

St Michael's Parish School Ashburton

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QUIS UT DEUS - WHO IS LIKE GOD -

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE www.smashburton.catholic.edu.au

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 3RD MARCH 2011

05/11

DIARY DATES 2011

MARCH 2011		
Fri 4 th		Yr. 3, 4, 5 & 6 swimming
Fri 4 th	5-7.00pm	School Enhancement Evening
Sun 6 th	9.00am	Mass & Youth Activities Day
Mon 7 th	2.30pm	Classroom helpers workshop-Victory Room
Tues 8 th	6.30pm	Yr. 3 Sacramental Meal in the Hub
Tues 8 th		Shrove Tuesday
Wed 9 th	10.00am	Ash Wednesday Mass
Fri 11 th		WSB Launch 2011
Fri 11 th		Yr. 3, 4, 5 & 6 swimming
Fri 11 th	2.45pm	Assembly in the Hub
Mon 14 th		LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues 15 th	10.00am	Arts Project Community Meeting
Tues 15 th	5-7.00pm	Open Evening
Wed 16 th	9-11.00am	Open Morning
Wed 16 th		Lacrosse Clinic Yr 4-6
Thurs 17 th		Interschool Sport Yr. 5/6
Thurs 17 th	11.00am	Catholic Education Week Mass @ St. Patricks Cathedral
Fri 18 th		Yr. 3, 4, 5 & 6 swimming
Sun 20 th	11.30 -1.30	Open Morning
Sat 19 & Sun 20	6.30, 9 & 10.30	Yr. 1/2 Masses
Mon 21 st		Yr 3 & 4 Incursion-Lorraine Nelson Indigenous Artist
Mon 21 st	2.30pm	Classroom Helpers Workshop/Victory Room
Tues 22 nd		School Photos**
Tues 22 nd	7.30pm	School Advisory Council (SAC)
Wed 23 rd		Yr 1 & 2 Excursion to Botanical Gardens
Fri 25 th		Yr. 3, 4, 5 & 6 swimming
Fri 25 th	2.45pm	Assembly in the Hub
Fri 25 th		Trivia Night -PFA
Mon 28 th	6.00pm	Maintenance Committee Meeting
Tues 29 th	7.30pm	First Eucharist Parent Info
Wed 30 th	9.30am	Principal Presentation
APRIL 2011		
Fri 1 st		Yr. 3, 4, 5 & 6 swimming
Sat 2 nd		School Enhancement Morning
Wed 6 th		First Reconciliation
Wed 6 th	7.30pm	PFA Meeting in Staffroom
Thurs 7 th		First Reconciliation
Thurs 7 th	7.00pm	Principals Presentation in Supper Room
Fri 8 th		WSB Fruit Morning
Fri 8 th	2.45 pm	Assembly & PFA Easter Egg Draw
Fri 8 th	3.30pm	Term 1 ends
Thurs 21 st		Holy Thursday
Fri 22 nd		Good Friday
Sun 24 th		Easter Sunday
Mon 25 th		Easter Monday/ANZAC Day
Tues 26 th		ANZAC Day holiday
Wed 27 th		School Closure Day Staff PL
Thurs 28 th	8.50am	Term 2 commences

A Prayer for Trust
O Christ Jesus,
When all is darkness
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,
Give us the sense of Your presence,
Your love and your strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
In your protecting love
And strengthening power,
So that nothing may frighten or worry us,
For, living close to you,
We shall see your hand,
Your purpose, your will through all things.
Saint Ignatius of Loyola



Congratulations Prep HMI!

All families in this class have requested their newsletter via email, well done! Imagine all the paper we are saving!

Congratulations

to Denise, Simon and Daniel Martin (Prep H) on the arrival on their new beautiful baby, Cara Gabrielle.

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students & Friends,

Enrolment for 2012

Enrolments for Prep 2012 are now open. Enrolments close on the May 6th and offers will be sent out on the 30th May. It is very important that all siblings are enrolled this term so that we know how many places we can offer to new families. Open days are coming up in the next two weeks – please see the diary dates. Posters advertising these dates have been displayed through the local kindergartens. The Enrolment policy can be located on the school website: www.smashburton.catholic.edu.au. We will continue the art, story time and music sessions for Pre-schoolers in an effort to strengthen our links with the Mini Micks and as a way of introducing new families to St Michael's School. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or collected at the office.

Ashburton Festival

Thank you to all parent helpers who: set up tents and tables; crushed ice for snow cones; made and sold cakes; cooked sausages; sold raffle tickets; blew up balloons and packed up our stall for the Ashburton Festival. To the SAC & PFA committee, thank you for giving so much of your time to our school last Sunday, as a school community we are indeed enriched by the generosity of our parents.

Walking School Bus

Thanks to Sarah Edwards (Natalie 3/4SL Lauren Prep HM) for stepping up as coordinator of the WSB for 2011-2012. Thanks to Melinda Richardson (Maeve 3/4JC & Marie Timms 1/2G) who is stepping down from coordinating this great program for 2009-2010. Sarah has been busily recruiting drivers and organising training sessions in preparation for the launch of the *Walking School Bus* program next Friday 11th March. At assembly next week all new 'passengers' will be given their showbags with tickets, wet weather ponchos and everything needed for safe traveling.

Working Bee

The maintenance committee met last Monday to prioritise jobs for the school enhancement tomorrow evening. Working Bee jobs include lots of gardening, raking and cleaning sandpit, cleaning sinks, tables etc. As this is our first working bee for the year, we would love to see as many people as possible attending. Hopefully your family has returned their working bee form, a maintenance levy of \$100 is charged for all families unable to attend at least one working bee for the year. The working bee begins at 5pm, please sign your name at the table in the quadrangle and you will be assigned a task by a member of the maintenance committee.

Uniform

Thanks for your efforts in ensuring the children are wearing correct uniform, especially school shoes and school hat. By now you will know on what days your child wears sport uniform. Students will be continuing to wear their summer uniform until the first term holidays. Children are expected to be wearing winter uniform from the 1st of May. Winter uniform orders need to be placed now. .

Prep and New Parent Drinks

Thank you to PFA and especially the hosts Michelle and Greg Barr (Harrison 5/6M, Oliver 3/4CL, Madeline 1/2AK, Ryan Prep H) for the wonderful evening we had last Friday to welcome Prep and New Parents to St Michael's School Community. It was great to see so many people attending and having a good time.

Thanks for your continued support of our school,

Geraldine Dalton

Principal

principal@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

DEPUTY NEWS

Reminder

As part of our Sun Smart policy students are required to wear hats from the beginning of the school year to the end of April and from the beginning of September to the end of the school year.

We have noticed that some students' hats have become quite scruffy. As hats often 'live' in student's tubs parents may not have seen their child's hat for a while so it might be worth a check to see what condition their hat is in. Hats are available from the uniform shop; Legionnaires hat \$10 and Slouch Hat \$12. The Uniform shop is open on Thursdays at 3.30pm or orders can be placed through the office basket.

John Sandy

Deputy Principal

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EDUCATION IN FAITH

As part of the Sacramental Preparation for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation, our Year 3 families will share a Sacramental Mass and Dinner in the "Hub" on Tuesday 8th March.

This will be a special occasion to introduce the children to their work on the Sacraments and get to know our Catechist Families who will be sharing the journey with us. It is expected that all students preparing for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation this year will attend. We will gather in the Hub at 6.15pm for Mass to commence at 6.30pm. We look forward to having a special evening together! We are very excited to have "Pancakes on the run" cooking us delicious pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday at the end of the Mass. All family members are welcome, so please ensure your reply slips are returned by Friday 4th March. This invitation is open to all students in Year 3 as they will all be participating in the preparation for the Sacraments.

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday the 9th March, the whole school will attend the 10.00am Parish Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin our Lenten Journey. Parents are very welcome to join us.

Prayer

It's the time of year where we are all settling into our new classes, establishing routines and relationships and exploring "How can I belong?" It is a time where each class is learning ways to pray together. Prayer is a very special part of 'who we are' at St Michael's and children need support, time and space to question and explore issues related to prayer and their faith. Our school vision statement says that we would like our children to have "a faith that sustains them through life's challenges." I came across this reflection about faith and prayer, which I think is really beautiful, and could well act as a guide in our nurturing of faith in our children.

"No matter what happens in my life, God will always hold me in a welcoming embrace. I have finally accepted that my human journey will have its hills and valleys because that's how life is. I no longer fear God as out to reward or punish me for my human failings, or sending me "tests" of suffering to prove my fidelity.more than ever I wish to be transformed through prayer- not because God will be disappointed with me, or love me less if I do not continue to grow spiritually. I now believe I have a lifelong companion who will never leave my side, who will cheer me on in my good times and grieve with me in harsh times, who wants me to give of my best self..."

Joyce Rupp- Prayer,2010 **So together let's teach our children to pray!**

Clare Hicks

Religious Education Leader

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LEARNING AND TEACHING

The Premiers' Reading Challenge 2011 (PRC)

The PRC website has been updated for 2011. At this site you can find loads of useful information regarding the 2011 challenge. It may be helpful to explore the site before making your decision about whether to try the challenge this year. I have included the link below.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

Classroom helpers

I look forward to seeing the prospective helpers next Monday afternoon, March 7th, for the first of our training sessions. The venue is the Victory Room located upstairs above the art room. We will begin at 2:30pm and finish at 3:15pm in time to collect the kids from school☺

How can I belong?

Through investigating the above question we are working towards the goal of building an inclusive community of learners at St. Michael's... a learning environment where all are welcomed, respected and are proud and happy to say "I belong to St. Michael's".

One of the techniques we use to help our students answer the question is to encourage them to ask their own questions. These student questions sometimes take the form of 'wonderings'. For example, "I wonder how my sister belongs", "I wonder how I can help others belong", "I wonder if all things/people belong" and "I wonder what belonging looks like".

It is beneficial to encourage your child to wonder and be curious. Curiosity is one of the dispositions needed for learning. Opportunities for wonderings often occur when reading with your child. For example, I wonder how Alice felt when she didn't know which path to take? I wonder just how tall a beanstalk could grow in real life. Do you think the Ugly Duckling felt he belonged? Do green eggs and ham belong together? What do you think? I wonder if the 'Ten Lepers' felt they belonged.

Fortunately we don't need to answer all the questions...we just delight in the conversations that are the pathways of discovery!

Kerrin van Mourik

Teaching & Learning Leader

kvanmourrik@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Robyn Burn - Artist in Residence

This week we had a very special guest in the art lessons.

Robyn Burn, will work with students of St Michael's as an Artist In Residence during semester 1 this year.

Robyn attended all art classes this week and talked to the students about the mosaic and painted wall mural that she hopes to create with the students on the Moratai Street wall this year.

Students were amazed to see photographs of Robyn's art works and were very excited to think that we will create something of our own at St. Michael's. Robyn spent the lesson discussing the concept of 'Belonging' with the students. All classes went on to create a drawing of what belonging means to them.

Robyn intends to work from these drawings to create a design for the wall generated by the children's ideas.

Deb Chapman

Visual Arts Teacher

dchapman@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

MUSIC NEWS

A new recorder can be purchased through the school for \$8.00.

Please note all children in 3/4 are required to have a recorder for music classes, beginning Wednesday 8th March

Thank you

Sally Cameron

Music Teacher

scameron@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

TINKERING CLUB

The first Tinkering Club was held this week and was very well attended from our newest and littlest member -Sullivan to our biggest and oldest member Mr. Cotela.

Both boys and all other students really enjoyed their time tinkering. We all had fun examining the inside of sandwich toasters and cameras, computer keyboards and a phone.

Ms. Hicks even had one Prep explain to her that he thought his mum would allow him to take his watch to tinkering club and pull it apart as he wanted to attend but had forgotten to bring something from home!

Next week Art Club will be held at first break on Tuesday. See you there.

Deb Chapman

Visual Arts Teacher

dchapman@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

BIKE CLUB

Yr. 4 – 6 students only, who are interested to ride to school each Friday, are invited to meet Mr Connor at Ryburne Ave, where it meets the Bike track. **Meet: 8.00 -8.15am Depart: 8.15 sharp** All parents are welcome –**Helmets must be worn.**

Jonathan Connor



FAMILY FEE & LEVY ACCOUNTS

Excursion Levy & IT Levy have now been billed on the Family accounts.

Excursion Levy is \$60 per child

IT Levy is \$20 per child

Swimming Yrs 3-6 \$60 per child

All levies and 1st instalment school fees are due by 4/3/2011.

Just a reminder that if you contribute to the Parish Support Program you do not need to pay the School Building Fund Levy of \$442.

Also, if you plan to attend one or more working bees this year, you do not need to pay the \$100 School Enhancement Levy.

Many thanks to families who have already paid their school fees and levies

ASHBURTON FESTIVAL UPDATE

The Annual Ashburton Festival was held last Sunday and St. Michael's Primary School was there showcasing our Famous Cake Stall, Snow Cone Stand and Fabulous BBQ. The weather was not on our side but we still managed to have a great day regardless of the rain. We had an abundance of volunteers for all 3 of our stalls, so on behalf of **the SAC and PFA Committees** we would like to thank everyone who took the time to help us set up, serve and pack up at the end of the day. We raised just over \$2700.00 for our school so well done everyone!



Thank you to all the families who baked all the delicious goodies; we appreciate all your efforts. We had cakes, muffins, biscuits, truffles, muesli and gingerbread men and we sold each and everyone of them!

A special mention to Jenny & Chris Walsh for opening their home as the drop off place for all the baked items last Saturday.

I have to say I am not sure what the neighbours thought of it all though, there were cars everywhere and people coming in and out of the Walsh's front door every 2 minutes! Jenny together with Kerri McFarlane spent that afternoon greeting and preparing all the baked items that were being delivered, thank you so much ladies for all your hard work!

Special thanks to everyone who helped with the BBQ, all the sausages were sold in the end and a special mention to the McNamara's and Foldi's for allowing us to use their vehicles during set up and pack up.

We would like to thank the following people for all their help; Jenny Walsh, Kerri McFarlane, Lori & Rob Andrewartha, Melanie Rossato, Lisa Hogan, Tanya Jones, Natalie Martin, Wayne and Vanessa Goldsmith, Lisa Jennings, Celia & Chris McNamara, Andrea Boal, Kate & Michael Foldi, Peta Mackintosh, Karen & John Deriu, Jenny Burke, Mishael Figuiera, Claire Whitbread, Jacinta Girolami & Michael Smith, Rudolf & Jane Lameijn, Justin & Fiona Baker, Kim Day, Rhys Timms, Di Horrigan, Sam Keble, Karen Roache, Sue Stavrou, Sarah McLellan, Ciara Chaomhanach, Jo & Wes Carter, Jo Mannix, Simone Jemmett, Michelle Frazer, Catena Byrne-Jones, Sandy Lethlean, Bernard Zupan, Rebecca Mardling, Dionne Higgins, Andrew Webb, Todd & Tamara Menegola, Geraldine Dalton and John Sandy.

We would also like to say Thank you to John at PRICEWYSE for allowing us to use their electricity to run the snow cone machine!

Thank –you on behalf of SAC & PFA COMMITTEES - Mary Skehan (PFA Co-President) & Kim Day(SAC President)

Lost Property (from the Ashburton Festival)

Thank you to all the Helpers on the day of the Festival. A sign of the weather on the day, but we had 3 umbrellas that were left behind... and I've got a funny feeling you're going to need them soon! We have 2 children's umbrellas and 1 compact green umbrella. Please give me a call and I'll return them to you. **Thanks, Kim Day 0413 511 332 (Ben Crowe 5/6JC, Lucy Crowe 1/2G)**

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Grade 6 – Commemorative Tops

Our supplier has advised that the rugby tops will be delivered by late next week.

Geraldine will be presenting the rugby tops to the students during assembly on Friday 11th March if delivery is on time.

Cricket Uniforms

We are missing 3 pairs of cricket pants from last years cricket matches. If your child played cricket in 2010 & you have a pair of pants with "SPARTAN" label would you mind sending back to office/uniform shop.

Much appreciated

Melanie & Lori

ZUMBA has arrived to our community!

Zumba is the latest Latin inspired exercise and dance program! Experience one of the best classes in Melbourne instructed by some of the most experienced, friendly and motivating instructors.

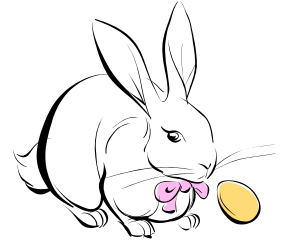
Tuesdays 6:30pm at St Michael's Activity, Recreation and Teaching Hub. For more information go to www.entertraining.com.au, www.facebook.com/entertrainers or call me: 0450 742 282 Thank you Laura Usma

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

We are once again holding our annual Easter Egg Raffle to raise funds for the playground. We ask that each family donate an Easter egg, chocolate bunny, spare baskets/hampers (to put prizes in) or Easter novelties that can be used as the prize pool. Donations can be sent through the class basket or left in the office from tomorrow. Tickets will be distributed next week with the eldest child of each family or can be collected from the office by arrangement. Tickets will be 50 cents each.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 8 April.

Contact Kate Foldi (0423 978626) or Prue Hynes (0400 005100) for any further information.



WALKING SCHOOL BUS (WSB)

I am excited to announce we have a start date for the WSB 2011!



All routes will be launched on Friday 11th March.

On the Friday morning we will be celebrating the "launch" with a special guest appearance by the WSB mascot himself and Daniel Sturgess, the Community Safety and Education Officer and WSB Liaison for City of Boroondara.

We would love all of the children to wear something in their route colours, whether it is a hat, coloured scarf or simply some streamers. At assembly, the new children joining the WSB for 2011 will receive their "Welcome Pack Showbags".

All new WSB families should have received their paperwork and I would ask that all forms (Parent Consent & Children's Code of Conduct) be returned **ASAP** to allow all details especially medical information to be available prior to your children starting.

Unfortunately, the Orange Bus still does not have a co-ordinator. I would like to thank Di Horrigan for her wonderful commitment as route co-ordinator since the bus started. Di is now handing the bus over and without a replacement we will not be able to run this bus. It has been a popular route with many dedicated walkers and it would be a shame to abandon it now. The majority of the work of the route co-ordinator is in the set-up at the beginning of the year and I am willing to help with all of that. It may suit to change the day the bus runs, particularly as Friday is now Bike Club morning. Despite the lack of co-ordinator we are planning to launch Orange with the other routes. Please see me for any queries regarding Orange at this stage.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

Sara Edwards

WSB Co-ordinator

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sara.edw@bigpond.net.au

PARISH ENHANCEMENT EVENING FRIDAY 4TH MARCH

This Friday 4th of March is the first of this year's Parish enhancement evenings, kick-off time is 5.00pm and will finish at 7.00pm a BBQ and refreshments will be served at completion of the evening. To the new parents that have joined the school, children are more than welcome to attend. I would like to thank the families that have taken the opportunity to fill in the enhancement sessions slip and returned it to the office, to the parents that have not filled in the slip, could you possibly fill it in and return it to the school as the enhancement slip helps the enhancement committee to plan for future enhancement nights/days as well helping with the catering.

So far 16 families have indicated that they will be attending this Friday night, the enhancement committee agreed that this enhancement evening should be focused on the cleaning of the school, church and the surrounding gardens, therefore the following is a list of the items that should be bought from home to help with the clean-up:

Weeding gloves Buckets Tools for pulling up weeds Brooms Pruning tools Wheel-barrows

If there are any parents that would like to join the dynamic, enthusiastic and mentally focused team that is the Enhancement Committee, they can contact myself Paul Byrne-Jones or the School Principle Geraldine Dalton.

Regards

Paul Byrne-Jones

Enhancement Committee Chairperson

FAMILY FUN FAIR CO-ORDINATORS NEEDED

The PFA would love to be able to have a Family Fun Fair this year at St. Michael's! Now that we have the Hub ready, we can make up for lost time, it usually happens later on in the year around October and we would love to ask the parents if anyone is interested in organising it. You could get a subcommittee together and the PFA will help you in any way possible.

If you are interested please call me on 0408 377 774 Thanks- Mary Skehan

SHOPPING AT BAKER'S DELIGHT - ASHBURTON

Remember each time you purchase something from Bakers Delight in Ashburton, to mention St Michael's School, as they will donate a certain amount to the school with each purchase made. **THANK YOU -PFA COMMITTEE**

**All Year 3-4 Parents -Got time for a coffee?- Tuesday 8 March after morning drop off.
At Geraldine Mitra's home 63 Fakenham Road, Ashburton Hope to see you there Class Reps
Geraldine Mitra, Naomi O'Hare (3/4M), Claire Whitbread, Lisa Hogan (3/4 CL) Sara Edwards & Sarah
Pettenon (3/4 SL)**

Keep your engines running for the annual...

4 CAR (AND MORE) RAFFLE



Every family will have received one raffle book for the **4 CAR RAFFLE** by now. This is a fundraiser all members of the parish of St. Michael's are asked to support. Your books of 10 tickets at \$2 each are due back at school by **March 11th, 2011**. Every family in the St. Michael's parish has been allocated a book. As we all reap the benefits of the funds raised through

this raffle please keep in mind that the more tickets sold the more our community will benefit.

If you require more Raffle Books or **you have not received your allocated book please contact** (or check for a white envelope in the bottom of your eldest child's school bag!) Ange Mason (Rebekah 5/6M, Monique 3 /4 SL) 0400 614 383 or Jacinta Girolami (Niamh 5/6JC, Chiara 3 /4 CL, Julian 1 /2 CL) 00409 165 668 **We thank you in anticipation of your support of this significant fundraiser.**

extend
OSHC

Extend After School Care at
St Michael's School

A Message from the Team Leader:

"Last week we played lots of group games. Skittles was the favourite game of the week but we also enjoyed games including Murder in the dark and Captains coming. On Wednesday we started to make piggy banks and also hosted our own movie afternoon with popcorn and other special treats." - Rachel

STAR of the week is Conner H. for always having an enthusiastic attitude towards activities and being a great helper!

Active After School Care in term 1

We have special visitors delivering the Active After School Care program at no extra cost!

Activities include Tennis on Mondays and Mini Olympics on Tuesdays with Ali at the Active After School Care program!

Don't miss out! Book into after school care to secure your place!

enrolment hotline

Phone our **friendly** customer
service staff on: **1300 366 437**
www.extend.com.au

UPGRADE FOR THE ASHBURTON LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE IS BEING PLANNED

Council is planning to upgrade the Ashburton Library and Ashburton Community Centre. The upgrade will provide additional space for both the library and community centre, and some multipurpose space for intergenerational activities.

Before we begin the design process, Council wants your ideas for the upgraded library and community centre.

You can participate in a number of ways: through an online survey on Council's website, a survey on the e-kiosk at the Library, and by attending one of two community information and discussion workshops being held during March. The survey will be available online and in hard copy from 15 March 2011.

If you would like to participate in one of the community workshops, or want further information on the consultation process, please call 9278 4476

The Facts on School Funding

You may have noted the page one story in The Age on February 28, 'Catholic schools' \$39m bonanza'. The article made a number of erroneous claims about Catholic school funding, based on an interview with government school lobbyist Trevor Cobbold. Unfortunately the claims ignore the fact that, like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to Catholic schools according to need.

The funding attributed to the Catholic schools in the article is re-allocated to support schools with disadvantaged students, students with a disability, indigenous students, refugees and rural and regional schools.

This story appears to be part of an orchestrated campaign by the Australian Education Union and others to influence the Australian Government's review of school funding and secure more funding for government schools at the expense of Catholic schools.

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria estimate that total government funding to Catholic schools is less than 80% of the per student cost in government schools, although this percentage varies between schools.

The recent state government bi-partisan commitment to fair funding recognised the right of parents to be supported financially in their education choice. We hope that the federal funding review will also recognise this right and ensure Catholic schools receive a fair share of government funding.



**ASHBURTON
FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 27TH
FEBRUARY**



