Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Yesterday was Shrove Tuesday (pictured right). A more familiar name for this is Pancake Tuesday. It is the day before we celebrate Ash Wednesday, which is today and the beginning of Lent. In ancient times, Shrove Tuesday was the day that communities used up their supplies of cream, eggs and other special ingredients, before the 40 days of fasting of Lent.

Following Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday is a day of special fasting for those of us who are able to do without meat or special foods as a way of prayer and renewal in Christ. In classes, children will be discussing how they can become better people during Lent by trying to do things well or even giving up doing things that are poor choices. We hope that you can support your child in this decision and even join them in their quest to be people of peace, hope and love.

As a community, we will be marking the occasion of Ash Wednesday at a Whole School liturgy commencing at 6.00 pm tonight. During this liturgy, ashes will be placed on our foreheads made with the sign of the cross as a symbol of our Christianity. Ashes are referred to often as a gesture of penance and mourning.

These ashes come from the palms used during last year’s Palm Sunday celebrations. Ash Wednesday is unique in that it is the one time when we as Christians have a visible mark of identity placed on our skin, which we wear during the day.

There is a similarity between Baptism and Ash Wednesday in that the ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of a cross during Ash Wednesday while in Baptism oil was placed on our foreheads with the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday is a time for us to stop and repent. The words used as the ashes are placed on the forehead “Repent and believe in the Gospel” encourages us to reflect upon our sinfulness and calls for us to turn back to God during the season of Lent.

As Christians we are challenged to take stock of our lives and to reflect. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for meeting Christ in the Easter celebrations. Please join us if you can for this liturgy and to also celebrate with the students being presented for Sacraments this year and the presentation of badges to our School Captains.

School Sports Captains
The following students have been successful in being selected as our Sports Captain roles for 2015.
- St Mary’s – Reece Lehmann & Madison Martin (Captains) and Ben & Josh Sawyer (Vice Captains)
- St Joseph’s - Riley Willis & Lana Gregoric (Captains) and Luka Zanetic & Tia Efthimiou (Vice Captains)
- St Patrick’s – Eddie Day & Katelyn Hayes (Captains) and Isaac Dinning & Tia Koutouzis (Vice Captains)

These Captains will all be presented tonight with their badges at the end of Ash Wednesday Mass, which begins at 6pm.

Important Reminders
Please Check these Updates
www.olor.catholic.edu.au or www.facebook.com/olorverrantce

SchoolStream App
The one stop shop for OLOR information

UNIFORMS for 2015
Tri-state Renmark Stock is available
Please check on sizing as you may need to order for next year.

Dates for Your Diary
- Wednesday 18th Feb: Ash Wednesday/Captain badges and Sacraments Presentation
- Friday 20th Feb: Years 6/7 Assembly
- Friday 27th Feb: School’s Clean-up Day
- Thursday 19th March: Ride to School Day
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday 18th February** all families are invited to our Beginning School Mass Celebration at 6pm.

During the Mass the Sacramental children for 2015 will be presented to the community and the 2015 School Sports Captains/School Captains will be presented with their badges.

After Mass all families are invited to bring a picnic tea or purchase a meal from Gudge’s Fish and Chips Van located near the OLOR hall.

The items available from the van include; fish, prawn, calamari, chicken nuggets, bucket of chips and gravy.

BYO drink refreshments for your family.

The school hall/gym will be open with games for the children.

**Thank You**

A huge thank you to the families who donated goods and their time last weekend in support of the Junior Riverland Basketball Carnival. OLOR Canteen raised just over $1,200.00 that will go towards reducing the cost of the Year 6/7 Camp.

---

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

All weekend:-  Mardi Gras Historical Display, Schubert’s Shop Drabsch Street.

**Friday 27th February**

10.30am-4.00pm: Quilting Display, Uniting Church Hall.

**Saturday 28th February**

From 9.00am in East Terrace: a huge variety of stalls and food available.

10.00am: Fun and entertainment for children in East Terrace, plus live band music.

Craft Fair and Quilting display at Anglican and Uniting Church Halls.

10.45am: The parade, theme “back to the Future”, opens.

11.50am: Musical entertainment ands)

12.30pm: Announcements of winners for floats, shop display and ambassadors.

2.00pm onwards: Loxton’s fantastic new playground.

5.00pm-10.00pm: Nippy’s Loxton Gift at the oval.

**Sunday 1st March**

8.30am Mardi Gras Appreciation Service at the Rotunda in East Terrace.

---

**From the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities**

**Composite Classes**

Composite classes are often the topic of controversy and conversation amongst parents but are ‘composite classes good or bad for your child’? The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities has considered both sides of this passionate debate and has developed the following resource for parents.


---

**SACRAMENT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Reconciliation**

Wednesday 1st April

**First Holy Communion**

Sunday 31st May

**Confirmation**

Sunday 23rd August

---

**2015 RE News**

Fr. Paul Bourke: 85821894
pbourke@hotmail.com

Fr. Medard:  85866239
Fr. John Stuart James:  
85882452 ~ 0419176514

**MASSES TERM 1**

Thursdays 9.00 am
St Mary’s Church

**ASH WED**: Wed 18th Feb 6.00pm

Yrs 3/4 Mass: Thurs 5th March

Foundation Mass: Thurs 19th March – St Joseph’s Day

**EASTER PLAYS** – Thurs 2nd April