First Sunday of Advent

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.'

Dear Parents,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and also signifies the start of a new Church Year. This new year has also been designated ‘The Year of Mercy’ by Pope Francis – a special year to recall God’s great mercy and love for all. The readings remind us to stay alert, to recognise that even now God’s presence is among us. During Advent it is important to remember that we are not waiting for Jesus - He is always here with us. Rather Jesus is waiting for us! Advent gives us time to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Christmas so that we can be open to the experience of God’s great love for us. So how can we prepare? Pope Benedict once wrote: ‘Advent invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. Advent is an invitation to understand that the individual events of each day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us.’ It will not be easy to ‘pause in silence’ during this time of year when each day seems busier and so much needs to be done. However, as we begin Advent, we can prepare by trying to find some time to allow God’s presence to deepen in our lives.

IB Primary Years Program

We were thrilled to receive official notification from the International Baccalaureate that Our Lady of the Nativity School is now an authorise IB World school offering the Primary Years Program. This is a significant achievement for our school and the culmination of many years of professional learning, hard work and commitment on the part of the staff. We are currently the only Catholic systemic primary school in Australia offering the Primary Years Program to our students and are committed to our belief that this framework for learning is the best possible for our students.

The process of gaining authorisation was a rigorous and thorough one over a two-year period that culminated in the verification visit earlier this term. All aspects of the school in relation to learning were closely looked at: documentation, classroom practice, professional learning and interviews were conducted with all members of staff, with students and with parents. Following this process, a report was submitted to the IB in Zurich. In response we received a detailed report that highlighted the school’s strengths and most importantly helped us with future planning...
We now look forward to continuing to enhance our students’ learning and assisting them to become ‘active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.’ (IB mission statement)

**Our Preps visit Ave Maria College**
The school has enjoyed a lovely partnership with Ave Maria College this year following invitations from the Drama Department for our students to attend a variety of performances. Yesterday it was our Preps’ turn to visit and participate in a Christmas performance. In the words of Liam Clancy and Keira Cookson: ‘Yesterday the Preps went to the big Ave Maria to watch some fun crismas (sic) plays. We got to sing some songs like Roodof the red noesed reindeer (sic). We had so much fun. Thank you Ave girls!!’

**Recognition Supper.**
A reminder that Father Andrew and I will hosting this function next Friday evening at 7:00 pm in the hall to recognise all the assistance given to the school and the parish throughout 2015. I would encourage all those who have helped out in the school in whatever capacity during the year to attend as we are most grateful for your contributions and the work that has been undertaken on behalf of the children and school. We need to know final numbers by Monday for catering purposes (adults and children) so either send back the attendance slip or phone the school office. Fr Andrew, the teachers and I look forward to seeing you there.

**End of year dates and times**
Christmas Carols will be held on Wednesday, 9th December, beginning at 7.30pm.

There will be no school for children on the 10th and 11th December in order for the staff to spend time on curriculum planning for 2016 and to enable time for student handovers to occur.

**School will finish for the end of the year on Wednesday, 16th December at 3:15 pm.**

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**APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AVE MARIACOLLEGE AND ST COLUMBA’S COLLEGE**

Should you be seeking a position at either one of the above Colleges, please note the following:

- You are required to list each school, in order of preference
- Listing one only does not guarantee or prioritise your application at either College
- Each College will endeavour to accommodate first preferences where there are vacancies in order of selection criteria and will consult with each other regarding second preferences to ensure fairness and equity.

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**ST BERNARDS PARENTS 2016**

Welcome to St Bernard’s College.

The Ladies Auxiliary invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Wednesday 2nd of December 2015** in the boardroom (under main reception) at 9.30am.

The meeting will consist of an overview of our 2015 activities. Principal, Tony Paatsch will be present for the election of 2015 office bearers which will be followed by a festive morning tea.

There is no obligation to make any further commitment. Come and hear what we do, meet current parents and learn more about the many functions we cater for throughout the year.

Your attendance at this meeting will be allocated to your Parent Participation Program hours.

For catering purposes please email Jenny Goring (President) jenny@careplus.com.au
**SCHOOL BANKING NEWS**

Final banking day will be next Wednesday 2nd December 2015. Commonwealth Bank has requested that all rewards be redeemed by this date so they can be delivered this year.

**Merry Christmas to all!**

Dear Parents,

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been working very hard on making a range of handmade games and puzzles, which we have sent off to the underprivileged children of the Sophakama community in South Africa. This initiative has been organised by The Camp Australia Foundation, who have organised for all services across Australia to send these gifts over to the South African children in time for Christmas.

Our children have been creating Australian jigsaw puzzles, snap card games, alphabet games and number games to help give the South African children a snapshot of Australian culture. It has been a wonderful experience for both the staff and the children to learn about the positive and widespread impact that we can have as global citizens. Photographs of the children’s gifts have been displayed in the OSHC room for all to admire. We are very proud of the children’s enthusiasm and hard work in making this project a reality.

Kind Regards,

Holly and Team.

**Program for the Week:**

Monday 30/11/15: Wizz Fizz.
Tuesday 1/12/15: Kinetic Sand Creations.
Wednesday 2/12/15: Personalised Christmas Baubles.
Thursday 3/12/15: Dodgeball in the Gym.
Friday 4/12/15: DVD Afternoon.

**THE UNIFORM SHOP IS ONLINE!**

Starting from 1st September 2015, families will have the opportunity to purchase uniform items online via the ouronlinecanteen website.

If you are already registered with an account, once you go in you can simply click on the **Uniforms** tab at the top of the page. There you can order your required items and the Uniform Shop will fill your order and deliver it to your child’s classroom the following Monday.

You can also access the website by using the **UNIFORM ORDER** button on the tiqbiz app. The price list is still available with the **UNIFORM LIST** button.

If you are not registered, just go to [www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au](http://www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au) and follow the prompts to set up your own account...it's super easy!

We are hoping this system will make it a quick and simple option for those who can’t get into school to make their purchases. As we will now be using this online system, we will no longer be taking orders through the office, however the Uniform Shop will still be trading as usual on Monday mornings.

Happy online Shopping!

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**Mowing Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Area 1-Presbytery</th>
<th>Area 2-Church</th>
<th>Area 3-School</th>
<th>Area 4-Car Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUR</td>
<td>5-Dec-15</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Asher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUR</td>
<td>19-Dec-15</td>
<td>O’Connor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>HELPERS REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Church Welcoming Family - Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Our Lady of Nativity Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When</strong>:</td>
<td>Saturday Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong>:</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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, 28 November
- Saturday, 5 December
- Saturday, 12 December
- Saturday, 19 December

**Family to assist:**
- Zivkovic Family (Mary & Rob)
- Grigg Family (Elizabeth & David)
- Passarella Family (Carmel & Gianni)
- Di Santo Family (Maria and Joe)

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**Church Welcoming Family - Roster**

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<td>Sunday Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong>:</td>
<td>10am</td>
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**What to Do:**
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*All families are welcome to join us in Church.*

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

**Date:**
- Sunday, 29 November
- Sunday, 6 December
- Sunday, 13 December
- Sunday, 20 December

**Family to assist:**
- Kavanah Family (Letitia & Ben)
- Spinazzola Family (Anthony & Andrea)
- Lewis Family (Grant & Belinda)
- Bezzina & Munter Family (Janet & Rob)

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**Piety Stall—Open after each Sunday Mass**

The piety stall is open with many religious items, images and icons, a range of cards available. Please make use of this!