with relevant curriculum links, concepts, central ideas, learner profile attributes, attitudes and skills to be explored.
- Next was to sequence the units to incorporate events in our school and world.

All of this has been distilled down and is on display in the foyer. A digital copy of the Program of Inquiry will be made available on the website very soon.


Fell free to contact me, as I am more than happy to have a chat about this too.

Warm regards,
Grant Lewis
PYP Coordinator
Deputy Principal

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**OLN Parents and Friends Association**

**Presents Annual DADS’ BOWLS NIGHT**

Thursday 26th MARCH
6pm for 6.15pm start
@ Clifton Park Bowling Club
Batman Street, Aberfeldie
$20 per Head

Pizza Provided & Bar Open

RSVP by Monday 23rd MARCH with payment and name to the school office.

Enquires can be directed to Michael Port 0408560480 or Paul Whiting 0488455008.

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**Reminder: School banking is every WEDNESDAY**

Let’s teach our children that we aren’t the bank. To help reward individual savings efforts, every time a student deposits into their Youthsaver account through School Banking, regardless of the amount, they’ll receive a Dollarmites token. Once they’ve collected 10 tokens, they can redeem them for a variety of exciting reward items.

Available in Term 1 when you have collected 10 tokens are:

- [E.T.](http://www.easterontinued.com)
Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of Term 1, time certainly does fly! It has been a busy term for us all, however we have thoroughly enjoyed our time with all of the children, especially getting to know our new Prep children a little better. As always, Camp Australia will be running Holiday Club programs across the state, with the nearest service being Essendon North Primary School in Keilor Road. Bookings can be made online at www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs. To accommodate the Our Lady of the Nativity children finishing early on the last day of term, we will be running after school care from 1.30pm on this day. We wish all of our children and families a happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Kind Regards,

Holly and Team.

Program for the Week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 23/3/15</th>
<th>Easter Crafts.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24/3/15</td>
<td>Netball Skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25/3/15</td>
<td>Easter Bunny Cookies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26/3/15</td>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27/3/15</td>
<td>End of Term Party Please bring a plate of food.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**WORKING BEE**

**SATURDAY 21st MARCH**

8am-1pm-BBQ Provided

- The school grounds are in need of a good clean and polish.
- We need as many volunteers as we can get through all the little jobs.

- Sanding and oiling decks and bench seats
- Topping up garden beds including the parish church area
- Sweeping up the ovals and school grounds
- Fixing cupboard doors
- Pruning trees
- Topping up the sand pit and soft fall area

*Hope to see lots of HELPING HANDS...*
## PARISH NEWS

### Church Welcoming Family - Roster

**Where:** Our Lady of Nativity Church  
**When:** Saturday Night  
**Time:** 5.30pm

**What to Do:** Father would like the rostered family to arrive about 15 mins before mass commences to hand out the mass bulletins and song books to all the parishioners as they enter the Church, and to say "Welcome to Mass" with a lovely smile. Your children can also get involved. The Mass bulletins will be available in the church when you get there. If you can’t do your rotation, please arrange to swap with another family.

All families are welcome to join us in Church.

**Any questions:** Lynette Xerri - 0408 573 045 / Lynettexerri@nbnco.com.au

**Date:**  
- Saturday, 21 March  
- Saturday, 28 March  
- Saturday, 4 April  
- Saturday, 11 April

**Family to assist:**  
- Passarella Family  
  (Carmel & Gianni)  
- Grigg Family  
  (Elizabeth & David)  
- Di Santo Family  
  (Maria and Joe)  
- Polizzi & Cutajar Family  
  (Tatiana & Brian)

### Church Welcoming Family - Roster

**Where:** Our Lady of Nativity Church  
**When:** Sunday Morning  
**Time:** 10am

**What to Do:** Father would like the rostered family to arrive about 15 mins before mass commences to hand out the mass bulletins and song books to all the parishioners as they enter the Church, and to say "Welcome to Mass" with a lovely smile. Your children can also get involved. The Mass bulletins will be available in the church when you get there. If you can’t do your rotation, please arrange to swap with another family.

All families are welcome to join us in Church.

**Any questions:** Lynette Xerri - 0408 573 045 / Lynettexerri@nbnco.com.au

**Date:**  
- Sunday, 22 March  
- Sunday, 29 March  
- Sunday, 5 April  
- Sunday, 12 April

**Family to assist:**  
- Lewis Family  
  (Grant & Belinda)  
- Whiting Family  
  (Alice & Paul)  
- Bezzina & Munter Family  
  (Janet & Rob)  
- Augello Family  
  (Carmela & Joe)

### Chrism Mass—Mass of the Holy Oils

You are all invited to attend the Mass of the blessing of the Holy Oils or Chrism Mass. The mass is celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Denis Hart DD at St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne on Tuesday 31st March 2015 at 11:00am. All are most welcome to attend by arrive early for a seat.

### Choir Practice

Choir practice for Palm Sunday and the Easter Triduum will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 25th March 2015, in the church. Maybe this could be something you take up for Lent rather than an act of penance! Practices will last possibly about one hour. No singing experience or operatic voices are necessary, but you do need to have an open heart and a willingness to have fun and a laugh! For information call Mary Curtain on 9337 9005.

### Rosters for the Easter Triduum

Could readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist please indicate which ceremonies you are attending over the Triduum so that a roster could be drawn up this week and readings be sent out to the readers. The signup sheet is in the narthex and please fill asap. Many thanks.