Religious Education Matters

In Religious Education this term, Year 5 students have been learning about Lent is a Time for Reconciliation.

Year 5 have been exploring the question what does the Parable the Prodigal Son teach us about Lent?

**Who in the parable reminds us of ourselves? Why?**

- The Younger Son reminds us of ourselves because in the bible passage he sinned against God and his father and went to live with a stranger. Sometimes we do things we know are wrong. We can make mistakes and admit them to God and ask him for forgiveness.

**Jesus Told a parable.**

**What Does The Parable Of The Prodigal Son Teach Us About Lent?**

- Lent is a time that we have to prepare for the great sacrifice of Jesus.
- Lent is a time to convert back to God if we have lost him.
- Lent is a time to repent, just like the Prodigal Son did in the scripture passage.
- Lent is a time to give up small things in our lives to become more like God and Jesus.
- Lent is a time to show respect to others to become a better person so that we can have eternal life in heaven.
- Lent is a time to forgive other people who have wronged us in a terrible way.

**Lent is a time to prepare for Jesus’ sacrifice by praying, self denial and almsgiving.**

**Lent is a time for us to think about our sins.**

**Lent is a time to show mercy to those who have wronged us.**

**Lent is a time to repent for our sins.**

**Lent is a time to thank God for the blessings he has given us.**

**Lent is a time to sacrifice small things to repent for our sins and seek God’s salvation.**
Principal’s Message

Catholic Schools Week

From 6-12 March, our school will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week. We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to celebrating and showcasing the achievements of students in our school.

This year’s theme is ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’

This week you have received an invitation to join us during this very special week, as we celebrate many events starting on Monday the 7th of March. On Monday we will begin the day in prayer, followed by Open Classrooms and Student Led Conferences and finishing with a picnic on the grounds. At 11.45am, we will stop to pray the Angelus and begin normal class lessons by 12 noon. I am looking forward to a morning of prayer and community building.

On Thursday we will conduct our first Parent Walk for the year. If you would like to participate in this event please meet Mrs Baird in the Hall at 9.15pm. Our Parent Group Representative meeting will commence at 10am and conclude at 10.30am. All parents are welcome to join us.

School Photos

Next Tuesday we will have our annual school photo day. A letter went home this week asking parents to ensure that the new school uniform is worn on this day. It also asks parents, wishing to have sibling photos taken, to collect a sibling package envelope from the school office. Just a reminder that this is a school day and hairstyles must conform with our school policy.

Student Behaviour

As you know we are very committed to ensuring quality uninterrupted teaching and learning time. On occasions, a child may make wrong choices and disturb the learning of others and their own learning. It is important at these times that school and home work together to change behaviour. If a child is disturbing the learning in class, the child will be sent to my office for counselling and a green behaviour note will be sent home. This may be followed by a formal meeting with the parents and Mrs Baird. I thank you in advance for your continued support in this area. We must work together to make student learning a priority.

We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:

Kindy Semisi Saulala & Charelle Agito
Year 1 Anweshi Ghale & Amarise Koroma
Year 2 Nicholas Anjoul & Shaun Kynoch-Kelly
Year 3 Chanel Jekki & Prince Nyakoi
Year 4 Taylor Yacoub & Mansour El Boutty
Year 5 Chris Mamari & Daisy Habib
Year 6 Jacob Georges & Richard Niulala

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
**Student Attendance**

As you are aware, every school day is filled with exciting new learning and experiences that the children need to have acquired in order to move along the learning continuum. When children are away for reasons other than sickness, the learning begins to be disjointed and some children find it difficult to catch up. School attendance is mandatory. Our system has clear guidelines and processes to assist families who struggle with getting their child to school each day. This is also valid for families that attend school late most mornings. I can not express enough the importance of children attending school each day on time. Children are confident learners when they know what is happening in the classroom. Constant lateness will cause your child to miss out on community building and learning time. I encourage parents to attend to this growing concern in our community.

Students with a high level of unexplained absences will have a letter sent home to parents next week. I thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Parents who have decided to travel overseas will need to apply for extended leave for your child. A certificate of leave will be issued once leave has been approved. Please keep this certificate with you when leaving Sydney as it may be requested by airport officials.

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**Maths Minds**

**Salute’**

You will need three people to participate in this game and a deck of playing cards. Take out the king, queen and jack, the ace represents the quantity one. Shuffle your cards. Two of the people take a card from the top and place it on their head without looking at it. The other person calls out the total. The players have to guess the number on their card based on the number their partner has and the total told by the caller.

This warm up develops students ability to complete addition sums without the use on concrete materials.
School Fees

Please note that ALL statements have now been mailed.

*Any school fee payment arrangement made in 2015 does not automatically continue.*

This also includes those families that have automatic payments deducted from Centrelink.

Please contact Ms Ali in the office to make a new school fee arrangement or if you are having difficulty in paying your school fees.

*Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office. Thank you.*

School Banking

A school banking service is available to students who hold Commonwealth Dollarmites or Youth Saver accounts. Encouraging children to make small regular deposits to a bank account helps them to develop good savings habits and awareness of the value of money. Students who wish to deposit money should bring bank books (with the deposit slip filled in) and money to school on Tuesday morning. The deposits are processed on Thursday during the morning and the bank books returned to students by their class teacher. Please note that we are unable to process cheques. For every deposit you make, you will receive a token. When you receive 10 tokens you can redeem them for a prize.

*Any parent wishing to open a Commonwealth account for their child may collect an information package from the school office.*
**Diocesan and Community News**

**CERDON COLLEGE MERRYLANDS**  
Aspire to Great Heights

**OPEN DAY**  
Tuesday 8 March 2016  
Come along anytime between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Sherwood Road Merrylands  
Telephone: 8724 7300  
cerdon.nsw.edu.au

**Enrolments for Year 7 2017**

Cerdon College is currently receiving applications for Year 7 2017. An Enrolment Package may be obtained from the College. Packages will also be available at our Open Day on Tuesday 8 March.

Priority of enrolment is given to Catholic students from local schools and parishes.

All applications should be received at the College Office by **Friday 20 May**. Applications received after this date may not be successful.

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**Calendar**

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<th>February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>9:10am Yr 5 &amp; Yr 3 Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week -Parent Learning Walk</td>
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**Birthday Wishes!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week

Angelina Wehbe, Ngor Mathiang, Tony Soukkar, Ying Chen,  
Joe Arida & Luciana Arida
**YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP**

CCSS Solo Parent Services’ Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not. **Next gathering:** 16th March. **Please note change of Venue:** Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, 1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** $5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

**STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED**

CCSS Solo Parent Services “Stepping Beyond” Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering:** 23rd February **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. **Cost:** $5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

**PLAY GROUP**

Every Tuesday Between 9-11:30am play group is run at Holy Family Primary

All welcome!

please bring your toddlers & preschool children along for some great fun play & learning.