Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends of our College,

We are nearing the end of Term 1 with Easter just around the corner. This is an unusual year in that school holidays do not coincide with the Easter break Term 1 finishes the week after. However, as I have announced in previous Newsletters, the last day of Term - Friday 1st April - is a pupil-free day. This day has been set aside, with permission from the Catholic Education Office, for our staff retreat. Please note that the School Office will be closed that day to enable our Administration staff to participate in the retreat.

**Easter - a time to give thanks to God for the gift of his Son to Humankind:**
In the Christian world Easter is celebrated next week. It is one of the most significant events in the Christian calendar as it marks that time in history where Jesus Christ, Son of God, not only suffered and died for all of us, but rose from the dead three days later. The resurrection is the event that give hope to all Christians in the after-life and confirms our faith in following the preachings of Jesus:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved though him.” (John 3:16-17)

**My School on-line:** Last week the My School website was opened up to the Australian public, presenting the NAPLAN results for all schools around Australia. The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) has released a news media on this topic, pointing out that NAPLAN is a significant indicator of how schools are going. It also reminds us that there are other indicators we should pay attention to: such things as school climate, a sense of belonging, a school that addresses individual needs of students, etc. Here at O’Loughlin we make every effort to address all these areas so that our students are given the best opportunity to grow and develop into well-educated and responsible young people. You can find the NCEC media release elsewhere in this edition of our Newsletter.

**Bullying – No Way:** Today is ‘National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence’. This annual day is Australia’s key anti-bullying reminder for schools to ensure that the school environment is a safe place for children and encourages all students to ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond. Here at O’Loughlin Catholic College bullying and violence has no place and we actively work to ensure all our students feel safe when they enter our school gates. When there is a breach against this code we treat it as serious and work with those who go against our code of respect and tolerance of others.
College Advisory Board: Last Monday the College Advisory Board had its second meeting for the year. Office Bearers were elected at this meeting and new members were welcomed. There is still one vacancy on the Board for a parent representative, should anyone wish to nominate. I would like to thank these members who have offered to assist the College by being on the Board. Membership for 2016 is as follows: -  
**President:** Fr Roy O’Neill (representing the Parish Priests for the school)  
**Chairman:** Mr Anthony Burton  
**Executive Officer:** Mr Jim Jolley (Principal)  
**Secretary:** Mrs Roz Longstaff  
**Staff Rep:** Mr Jason Tutty  
**Other Parent Reps:** Mrs Kim Leslie, Mrs Tania Jong and Mr Paul Maher. Paul has also accepted to be the Chair of the Board’s Finance Committee.

May I thank most sincerely our retiring members from last year for their valuable contribution to the Board: Mrs Deborah Raison (Chairperson), Mrs Michelle Horsfall, Mrs Kathleen Richardson and Mr and Mrs Glover.

**Mid-Term Reports:** Please note that mid-term reports will be posted home at the end of this Term. Parent/Teacher interviews will occur during Week 1 and 2 of Term 2. Bookings can be made online.

**Year 7 Camps:** One of the major events this week at the College has been the Year 7 camps. These were held at Lake Bennett, 70 km south of Darwin. Our Year 7s went there in two groups, approximately 70 in each group, accompanied by several of our staff. I visited the site earlier in the week and the students seemed to be enjoying the opportunities provided to exhibit their talents and skills in various activities and to get to know each other better. I would like to thank Ms Ella Carrie, Camps coordinator, Ms Kaleena Markowski, Year 7 Team Leader, and all the staff who went on these camps to help the students have this enjoyable experience.

**Will your Easter Eggs be traffikfree?** With the advent of Easter you would have noticed a strong commercial push to buy Easter eggs. I take the liberty here to encourage you to look for the Fairtrade labels when you go shopping for chocolate. Why? In Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, children are still trafficked and forced to harvest cocoa in order to supply our loved Easter eggs. Look for Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ labelled products. The label tells us that steps have been taken to prevent and disrupt this abuse.

**The Good Egg Guide**
Want to know which eggs are #traffikfree in shopping centres near you? Download the Good Egg Guide to find out which ones are #traffikfree. Let us know if you find some that aren’t listed!

**Coming Events (March/April):**
- Year 12 Creative Arts Trip to Sydney – Saturday 19th to Friday 25th March
- Harmony Day celebrated at the College – Monday 21st March
- Easter - Friday 25th to Monday 27th March
- Last day of Term 1 for students – Thursday 31st March
- Staff Retreat Day – Friday 1st April
- Term 1 holidays – Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th April
- Term 2 - commences Monday 11 April
- Parent/Teacher Interviews – during Week 1 and 2 of Term 2.

That’s all from me for this fortnight. Our next Newsletter will come out on Thursday 31st March.

God bless.

Jim Jolley
Principal