



PROUILLE NEWS

17 February, 2009

Term 1 Week 4 2009

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the last Wednesday's "Meet the Teacher Night".

Whilst the vast majority of families were represented, I appreciate that, for all sorts of reasons, some were unable to make it. All teachers had handouts re curriculum/procedure matters specific to their grade, but I didn't have a handout to support what I addressed in the Hall. Following are some of the critical points I touched on re Communication and Community Building:

- Regarding general school concerns related to your child's progress at school, (social and academic); the first "port of call" is your child's classroom teacher. If issues are not being resolved or if the concern is of a very serious matter, contact Mr Philip Ledlin or another member of the School Leadership Team (ie Mrs Tanya Armstrong (AP) or Mrs Vanessa Dillon (REC)).
- If you have a concern regarding your child's progress at school (or with school management), contact the school immediately ... Do not wait two weeks (Heaven forbid – two terms!!!) ... A simple restructure in the classroom (eg a seat change and a stern word) is sometimes all it takes to sort out a social issue.
- If you have a concern regarding your child's progress at school (or with school management), do not discuss the concern at the "school gate" with other parents; please go directly to your child's teacher (or our School Leadership Team). If a parent comes to you with a serious concern about a school matter, please remind them to go and meet with their child's teacher (or with school management) immediately.
- If you have a concern regarding your child's progress at school (or with school management), please understand that it can be detrimental to our school/home relationship (and your child's attitude at school) if you discuss the matter at length with your child/ren in a derogatory light at home.
- Some life changing advice I once got came from the school Principal of my son's school (when my son was in Kindergarten). She advised parents to try not to ask the following to their child after a day at school:
 - What did you do today? (The usual answer is: "Nothing")
 - Who did you play with? (The usual answer is: "No one")
 - What did you learn? (The usual answer is: "Nothing")

Try a new strategy and ask: "What was the best thing you did today?"

Whilst all the points above are commonsense and the concepts are "best practice" in any relationship, I feel strongly about putting them down on paper in a bid to set a platform to further strengthen our community.

In concluding this passage on communication and community building, I will share with you three spontaneous student responses that captured my attention at Mass last week (Fr Steve asked the children how they can be better people and how they can improve their home and school) ... I sense that the following pearls of wisdom could well be the foundation blocks of a School Vision Statement:

1. Include others in things you do
2. Learn to say, "Sorry"
3. Get close to others

In a bid to "include" and "get close to others", I encourage all parents to come along to the "Welcome Twilight BBQ/Spit" this coming Saturday 21 February at 7:00 pm.

Philip Ledlin (Principal)

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Update re travelling to school by bus/train and safety:

- Two buses and one train bring students to Prouille each day. From now on, "leaders" (already selected) from each bus and the train must report to the school office on arrival at school.
- Parents must call that school if their child is going to be absent from school (I thank all the parents who have commenced this practice recently).
- Mr Ledlin is presently in dialogue with Shorelink and the Ministry of Transport re attempting to have the morning buses drop the students directly outside the school.
- In the interim (ie until I have an answer from Shorelink) parent volunteers have rostered themselves to meet the morning bus (NB the late bus only - arriving 8:44 am).

Afternoon Car Pickup:

I was very impressed with the precision of the "wet weather pickup procedure" after school one afternoon last week. I remind all parents of the importance of having their family name sign clearly visible on the passenger side visor of their car. With all parents co-operating in this regard, smoothness is assured.

I remind all families that the driveway entrances of our neighbours must be kept clear at all times please (ie at no time should cars be stationary in front of a driveway) – Thank you.

Clarification re Stage 3 Camps 2009:

In 2009, Yr 6 will attend an overnight camp to Challenge Ranch (this week).

Additionally, Yr 5 and Yr 6 together will attend an overnight excursion to Canberra (6.7.09 – 7.7.09).

New Date for Yr 4 Excursion to "The Rocks"

A new date has been set for the Yr 4 Excursion to "The Rocks". This new date is 10 March.

Dates for Parish School Masses 2009:

Dates have now been set for our Parish / School weekend Masses:

- Sunday 29 March 9:15am (Yr 2)
- Sunday 31 May 9:15am (Yr 3)
- Sunday 28 June 9:15am (Yrs 4 / 5)
- Sunday 30 August 9:15am – followed by our Parish Picnic (**K and Yr 6 Buddies** + families)
- Sunday 8 November 9:15am (Yr 1)

Parish Picnic:

Our Parish Picnic will be on Sunday 30 August 2009 after the 9:15 am Mass.

"How can parents assist with Literacy in the classroom?"

A reminder to parents of the great opportunity to attend three excellent workshops on "How can parents assist with Literacy in the classroom?" These sessions will be held on the following dates:

1. Wednesday 4 March 9.00 am to 10.30 am
2. Wednesday 11 March 9.00 am to 10.30 am
3. Wednesday 18 March 9.00 am to 10.30 am

Not only will they assist you to appreciate teaching and learning in the classroom, these sessions will also assist you to understand your child's learning at home. The Presenter will be Mrs Wendy Bean.

Please note that a crèche will be provided to assist parents with young children to attend.

Water Play Day for Infant Classes:

A "Water Play" afternoon will be held for our Infant classes at school on Friday 20 February. Children in K, 1, 2 need to bring the following this Friday:

- Wear full sport uniform with swimming costumes underneath
- Towel
- Hat
- Suncream
- Spare shirt (ie T-shirt)

(In the event of wet weather on Friday, Water Play Activities will be done in PE classes next week.)

University of New South Wales Computer Skills Test

Please note that the date for the University of New South Wales Computer Skills Test is Wednesday 27 May, as per the original Parents 2009 Calendar.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Ledlin
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

17.02.09	Tuesday	7.30 pm – Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents Meeting in School Hall.
18.02.09	Wednesday	Principals' Meeting in the morning.
19.02.09	Thursday	Year 6 to Year 6 Camp at Challenge Ranch.
20.02.09	Friday	Year 6 return at end of Year 6 Camp. Kindy, Years 1 & 2 – Water Play Day.
21.02.09	Saturday	7 pm – P&F Twilight BBQ Spit in school grounds. Cost: \$25 per person.
22.02.09	Sunday	Prouille Soccer - Team Allocation Day.
23.02.09	Monday	9.30 am – 10.00 am – Principal from St Leo's College visiting Years 3-6.
25.02.09	Wednesday	10.30 am - Ash Wednesday – Whole School Liturgy in school grounds.
26.02.09	Thursday	5.30 pm – Diocesan Schools Staff Mass. 7.30 pm - Prouille Soccer – Coaches & Managers' Meeting in School Hall.
27.02.09	Friday	“Clean Up Schools Day”.
28.02.09	Saturday	1.00 pm – 5.00 pm – First Working Bee for 2009 – Kindy & Year 6 Families.
03.03.09	Tuesday	Lunchtime Recital.
04.03.09	Wednesday	9.00 am – 10.30 am – Session 1 for Parents: “How can parents assist with Literacy in the classroom?”
05.03.09	Thursday	Director/Principals' Meeting – full day. 6.00 pm – Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Mingara.
10.03.09	Tuesday	9.00 am – Year 4 Excursion to The Rocks.
11.03.09	Wednesday	9.00 am – 10.30 am – Session 2 for Parents: “How can parents assist with Literacy in the classroom?”
12.03.09	Thursday	Principals' Association Meeting.
18.03.09	Wednesday	9.00 am – 10.30 am – Session 3 for Parents: “How can parents assist with Literacy in the classroom?”
29.03.09	Sunday	9.15 am – Year 2 Parish/School Mass at Holy Name Church.
31.03.09	Tuesday	Lunchtime Recital.
04.05.09	Monday	Staff Development Day – Pupil Free – All Staff at Santa Maria Del Monte School at Strathfield.

REMINDER

- ❖ *Prouille Newsletter is now available on our website: www.prouille.com.au*
- ❖ *Prouille Parents & Friends' Newsletter available online at www.prouillepandf.com.au*
- ❖ *Uniform Shop opens Tuesdays 8.50 am – 9.30 am & Thursdays 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm*

ST LEO'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN DAY

YEAR 7, 2010 & 2011

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH FROM 9.30 AM – 11.45 AM

PROSPECTIVE PARENT EVENING – TUESDAY 24TH MARCH AT 7.30 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*Hope is a word that fulfils and sustains us.
 Faith is living in hope, knowing that we are loved and are not alone.
 Hope provides for us a platform to dream.
 Faith enables us to seek these dreams through prayer and worship.
 Hope is individual, one's hopes remain in context to their life and their needs.
 Faith is communal, it provides instant support and comfort
 in knowing that our needs are shared.
 Hope is what will enable us to strive to achieve our personal goals,
 whatever they may be...
 but Faith will remind us that we are not alone in achieving them.
 Let us give thanks for the life we have been given;
 for the opportunities we have in being fortunate to dream.
 May God continue to nourish us and guide us along this journey,
 sharing with us all that we hope and live for.*

This was our “Thanksgiving” focus for our Opening School Mass on Wednesday 11th February. I thank the people who came to me after Mass, asking for it to be published in the newsletter so that they could share this message with friends and families. Evidently it seems that, at present within our country, this message of ‘hope’ has a deeper, more communal, resonance. We hope for a united resolve for our friends in Queensland and Victoria who have endured the extremes of our country’s weather – floods and fires.

I thank the many who have come forward suggesting the need for us to “do something”. This is indeed a very compassionate and generous community, and I am encouraged that you will be supporting the efforts we will be making, through the leadership of our Mission Prefects, Emma and Hamish.

Thank you to Mrs Tanya Armstrong and the Liturgy Prefects, Holly Gannon and Caroline Moait, for the beautiful prayer that will be led at our whole school assembly on Friday morning.

Thank You to the many people who offered their talents and support in making our Opening School Mass such a special occasion: to Fr Steve; to Mrs Amanda O’Brien, Mrs Julie Madden and our musicians and choir; to Mr Michael Ford and the children of Year 6; to Mrs Tanya Armstrong and Mr Philip Ledlin; to Mrs Hayley Edmunds and Julie Edmunds; to Mrs Suzanne Spalding, Hamish and Finn; to Alana Christenson and Jonathan Crouch; and all who attended, all staff and all the children... it is much appreciated!

Sacrament of Penance: We will soon begin praying for the children in Year 3 who will be shortly commencing their preparation to receive their First Reconciliation. Thank you to the parish facilitators and parents who are assisting these children in their preparation, and to the Year 3 teachers – Mrs Haines, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Chivers – who will be supplementing the children’s at-home learning with an RE based module in class.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: The Season of Lent will soon be upon us, and Ash Wednesday begins this important season on Wednesday 25th February. You are invited to attend a whole-school liturgy here in the school grounds at 10.30 am. Fr Steve will be facilitating this assembly, and I thank the staff for their assistance in preparing it.

Liturgical Gowns: Thank you so much to the parents who have responded in assisting with the making of some new liturgical gowns to be used in liturgy. I will be in contact soon with a design (pattern) and material to receive feedback as to whether or not my idea is achievable.

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Carmel Chivers and her family as they grieve the loss of her father, Mr Bede Litler; Mr Max Finnimore (Mrs Dillon’s grandfather) who has just been diagnosed with cancer; and Mr Chris Spalding.

May God continue to Bless You.

Vanessa Dillon (REC)

SPORTS NEWS

NEW PROUILLE SWIMMING RECORDS



100m Open	Freestyle	Shannon Ashton	1.08.78
50m 8 Yr	Freestyle	Finn Spalding	48.10
50m 12 Yr	Freestyle	Shannon Ashton	31.09
50m 12 Yr	Backstroke	Shannon Ashton	36.93
50m 9 Yr	Breaststroke	Declan Montgomery	57.82
50m 12 Yr	Breaststroke	Shannon Ashton	38.50
50m 12 Yr	Butterfly	Shannon Ashton	33.45
50m INVITATION		Shannon Ashton	30.73
Senior RELAY		GOLD – CRAWFORD	2.35.59

Louise Tamone (PE/Sport Teacher)

REMINDER - 1ST PROUILLE WORKING BEE - SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2009 FROM 1PM – 5PM

Each Working Bee this year will have a theme to help focus activities. Our first Working Bee is timed to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day.

Subsequent dates for working bees are:

- 9th May – Year 1 & 5 – Composting Awareness Week
- 22nd August – Year 2 & 4 – Keep Australia Beautiful & National Science Week
- 14th November – Year 3 – National Recycling Week

Please make an effort to come to at least one Working Bee this year. It saves the school money and gets jobs done that improve the environment for our children and their teachers.

Each Working Bee ends with a BBQ - parents, grandparents and children are all welcome. It is a great way to meet other parents at Prouille. Any time you can spare would be appreciated.

Pauline Luttrell & Maree Cass (P&F Grounds & Maintenance)



PROUILLE TWILIGHT BBQ SPIT



The long range forecast predicts summer is returning, so we look forward to getting together with everyone under a starlit sky!

What a wonderful community we have – a big thank you to: all the families who have kindly donated raffle prizes; families who will be giving their time on Saturday afternoon with set up; and to our sub committee, Esther Ssebowa, Brigitta Fowler, Wendy Ryan, Fiona Wright and Louise McEwen.

And more good news - tickets are still available.

Looking forward to a great night.

The P&F Social Committee

NETBALL GRADING



All 8 and 9 year old netball players will be graded on Friday 20th February.

The grading will take place at Lofberg Netball Courts, West Pymble, from 4.00 pm.

See you all there!

If you have any queries please contact Glenda on 0412 590 112.

Community News

- **Music Bags Available** - Hand-made cotton drawstring bags with bags with:
- Musical motif appliquéd for easy recognition
- Inbuilt pencil pocket
- Cost \$20.00

Please see display in the School Office.

For orders or enquiries – please phone Gabrielle Smith on 9489 6232.