16th August 2013

Reflection

Feast of Assumption

Reading: Luke 1:46–48

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For all who are lowly and poor
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.
For all women, made in the image and likeness of God
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.
For mothers, nurturers of the image of God in their children
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.
For those who have died sharing, with Mary, Christ’s glory
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.
For all of us disciples of Jesus, your Son
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.

Let us pray.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

God of light, the Virgin Mary embraced
the gift of your Word and now shares his glory.
May we, too, embrace your Word of life,
Jesus Christ, your Son,

Dear Parents/Carers

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Australian Catholic University Conference earlier this week. There were many and varied presentations that were very affirming of what is happening in Australian Catholic schools. Catholic Education in Australia is ranked right up with education in Finland, Canada and Hong Kong, who are considered to be the best education systems in the world.

Here at Annunciation, we are very fortunate to have very experienced and committed teachers who are constantly striving to support every child in their care. The positive way the children engage in their learning is a credit to the skill of the teachers, the expectations placed on the children and supportive environment that is built in each learning situation.
Please take any opportunities to talk with and work alongside your child’s teacher. Parents and teachers need to have a ‘United Front’ to give children an optimum learning opportunity.

ASSUMPTION OF MARY
Yesterday was the feast of the Assumption of Mary, when we celebrate Mary’s life. Mary was taken body and soul straight to heaven at the end of her life. It was recognition that she had lived without sin and had said ‘yes’ to God, unconditionally throughout her life.
Most parents find it difficult to talk about God with their children. When special days in the Church year, like the Assumption, come around, they are opportunities to talk with your children about what they have learned and provide an opportunity for families to share their faith. It will mean so much more for children, if the learning at school, is fostered at home. Last week, there was a particular focus on Mary McKillop, Australia’s first saint. Ask your children to tell you what they can about Mary McKillop.

INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:
All the children in years 2 to 6 will be participating in the Spotswood District Sports Association Track and Field Carnival, next Thursday, August 22nd. We will be ensuring that each of our children will be competing in at least 2 events. It will be another opportunity for our children to compete and to socialize with other children from neighboring schools. Details are:
Date - Thursday August 22nd
Venue - Newport Park Athletics Track - North Road, Newport
Starting time - 9:15a.m.
Spectators are asked to make a gold coin donation at the gate.

We will be leaving for the sports right on 8:45am, so please ensure that your children are at school before that time.

PRAYER TIME ON MONDAYS
A reminder that each Monday morning, we begin our school week together with a whole school prayer in the shared area. Some parents have already attended one or two of these and we would like to think that many more do, in the future. This time is very quiet and reverent, with everyone entering, participating and leaving respectfully. Come along and start your week in reflective prayer, with the children.

SCHOOL FEES
Just a friendly reminder that Term 3 fees are now due. If you want to discuss arrangements about payments please see either Barry or Connie. Thank you for your co-operation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 19th</td>
<td>Book Week begins – Kym Lardner presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents and Friends’ Meeting at 7p.m. (Men at 6:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21st</td>
<td>Yrs. 5/6 to Caroline Chisholm College’s Musical Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22nd</td>
<td>Yrs. 2 – 6 – Sports day at Newport Athletics Track</td>
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<td>August 25th</td>
<td>First Communion</td>
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<td>August 29th</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Stall</td>
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<td>August 30th</td>
<td>Dads and Kids Night 6:00p.m.</td>
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Calendar Dates for Term 3, 2013

ICT FOR PARENTS
Want to be cybersmart and learn some new skills to help yourself and your child/ren at home?
Or maybe you need to update your resume, print something or want to play with an iPad?

If yes, then come along for a cuppa/learning session each Thursday morning at 9am in the computer/Italian room. Let Connie in the office know if you’re interested. Hopefully we’ll see you soon!

Have no skills!! Then come along and see what you can learn!! You will be surprised at just how easy it is!!!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Chocolate Drive:
The chocolate drive has now finished. If you still have chocolates and or monies that you have not returned, could you please do so immediately. It is now time to finalise our account and your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. If you feel you can sell more chocolates, please Connie at the office. We will advise of final figure raised for chocolate drive in next newsletter. Thankyou to all the families for taking part in this fundraiser.

Father’s Day:
Every family should have received their raffle tickets which were sent out earlier in the week. If you want more tickets these are available from the office. There will be other activities for father’s day coming up. Thursday 29th August, the father’s day stall will be held. Friday 30th August the dad’s and kid’s night. This was a great success last year and a very enjoyable night, so keep this date in mind and consider coming along.

THANK YOU PARENTS AND FRIENDS
The Parents and Friends group raise money to support our school. We have just placed an order for brand new contemporary classroom furniture for the Foundation/Year One classroom. Won’t the children be excited! This furniture will be delivered before the end of this term. The parents and Friends group plan and work for every child at Annunciation. Please continue to support their efforts.
The next meeting of the group is to be held next Monday evening, August 19th, at 7pm. All parents are always welcome.

FOOTY LEADERBOARD – After Round 20
129 Scarlett Ennis
127 Chris Hynes
125 Susan Ennis
124 Barry Ennis
122 Frances G.
120 Nour Ollaik
119 Jack Heaney
116 Dominic G.
115 Connie C.
114 Les Cornwill
109 Chemel El-Hout, Rosemary Loft
106 Dora Johnson, Connie V.
102 Joseph Bawitha
101 Phillip Picoula
96 Erin Cornwill
94 Emma Griffiths
93 Shaun Cornwill
82 Katy Hall

Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop
How you can think, plan and achieve goals for your child and family.
The Association for Children with a Disability is running a workshop near you.
How can you create a fulfilling life with choices, purpose, friendship and happiness? If you want to take the lead in achieving these goals for your child (0-18) and family, then this workshop is for you! Build on the strengths and skills you already have as a parent to better identify, plan and achieve your goals. Our presenters are parents of a person with a disability so they do understand issues from a family perspective.

**Details for ‘Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop in Footscray**

**Date:** Wednesday 21st August 2013  
**Time:** 9.30am – 2.45pm  
**Venue:** West Footscray Neighbourhood House  1/539 Barkly Street West Footscray 3012.   Book at www.trybooking.com/45865 or phone the office on 9818 2000.

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**BOOK WEEK**

Book Week is the longest running children’s festival in Australia, celebrating its 65th birthday in 2013. The dates for Book Week 2013 are Saturday 17th – Friday 23rd August.

At Annunciation we are starting off book week with a visit from Kym Lardner on Monday 19th August. He is a world renowned author, a performer and a story teller.
Kym is bringing some of his books and CD’s to sell on the day. They will be $25 each for anyone who wants to purchase them.