Dear Families and friends,

**Giving Thanks**

As the year comes to a close and there is great reason to be thankful. At the Thanksgiving mass on Tuesday we gave thanks for the year; friendships made, support of volunteers, and the wonderful learning and great memories. We also blessed the students taking new paths in 2016.

Next Thursday evening, we will send forth our senior students. I take this opportunity to thank our 2015 seniors for their leadership this year and contribution to our community during their time at Galilee. I congratulate; Rory, Poppy, Yasha-Jane, Ella, Bailey, Jorja, Ethan, Sophie, Cody, Holly, Jacob, Ciara, Jacob Mc., Ben Courtney, Liam N., Skye, Liam R., Stellar, Emily, Domanic, Amber, Eleanor and Noah on their achievements in their primary school years and we send them forth with confidence and best wishes as they continue their learning journey.

I extended our thanks to the parents, carers and grandparents who have supported us in our work. Special thanks are extended to those who volunteered throughout the year. Your help builds community and enables us to offer great opportunities. We generally don’t name people as we value the contribution of all volunteers as you bring different gifts and have circumstances, however Galilee Catholic Community Council would like to thank Amy Dicks and Sarah Adams for all they have contributed to our community through their work on the PFCG this year. They have worked tirelessly, to ensure our children have events such as discos and shared lunches and work to build community. While doing so they bring much added benefit through the funds raised which go directly back to supporting children. In 2016, we aim to share the work with greater support base on the PFCG, if you would like to be involved, please see Anthony, Amy or Sarah.

I thank the amazing dedicated teaching and support staff at Galilee who work to engage and enrich the learning and wellbeing of our students and families. This year I give thanks to the staff leaving our community, Sarah Farnham, Tania Fragnito, Maestra Danielle Carr, Steph Ashby and Paul Johnson. Sr Margaret Ann, although not leaving our community, will not be working at the school as much. On behalf of the school, I wish them all the best. We look forward to still seeing Sr Margaret Ann and Steph around the school.

I wish all our students, families, staff and community members a safe holiday and all the best for the New Year.

Happy Christmas, Jodie Higgins, Principal
2016 Welcome Back Picnic
On Friday 12th February 2016, we will hold a ‘welcome’ picnic. I encourage you to mark this date in your diary so you are able to join with us to welcome you and new families and students to our community. Mark this in your day in your diary.

Diet and Sleep Study Summary
Earlier this year we welcomed Emily Watson, a research student from UniSA, who was inviting children and their families from various school communities in Adelaide to contribute to her research into the effects of diet on sleep. Thank you to all of you who supported this research by completing a survey in consultation with your family. In today’s newsletter, Emily has provided a summary of her findings from this research for you to read and consider. Some interesting information especially in regards to caffeine and sugar in connection with sleep in children has been included. It will certainly be something I will be considering and discussing with my family.

Our new healthy eating policy, launched at Galilee this year, is in line with these findings and aims to support us to support our children to engage successfully in their learning at school. The end of the school year can be a challenging time diet wise. I encourage us all to persist with providing healthy food to sustain our children’s development and engagement in learning, especially at his time which can become quite busy. It is critical in our busiest times that we eat nutritional food to fuel our body’s increasing energy needs.

Carols Evening Tomorrow
The staff are looking forward to joining you for our annual carols evening tomorrow starting at 6.15pm with dinner before carols begin at 7.00pm. The staff are preparing to lead a song with some extra special actions too. A Vinnies basket will be available on the night for Christmas Food Hamper donations also.

Thank you to our wonderful PFCG members who have been organizing the barbecue dinner and to the volunteers who have said they will be able to help out at the barbecue. If you forgot to send in a reply form to say you can help out, please don’t hesitate in introducing yourself to the PFCG members and asking how you can help. Your support will help the evening to run smoothly and ensure everyone can enjoy their meal before the carols begin.

A BIG Thanks to our PFCG in 2015
I would like to offer my public thanks to the hard working team from the PFCG (Parents and Friends Co-ordinating Group) this year. At the core of the team have been Amy Dicks, Sarah Adams and Sarah Vujicic who have been ably supported by many other parent volunteers in the lead up to various events this year. Their time, energy and commitment has been exemplary and resulted in so many wonderful celebrations and gatherings that have brought our community together and enriched the opportunities for our children. Amy, Sarah and Sarah will be supporting some events during 2016 but will be also taking on some new commitments with work and study away from school. They have been putting together a folder of information for the 2016 PFCG members so that they have a head start in preparing for the community building activities for next year. If you are interested in finding out more or joining the PFCG in 2016, please speak to Amy, Sarah Adams, Sarah Vujicic or myself or leave your details at the front office. 2016 will be a new and exciting chapter in Galilee’s life and it would be great to have you involved in helping it to be another wonderful year for our community.

Thanks to Steph Ashby our Soccer Co-ordinator
I would like to also offer my public thanks to Steph Ashby who once again this year, co-ordinated our Galilee weekend soccer teams so ably. Her energy and commitment ensured that all of our children were able to participate in the local competition each week during terms 2 and 3. She brought a great deal of dedication and care to the role and we will miss this in the future as she takes on new challenges away from school. We will be acknowledging Steph at Galilee Gathers tomorrow morning. If you are interested in being involved in our 2016 soccer program in a co-ordinating or coaching role please leave your name at the front desk or see me when you have a moment.

I would like to wish you all the best wishes for a wonderful season of Christmas with family and friends. May you enjoy this time with your family and be well rested ready for the new school year in 2016. Thank you for your contributions to our school community.

Anthony Garton
At the wetlands we planted plants to make more habits for the animals.
Finn A

We dug out the creek to bring Galilee back to its old days, with crystal clear water.
Leo

I remember when we would see how many bugs we found.
Tyler M

The best memory was building the secret garden.
Cameron J

At the wetlands we planted plants to make more habits for the animals.
Finn A
What is Advent?  
Preparing for Christmas in a Catholic School

The season of Advent can easily get lost in the pre-Christmas rush but it’s a beautiful way for us to keep focused on the amazing story of birth, surprise and hope that Christmas celebrates.

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas day. It’s a time to prepare – hearts and minds – for Christmas Day and God’s ever-present love. It’s a time we try to notice signs of love and hope - this can be hard when this time of the year is also so busy!

At Community Prayer last week the Yr7s recalled that the story of Jesus’ birth reminds us God’s love may be found in really difficult circumstances. Remember …

- Mary’s long journey to Bethlehem
- The lack of decent accommodation
- The baby, Jesus, laid in a manger (an animal’s feed box!)

This was not a wealthy family and life for them wasn’t easy and yet something remarkable happened! The story asks us to reflect on the ordinary, sometimes surprising, sometimes difficult ways and places God’s love is born.

**Celebrating Advent at Galilee**

- During homeroom prayer we will light the candles of an Advent wreath or add to the Jesse Tree or an Advent calendar and present a small part of the story of Jesus’ birth.
- Ms Guilfoyle’s, Ms Balacco’s, Ms Little’s and Mr Westover’s homegroups represent our school community at the Aldinga Advent Pageant with other local schools on Friday 27th Nov at the Aldinga Shopping Centre.
- The foyers in Stage One and Stage Two will be ‘Advent foyers’. Homegroups and families are invited to add their ideas about places God’s love is clear to us.
- The Mini-Vinnies group will provide us an opportunity to help those in need by donating non-perishable items for food hampers.

**Ways you can be involved**

- Please join us at Community Prayer and our Thanksgiving Mass
- You’re invited to write, draw, paint on a piece of card sent home or on any other material you have at home, an example of the people, places, or events that have brought a sense of hope or gratitude to your family. These will be placed on one of our foyer Advent banners as we try to build a picture of the ordinary and extraordinary ways we’re sustained and supported in our families and our school community.
Thank you to all the parents who helped support the events the PFCG ran this year. Some of the money raised has purchased two school gazebos.

We are also in the process of getting quotes for shade sales over the early year's sandpit and hope for this to be done for term 1 next year.

We would love to see some new faces on the committee next year who can bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the school. The current members are all commencing back at work next year and need to take a step back so in order for events such as the disco or special lunches to go ahead we need new parents to be able to plan and support them. Details of our first meeting will go out in the first week back at school, hope to see you there.

Mary of Galilee Christmas Eve Mass
Thursday, 24th December, 2015

We welcome any families whose children would like to be involved in the Nativity Gospel at the Family Christmas Mass on Friday 24th December 2015 at 6:30pm in Mary of Galilee Church:

- The rehearsals will be at 3.15pm in Mary of Galilee Church on the following dates:
  - Wednesday 9th December 2015
  - Wednesday 16th December 2015
  - Wednesday 23rd December 2015

The rehearsals should last for approximately 30 minutes. Costumes are provided.

For further information, please contact Sister Margaret Ann on 0488287552.

If you would like your child/children to be part of the Dramatization of the Nativity Gospel, please return the slip below to the School Office. Thank You, Sister Margaret Ann

Mary of Galilee Christmas Eve Mass - Tear Off Slip

Name of child/children...........................................................................................................

Homeroom...............................................................................................................................

Contact Phone Number........................................................................................................
Please provide text if your child is going to be absent, late, leaving early for an appointment etc., you can send an SMS text message before 9am on m) 0407761162. Note new number

Please provide child’s name, reason, and teacher. Please record this number in your mobile.

Q Can I buy a Galilee school hat from the front office at school?
A Yes. Hats are $16 each and will be available from the front office. We have two sizes and styles available; bucket and slouch. Small/medium or large/extra-large.

Q Do private music tutors teach lessons on site at Galilee?
A Yes for Guitar, Piano and for Violin. If you are interested in private tuition for your child you can contact the relevant tutor below and they will provide information about lessons which are held on site and during the school day. These lessons are rostered at a different time each week so that your child will not miss out on the same lesson each week. i.e. the lesson may be at 9am one week and at 10am the next and so forth. For more information contact:

GUITAR: Tammara Wellman 0410595300
VIOLIN: Robin Anthony 0450981476
PIANO: Beth Maddock 0412284594
DRUMS: Kyrie Anderson 0403882382

Q Where is the Lost Property located?
A Lost Property is located adjacent the Front Office on the Eastern side. Lost property will be cleared out each fortnight.

Q When is the Second Hand Uniform shop open?
A Yes. The uniform shop will be open the following times this term:

MONDAY  Morning and afternoon
WEDNESDAY Morning and afternoon

Morning opening times: 8.45am–9.15am - Afternoon 3.00pm–3.30pm
At present we have some ‘Early Years’ jumpers missing. Please check through your school jumper supplies for any accidental strays. Many labelled jumpers have gone walkabout and may have unintentionally found a place within your collection.

Q Are invoices for sporting events, camps, soccer etc. covered by our regular fee instalment?
A No. All extra-curricular invoices need to be paid separately the weekly fee amount does not cover these, if required payment arrangements can be made by emailing or phoning our finance officer, Kylie finance@galilee.catholic.edu.au
Girls Salesian Summer Camp  
Monday 11th – Saturday 16th January 2016. Girls aged between 10 – 14. The annual Salesian Summer Camp on the Yorke Peninsula provides a safe and happy holiday for kids. For further information p) 83537368 e) sacamps@salesians.org.au.

Pink Panthers Girls Soccer Club  
Come and try session. For girls born in 2005 or after in preparation for the 2016 season. Saturday 12th December from 9.00am. Located on Galloway Road, O’Sullivan Beach. For further enquiries, please contact: Lars Petersen 0433062809 or Darren Clay 0415526021.

Summer Reading Club Launch – Journey into Lost Worlds  
Journey into lost worlds to discover dinosaurs and fossils! Come and collect your summer reading club pack to begin your adventure. Willunga Rose Gardens, Aldinga Road, Willunga, Friday 4th December 3.30 - 4.30pm, Bookings essential, Phone Aldinga Library on 83840022

School Dental Service  
The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider. All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend. Dental care is FREE for most children. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au or 8384 9244. The Noarlunga GP Plus School Dental Clinic will be open during the Christmas school holiday break.

Aldinga Bay Community Carols  
Sunday 13th December at Symonds Reserve, Stewart Avenue, Aldinga Beach 4.00pm – 7.00pm. Free face painting, animal farm, pony rides. Craft stalls, jumpy castle. Carols start 7.30pm. Performing The Elliott Sisters and Sing & Tonic plus the Amazing Drumming Monkeys. For more information p) 85565570

Aldinga Football Club Family Fun Night  
All families welcome. Friday 4th December, 7.30pm at AFC. Acoustic live music. Free entry. Delicious and affordable meals.

Aldinga Community Christmas Lunch  
Friday – 25th December 2015 from 11am – 2pm at Aldinga Institute Hall, Old Coach Road, Aldinga. Free. RSVP by 14th December. Call Anne p) 85579050 during office hours Monday – Friday.

Huge Scholastic Children’s Book Sale  
One day only – 50 to 90% off. Woodcroft Morphettvale Neighbourhood centre, 175 Bains Road, Morphettville. 8am – 5pm. December 7th, Monday.

‘MyGolf’ Kids only club house  
MyGolf is Australia’s National junior golf programme for kids between the ages of 5-12. A fun, healthy and safe way to start learning the basics of the game, MyGolf is a structured programme with 3 levels depending on your age and skill level. 10 week Clinic at Willunga Golf Club Commences February 5th 2016. More information p) 85562200.