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School No. 1577

“Grow in Grace”

Issue No. 40

Thursday 11th December 2008

St. Peter's Lutheran Primary School, Dimboola

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD CHRISTMASSES!

As one of five children born to missionary parents, my perspective of Christmas is probably both different from and yet the same as yours! I remember simple, Christ based Celebrations! A real tree was adorned with tasteful decorations that symbolized the Christian themes of the Christmas message. We would light the candles on the tree and gather around to praise God with carols. Dad and Mum would read us the Christmas Story of Jesus' Birth. While we received cards and gifts, the emphasis was never on Santa or presents. In fact, one Christmas morning, a different visitor upstaged Santa. During the night while we slept, a strong gust of wind blew our tree over. In the morning we children busied ourselves picking up the broken ornaments. When Dad finally got out of bed he lifted the tree. Imagine Mum's horror, our excitedness and Dad's rapid reaching for the wood-stove iron poker when we saw a black venomous snake curled up underneath where the tree had lain. (Later we measured it to be 4 feet long.)

We always attended the Church Services where we worshipped in the local Indigenous Languages of whatever region of Papua New Guinea we lived in at the time. In one region, attending services involved an hour-long trek through the jungle downhill to church in a village by the sea. In the open-air, thatched roof church we sat on rough narrow planks a few inches off the ground. The rolling waves provided background sounds to the worship. After church we hiked back up the hill to go home. On Christmas Eve this was done in the dark by torchlight!

Mum always prepared a simple tasty meal appropriate to the facilities available to us i.e. no electricity, no shopping facilities. We also indulged in the traditional Christmas shaped Honey biscuits which we made and decorated according to Grandma's recipe.

As we grew older we helped more with the preparations and at boarding school which I attended from the age of 8-18, we would busily handcraft our gifts and cards for family members.

Even now my ideal Christmas involves many of those same traditions (snakes and jungle hikes & even handcrafts aside). Christmas for me is about Jesus' Birth - not the commercial practises, although I do love the pudding and brandy sauce!

I pray that each of you will experience true Peace and Joy as again we celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, God's Son. God Bless!

Sharon Kroehn

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Dimboola Lutheran Parish

Sunday 14th December

*9am Katyil (HC) * 11am Dimboola (HC)

All welcome.

This week we are praying for both the Smith and the Wouter families.

GRADUATION

Can parents all please bring in a plate of supper for after the service, thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Thursday 11th End of Term 4
Graduation 7:30pm

JANUARY

Saturday 31st Working Bee 9am

FEBRUARY

Monday 2nd Term 1 commences

Friday 6th P & F BBQ

Friday 27th Swimming Carnival

OFFICIAL UNIFORMS FOR GRADUATION

Official Uniforms are to be worn for the Graduation on Thursday 11th December. Boys requirements are: grey shorts, blue button up shirt, grey socks and clean black shoes. Girls requirements are: summer dress, white socks, clean black shoes.

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property box is overflowing. After the holidays these items are to be put in the secondhand box, so if you feel you are missing an item, please come in to claim it and please put a name inside it.

P & F BBQ

Each year the P & F hold a BBQ to welcome new families to school, this gives them a chance to meet other people from within the school. This is on Friday 6th February. Venue to be confirmed, this will be published in the newsletter.

PARENTING FOR RESILIENCY

Mr. Kroehn is interested in showing a DVD entitled 'Parenting for Resiliency' Resiliency helps your child:

- Bounce back from adversity
- Persist when faced with challenges
- Overcome disappointment
- Achieve more at school
- Handle rejection
- Be happier and more cheerful

A session will be held on Friday 30th January 2009 commencing at 9am and finishing at approximately 11am.



Wimmera Uniting Care
and
St Vincent de Paul Society
offer
Christmas Good Will

To those whose income is affected by drought
by means of vouchers to be used in these local businesses

- Dimboola Café
- Dimboola Footwear
- Hair on Lloyd
- Dimboola IGA Supermarket
- Jozlyn's Variety Store
- Kayl's Hair Place
- Mensland
- Dimboola Newsagency
- Dimboola Pharmacy
- Dimboola Quality meats
- Wimmera Bakery



Voucher contact - 0428.172 290 or 0418 308 623

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to Anna for Friday 10th
and Corey for 29th December. During January we have
Olivia on 7th January, William on 16th January. Happy
Birthday!

JENNY MACKAY

Jenny Mackay will be having her final session with staff
members on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January 2009.

CELEBRATION DAY

What a wonderful day, the weather was perfect and
everybody had a great time! Thank you to St. Vincent de Paul
Society for the donation to make this happen.

PUBLIC NOTICES

DISCO

This is to be the last disco for 2008.
Friday 12th December (tomorrow night)
**** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE ****
Prep-3 7-8:30pm
4-6 8:30-10pm
\$4 entry.
Glow sticks available, Christmas theme.

Summer Reading Club 2009

Get in the Game- READ

Fun and games with the Summer Reading Club, for
ages 5 to 16+ will begin from the 1st of December -
15th February 2009.

Register at the Dimboola Library and be in the
running to collect give-a ways and prizes.
Thanks Deb Margetts.

Dimboola - Nhill Basketball Challenge Sunday 14th

In what has become an annual event in recent years,
the Dimboola and Nhill Basketball Associations will
clash at the Dimboola Sports Stadium on **Sunday 14th
December** for the first official Saxton Rural - Dimboola
& Nhill Basketball Challenge perpetual trophy.

With boys and girls teams from Years 9 & 10 and Years
11 & 12 from each College competition plus Men and
Women there is sure to be plenty of action
throughout the afternoon with the first match (Years
9&10 Girls) to tip off at 12.30pm and the last at 5.30pm
with the Men's match.

