

## From the Principal

### The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

### Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

### What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit

[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

### When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

**Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

Kathy Gee  
Principal

## From the REC

*The best gifts are tied with heartstrings.*

### Project Compassion

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection and self-sacrifice. It is also a time to think of others less fortunate than ourselves such as those in Third World Countries. Each year, Caritas (A Catholic Organisation) implements an awareness and fundraising program called 'Project Compassion.'



Again this year, Project Compassion highlights six Caritas Australia projects:

1. Building food security and livelihoods for subsistence farmers in Uganda
  2. Bringing Green Hope to drought prone areas in tribal India
  3. Helping former 'street boys' to farm organically for their future in Papua New Guinea
  4. Supporting Indigenous Indonesian communities to participate in a future of ecological justice
  5. Developing and training local community members to run an effective youth program that benefits the whole community in Indigenous Australia
- Building communities' capacity to adapt to the effects of changing weather in Bolivia

In our classes we will be learning about the wonderful work of Caritas and ways in which we can help. There is a great website available to support our classroom learning about this project: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

Next week, each family will be given a money box to help raise funds for this worthy cause. We will collect the money boxes in the last week of term and hope that you can give generously.

### Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

Thank you to those families who attended Mass on the weekend and enrolled their child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Years 3 and above). The Reconciliation candidates will be presented this coming weekend at any of the Mona Vale or Avalon Masses. If your child is a candidate, you will need to attend one of these Masses with your child's presentation card. **The Parent Information session for Reconciliation is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7:30pm.** Team leaders need to be there at 7pm. This evening is an informative meeting for parents and is a compulsory part of the Sacramental program.



#### Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Our school will be commemorating Ash Wednesday (Primary students at the Parish

Mass: Infants at a simple liturgy at 12:30pm in the school hall) The ashes used in this ceremony are made by burning the remains of the palms blessed on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. In the blessing of the ashes four prayers are used, all of them ancient. The placing of ashes on the forehead to symbolize mourning and penitence. All are welcome.

#### Family Mass

Next Saturday night (28<sup>th</sup> February) will be our first Family Mass for the year. We encourage all families to join in our celebration. The Mass will begin at 6:00pm at Maria Regina Church.

## From the Library



### PRC:

Over the last few weeks the children in Kindergarten listened to

*Reggie Queen*

*of the street* (Book id 12293) and *The trouble with mum* (Book id 4565). The children in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed *I wish I had a pirate suit* (Book id 1107). These can be added to your child's reading log if they are doing the PRC.

## Sports News

**Our Swimming Carnival is fast approaching and almost all children have returned their forms. Please note that your child must return their signed permission note to be able to enter the events.**

All swimmers must be at the pool, ready to swim at 8.30 am sharp. Also note that other pools at the Aquatic Centre will be closed to all our students and their siblings. Only children who have been entered into events are able to swim in the pool.

**NB 5,6, and 7 yr olds will be the last events**

Thank you to all the parents who offered to help at the carnival. Notes advising you of your job were sent home yesterday with your children.

Could all helpers please report to Mrs Morris or Mrs Conn at 8.15am.

Please remember to purchase a colour house swimming cap from the office for \$4.

## From the Assistant Principal

Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect the place we are in.

**A good listener...**

- looks at the person who is speaking
- does not speak while someone else is speaking

**We have been focusing on these expectations. It's vital to always look at people when they are speaking and listen attentively.**

By having safe and caring hands we are respecting others. Remember to keep your hands to yourself. Use them positively and cooperatively.

At Maria Regina we Respect Others

We have

**Safe and Caring Hands**

Remember Hands Off!

## Birthdays



Claudia 17/2	Grace 21/2
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## Kiss & Drop

On Thursday February 26 Kiss & Drop will not be available as there is a 3pm wedding at Maria Regina Church. Please make alternate arrangements for the afternoon pickup. Thank you.

## Parking

### In Your Interest

Please be aware of where you park or stop. Over the last two weeks the school has received four very abusive complaints from residents regarding parents stopping or parking across driveways and also the lane way adjacent to the school. The Pittwater Rangers have been contacted by the residents and many of our parents have been fined and with the fine is a loss of demerit points.



## Canteen / Ice block Roster

Monday	Feb 23	J. Bould, C. Prezivoso, M. Kerr
Friday	Feb 27	J. Bould, K. Langlois, P. Simonds

*Important DATE!*

## Diary Dates

Wk 5	Tues	Feb 24	School Swimming Carnival
	Wed	Feb 25	Ash Wednesday 9.15am Mass for the Primary classes
	Thurs	Feb 26	<b>No Kiss &amp; Drop in the Afternoon 3pm.</b> Staff diocesan Schools Mass
	Fri	Feb 27	Assembly Year 3
	Sat	Feb 28	6pm Family Mass

### Kindy Parents Get Together

All Kindy Parents are invited to an informal get together at

Little Av Bar

Old Barrenjoey Road, Avalon

on Friday March 6 at around 7.30pm

More details (via email) to follow soon.

Any enquiries to K. Beynon

## Canteen News

Please check the 2009 price list for any orders from the canteen. Last Monday there were quite a few lunches orders that were underpaid. A canteen price list was sent home on Friday February 7. If you require a new price list please contact Mrs. Sprakel in the school office. Thank you for your assistance.



## Awards

K	Simon Joel h Savannah
1	Olivia Oliver
2	Wyllie Sophie
3	Bernadette Jake
4	Farley Jasper
5/6M	Patti Jacob
5/6R	Patrick Ruby

A local government road safety initiative

**NO STOPPING**  
*means*  
**NO STOPPING**

# Curriculum Corner



## Year 4 Science:

## Engaging in the material world!



Year 4 are learning about materials and their properties.



Here we are investigating different types of gloves.