Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

When Jesus appeared to his disciples in the days following the resurrection his initial greeting each time was Peace be with you. This was a very worrying time for the disciples as they struggled to make meaning of the brutal death of Jesus that they had witnessed and to grasp the reality of his resurrection. Their minds were riddled with doubt and they were fearful of a future without Jesus as they had known him. This greeting of peace came as an assurance to them that all would be well, and that the future was one of hope and not fear.

Peace was an essential teaching of Jesus, and he had promised the gift of peace a number of times in the Gospel. Most especially in John’s Gospel where Jesus says: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you” (John 14:28). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus has praised those who sought peace as the children of God – Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called God’s children.

During this Easter season we are reminded that God’s peace is with us and for everyone. It is not something that we can acquire or purchase; rather it is a gift from God. We can discover this gift through developing a relationship with God. By prayer and reflecting on the Word of God in the Bible we come to know God and experience God’s loving presence in our lives. This then becomes the source of that peace for which we all long. This is what the disciples gradually realized during those days following the resurrection. It gave them the courage to spread the Good News and changed the way that they related to others as clearly recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

Thursday is Anzac Day and a special day remembrance of the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces, and sadly in too many cases have given their lives in this service. These men and women included many from the Aboriginal community who were distinguished by their courage and generosity. Their sacrifice was made striving to bring peace. Their service brought hope where there was suffering and despair. Their courage and generosity spoke of the desire for all to live in peace and freedom as the children of God. In the Christian context the Anzacs and the continuing Anzac tradition is a sign of the resurrection. It points to that gift of peace Jesus promised to all, and identifies them as peacemakers, truly blessed as the children of God.

We pray this week for peace in our world, in our own families in our Santa Teresa community, and in our own hearts. We pray in gratitude for the men and women of our Armed Forces, past and present, most especially those with an Aboriginal heritage who have devoted and continue to devote their lives to the cause of peace. May God bless and protect them all.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ
Thank you

Thank you to ARMTOUR for their visit to the school last year. Rebecca, Marissa, Kim, Chris, Joseph & Miguel spent time working with each class with indoor lessons about general health and nutrition, and out-door sporting activities. They organised and ran our athletics carnival on Thursday. A special thank you to year eight teacher, Oprah, who co-ordinated the visit and the programme.

Congratulations to Father Bosco who was installed as Parish Priest during Sunday’s Mass. Father Jan Szwedea, Parish priest of Alice Springs represented Bishop Eugene at the installation and was the Principal Celebrant. Father Jim will continue to assist in the Parish but is now officially in retirement.

Congratulations to Floyd Spratt from Year 8 whose design has been chosen by ARMTOUR as the motive on the tee shirts presented to all children during their school visits this year. Children from various schools were invited last year to submit a design for consideration and we are very proud that Floyd’s design was chosen. When you see the children wearing their purple tee shirts presented to them by ARMTOUR last Friday you can look on the reverse side to see Floyd’s award winning design.

Footwear

We are encouraging all children to wear shoes or some other footwear to school as sometimes there is broken glass and manure etc in the school environs. There have been a few cases recently where children have come to school in brae feet and with some cuts on their feet and we are concerned about these cuts becoming infected. Please encourage your children to take care in this regard and to wear something on their feet when they come to school.

Thursday this week (April 25th) is a public holiday for Anzac Day and school will be closed. Friday is a Professional Development Day for members of staff. There is no school for the children on Friday this week.

Damage to the School

During the weekend several groups of children were in the school grounds and displaying a lack of respect for school property. One group was found inside on the buildings – they knew this was wrong and that they should not have been there. Others were banging against windows and doors, turning rubbish bins over and throwing rubbish around. Others were writing on the walls and seats (this is not the first time this has happened). The school is a community school and any lack of respect shown towards the school is a lack of respect for the community to which these children belong. Everyone in the community has a responsibility to care for the school – please remind your children about this responsibility and if you see children acting in a disrespectful way in the school grounds call the police or night patrol. The damage caused by these children not only shows a lack of respect but also costs money – money that could be better spent in other ways to help children with their learning.