February 2nd 2015

Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It recalls the story of Jesus being taken to the Temple by Mary and Joseph forty days after his birth, and there he was offered to God. In many ways it is similar to what happens at Baptism. It is a way of ensuring that God will be part of the life of the person and acknowledging God as the source of that life.

When Jesus was ‘presented’ in the Temple an old priest Simeon recognised that Jesus was someone very special and named him the long awaited savior. Simeon had been promised by God that because of his long and faithful service in the Temple he would not die before seeing the promised savior. Simeon described Jesus as a ‘Light to the Nations’ outlining the role Jesus would play in revealing God to the world. Jesus did this through his teachings, miracles, and above all through his example.

All of us who are Christians and the followers of Jesus are called to do the same – to be a ‘light’ for others in what we do and what we say. All of our actions should reveal something of God to others. This is a great challenge for us but one made possible because we have the Gospel to teach us and God has given the Holy Spirit to us as a helper and guide.

As we begin a new school year we pray for the strength and grace to bring God into the lives of others, especially those of the children entrusted to our care are parents and as educators, so that they will grow to be the people God wants them to be. We too, will become stronger and better as we discover more and more the presence of God within ourselves, and the good we can do by being faithful to God and God’s plan for each of us to do good.

Jesus and Mary bless all Santa Teresa families.

Yours sincerely
In JMJ

Br Daniel
(Principal)

Now, Lord, send your servant away in peace, as you promised:
for my eyes have seen the salvation you promised for all peoples –
a light to enlighten the nations.
The glory of your people Israel

(Prayer of Simeon)
Welcome
Welcome to everyone to the 2015 school year. We welcome in a special way Justin Colley the new Deputy Principal; Bernadette (Bern) Christensen who will be teaching Year 5 this year and also filling the role of APRE (Assistant Principal Religious Education); Andrew (AJ) and Anne Hazel. AJ will be working as a Literacy Tutor and Anne will be the Curriculum Co-ordinator and Inclusion Support Teacher. Justin has come to Santa Teresa from the Yarra Valley outside Melbourne where he has been the Deputy Principal at Saint Joseph’s School; Bern from the Gold Coast where she has been the APRE at Marymount College; AJ & Anne from the Sunshine Coast where they have been working in similar roles at Saint Joseph’s School Nambour.

![Justin](image1)  ![Bern](image2)  ![Anne](image3)  ![AJ](image4)

Royal Surf Life Saving
The Royal Surf Life Saving will conduct swimming lessons and lessons in water safety for all classes from Monday to Friday next week (February 9th – 13th). Children will need to bring their swimmers to school and will be accompanied to the pool by their teachers and Assistant Teachers/Tutors.

Remote School Attendance Strategy
Our school is part of this programme being introduced by the Federal Government last year. Attendance Officers selected from the community will be working with families to assist with ensuring children come to school regularly. **This is not an initiative of the school, and the attendance officers are not members of the school staff. They are employees of the Government** and this Remote School Attendance Strategy is a partnership between the Federal Government and Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School.

Sports Vouchers Programme
Each family should receive with this newsletter a letter from the Chief Minister concerning the Sports Voucher Programme for 2015. On the reverse side of this letter is a letter from the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs concerning the Student Attendance Strategy.

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**Policy on Mobile Phones at School**

No student is permitted to have a mobile phone at school at any time (even if the phone has no credit). This policy also includes school activities such as excursions. Any student found with a mobile phone at school will have it taken and it will be kept at the office until collected by a parent or a responsible adult from the family. There are no exceptions to this policy.