Our School Prayer

Dear Jesus

Saint Elizabeth brought care to the sick, food to the hungry and hope to those in need.
Grant us the blessing that we may follow in her footsteps with love and joy in our hearts,
to always be faithful and to serve with humility and compassion.

Amen

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new families in kindy, pre primary and year one. We thank you for choosing St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School and we look forward to working with you to support your child’s emotional, social, physical, spiritual and intellectual growth.
Also to our families returning this year. We hope you shared some beautiful and happy experiences with your children and we look forward to our continued positive partnership with you all.
This Newsletter contains important information for all of us to become active participants in the health, wellbeing and education of your child/ren. Great to see so many smiling faces and receiving lots of hugs. Many thanks to the parents for being so organised.

First Week

Wow! What a busy time for the first few days children, bags, boxes, mum, dads, grandparents, little ones and babies. So lovely to see you all. You will all be very happy to know if there are sobs and tears before and when you were leaving, the children quickly settled within five minutes. Congratulations to our staff for making the transition so smoothly. God bless you.

School Term One Planner

The Term One Planner is attached. Please note there will always be changes and additions – that’s the reality of school life. Please keep the Planner handy to keep yourself up to date. The Planner is also on our Website www.stelizabethhocking.wa.edu.au
I have included dates for the next three weeks that will be of importance to us all.

Tuesday, 9 February

Our Annual School Community Picnic will take place at 5:30pm, Tuesday, 9 February. Please bring along your own picnic, non-alcoholic drinks, picnic blanket and chairs.
At 6:00pm the teachers will have a Parent Information Night for approximately 25-30 minutes for the Kindy and Pre Primary classes.
This is a general information session to provide you the parents about the routines and an overview of their teaching programs and assessments. The teacher will meet with you individually in week four or five – further information will be provided on Tuesday. If you have a question please be brave and ask the teacher. Q&A time will start the Information Night. Remember all questions are important in the learning journey.
Wednesday, 10 February
Year One Parents, your Parent Information Night is at 6:00pm on Wednesday, 10 February. Please note you are all most welcome to attend the community picnic on the Tuesday, we would love to see you there.

Baby Sitting
Joan, Lea, Caitlyn, Naomi and myself will look after your child/children while you are at the meetings both on the Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Please note small babies in prams go with the parents, toddlers and school children remain with us. I know you will appreciate this support as the children can be very distracting.

2:00pm, Wednesday, 10 February – Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Father John will be here at 2:00pm next Wednesday to celebrate Ash Wednesday with the school community. Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the Liturgical Calendar and opens Lent, a season of fasting, penance and reflection which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us and they are a visible symbol of penance.

6:30pm, Wednesday, 17 February - AGM
We will be conducting our Annual General Meeting at this time. The School Board Chair, Principal and Parents and Friends Association will give their reports for the 2015 school year and where we are heading this year 2016. The Annual School Budget for 2016 will also be presented. I encourage you to come along and be informed about our school community. A light supper will be provided.

The following is important information to enable our school community to operate smoothly and effectively in partnership for the benefit of our children. Now that we have 59 students we all need to have a clear understanding of the expectations as we continue to grow.

Safety First
We, the staff want all the children; students and siblings to be safe. While the children are on the school premises I am responsible for our students. Therefore please as parents make the right choice. The rule is when you are walking your children to and from the carpark or on the footpath, the kindy and pre primary children must holding your hand. They can also hold on to the pram if you have a small child. The year one children must walk beside their parent. All children going to and from the carpark are to walk down the ramp. Running on all paving is not permitted for the safety of your child/ren. The oval, playground equipment and grassed areas are out of bounds unless the children are with a teacher for a planned learning experience.

Recess and Lunch -Lunch Boxes
The children are seated together at both recess and lunch time. We have three staff members on duty Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and two staff members on Monday and Friday. The children are seated together and must sit for a minimum of ten minutes to eat. Some children will take a little longer and are given the extra time to finish what they are eating. During this time they are permitted to speak using inside voices. Before the children are dismissed form eating, their lunch boxes are checked and if necessary we will encourage them to have a little more. The staff encourage them to eat a piece of fruit at recess time and some of their lunch at lunch time. They are not forced to eat everything in their lunch box, I encourage you not to laden their lunch boxes. Usually the children will eat well if they are hungry, however if you have concerns please speak to your child’s class teacher.

Early Mornings
Staff are busy during this time and they are responsible for the health and wellbeing of all students in their room. If you require more than a minute to talk to the teacher please make an appointment. Next week all email addresses will be sent out so you have contact with your child’s teacher. If you have something important and need to tell the teacher, please do not hesitate to do so regarding medical concerns or an issue that they should be aware of for the health of your child.
School Uniform
The full school uniform must be worn at all times. I have taken photographs of two children in our three year levels who are wearing the correct uniform and I have also attached a copy of the uniform requirements. If your child is not wearing the correct uniform you will receive a Uniform Infringement Notice which highlights the issue and I ask that you address our concerns as soon as possible.
Mary Jane or similar shoes are not part of our uniform and now that we are using the hardcourts and having physical education lessons these shoes are inappropriate.
Hair ribbons, headbands and ties must be in the school colours; red, grey or white. If your child has pierced ears please pop in studs, sleepers may cause injury if caught in something.
Well done to the majority of parents who send their children to school in the correct uniform every day. We appreciate your support.

Parent Code of Conduct
I have attached the Parent Code of Conduct and I would be interested in your feedback. You may email me with your response or suggestions to oshaughnessy.carmel@cathednet.wa.edu.au. Staff also have a Code of Conduct which is applicable to all staff who work in Catholic Education in Western Australia.

School Times
8:15am – doors open. Children follow the routine in the classroom. Parents are invited to read a book or construct a puzzle with their child.
8:25am – the bell will be rung for goodbyes and the children will sit on the mat waiting to begin class at 8:30am.
2:50pm – End of the school day. Parents, there is no need for you to be here before 2:40pm. However I do not mind you coming early to have a chat!

End of the Day
Parents of kindy children can wait inside the gate, however please keep away from the windows as this causes disruption in the classrooms. Pre Primary and Year One parents wait outside the gates. Pre Primary children will come out of the gate nearest the Pre Primary classroom as well as the Kindy children with their parents. Year One children will exit from the gate nearest the library. Please be assured the children will not be released until a parent is here.
Late to School
If you arrive to school at 8:30am I consider you to be late, you will need to come to the office to sign in and your child needs to take a slip back to the classroom with you.

Absent from School
The roll is taken by 8:45am and again at 1:15pm every day. If your child is sick and will not be attending school please ring us on 9303 7600 by 8:45am. You will need to write a sick note please for your child so that we can have it on file. If you are going on holidays please put the dates in writing to your class teacher. Thank you!

Adults other than Parents picking up your child.
Please inform the class teacher if your child is being collected by someone other than you, the parents. The staff will need the name of the person so that they can verify who they are before the child is released into their care.

Medication
All medication must be brought to the office and signed in. Mel will take responsibility for administering the medication at the appropriate time.

Allergies/Asthma
If you child suffers from an allergy or requires a Ventolin puff with a spacer please visit your local GP and obtain a medical plan which will be placed on file.

Camp Australia Before and After School Care.
We have an amazing Coordinator here, Krystal Nguyen who provides well planned activities for the children and they all love her! If you need child care Krystal is here from 6:30am and takes the children directly to the classrooms at 8:20am. In the afternoons Krystal picks the children up and looks after them until 6:00pm. The Camp Australia room is next to our kindy room. Please pop in and have a chat with her.

Thank you Pre primary and Year One Parents
What an amazing number of kindy parents who attended morning tea on their child’s first day at school. Thank you so much for coming along and catching up with each other. This is what community spirit is all about – ‘parents helping parents’. Many blessings to our pre primary and year one parents for the morning tea and friendly welcome.

Thank You to the Team
Well done and thank you to our staff for the hard yards you have put in to start the year off with all the classrooms well organised and your planning ready to go. Kim and Lea you have done a sterling job in kindy, five minutes of many tears on Wednesday morning and you were still smiling. Thank you all for your amazing support and jumping in and taking what comes in the true spirit of our faith. Mel Dimond, Joan Martino, Caitlyn Irwin, Kim Manov, Lea Hardie, Kate Masarei, Naomi Clarkson, Jenni Brown and Robert Agacy. Thank you Pia Tilka for coming into pre primary for the last three days. We appreciate your support at such short notice.

‘May God keep us safe in the palm of his hand’

Carmel O’Shaughnessy
Carmel O’Shaughnessy
Principal