July 15th 2014

Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

This week at school we are celebrating NAIDOC (last week was NAIDOC Week throughout Australia. The NAIDOC theme chosen for this year is Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond. This theme honours all Indigenous Australians who have fought in defense of country, and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Over 400 Indigenous men fought during the First World War (1914 – 1918), and their involvement is testimony to their great love of the land; something sacred to Aboriginal People. They volunteered to fight even though they had few rights and were not considered Australian Citizens at that time; they worked for lower wages than others; and they had poor living conditions compared to the average Australian at that time.

Despite their generous and brave service, on return from the war, Indigenous soldiers did not receive the same benefits as other ex-service men. They returned to a life where they faced discrimination and where their service was scarcely recognized.

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 also saw a generous response from Indigenous men and women who enlisted in the Armed Forces. Indigenous soldiers were in the front line of defense in the north and hundreds were killed in action, and many others taken prisoner by the Japanese. Their courage and loyalty are beyond question. Sadly, on their return they also faced discrimination eg: only being allowed in RSL Clubs on Anzac Day for many years following the end of the war.

Fortunately, today much of this discrimination is now a thing of the past, and the Armed Forces count many Indigenous men and women among their numbers and these are treated with equity and respect. They continue the legacy of service and love of country that is deeply embedded in Aboriginal Culture. It is very fitting that they are also being honoured this year as part of NAIDOC celebrations throughout Australia.

We pray in thanks this week for the peace we enjoy in Australia, and we remember with gratitude all those who have put their own lives at risk, and in some cases given their lives, in order that we might continue to live in relative peace. We honour the Indigenous men and women who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces. Their love of country and sacred attachment to the land teach us to respect, value and learn from their culture.

Jesus and Mary bless all Santa Teresa families.

Yours sincerely
In JMJ

Br Daniel
Principal
Welcome
Welcome to Deb Magden who is visiting Santa Teresa this week. Deb’s mother passed away recently after a long illness and we offer her and her family our sympathy and assurance of prayers. Liz has accompanied an Immersion group from Sale for the past three years. And so is familiar with the school and community. Welcome, also to Liz Whitehill from Catholic College Sale who has taken leave from her position there for this term to assist in the school.

Congratulations. To the following children who received Awards at the Assembly on Wednesday June 18th: Jai Gorey & Brianna Dickenson (Look, Listen, Think & Respond); Freda Davis, Ruth Hayes, Lakota Alice, Jonine Hayes, Savannah King, Shaniqua Smith (Consistently making Good Choices); Hayley Wallace, Cornelia Gorey & Shania Williams (Certificate I in Work Preparation).

Magic Words Awards
Pink: Geoffrey Ronson & Jamie Young
Green: Ryan Mulladad
Blue: Claudia Oliver
Gold: Jordan Wilyuka
Lemon: Anthony Wilyuka
Jade: Joel Cavanagh
Violet: Geoffrey Ronson & Faran Mulladad

Semester One Awards 2014

Principal’s Awards (Attendance, Behaviour & Participation)
Shalana Young & Darius Hayes; Talisha Douglas & Jaylen Gorey; Victor Palmer & Ciara Bloomfield; Shanara Lynch & Joel Palmer; Tyler Hayes & Shereece King; Sophie Spratt & Anthony Wilyuka; Lesharna Young & Kefon Alice; Camille Young; Cornelia Gorey.

Attendance (80% +)
Pre-school: Shalana Young, Darius hayes, Trishana Mulladad, Denise Mills.
Year1/2: Jonine Hayes, Jordan Wilyuka, Lakota Alice, Luwanah Wilson, Ruth Hayes, Samuel Alice, Victor Palmer.
Year 4: Claudia Oliver, Shereece King, Jordan Oliver, Cassara Heffernan, James Gorey, Elijah Bloomfield, Tyler Hayes, Cornelius Cavanagh, Farron Mulladad, Joel Cavanagh, Bryce Douglas.
Year 5: Anthony Wilyuka, Carl Palmer-Ronson, Casey Lynch, Device Ronson, Geoffrey Ronson, Jamie Young, Josiah Douglas, Kylinda Alice, Lachlan Young, Shaquille Young, Sophie Spratt.
Year 6/7: Trent Turner, Lesharna Young, Kayne Lynch, Kefon Alice, Ashton Ware, Kaomi Hayes, Harold Young.
Year 8/9: Dallas Williams, Nicholas Flowers, Simon Bloomfield.