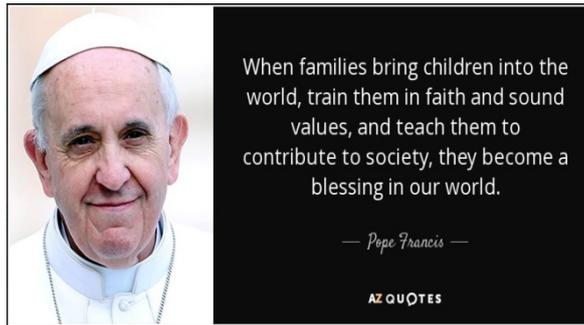




Family and Faith Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,
 Welcome to all the new families of **Our Lady of Fatima School** and welcome back to our existing ones. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing Christmas holiday and I wish you a very happy year.
 It was lovely reconnecting with all the Kindy parents, Carers and extended family members at Morning Tea in the Church courtyard last Wednesday. A **Tea and Tissues Parent Prayer Pack** was given out and if you did not receive one please contact me and I will make sure you get one.
 The **Year of Youth** is the theme of our Catholic faith for most of this year. It was launched at the World Youth Festival last year and will run until the end of November 2018. We are asked by the Catholic Bishops of Australia to be present to young people, to listen, pray and work together and nurture the spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing of young people. I hope to provide opportunities this year to assist parents to do this.
 Don't forget our **Opening School Mass** this Friday February 9 at 9.15am. All welcome!
 Wishing you a wonderful week catching up with family and friends and sharing news on all the exciting things that are already happening at OLF.
 Yours in the Spirit,
 Tracey Bowler - Family Educator
tracey.bowler@syd.catholic.edu.au

Year of Youth 2018 Prayer
Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland Inspire our entire faith community, As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.
Come Holy Spirit of Youth Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ. Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth. Guide us together, as we strive to offer God's mercy to those who feel abandoned or outcast.
Come Holy Spirit of Faith Empower our community to be courageous. Unite your people as witnesses of love. Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship, Accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.
Come Holy Spirit of Vocation Stir within young people an awareness of God's call. Reveal to us the graces of young people. Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices To build a civilisation of love.
Amen.

Surprising Facts About St. Valentine

1. The St. Valentine who inspired celebrating love may have been two different men.
2. In all, there are about a dozen St. Valentines, plus a pope.
3. Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, among many other things.
4. You can find Valentine's skull in Rome.
5. You can celebrate Valentine's Day several times a year.

Happy St Valentine's Day - February 14

Lent is coming ...

BUT!

Firstly, let's
CELEBRATE

Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras

On February 13

Shrove Tuesday is always the day
before **Ash Wednesday**.

- ◆ Lent does not start on Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally this day is one of celebration and festivity. The words Mardi Gras translate as 'Fat Tuesday'. It was the custom on this day to eat as much fat as possible before the fasting and abstinence of Lent. Rich foods such as eggs were forbidden during Lent, so to use them up people would make pancakes or doughnuts.
- ◆ 'Shrove' means being forgiven for things we have done wrong. It happens on a different **date** each year depending on when Easter falls.

Lent is about getting ready, but for what?

- ◆ Lent lasts for 40 days before Easter.
- ◆ It is a good time to think about how much God loves you.
- ◆ It is a good time to think about how you can love other people.

Who might they be?

- ◆ People who are struggling
- ◆ People who are hungry
- ◆ People who are suffering
- ◆ People who are hungry
- ◆ People who are suffering
- ◆ People who are lonely

*This Lent,
Don't Give Up.*
GIVE OUT



Toddler Tales

Calling all mums and dads with pre-schoolers and toddlers! You are invited to participate with your child(ren) in a 20 minute **Toddler Tales** session which includes a story, singing, craft, movement, sport, games and prayer in the Diversified Learning room after Prayer Assembly at 9am. I will be leading the gathering and **all you have to do is show up with your child and join in the fun.** *Next week we are getting to know each other through play and games. Wear your sporty gear!*

**Happy Chinese
New Year
celebrating the
Year of the Dog
(February 16)**



2018 Year of Dog



MENALIVE INFORMATION EVENING

Following on from the successful presentations of the Father Factor Series last year, Robert Falzon is back again this time to present an information evening at St Kevin's Eastwood, (Parish Hall) on Thursday 8th of March 7pm. Robert will be speaking about the upcoming menALIVE weekend which will be held at St Kevin's Eastwood on the weekend of 30th June/1st July. Robert is the co-founder of menALIVE which since its inception in 2003 has now presented 350 events for over 20,000 men from all over Australia and NZ.

All are welcome: men, women, single, married, fathers, mothers, grandparents etc are invited to attend the information evening. Come along and enjoy the evening. It will be Informative and Inspiring.

For more information call **Steven Lia** PH-0412 667657