Dear Parents and Friends,

**Community Council Community Event**
Join us tomorrow afternoon for the Community Council Start of Year Soiree from 3.20 pm to 5.00 pm. Come for a little while or come for the whole time! It will be a great opportunity for the kids to have a play, for you to meet the teachers in an informal setting and to keep building our inclusive and supportive community. The Community Council will provide a free sausage sizzle, a free jumping castle and some great company! Bring some chairs or a blanket, some afternoon tea, drinks and your community spirit! We will be gathering in the Kinder/Year 1 playground.

**Principals’ Retreat**
Next Wednesday 2 March to Friday 4 March, I will be attending the annual Archdiocesan Principals’ Retreat in Bowral. All 57 Archdiocesan Principals will meet with Catholic Education system leaders on Wednesday to discuss this year’s CEO strategic plan, procedures and policies. Thursday and Friday will be an opportunity for principals to be nourished spiritually while we are led in a spiritual retreat by our Archbishop, Christopher Prowse. I ask you to keep me in your prayers during this time and I thank Ms Cathy Talbot and the Leadership Team for leading the school during my absence.

**Community Council Funds**
The funds raised through Community Council events such as the Walkathon, Fete, Easter Egg Raffle and Disco are used each year for school improvements, resources such as classroom readers and other projects identified by the Community Council Executive and the wider school community through the annual survey. This year we have already committed funds to the following school improvement projects, some of which have already been actioned and some which are scheduled to occur soon:

- Re-seeding the oval to provide a green oval all year round (see below for more details)
- Courtyard refurbishments including:
  - Constructing and painting the new Chicken Taj Mahal
  - Refurbishing the pond so it can once again be home to some fish
  - Purchasing equipment for the lunchtime ‘Courtyard Club’ to use—dress ups, musical instruments, puppets, building equipment, sensory games
  - Creating a blackboard for the children to draw on
- Installation of new equipment on both the junior and senior playground to add to the existing permanent play equipment

**Oval Refurbishment**
It has been a long time coming, but we have now committed to the oval being over-sown with a hardy green grass which will allow the oval to remain green all year round. The turf laid in the original oval refurbishment was designed to lay dormant in the cold winter months, but this of course left the oval looking unsightly and rather brown! After consultation and deliberation, we will begin the process or over-sowing on Monday 29 February. The Year 2-6 children will be off the oval at playtime that day, but will be able to use the oval again from Tuesday 1 March until Friday 4 March as the seed will not yet be germinating. From Monday 7 March until Friday 18 March the children will be relocated at playtimes to the play equipment area and the top netball courts to give the seed a chance to germinate. This is your Community Council raised funds at work!

**Community Council Committee Coordinators**
We are looking for parents/carers to fill the positions of Environment Committee Coordinator and 2016 Fete Coordinator. Please give some thought to see if you could fulfil either of these roles this year. You don’t have to do it on your lonesome—grab and friend and have some fun with it! We will be eternally grateful. Please contact Rebecca Parton at council.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au if you are interested or would like some more information.

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Words have wings so speak good things.

25 February • Week 4 Term 1 • 2016
New Payment System
St Matthew’s is about to launch a new, more convenient way for parents and carers to make payments to the school. Qkr! (pronounced ‘Quicker’) is a mobile payment app which will enable you to order and pay for school fees, canteen orders and uniform orders directly from your smart device. Qkr accepts all major credit and debit cards accepted by the school (Visa and MasterCard) and you can register more than one card within the app. The Qkr app is available from the Apple App Store and Google Play. If using an iPad you can download the iPhone version of Qkr. You can download and register for Qkr now and start making payments right away.

We are hoping that over time Qkr will become the preferred payment method for all payments by families to our school. This payment method does not require the payee to have money sitting in the account—it simply comes off your credit/debit card. You can start to play school fees using Qkr today, and will be able to use it for canteen orders from the start of Term 2. We will phase out FlexiSchools over the next few months.

More information about this will be sent home next week.

I ask our God of all blessing to continue to be with us as we journey through Lent towards Easter.

Brenda Foley
Principal
brenda.foley@cg.catholic.edu.au

Good News

Sacramental Program 2016 Registration Evening

Attention all Catholic families, connected with St Matthew’s Parish Page, who have children eligible to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this calendar year.

The sacramental program has a slightly different format this year so it will be important that you attend this meeting to listen to the information being presented and make a decision regarding your child’s sacramental journey.

REGISTRATION EVENING is Wednesday 2 March at St Matthew’s Church 6.00 pm – 6.45 pm.

The Registration Fee for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be $50 for each Sacrament - payable to the parish. Receipts will be made available on payment.

If for some reason you are not able to attend this night please contact with Sr Mary Corkeron on 0427 473 290.

Yours in Truth and Love,

Sylvia Campbell
Religious Education Coordinator
sylvia.campbell@cg.catholic.edu.au

Canteen News

Our new canteen manager
Patricia Badawi has joined us from working as a canteen manager in the southside of Canberra, and brings a wealth of experience and ideas that will wipe away the kids’ “home-packed lunch blues". Patricia is ably supported by Mary O’Shea Roche and a team of parent helpers who volunteer their time and energy each week. Welcome Patricia and thanks to our amazing canteen helpers!

 Helpers needed
We are in need of additional volunteers who can spare a few hours each week to keep our fantastic canteen running smoothly. Being a canteen helper is a great way to get to know other parents, especially for families new to St Matthews.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Patricia or the Community Council mailbox with the days and times you are available to help out. You can also fill in the form we have sent home today. Some people volunteer from 9am—11am or from 11am—1pm. The canteen is open Tuesday – Friday, but help is also needed at times to prepare for special events.

patricia.elbadawi@cg.catholic.edu.au
council.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au

Menu and price changes
Some minor changes will be made to the canteen menu in coming weeks with the introduction of some additional Gluten Free options.

A recent review of canteen menu and prices has identified that the price of some menu items need to be adjusted, increased in some cases and decreased in others. These price adjustments will be the first for some years and reflect the changing cost of sourcing particular brands. Of course, every effort has been made to keep prices as reasonable as possible for families.

We will survey the school community in the coming weeks to find out your thoughts on the canteen and menu. Be prepared to share your ideas!!
Ten ways to Celebrate Lent at Home

In the early Church, Lent began as a period of intense preparation for those preparing for baptism. Today it is celebrated as a period of repentance and renewal for all Christians as they prepare to celebrate Easter.

1. Talk it over
On Ash Wednesday gather as a family or household for a simple meal (in keeping with the Lenten fast). Table topic: What does Lent mean to you and what practical steps will you take in your Lenten observance this year?

2. Set up a sacred space
Set up a sacred space in a corner of your home. Spread a purple cloth on a small table. Add a bible and a candle, a bean bag or chair nearby. Make it a restful and inviting place where members of your household can go, whether alone or in company, to read the scriptures.

3. Pool family funds
As a family or household adopt a Lenten project. This might be Project Compassion or a particular project such as the building of a hospital or school in an impoverished town. Invite household members to contribute a portion of their income or pocket money each week during Lent towards this cause. Give from your substance not just your surplus.

4. Hold simple meals
Come together for the simplest of meals during the week. Invite a different family member to prepare the meal each week. Discover joy and creativity in plain foods: bread, rice, water. Be mindful of those who hunger. Talk about how your Lenten plans are progressing.

5. Organize a family action
Pool your talents and resources to assist someone in your local neighbourhood. This might involve mowing the lawn of an elderly person or serving meals at a shelter for the homeless.

6. Make Sundays special
Sunday is the Day of the Lord. During Lent make an effort to celebrate it well, uncluttered by work and activities of your regular week. Include rest, prayer, Mass, time for family and friends.

7. Celebrate the saints
Buy a book on the saints (or search the internet) and read a short excerpt each night, perhaps just after dinner and while everyone is still seated at table. This needn’t be a long reading, just enough to spark a few thoughts and comments. Close with a short prayer, calling on the chosen saint of that evening to pray with you.

8. Gaze upon the cross
Take a special cross or crucifix (the kind designed for hanging on a wall) and give it in a prominent place in your home. If you don’t have such a cross, buy or make a rustic one out of two bits of wood. During Lent stop to touch or look at the cross as you go about your day. At family prayer time, bring it down and pray with it. Use it to bless or commission a member of your family before an important event.

9. Gather your friends
Invite some friends to your home for a couple of hours each week during Lent. Use that time to reflect and pray together.

10. Say sorry
Make forgiveness a natural part of your Lenten journey. Look for everyday ways to say ‘sorry’—in word and gesture—for the ways we have hurt one another.

Family Prayer

Lenten Steps
‘Follow the way of love, the example of Christ who loved you.’
Ephesians 5:2

Theme
Lent is a time for doing special things to show our love for God and each other. At Lent we open our hearts to God, we say sorry for our sins, and we prepare to celebrate the greatest Christian feast of all: Easter.

Prayer
Make the sign of the cross and pray:

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus, who showed us how to love each other.
We are sorry for the times we have not been kind to others.
Help us to love like Jesus did, especially during Lent as we prepare to celebrate Easter.
Amen.

Sharing
Look at a Lenten calendar together. There are many available online. See the link below for an online Lenten calendar linked to Project Compassion.
Pick out some actions you could try this week. Talk about how you might go about doing these Lenten actions.

Lent in a nutshell
• In the early Church, Lent began as a time of repentance for those preparing for baptism. Having experienced the call of conversion, they resolved to turn away from sin and embrace a gospel lifestyle. They were baptised at Easter.
• In our times, the period of Lent is a time of repentance and renewal for the whole Church. It is a time when we prayerfully take stock of our lives, turn away from all lifestyle habits that contradict the gospel and renew our commitment to Christ and each other.
### 2016 Class Representative Information

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<th>Kinder Maroon</th>
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<td>Sally Alexander 0431 909 651 <a href="mailto:nutsyk@gmail.com">nutsyk@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Natalee Withers 0452 221 929 <a href="mailto:nataleewithers@gmail.com">nataleewithers@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Fairlamb 0403 791 038 <a href="mailto:gavnkarie@gmail.com">gavnkarie@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Alissa Pearson 0411 589 900 <a href="mailto:pughalissa@yahoo.com.au">pughalissa@yahoo.com.au</a></td>
<td>Jenny Davenport <a href="mailto:jenny.davenport@bigpond.com">jenny.davenport@bigpond.com</a> Facebook group St Matthews Class of 2021</td>
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<td>Stephanie Vizzari <a href="mailto:svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au">svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au</a></td>
<td>Kylie McNamara 0425 235 177 <a href="mailto:kyliegmnamara@hotmail.com.au">kyliegmnamara@hotmail.com.au</a> Facebook group St Matthews Class of 2021</td>
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<td>Alison Dyer 0432 534 375 <a href="mailto:dyer.alison@hotmail.com">dyer.alison@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Kym Wilkinson <a href="mailto:tenniscoach@iinet.net.au">tenniscoach@iinet.net.au</a> Facebook group St Matthews year 6 – 2019</td>
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<td>Help needed!! 4B does not have a parent class rep yet. Please consider filling the role.</td>
<td>Jade Nguyen 0402 781 680 <a href="mailto:bibodragon@gmail.com">bibodragon@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Danni Liva 0431 569 565 <a href="mailto:danniliva69@gmail.com">danniliva69@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Leanne Sutherland 0423 770 111 <a href="mailto:leannelolapop@aapt.net.au">leannelolapop@aapt.net.au</a> Facebook group St Matthews Primary School – Class of 2017</td>
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<td>Kate Hayne 0400 272 107 <a href="mailto:khayne@grapevine.com.au">khayne@grapevine.com.au</a></td>
<td>Stephanie Vizzari <a href="mailto:svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au">svizzari@ruralfunds.com.au</a></td>
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**CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S SOCCER CARNIVAL**

Children from Years 3 - 6 are warmly invited to participate in the annual Catholic School’s Soccer Carnival. The carnival is designed for experienced as well as novice players and is an opportunity for schools and families to have a fun time together.

Football matches will be organised in a round robin format with no finals. Teams will play approximately 4 or more games over two halves with 8 players (Years 3 and 4) or 11 players (Years 5 and 6). Children will be placed in teams based on their ability.

*Please note that requests for children to be placed in their weekend soccer teams cannot be accepted. This makes it unfair for children not in weekend teams and takes away from the sportsmanship and fun of the event.*

The Carnival will take place on **Sunday 3 April 2016 at the University of Canberra in Bruce from 8:30 am, aiming to finish by 3:30 pm**

A registration form was sent home with each child in Years 3 - 6 today, and is due back with money to school on Thursday March 3. Unfortunately forms returned later than this date cannot be accepted as this is when we register.

**BELCONNEN PSSA SWIMMING**

Following our St Matthew’s Swimming Carnival, a number of children have qualified for the Belconnen PSSA Swimming Carnival. These children will be notified in the coming weeks. The carnival will be held at the AIS on Thursday 24 March (Week 8).

Rachel Powell
*Curriculum Coordinator*
rachel.fish@cg.catholic.edu.au
Hi Girls and Boys,

What a fabulous number of bankers we had last Friday. We had 91 students deposit money to their savings account. Great effort!!!!

Don’t forget “Banking Day” is every Friday morning at Assembly Line Up.

**NEW ACCOUNT AFTERNOON AT THE COMMUNITY BBQ SOIREE**

Parents, if you are wishing for your child to join the Commonwealth Bank school banking please bring along your driver licence and Susan from the Commonwealth Bank and I will be there to assist with the account opening process.

The following 2016 rewards will be available to view:

**Term 1**
Flying Snake Tail and Wildlife Writer Set

**Term 2**
Mud Splat Handball and Outback Pat Bag Tag

**Term 3**
Backtrack Eraser Pen, and Jump and Skip Rope

**Term 4**
Bush Fly Fan and Wriggly Glow Worm

**Win a wildlife family adventure holiday at Australia Zoo**

This year we’re giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

Find out more at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Banking Co-ordinator
Stephanie Burns

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**Congratulations**

Xabi Davies (Year 5) won the Coerver Player of the Year Under 11s for the 2015-2016 Coerver Soccer Academy. Congratulations Xabi!

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**Committee Coordinators NEEDED**

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to take on Committee Coordinator roles for the fete and environment committees for 2016.

*Each of these committees has a team of committed, experienced and enthusiastic parent volunteers to support you in the role.*

If you would like to be involved or like to find out more information, please contact

Rebecca Foster (Mum of Josephine Year 4) on

council.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au

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**BELSOUTH SOCCER CLUB**

Fun, Football and Family

**Rego now open for 2016**

Register via

http://www.myfootballclub.com.au

Belsouth offers fantastic programs for Peewees, MiniRoos, Junior Girls, Open Juniors, Senior Women and Men.
The Community Council will provide a free sausage sizzle for everyone. Bring along some drinks, a picnic blanket and some chairs for an afternoon of socialising and fun.

Friday 26 February 2016
3.20 pm to 5.00 pm

St Matthew’s Community Council
Start of Year Soiree

Come along to meet and chat with all the people in the extended St Matthew’s family on Friday 26 February from 3.20 pm—5.00 pm. Stay for as little or as long as you like! This will be a great opportunity for the kids to have a play, for you to meet the teachers and other parents in an informal setting and to keep building our wonderfully inclusive and supportive community.

Location:
Kinder and Year 1 Playground

St Matthew’s Primary School
Stutchbury Street
Page ACT 2614
This year Book Club will be fully embracing technology and all orders will need to be processed electronically, we will no longer be accepting cash or cheque payments for orders.

There are 2 options - online or through the app.


The process is straight forward from here:
1. Select the **ORDER** tab
2. Search for St Matthews
3. Start order
4. Select which issue you are ordering from
5. Add your child and select which class they are in
6. Type in the book code and quantity
7. When finished select **NEXT** and **NEXT** again if you are happy with your order
8. Process your payment
You are done - nothing needs to be sent to school. J

**For new app users** - search Book Clubs Loop For Parents in the app store for Apple users or Book Clubs Loop for android users.

1. Once downloaded sign into the app and you will need to add your child/children - do this by selecting the +Person icon, type in your child’s name, select the state and school - search St Matthews, select the class - and then press add.
2. You will need to do this for each child.
3. Once the child is added this is saved and you will just need to change your child’s class details at the beginning of each year.
4. To put through an order just select the ‘New Order’ tab on the home page and follow the prompts.
5. The app allows you to have an easy online record of previous orders - at the bottom of the home page you can select order history and it will show previous orders.

**For existing app users** - select **My Profile** at the bottom, select the people image at the top right and then either tap the person image to create a new child attending St Matthews or select your existing child and update which class they are in for 2016.

Any issues please don’t hesitate to contact me -

Nicole Mitchell (Kasey, Yr6 & Jasmine Yr2)
Nic.mitch@me.com
0413 968 499