Palm Sunday is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar after Christmas and Easter. Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter, and marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week of events leading up to Jesus' death.

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King. These Palm Sunday PowerPoints depict scenes and images of Palm Sunday, providing a perfect enhancement to your teaching on this subject.

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph.

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The Newsletter will now be published fortnightly
Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of St Columba’s,

This week is Holy Week and we prepare ourselves for the coming ‘rollercoaster ride’, with the love and friendship of the last supper, followed by the turmoil of Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane; the solemnness of Good Friday; the fear and despair following Jesus’ Death; followed of course by the pure joy and elation of Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus. I wish you all a wonderful break over this Easter period and pray that time spent with family is joyful and nourishing.

Tonight we have our Annual General Meeting. I encourage you to make the effort to join with us as we discuss the success of 2014 and look to continue our momentum into the next 12 months. It is also not too late to nominate yourself or others to join either our School Board or Parents and Friends committee. We are farewelling several board members, as their tenure is up, which means that we have several positions open as well as key roles such as Board Chairperson and Chair of the finance committee.

For those reading this electronically I will leave you with two clips that I find useful when I engage in reflection over the Easter period. I find this a very special and powerful time to work on my own relationship with Jesus and hope that they can be of benefit to you also.

Reflection:

https://youtu.be/fZxYiQ1VQCg

https://youtu.be/LmAqHgpS9Q

These clips are also available via our SCMS ‘inspire’ page, which is here:

http://scmsyorketown.com/mylinks/inspire/

Blessings,

Todd Murfitt
Principal

This Newsletter and more can be found at our school website!

www.scms.catholic.edu.au

You can also follow us on twitter: @scmsyorketown

**Kids Matter Contact Numbers:**

- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 31st</td>
<td>School Board and Parents and Friends AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starting at 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 1st</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 3rd</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 5th</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 6th</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 10th</td>
<td>Upper Primary Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of 1st Term - Early dismissal at 2.00 o'clock in line with Yorketown Area School buses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 27th</td>
<td>Student Free Day—Staff PD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 28th</td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Students of the Week**

MP—Meg Slade—Congratulations on your great achievements in reading and Mathematics.

Angus Beston—Congratulations on your fabulous work! You have achieved fabulous results in all of your extended learning.

UP—Cooper Newbold for his cooperative and organised approach. Well done Cooper, keep trying.

Kate McMahon for your passion for reading—Well done!

Noah Newbold for his commitment to his studies and his concern for others.

Bill Taheny for his commitment to his studies and his school duties.

---

**Traditional Easter Day Prayer**

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever

St. Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

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**Art work for Sale:**

Students artwork—$10 each. Please see Gay or Margie in the school office if you would like to purchase your child’s masterpiece.

**Thank you** to Kath Slade for her generous donation of Tupperware to our school kitchen. We have been given a Happy Chopper (A large & small one). Anyone who has one of these devices at home understands how great these items will be in our kitchen when cooking with students.

Thank you Kath for your generosity, we greatly appreciate it.

Annette Diassinas
APRIM

If you are unable to attend the combined AGM of St Columba’s Memorial School and the Parents and Friends please contact Gay to note your apologies. Thank you.

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**UNIFORM ORDER INFORMATION**

Please find with this Newsletter a winter Uniform order slip. If you would like to order any winter uniform items, please return the order slip by next Wednesday, April 8th. Items will be available for pick up after the school holidays.

All Uniform purchases are to be paid for when you pick up your order. The school has EFTPOS and Credit card facilities available. Thank you.
Did you know that you can text your child's/children's absentees to the school? The number to use is 0407 610 071 and will only accept text messages. This number is not monitored, please do not use it to contact the school other than by text.

YP Futsal - (Indoor Soccer) Team nominations are now open. Games are held Wednesday nights in the Minlaton Basketball Stadium. To obtain a copy of a team nomination form please visit www.ypfutsal.org.au or contact your previous club. Team Nominations CLOSE 2nd April. Please contact the YP Futsal Secretary, Tammy Greenwood for any further information or available team enquiries on 0403691115 or at yp.futsal@yahoo.com.au

Giant Trunk Sale
Saturday April 11th
9.00 am to 2.00pm
Behind the Yorketown Hospital
(off Jacob Street)

Proceeds to the Yorketown Hospital
Antique Valuer on site.
All Site holders welcome
For more information please contact
Julie on 0428 932 843

Sports Vouchers program:
Please find with this Newsletter, information on the Sports Voucher program, an initiative by the SA government.

The clubs in the local area who have registered to be service providers are as follows:

Yorketown Sporting Club—Basketball Netball and Tennis.

Edithburgh Golf Club—0419 851 817

Western United (SYP) Sports Club—Basketball, Cricket, Netball, Tennis—J Taheny 0427 545057

Yorke Peninsula Taekwondo Centre—Les Lund 0488004394

PARKING:

Please note: Over the next few weeks, the area in front of the school, employees car park and by the presbytery will all be signed, with a special designated area for disability parking.

We ask that you park in your designated area and follow the signage. Also a reminder the speed limit around the school is 10kms.

Thank you.
We're Engaged! Some Basic Tips To Support Your Child’s Learning

Parent engagement in children’s learning is the new buzz phrase – for good reason.

“...positive parental engagement in learning improves academic achievement, wellbeing and productivity” (Emerson et al 2012).

Family practices, behaviours and attitudes to school and learning significantly impact on a child’s educational success.

You are ‘engaged’ in your child’s learning when you:

- Talk positively about school in general, their school in particular and the benefits of doing your best at school;
- Have high expectations – expect your child to do their best, apply themselves to their learning and complete work that has been set when its due;
- Support your child's consistent and punctual attendance at school;
- Ensure they have a healthy diet and enough rest;
- Develop a good working relationship with your child’s teacher/s – attend parent information sessions, read school and class newsletters, respond to notes and permission slips; attend parent/teacher interviews; keep an open line of communication about things that matter to your child’s learning and wellbeing; resolve grievances appropriately;
- Ensure that your child has the time, space and resources to do their homework – and to relax;
- Talk with your child about school, what they are learning, their friendships, what homework they have and how they feel they are doing;
- Taking their age into account, talk with your child about current affairs, things going on in the world, TV shows you watch together. Ask their opinion on issues and respect their point of view;
- Provide opportunities to experience a range of cultural and social experiences;
  - Participate in the life of their school community in whatever way best reflects your interest, skill and capacity;
- Read aloud with your child and/or encourage them to read often;
- Be a positive advocate for your child’s learning, social and emotional needs;
- Encourage and praise qualities such as persistence and having a go particularly when the task is challenging for your child;
- Encourage your child by acknowledging their successes, and;
- Acknowledge that you are your child’s first (and lifelong) teacher and ‘partner’ with their teacher/s and school in their education!

For more information about how to support your child’s learning visit the Federation’s website www.parentfederation.com.au
Easter Camp!

Not sure what to do with the kids these holidays?
Bring them to EASTER CAMP!
Two fun filled mornings full of activities learning about the significance of the biggest Feast Days of the year.

**When:** April 14 and 15
9am – 12:30pm

**Who:** Ages 4 – 10

**Where:** St Columba's Memorial School Hall, Yorke Town

**How much:** FREE

**Team Leaders:**
Are you 11 – 16 yrs old and interested in learning leadership skills, working with kids and want to have some fun?
Come to Easter Camp and help as a team leader!! Training to be held on Monday the 13th of April, 9:30am to 11:30am.

For all enquiries and to register your child/ren or nominate to be a team leader call Miriam Honner on 88521293 or 0417088174. Or alternatively email Miriam at mhonner@scms.catholic.edu.au

There will be 3 supervising adults with current police checks. Parents are more than welcome to stay for the morning with their children and enjoy the fun!
PROGRAMME FOR HOLY WEEK – 2015
THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE YORKE PENINSULA

You are invited to share in the Celebration of the Passion, Death & Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Saturday, 28th March – Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday
at 6.00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary’s Church, Edithburgh

Sunday, 29th March – Passion (Palm) Sunday
Mass at 9.00 a.m. in St. Brigid’s Church, Warooka.

Sunday, 1st April – Passion (Palm) Sunday
Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Agatha’s Church, Arthurton.

Monday, 30th March – Chrism Mass
at 6.00 p.m. in St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide.

Thursday, 2nd April – Mass of the Lord’s Supper
at 5.30 p.m. in St. Bartholomew’s Church, Maidland,
followed by adoration at the Altar of Repose until 8.00 p.m.

Thursday, 2nd April – Mass of the Lord’s Supper
at 7.30 p.m. in St. Columba’s Church, Yorketown,
followed by adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10.00 p.m.

Friday, 3rd April – Good Friday
The Way of the Cross will be conducted in every one of our seven churches at a time that is most convenient to the members of that community. A designated leader, after due consultation, will settle on an appropriate time.

Friday, 3rd April – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
at 3.00 p.m. in St. Malachy’s Church, Minlaton.

Friday, 3rd April – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
at 5.00 p.m. in St. Christopher’s Church, Ardrossan.

Saturday, 4th April – Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil Service & Mass
at 7.00 p.m. in St. Columba’s Church, Yorketown.

Easter Sunday, 5th April
Mass at 9.00 a.m. in St. Malachy’s Church, Minlaton.

Easter Sunday, 5th April
Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Bartholomew’s Church, Ardrossan.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Please note that I will be available all through Holy Week and will be pleased to suit your convenience. So please speak to me either personally or over the phone. (0430122001)
Tips on reducing the hazards that cause falls at home:

The home is the commonest place to fall. Hazards that contribute to falls in and around the home come under four main areas – poor lighting, slipping, tripping, and structural hazards.

Lighting:
- Increase the amount of light
- Decrease glare e.g. put net curtains in windows
- Increase contrast e.g. put a light strip on edge of dark steps
- Have light switches easy to get to
- Use the light, even when getting up at night

Slipping:
- Use non-slip flooring surfaces
- Remove rugs and mats on slippery surfaces (or put non-slip backing on them)
- Use a non-slip mat or strips in the shower/bath
- Clean up spills immediately
- Keep paths free of moss and leaves
- Don’t have highly polished walking surfaces

Tripping:
- Keep walkways clear
- Tuck electric cords under furniture or around skirting
- Fit a draft excluder rather than use a ‘sausage’ type at the bottom of the door
- Remove small changes in level or mark them with contrasting colour so they are easy to see.
- Have bedspreads and curtains neatly tailored so that they don’t spread over the floor
- Remove mats and rugs or have them well tucked down

Structural hazards:
- Have bathroom and toilet doors re-hung to open outwards (if you fall, someone can get to you that way)
- Have soap holders recessed or located at shoulder height
- Install rails in the bathroom/toilet/front and back door
- Eliminate dangerous lips into the shower
- Have outdoor paths that are smooth

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

In March 2014, the Premier, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, announced an election commitment to provide a sport voucher to the value of $50 for every primary school student in South Australia.

I am delighted to invite you to take part in the Sports Vouchers Program for 2015. The Sports Vouchers Program aims to reduce the cost of living for South Australian families by providing all primary school-aged children (Reception to Year 7) with a subsidy towards the cost of sport fees or sporting club memberships.

Every child wishing to participate in organised sport should have the opportunity to do so. Organised sport is a great way for children to be active and stay healthy. The Sports Vouchers can be used to encourage your child to try a new sport or to keep your child playing the sport they are already involved with.

The vouchers can be used to subsidise membership or participation fees for a sporting activity or program which involves a weekly match or training opportunity for at least 10 weeks. If the cost of the activity you select exceeds the value of the Sports Vouchers, you will still be responsible for payment of the difference.

To redeem the Sports Vouchers you can complete the voucher enclosed and present it at a Sports Vouchers registered club. You can use one voucher per child, per calendar year. Vouchers can be used at any time from March, through to 31 December 2015. Some registered clubs require online registration and many have already incorporated the redemption of the Sports Voucher into their online systems.

From March 2015, you can go to the Sports Vouchers website: www.sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au to search for a registered club in your local area which will accept the Sports Voucher toward club fees. A fact sheet and short video explaining the program can be found on the Sports Vouchers website.

If you don’t have access to a computer at home, your local library provides computer use and free access to the internet. If you require any additional information or assistance please email: sportsvouchers@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Bigell MP
Minister for Recreation and Sport

12 February 2015
**Winter Uniform Order**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One size fits all</td>
<td>2.3.4.6.8.10.12.14.16</td>
<td>$18.50</td>
<td>$37.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult’s XS to 3XL</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult’s Size 6 to 14</td>
<td>13-3</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult’s Size 1.2 to 3.8</td>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAFETY FIRST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forklift Course TLR2031001ANC</td>
<td>KADINA</td>
<td>Tues 14th April (Theory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Course students need to attend 2 days.Refresher course students only need to attend first day. (1st Day only for Refresher students)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitecard Course CPCCNHJ1061A</td>
<td>KADINA</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full day (6 hour) course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide First Aid HLTAD003</td>
<td>CLARE</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Care First Aid HLTAD004</td>
<td>KADINA</td>
<td>Wednesday 15th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face to Face 1 Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>CPR HLTAD001 - is also available same day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn Safe Drive Safe</td>
<td>KADINA</td>
<td>Tues 21st April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full day course to learn and complete testing to obtain a Learner’s Permit. Fee includes a driver’s handbook, training, testing and licence fees.</td>
<td></td>
<td>PORT PIRIE - Thurs 28th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Safe Environments</td>
<td>KADINA</td>
<td>Tues 16th June - FULL DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full day (7 hour) course</td>
<td></td>
<td>KADINA - Weds 17th June - HALF DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Day (3.3hrs) Refresher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent Customer Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group bookings taken for: Half Day Sessions, Week days or weekends, Day or evening, Accustom or your Venue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Service of Alcohol SITHFA009A</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 hours self paced</td>
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</table>

**ASK US ABOUT RUNNING A COURSE NEAR YOU**

If you get a better quote - ask us to match it

Call Accustom on 88213340 or email accustomconsulting@gmail.com

More information from: www.accustomconsulting.com.au
Fact Sheet for Parents/Caregivers

What is the Sports Vouchers program?

The Sports Vouchers program is a State Government initiative administered by the Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS). It is an opportunity for primary school age children from Reception to Year 7 to receive a $50 discount off sports club membership fees. All families with eligible children in South Australia will receive a letter through school (or home if home-schooled) informing them of the Sports Vouchers program and how it works. Sport providers can then offer a $50 discount on fees and subsequently be reimbursed by the Office for Recreation and Sport.

What can the $50 be used for?

Each eligible child can access a $50 voucher which can be redeemed to offset the cost of membership fees for participation in a minimum 10 week sports program. The discount cannot be used for equipment purchase or a one-off ‘come and try’ type event.

When will the program start?

The letters will be sent to schools during weeks 2-4 of Term 1 2016. Sport providers will register to be involved from November 2014. You will be able to claim your $50 subsidy at any time until 31 December 2015.

Who is eligible?

- Children who are at Reception to Year 7 age during the 2015 school year
- Children who are residents of South Australia

Note: only one $50 subsidy can be claimed per child per year.

Who are the providers?

Incorporated not-for-profit sport clubs and registered businesses affiliated with State/National Sport Organisations are eligible to register for the Sports Vouchers Program. Sport providers will need to demonstrate that they comply with the Children’s Protection Act 1993 and provide a Child Safe Environment. Registered organisations will also be subject to random audits of membership, financial reporting and Child Safe Compliance Statement.

Which sports will be included?

The Sports Voucher can be used for fees associated with any sport recognised by the Australian Sports Commission. Organisations for people with disabilities recognised by the Australian Sports Commission are also eligible.

Recognised Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archery</th>
<th>Athletics</th>
<th>Australian Rules Football</th>
<th>Badminton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Baton Twirling</td>
<td>Biatlon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billiards</td>
<td>BMX</td>
<td>Bobsleigh / Skeleton</td>
<td>Bocce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>Callisthenics</td>
<td>Campdraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Croquet</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DanceSport</td>
<td>Darts</td>
<td>Diving</td>
<td>Dragon Boating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight-Ball</td>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Floorball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frying Disc</td>
<td>Football (Soccer)</td>
<td>Gaelic Football / Hurling</td>
<td>Gliding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Handball</td>
<td>Handball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang Gliding</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>Ice Racing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>Ju Jitsu</td>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>Karate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kung Fu (Wu Shu)</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>Modern Pentathlon</td>
<td>Motor Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>Muay Thai</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Orienteering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parachuting</td>
<td>Paralympics</td>
<td>Polo</td>
<td>Polorosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pony Clubs</td>
<td>Powerlifting</td>
<td>Roller Sports</td>
<td>Rowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>Shooting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skating</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>Surf Life Saving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf Riding</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Synchronised Swimming</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Temple Bowing</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
<td>Underwater Sports</td>
<td>University Sport</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>Water Skiing</td>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability (Inclusive Sport SA)</td>
<td>Australian Athletics With a Disability</td>
<td>Blind Sport Australia</td>
<td>Deaf Sports Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Winter Sport Australia</td>
<td>Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia</td>
<td>Special Olympics Australia</td>
<td>Transplant Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do I need to do?

Once you have received your letter, follow the instructions on how to search online for providers in your area or in the sport you are interested in. There will also be information on how to gain free access to computers and the internet via SA public libraries.

Then take your Medicare card (or Australian Visa if you don’t have one) to a provider registered with the Sports Vouchers program to receive your $50 subsidy. When registering your child with a sport provider you will need to provide the following information:

- Name, age, date of birth, address
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Information on whether your child has played sport previously
- Medicare number (or Australian Visa if no Medicare number is held)
- Confirmation that you consent to share this information with the Office for Recreation and Sport
- Confirmation that you have not previously claimed a Sports Vouchers $50 subsidy with another provider for the same child.

For further information on the Sports Vouchers Program please email SportsVouchers@sa.gov.au
Why connect at school?

Peter held his daughter Rachel's hand tightly. It was a first for him to be taking Rachel to school. His heart was pounding as they made their way to the classroom. There was the teacher, Ms Lim. She smiled at them, "Welcome Rachel, hello Peter." Another child waved at Rachel. She seemed happy to have a friend to play with. So why was Peter still nervous?

"We're having a morning tea for parents next week. Will you come?" Ms Lim asked. "I'll try," Peter said. "It all seems different from when I went to school," he thought as he headed out the door. "They seem to want parents to be involved. I wonder what else has changed?"

Schools can be scary places, and not just for children

Parents and carers also need to feel welcome and at ease to get the most out of being involved with their children's school.

When parents and carers are involved and connected with school, children are better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. This is an important emphasis in schools nowadays that may be very different from what parents or carers remember, or what they may have experienced in another country.

Connecting at school

Being connected at school is not about having mobile phones and computers. It's about knowing you can get support, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with school staff to help your child learn and develop. Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents and carers to support children's mental health and wellbeing.

- When schools and parents and carers work together, children find it easier to understand what is expected from them and are better able to manage. They have fewer behaviour problems and do better at school.
- When parents and carers are connected to school it helps them get support when they need it. Support may come from talking with teachers or other school staff, or from making connections with other parents and carers. Schools help families to connect through having lots of different activities that parents and carers can get involved in.
- Being connected to the school helps keep parents and carers informed. Parents and carers who are informed about what their children are learning at school and about opportunities to get involved are able to support them better at home.
School is a place for adults to make new friends too!

Having opportunities to get to know other parents and carers, to find out how to support children's learning, or to get involved in class activities can help parents and carers feel connected to the school.

Working together is the best way to support children's mental health and wellbeing.

How parents and carers can get connected to the school

- Make contact with your child's teacher and keep in touch. Ask for help if you don't understand something.
- Check for notices that are sent home and keep informed about school activities through the school newsletter.
- Attend information sessions and social activities at the school whenever you can.
- Make contact with other parents and carers at your school. Perhaps meet up informally with parents or carers of other children in your child's class, find out about parent social groups that meet at or near the school, or join a parent committee.
- Take an interest in the school council and consider joining it if you have the time and skills.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au