

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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VISION STATEMENT

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY SEEKING TO GROW TOGETHER IN LOVE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL IS NURTURED THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF FAITH, LIFE AND CULTURE.

Newsletter No. 1

27 February 2009

DEAR PARENTS, CARERS AND STAFF

After four very busy weeks we are very much 'back at school' and I would like to thank each and everyone for making me feel so warmly welcomed in so many ways into this wonderful school community of Assumption Catholic Primary School.

Our first parent-teacher meetings for this year were very well attended on Tuesday evening 17th February. The slightly altered format of a general meeting for all parents and teachers, in the middle half-hour, provided an opportunity for the leadership team - the two Assistant Principals, Janine Moore and Martin Tucker, and myself to address all in our school community about the shared direction and goals for Assumption in 2009. The revised policies and procedures for School Discipline, Homework and Bullying (all of which are now available on the school website) were presented by the Assistant Principals. For those who were unable to attend, a brief summary of my comments to the general meeting is provided below:

- The staff here at Assumption are a very dedicated group of people – whatever our role here at the school, we are all of us here to work with you for you and your children, guiding them as they stretch and grow on their learning journeys.
- We want to keep communication lines open. We want to address the issues and challenges we'll inevitably encounter. We can't address what we don't directly know about. The first port of call for parents and carers is the teacher and only after that step has been taken should a member of the leadership team be approached if no satisfactory position has been mutually agreed. Since as Principal my responsibility is to three groups in the

On the way home from church a little boy asked his mother,

*"Is it true Mummy that we are made from dust?"
"Yes darling."*

"And do we go back to dust again when we die?"

"Well – the outside of us does anyway."

"Then in that case," the little boy said earnestly, "I think there's someone under my bed, but I'm not sure whether they're coming or going."

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we don't know whether we're coming or going. In this season of Lent we are reminded of our own mortality and the need to stay focused on sharing God's love with one another.



school – children, parents and staff – parents and carers can have meetings scheduled with me between 11am and 1.30pm each day.

- All children have a right to feel safe on school premises at all times. It is never appropriate for parents/carers to admonish a child/children not their own on school property. Concerns parents have with observed behavior should be reported to the nearest staff-member on duty so that the matter can then be addressed appropriately.
- Procedures for car-parking and arrival and departure of students from the school are detailed later in this newsletter. Parents and carers are asked to observe these in the interests of the collective safety and well-being of all in our school community.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2 Mar.	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - LABOUR DAY
5 Mar.	Hymn Assembly : 2.00pm
6 Mar.	Swimming Carnival, Years 3 - 7
10-13 Mar.	Year 7 Camp - Logue Brook
10 Mar.	School Board Meeting, 7.30pm
11 Mar.	M.C.C. Visit to Year 6 : 9.00am
12 Mar.	Year 2B Assembly : 2.00pm
13 Mar.	Swimming Carnival, Years 1 & 2

15 Mar.	Mandurah Island Challenge
16-17 Mar.	World of Maths Incursion
17 Mar.	P & F Meeting, 7.30pm
18 Mar.	St Patrick's Feast Day Reflection
19 Mar.	Choir Assembly : 2.00pm
19 Mar.	PSSA League Tag Carnival, Yrs 6 & 7
20 Mar.	Interschool Swimming Training

- Early Closure at 2.30pm will take place on the last Tuesday of each month i.e. twice per term, to allow staff to participate in extended professional learning sessions in addition to the weekly staff meetings which take place from 3.30pm each Tuesday. The growing complexity of teachers' work and increasing government legislation affecting schools e.g. Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse, has necessitated these extended staff meetings. The required amount of class instruction time will still be met with the start of classes each day promptly at 8.45am. Parents are requested to collect their children from school at 2.30pm on the Early Closure days. Those parents who are unable to do so should inform the class-teachers or the school office and supervision will be provided.
- The Australian Government's recently announced Economic Stimulus Package has meant that our school qualifies to make application for up to \$200,000 for refurbishment and maintenance under the Renewing Australian Schools package as well as up to \$3 million for capital development under the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* package to be accessed over the next two years.
- Our future at Assumption CPS is full of hope. In learning and teaching here we have the capacity to achieve great things together so that every one of our children achieves more, learns better and develops to his/her greatest potential in all aspects as faith-filled, confident, competent, creative and compassionate human beings.

What do we want for our children? If we want them to develop Christ-like values of love and compassion, we must model such values for them.

If children live with praise, they learn to be appreciative. If children live with acceptance, they learn to love. If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

May we all continue to be the best teachers of our children by the model we present for them.

**Ms Geri O'Keefe
Principal**

SCHOOL FEES

Annual school fees were posted to families in Week One. Unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Principal or the office staff, **first semester fees are payable by 16th March 2009**. If you anticipate difficulty with fee payment, it is important that you contact the office before the due date to arrange an appointment with the Principal. If you did not receive your school fees, please contact the office without delay.

Payment Plans

Families are also offered the opportunity to pay school fees as follows:

- Fortnightly/monthly/term payments by cash/cheque/efpos at the office or by BPay. Payments by credit card can be made in person or by phone.
- Fortnightly or monthly instalments by Direct Debit to a **savings/cheque account only**.

If you wish to use the payment plan system, then it is essential that you contact the office staff by no later than **9th March** to complete the necessary paperwork.

C.E.O. TUITION DISCOUNT SCHEME

Once again, the above Tuition Discount Scheme is offered to holders of valid Health Care Cards (*excluding code MOB*) and Pensioner Concession Cards (*code PPS only*). If you wish to apply for this scheme, please call in to the school office to complete an application form, bringing your Concession Card with you for photocopying.

It is important to note that automatic entitlement to the discount will only be granted if the eligible card holder is legally responsible for payment of the fees.

IMMUNISATION RECORDS

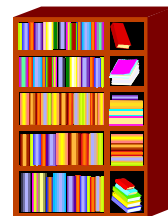
When your child has received their four-year old MMR booster, please forward a copy of the Immunisation History Statement to the school office. Thank you.

FRIDAY KINDY

If any of our Kindy parents are interested in enrolling their child in Friday Kindy, please contact the office for more information.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB

Scholastic Book Club will continue as usual this year. Catalogues will always be given out on a Monday and orders need to be **returned by the following Monday**. The return date will **not** be stamped on order forms this year. Remember, all purchases go towards buying new books for the school.



SCHOOL BANKING

CDF offers a fee-free school banking service. Students should bring their bank books to school on Wednesdays, and these will be returned to them at the end of the week.

PARKING

The car park adjacent to Gordon Road is for **staff, owners of vehicles with ACROD stickers, delivery vehicles and visitors only**. The parents' car park is located at the rear of the school with entrances from Oakmont or Seminole Avenues; however, vehicles can only exit into Oakmont Avenue. Please **do not use** the drop off zone for parking purposes.

The inner and outer bus bays, located on Seminole Avenue, must be kept clear at all times. These areas are specifically for the buses and must not be used at any time of the day.

SIGNING IN & OUT OF STUDENTS

- Children arriving after the class roll has been taken, must "sign in" at the school office.
- If your child is leaving school during school hours, a note should be sent to the teacher/school office advising who will be collecting the child. The person collecting the child must then "sign out" at the office and obtain a Principal's Approval Pass before going to the class to pick-up the child.
- The above procedures assist us in establishing which children are on the premises at any given time and that children being collected during school hours are leaving with the appropriate person.
- It is important that the office receives any changes to "going home" arrangements for children **by no later than 2.30pm**.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS

Please refer to the separate note included in the newsletter for important information regarding the Swimming Carnivals. Years 3-7 will be on 6th March and Years 1-2 on 13th March.

M.C.C. VISIT - YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Staff from Mandurah Catholic College will be visiting our Year 6 students on 11th March at 9.00am to talk about moving to high school in 2011. The College staff also plan to conduct group interviews for families at our school during Term 2. Further information will be supplied at a later date.

STUDENT COUNCIL - SEMESTER 1

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the Student Council for Semester 1:

Head Boy: Lachlan Ryan
Head Girl: Claudia Holmes

7B:	Tristan Hill	4B:	Michael Martley
6B:	Lily Racolini	4R:	Isabelle Polinelli
6R:	Julian Lazarte	3B:	Danika Flynn
5B:	Mathew Fahey	3R:	Lewis McCoy
5R:	Kelly Warden		

FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER ...

My name is Maureen Lynch, and I am the school's Social Worker. I attend the school each Tuesday and Thursday and am located in the Administration Building.

My role in the school is extensive and varied. I work with children, families and teachers on issues affecting students' abilities to maximise their educational opportunities. I also address their social and emotional needs, and I do this by looking at such issues as: peer problems, the effect of separation and loss on children and their family members, and other matters such as cultural, financial or health.

I can assist children to improve their self concept, cope with stress, develop problem solving and social skills.

My role is also to act as a liaison person with community agencies, referring children and families as necessary.

If you wish me to see you or your children, you can phone the school and leave a message for me to call you, or leave a note. You can also speak to your child's teachers. As I am at school only two days a week, I am rarely available without an appointment.

As part of the Assumption school community, I am looking forward to contributing to a positive and productive school year.

LIBRARY NEWS

In 2009 we aim to foster and support a love of books and reading for all children and teach them how to use the Library effectively. Library days are as follows:

Monday	Yrs 1 & 4	with Mrs Walsh
Tuesday	Yrs 2 and 5	with Mrs Walsh
Thursday	Yrs 3 and 7	with Mr Tucker
Friday	PP and Yr 6	with Mr Tucker

- Pre-Primary and Years 1 and 2 children may borrow one book at a time.
- Years 3 - 7 children may borrow two books at a time.
- **The week before** the Pre-Primary children commence borrowing, a note will be sent home to parents.

It is **COMPULSORY** for all children to have a **Library Bag** to be able to borrow. The bag should be made of material

(preferably waterproof, but not plastic) and be big enough to fit the whole book. The bag should be clearly marked with the child's name - a pillowcase will do, if you are unable to make or purchase a bag. A reading folder or chair bag is NOT a Library Bag.

It is expected that any borrowed books that are lost or damaged beyond repair will be paid for. Children with overdue books or outstanding payments for lost or damaged books are NOT ALLOWED to borrow until the book is returned or paid for. If the book is subsequently found, payment will be returned to the family. Notes will be sent home about lost or damaged books, where applicable. The sooner these matters are attended to, the sooner the child can borrow again.

Please do not try to repair damaged books at home, as we have the correct materials and methods to do the repair.

If you are interested in helping in the Library we would love to hear from you. We need fellow "bookworms" to help with shelving, covering and repairing books. If you can spare some time to help, please contact Monique Engelter in the Library on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. You may like to volunteer 30 minutes of your time when you drop the children at school in the morning or just before school finishes in the afternoon! No experience is necessary as we can train you.

Thank you. Library Staff

CAN YOU HELP!

The following items are needed in the art room: plastic/foam trays, yoghurt containers, ice-cream containers, home/interior design magazines and newspapers.

ASSUMPTION GREENIES

Did you know that Assumption has its own student environmental group? Last year we were responsible for starting a compost system in our school, planting a veggie garden and the *Keep Australia Beautiful Week*. We also participated in many fun activities, including an excursion to Alcoa.

We are planning many exciting activities this year and we need new members from Years 3 to 7. We will be meeting every Wednesday during recess.

Jo Drew

CYCLE TO SCHOOL DAY 2009

The Assumption Greenies are proud to host this special day. Simply ride your bike to school on this day, making sure you have your parents' permission to do so, and wear your bike helmet. Students who bike to school will receive a raffle ticket from outside 4 Red. All tickets will go into a draw for some great prizes. *Help Save The Planet!*

EARTH HOUR

On Saturday 28th March at 8.30pm, people around the world will turn off their lights for one hour, *Earth Hour*, to show how, by working together, we can make a difference in the fight against climate change. Parishes and communities have been invited to support this project.

MOVIE VOUCHERS

If you are going to Reading Cinemas, please collect a voucher from the school office and present it at the cinema when purchasing your ticket. For every ten people who hand in a voucher, we get a free movie pass which can be used as prizes for fundraising for the school.

UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Monday :	8.30am to 12.30pm
Tuesday:	12 noon to 3.30pm
Thursday:	8.30am to 11.00am

Early Close Hours

On the last Tuesday of every month, please note that the Uniform Shop's hours will be 11.30am to 3.00pm in line with the early close.

Thank You

A big thank you to Liza Howell, Cassie Howell and Sinead Keleher who were such a great help on opening day in the school holidays. I couldn't have done without you.

Out of Stock

Sports shorts, size 4 (due February)
Sports jumpers, size 8 (due March)

Lay-bys for Winter

Please consider a lay-by for your winter uniforms to beat the rush - 10% deposit, regular payments, and up to twelve weeks for full payment.

New Roller Bags

The new roller bags have arrived. Come into the Uniform Shop to check out the new school bags, Please note that numbers are limited, so be quick!

New Library Bags

Due to books being damaged from leaking water bottles, we now offer waterproof library bags for \$8.50.

Soccer Boots

We have a number of second-hand soccer boots for sale at \$15.00 each. We are not accepting any more boots to sell until current stocks are reduced.

Secondhand Uniforms

All items must be washed, ironed and presented on hangers, which are available free from the Uniform Shop. Only uniforms in very good condition will be offered for sale. Any uniforms not presented in this way will be placed in the bin. We do not intend to offer stained, torn or damaged uniforms for sale in the shop. Any unsold uniforms will be donated to St Vincent de Paul.

Denise Teasdale - Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

FOR SALE

- Girl's bicycle, 16" wheels, pink and silver - as new condition. I am willing to bring the bike to school if anyone would like to look at it. **Any money raised from the sale of the bike will go to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.** Call Kathryn on 0404 556 943.
- Pre-loved boys' sports, winter and summer uniforms, schoolbag, shoes and hat. Suit PP-Year 2. Call Kym on 0416 349 538 or 9537 2370.

CANTEEN ROSTER

4 Mar. A. D'Monte	19 Mar. D. McDonell
5 Mar. V. Stanford	20 Mar. L. Spiers & C. Boardman
6 Mar. M. Ralph	23 Mar. L. Bell
9 Mar. J. Bonannella	25 Mar. C. Naidoo
11 Mar. M. Paul	26 Mar. C. Fahey
12 Mar. M. Holmes	27 Mar. T. Youchek & C. Tamas
13 Mar. C. Bailey & S. Ford	
16 Mar. J. Jones	
18 Mar. M. Scholz	

LOST

Swimming bag (Coles' Green Bag) containing Coca-Cola towel (red), blue bikini bottoms and top, black Wave Zone rashie, pink reef thongs and school hat. If found, please return to Jade Martin, Year 4B.

PARISH NEWS

Youth Mass on Again! Next Youth Mass is on Sunday 1st March at 6.00pm. Lively music and a sausage sizzle afterwards. Parents, bring your kids along and save on cooking. Call Alicia on 0421 625 472.

COMMUNITY NEWS

(These advertisements are included as a community service and do not necessarily indicate the school's endorsement of the service)

CLAN WA will present a session on *Understanding Anxiety and Depression* at Mandurah Lotteries House, Anzac Place, Mandurah, on 9th March from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Limited places, bookings essential - call 9498 2829 or email lauren.s@clanwa.com.au

CLAN also offers a four session workshop on *Building Self Esteem and Moving Forward* from 4th to 25th March, 9.30am - 12.00pm. Call Delys on 9581 5595.

Coodanup Family House, cnr Steerforth Dr/Maclaggan Turn, Coodanup, is offering a free four week program relating to children and parents. The program includes topics such as: *ages/stages of child development, family belonging, communication, self esteem and looking after yourself.* Call Janette or Kris on 9583 7201 for more details.

Peel Dynamic Gymsports offers gymnastics for girls aged 5-17 yrs, at Coodanup Community College, on Mondays or Wednesdays at 4.00pm. Call 9586 8161.

Peter Gerrans offers tennis coaching for all ages, beginners to advanced. Call 9381 7756.

Mandurah Island Challenge is on Sunday 15th March. Students who enter will help raise funds for a children's ward at Peel Health Campus and give our school chance to win up to \$500 worth of sports equipment. Registration forms available from the school office.

Lakelands Community House Street Party and BBQ is on Friday 6th March, 5.00pm-8.00pm. Event includes: launch of Lakelands Library by the City of Mandurah Mayor, live music by youth, free food and family fun. Call Michael Delo, COM Youth Development Officer, on 9550 3670 for more information.

Compassionate Friends of Mandurah will hold their annual memorial walk on Sunday 15th March, 9.30am for 10.00am start, finishing at 12.00pm. Walk starts at Dalrymple Park (just before the old bridge in Mandurah). For more details or to register, call 9535 7761.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL P & F SEMINAR

South West Regional P & F Seminar will be held on 17th March from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Bunbury Catholic College. All parents in our school community are most welcome to attend.

The Education Tax Refund - Get 50% Back

The Deputy Commissioner of Taxation has requested we provide the following information to all families:

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students. This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received *Family Tax Benefit Part A* for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving *Family Tax Benefit Part A* because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student aged 18)
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- The Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- The Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- A scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- An Australian Postgraduate Award

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs - for example, internet and paper
- Educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- Stationery and art supplies
- School textbooks and associated learning materials
- Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses

- ❶ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list, visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1st July 2009.

- ❶ **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

- ❶ For more information:
 - Visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
 - Phone the Tax office on 13 28 61.

Message from Dental Health Services

The Federal Government's Medicare Teen Dental Plan commenced 1st July 2008. Each child, aged 12-17, in families receiving Family Tax Benefit A, Youth Allowance or Abstudy will be posted a \$160 voucher each year for a Preventative Dental Check. This check includes: oral examination, x-rays, scale and clean, fissure sealants, oral hygiene instruction and topical fluoride applications. Vouchers may be used at private or public dental clinic (including School Dental Therapy Centres). The School Dental Service will continue to provide a free service to children in Pre-Primary to Year 11 (until the age of 17).

If you choose to use the voucher at a public clinic, no out-of-pocket expenses will be incurred for items listed above. Any dental treatment planned after the Preventative Dental Check remains free of charge in the School Dental Service. If you choose to use the voucher at a private dentist, there may be some out-of-pocket expenses if the dentist does not bulk bill Medicare for the Preventative Dental Check. Any treatment planned after the Preventative Dental Check will be at your own expense.

It is important to note that if your child is not enrolled in the School Dental Service and you have sought treatment for your child at a private dentist, you are required to wait until the completion of the course of treatment before attending a public dental clinic.

Further information can be obtained from your local public dental clinic, private dentist or Medicare on 13 20 11 or www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Swimming Carnivals

Information



The **Years 3-7** Swimming Carnival will be held next Friday 6th March (Week 5) at Mandurah Aquatic Centre (Lapper Pool) from 9.15am. Thanks to the parents who offered to be a helper on the day! An information note was sent home to the parent helpers of the **Years 3-7** Carnival last week asking you to meet Mr de Rosario at the pool at 8.50am. Any of those parents who are now unable to help or who have not received the information note, please make contact with Mr de Rosario as soon as possible.

Thank you to the children and parents who returned permission slips and event selections on time, as this was important to ensure children were placed into their selected race(s) and were granted permission to attend the carnival. Children who returned their note late were placed in a freestyle event.

In the note that was sent home, the Years 3 and 4 children were asked to choose if they wanted to compete in 50 metre events. However, due to the very few children wanting to compete in 50 metres, the Years 3 and 4 children will only be able to swim in 25 metre events (which is *in sync* with the interschool carnival).

The **Years 1-2** Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 13th March (Week 6) at Mandurah Aquatic Centre (Mushroom and Lapper Pool) from 12.30pm. Again, thank you to the parents who offered to help. Please meet Mr de Rosario at the pool at 12.10pm. Any of those parents who are unable to help or who have not received the information note (which went home this week), please make contact with Mr de Rosario as soon as possible.

Below is the approximate timetable for the **Years 3-7** carnival; please note that times may vary slightly on the day:

9:15am – 10:20am:	25m Freestyle (Year 7, 6, 5, 4 & 3)
10:20am – 10:50am:	50m Freestyle (Year 7, 6, & 5)
10:50am – 11:30am:	25m Backstroke (Year 7, 6, 5 & 4)
11:30am – 12:05pm:	50m Backstroke (Year 7, 6, & 5)
12:05pm – 1:30pm:	25m Breaststroke (Year 7, 6, 5, 4 & 3)
1:30pm – 2:15pm:	50m Breaststroke (Year 7, 6, & 5)
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Relays and wrap-up

Due to time restraints, Champions and Runner up Champions for **Years 3-7** will be presented at assembly on Thursday 12th March.

Parents are encouraged to come and support our children at both the Junior and Senior Carnivals. For the senior carnival, we ask that parents remain in the parent bays that will be provided on the day. As the **Years 1-2** carnival will be a tabloid (circuit) carnival, parents are most welcome to move around with their children. However, please leave sufficient space for the children and officials.

We look forward to seeing you on the day!

Mr Jason de Rosario

Physical Education Co-ordinator



P & F NEWS



Advance Notice

School Garage Sale and Sausage Sizzle

Date: Saturday 21st March 2009

Time: 8.30am to 11.30am

Tell your family and friends! Many items on sale include desks, chairs, overhead projectors, books and household items, very well priced - don't miss out on a bargain. Before 19th March, would you please send in any (clean) household items (in working order) that you wish to donate. All money raised will help the P & F Association to purchase items to improve your child's school experience.

Further information will be distributed to families soon, outlining how you can help with this event.

Thank You.

P & F Meeting



The next P & F meeting is to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th March. All welcome. Please note, any new issues to be raised must be submitted, in writing, to the P & F by Friday 13th March. Due to many requests, we will be holding the April meeting during the day. Date and time will be advised in *Assumption Happenings*.

St Patrick's Day - Tuesday 17th March



Dress in GREEN and please bring a gold coin donation.

Funds raised will assist the P & F to purchase learning equipment.

Golden Eggs / Farm Pride Collect-a-thon

It's on again!

Once again, our school is registered for the collect-a-thon. Simply collect the 50¢ tokens from the top of the egg cartons and send in to the office. Funds raised go towards valuable resources for our children. Thanks to those who sent in tokens last year.