



# St Gabriel's News

*A school for students with hearing impairment  
and other special needs  
within Edmund Rice Special Education Services*



**Newsletter No: 1**

**Date: 10th February 2012**

**Term 1 Week 2**

## Diary



**Tuesday, 21 February**

6.30—9.00 p.m. Parent

Teacher Evening

**Thursday, 23 February**

School Banking

**Friday, 24 February**

No Gilroy canteen

[www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au)

St. Gabriel's website has lots of useful information e.g. newsletters, uniform order forms and details of forthcoming events

## Principal's Message

Dear Families and Friends

Welcome back to 2012! I hope the holidays were very relaxing and enjoyable. We have come back to significant change in both St. Gabriel's and St. Edmund's. Enrolment numbers have increased as has staffing numbers. It always takes a little time for all our new people and students to adjust to their new schools. A great deal of energy has gone into sorting out classes. This goes way beyond academic ability. Our aim is to establish a group of students who not only gain from the social aspect but who offer something to one another educationally. That being said the class then has to accommodate a range of behavioural and emotional needs finally coming together as a teachable group. The first weeks of school are a telling time indicative of whether all the planning has worked. At this stage both schools are remarkably calm and happy places; there is a very positive atmosphere making the start of the year peaceful and very conducive to learning.

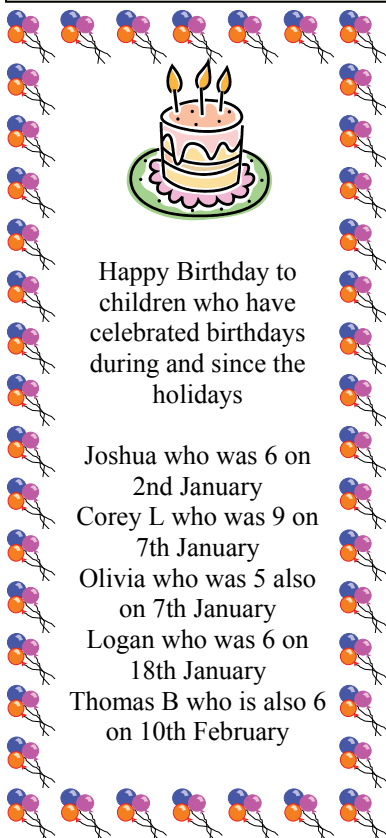
There is little time to indulge ourselves in too much reflection as the calendar is filling fast:

St. Gabriel's Parent/Teacher evening and supper is planned for Tuesday, 21st February (6.30 pm—9.00 pm). This is a very special occasion not to be missed. Not only will you learn much about your child's program and class, you will have the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of both staff and other parents. As a fairly new and growing community it is vital that you come along. The atmosphere is always so welcoming and fun.

St. Edmund's is hosting the annual Moving Women's Lunch on 16th March at the Hilton. As mothers and carers of those with disabilities this is your day. The aim of the day is to acknowledge the role you play in the care and nurturing of your children. Not only do your stories 'move' us, your determination, patience and persistence ensures that you also 'move' mountains to get the very best for your child. You are a very significant force within our society. Bring along your friends, aunts, mothers or just come yourself; I can confidently promise you the most wonderful day. It will be great to see St. Gabriel's and St. Edmund's coming together in a spirit of celebration and pride.

I look forward to meeting up with you all again!

Take care  
Kathy



Happy Birthday to children who have celebrated birthdays during and since the holidays

Joshua who was 6 on 2nd January

Corey L who was 9 on 7th January

Olivia who was 5 also on 7th January

Logan who was 6 on 18th January

Thomas B who is also 6 on 10th February

## Who's New at St Gabriel's

We would like to welcome all our new staff for 2012:



Frances Rispoli - Class Teacher of Upper R



Rachel Schepis - Class Teacher of Middle S



Valerie Gieules - Learning Support Staff



Tracie Richards - Learning Support Staff



Rhia Huett - Visual Arts



Candice Palin - Communication and Development Manager who will be working across both St. Gabriel's and St. Edmund's Schools

## Children's Awards

The following Awards were presented at our School Assembly

Week 2 Term 1 2012 (Monday, 6th February to Friday, 10th February)

Student of the Week:

Corey P for having a good attitude and trying his best to settle into his new class



### Class Awards

Junior N -	Joshua for doing his best to settle into classroom routines
Junior L -	Giuseppe for trying his best to listen and to follow the teacher's instructions
Middle S -	Xavier for trying his best to follow class rules
Middle W -	Scott for trying his best to listen to the teachers
Upper R -	Emma for speaking loudly and clearly in the classroom
Do Your Best Award:	Nicholas
Be Safe Award:	Aaron T
Care and Share Award:	Samir
Uniform Award:	Thomas E



### Labelling of students' property

It would be most helpful if parents could ensure that their child's lunch box and drink bottle are labelled with the child's name. It would also be helpful if the child's recess and lunch could be put in separate containers.

Labelling of other property including all uniform, iPads and even car seats/booster seats where these are loaned to the school, does help us ensure that things do not get lost.

Thank you for your support

### The "Go To" People at St Gabriel's

To help parents direct their questions to the right person so that issues are dealt with promptly, please note that with regard to:

#### Absences

These should be advised initially to the school office (Val or Jo) by telephone (9634 2367) or by e-mail on [argent@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:argent@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au) or [reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au). Once the child returns to school we would ask that parents write a note to the Class Teacher explaining the absence.

#### Special Transport/Uniform—Val

#### First aid/New enrolments—Jo

**Fundraising**—Candice Palin ([palin@erses.nsw.edu.au](mailto:palin@erses.nsw.edu.au))  
Sarah Quinn ([quinn@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:quinn@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au))  
Jo ([reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au))

**Any other school matters**—Dianne  
([hooke@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hooke@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au))

We do hope this helps!



**H.O.C.'s**

**Corner**

Welcome to all of our new and returning families! It's been a great pleasure to meet most of you this year and I look forward to getting to know you better and catching up at our parent teacher night.

With only 9 school days upon us so far, I am stunned by how well all the children have settled into the school timetable and have got to know new staff, new friends and new routines. All staff have worked beautifully together to prepare and organise welcoming classrooms and appropriate learning environments for each of our 5 classes this year. Despite the rain, the children are already engaged and learning and staff are excited about changes and growth they've observed even in these early days.

The 3 upper classes attended Mass at St. Bernadette's School this morning and were wonderful ambassadors for our school in every way possible. Warmth and belonging were the messages brought home to me at this opening Mass – the acceptance of just being ourselves in a wider spiritual community would have been felt by all.

I look forward to welcoming you again at our Parent Teacher night on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Until then,

Dianne



### Christmas Gift Wrapping at Castle Towers

Thank you so much to the wonderful staff and parent volunteers who so generously gave their time to help us with Christmas giftwrapping at Castle Towers. A big thank you to three parents in particular who did countless shifts - Selina Emanuel, Kylee Paddy and Belinda Rowe who tirelessly cut, wrapped and curled ribbon! An amount of \$4,469 was raised which is the highest ever achieved. Well done everyone!



### St Gabriel's 2012 Calendars

We hope you have all received your beautiful St Gabriel's 2012 calendar. If you would like to purchase more for family or friends, please contact the school office (Jo or Val) as extra copies are available at \$5.00 each

### St Gabriel's teaching staff for 2012

<b>Junior N:</b>	Teacher: Gosia Nowak	Learning Support Staff:	Nicky Lopez (a.m.) Tracie Richards (p.m.)
<b>Junior L:</b>	Teacher: Belinda Lu	Learning Support Staff:	Tracie Richards (a.m.) Selma Murphy (p.m.)
<b>Middle W:</b>	Teacher: Helen Ward	Learning Support Staff:	Selma Murphy (a.m.) Valerie Gieules (p.m.)
<b>Middle S:</b>	Teacher: Rachel Schepis	Learning Support Staff:	Valerie Gieules (a.m.) Michelle McCann (p.m.)
<b>Upper W:</b>	Teacher: Frances Rispoli	Learning Support Staff:	Michelle McCann (a.m.) Nicky Lopez (p.m.)
<b>Music :</b>	Deborah Boffa		
<b>Visual Arts :</b>	Rhia Huett		

