LIWARA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Prayer:
Gracious God
Bless all those who are beginning or returning to their roles at Liwara and all those who support them in their efforts.
May this school year be a time of grace and potential as they teach, share and challenge others to grow in faith, knowledge and wisdom.
Bless the students their parents and carers as they begin a new school year.
May their minds be open to learning and to the wonder of discovery and insight.
Be with us all as we embark on this new year. Amen.

Reflection:
“We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success; we often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.”
SAMUEL SMILES

It is my pleasure to welcome new and continuing families to the beginning of the 2014 School year, with a special welcome to the families who have their first child beginning in Kindergarten. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces streaming into the grounds on Monday and it has been lovely meeting many parents in the first few days of the year. I thank you for all your warm words of welcome to Liwara Catholic School and may the time ahead be fulfilling for all.

We commence a new journey on the back of the many new and existing positive, learning experiences, adventures and challenges the students were involved with in 2013. These experiences cannot occur without the support of family and friends and, as Principal, I acknowledge this wonderful partnership, we share in the Liwara community. Student success is also directly linked to quality teaching and at Liwara, passionate teachers not only focus on academic outcomes but also the individual learner. It is one thing for a teacher to be academically knowledgeable but equally important that the teacher ‘know the child’.

I thank all who have facilitated a smooth transition into the new school year. The students for their enthusiastic approach to school on the first day, the parents for ensuring their children were well prepared and ready to start with all their belongings and the staff who have put in many hours of their holidays to ensure all was in readiness to welcome the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated P&F Committee who have been instrumental in funding the two new natural playgrounds, as nature play promotes physical activity, promotes social interaction, supports creativity & problem solving and encourages interaction with nature. Research undertaken at the University of WA and around the world has found “......nature play has been associated with a number of health benefits for children, such as improved cognitive function, increased creativity, improved interaction with adults, reduced attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms and reduced rates of aggression.”

I extend a warm welcome to Claire Bristow, Kristy Graffin, Angela Gray, Natalie Pin, Talea Graves and Sharryn Scivolo who have joined our staff in 2014.
**SCHOOL PRAYER**

Our first whole school prayer service for 2014 will be conducted on Monday afternoon February 10th at 2.30pm in the All Saints Church. Year 5 will lead the prayer and parents are welcome to join us for this time of prayer and reflection.

**ASSEMBLY**

The first assembly for the year will be held on Friday March 21st at 9.00am in the Aherne Centre. The Year 5 students will lead and present the assembly items. Parents are most welcome to join us for the assembly and the presentation of awards.

**FIRST MASS**

On Friday morning 7th February at 9.00am we will gather as a Liwara community in the All Saints Church to celebrate our first school Mass for 2014. Students from Year 1-6 will attend. I invite all members of the Liwara Community to join us as we pray for the well-being of our school and to look to God our Father to bless us, guide us and empower us as we begin the school year. May the gifts of God’s spirit be alive and practised in every aspect of our school life in 2014.

**PARENT INFO NIGHT**

The PP—Year 6 teachers will conduct two information sessions for each year level on Wednesday 19th February. Parents are asked to attend one of these sessions. The teacher will repeat their presentation twice on the same night to accommodate parents who have children in more than one class. While this will work for the majority of families there will be a small number of parents who will need to contact the class teacher whose session you were not able to attend to get a copy of the information that was presented. It is important that at least one parent attends these meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SESSION TIME</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>5.30—6.00pm</td>
<td>PP-Yr6 In Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 19th</td>
<td>6.15—6.45pm</td>
<td>PP-Yr6 In Classrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INSTRUMENTAL TUITION**

Instrumental tuition for those enrolled in the program will commence in Week 2—with the exception of some guitar students who will not commence lessons until Week 3. Your child’s tutor will send you the timetable later this week. If your child is not starting lessons until Week 3 Mrs Rose will contact you via email.

**REACH TESTING**

An independent consultant will be at the school on Tuesday 11th February to undertake general testing of the children in Years 3 & 4, as well as any children from Years 5 & 6 who have missed previous testing. The result of the testing will be used, in part, to identify children for the REACH program. If your child is in Year 3 or 4 it is important that they arrive at school on time. There is no requirement for practice or study for these tests. Thank you for your assistance.

**NEW FAMILIES NIGHT**

On Friday evening February 14th at 7:00pm the P and F are hosting a night for the new parents who joined our school community this year. Invitations will be sent out to parents who have their first child starting Kindy or have children enrolled in one of the other year levels. I encourage these families to take the opportunity to meet other families and allow us to welcome you to Liwara.

I thank the P and F Committee members who are catering for this event and who will be present to share fellowship with the new members of the Liwara community. It is the start of what we hope will be a rewarding journey.

**SCHOOL HOURS**

Bell times for children in Yrs PP–Yr6 from Monday to Friday in 2013 are as follows.

- First Bell 8.45am
- Recess 10.35am—11.00am
- Lunch 12.40pm—1.20pm
- End of school 3.00pm

*Please note the change in the recess times.*

I would encourage parents to ensure their children are punctual and ready to start school at 8.50am. There is no class or grounds supervision before 8.30am. Parents are advised that children are not to be on the premises before 8.30am. As the school now has an Out of School Hours Care service, I advise parents if children are at school earlier than 8.30am they may be directed to a supervised area and parents will be required to register their children and be charged for the care provided. We try to manage the safety risk to our children and it is not appropriate for children to be on school grounds when supervision is not being provided. I thank you in anticipation of your cooperation with these arrangements.
**WELCOME LETTER FROM TIM McDonald**

A welcome letter from Tim McDonald can be viewed on the Liwara Website at the following address:  

**NEWSLETTERS**

This is the only paper copy of the newsletter that will be issued to all families in 2014. All subsequent newsletters will be available electronically via an email link to the school’s website on a Thursday. It is important that we have an up to date email address for you. A small number of paper copies of the newsletter will be available through the school office for families who are experiencing difficulties receiving them via electronic means. No newsletters will be distributed through the classes. Normally our school newsletter is published on the even numbered weeks and the P and F newsletter will be published if needed on the odd numbered weeks of term.

**MEDICAL ALERT**

This year we have several children who are severely allergic/anaphylactic to peanuts and egg. **ANAPHYLAXIS** is a severe and sudden allergic reaction which requires immediate medical attention and can be fatal.  
The slightest contact with products containing peanuts/nuts or even the smell alone, can initiate this life threatening reaction.  
We are asking you, as parents, **NOT** to provide Peanut Paste, Nutella, Nut Muesli Bars, Tiny Teddy White Choc Dipper or any other products containing nuts or nut extracts to your children whilst at school. If these products are consumed at home before attending school, could you please make sure that hands and faces are thoroughly cleaned.  
Products that don’t have nuts as an ingredient, but the label states “May contain traces of nuts” are OK to have at school.  
As a caring community we need your support to ensure the safety of all children.

**CANTEEN**

Welcome back to school for 2014. Please continue to use the Term 4 Canteen Menu for now. New menus will be out in a couple of weeks.  
Please come into the Canteen to put your name on the volunteer list for help in the canteen.

**SIGN IN / OUT PROCEDURE**

We begin the 2014 year with a slightly new procedure for students who arrive late to school and/or leave during the school day for appointments etc.... All students who arrive late and parents with younger students arriving late, must go to the office first to get a slip which must be given to the class or specialist teacher when the student arrives at the class. If a parent /carer comes to take a student out early, a sign in slip must be filled in and given to the teacher before the students is released into their care. I thank you for your cooperation with this as it ensures that the whereabouts of the students are always known to the school.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Tuesday February 4th & April 8th 2:30-3:30 pm  
Order forms are available online under uniform shop on the school website. Orders can be faxed or handed into the office with full payment and will be dropped off at your child’s class on Tuesday morning’s.

**BEFORE SCHOOL/AFTER SCHOOL VACATION CARE SERVICE**

If you are interested in finding out more information about the service or expressing an interest in enrolling your child contact the school office or the centre supervisors Deborah Salame or Jesse Walls on 0488 083 657.
Parent Seminar

Building Resilience and Self Esteem in Today’s Children

Maggie Dent is an author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist with particular interest in the early years and adolescence.

Maggie will talk to parents about building resilience in children. Her seminars are highly sought after and the school has been fortunate to secure this presentation. There are limited places for this seminar and bookings must be made. Hurry now to book your place!!!!

DATE: Wednesday 12 February 2014
TIME: 7.30pm—9:30pm
COST: $10 per person
VENUE: Ahern Centre

Send in the order form below and money to school office. Alternatively, contact Wayne Tardrew on 0448553733 or email tardrew@westnet.com.au to reserve your place.

Please complete the form below and return to the office with your payment. Please mark envelope ‘Maggie Dent Seminar’. Book early to secure your place.

FAMILY NAME ..................................................................................................CONTACT NUMBER

OLDEST CHILDS NAME / ..................................................................................CLASS

NUMBER OF TICKETS .......................... AT $10 each= $..................(amount enclosed)