Catholic Education Week

INFORMATION KIT

May 12-19 2017
Catholic Education Week 2017: Where Every Child Matters

What is Catholic Education Week?

Catholic Education Week is a great opportunity to highlight the wonderful things that are happening in every one of our schools.

Benefits include:

• a focused week to showcase Catholic Education across South Australia
• an opportunity to celebrate our work in schools
• a leverage point for media and community attention
• an opportunity for broader exposure by being part of a state-wide promotion.

When is Catholic Education Week?

The week will be held from

Friday May 12 to Friday May 19 2017

Who is Catholic Education Week for?

Think about holding a mix of events that target different groups such as:

• students
• staff
• parents
• old scholars
• the wider community.

Ensure that at least one of your events raises your profile in the wider community and attracts the attention of potential students and their families.

Cover Photo: Students from St Joseph’s, Port Lincoln celebrate Catholic Education Week 2016.
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How can our school be involved?

There are three key ways to be involved:

1. Local community celebrations & events

This booklet includes an A-Z of ideas for celebratory and promotional activities that can be held during Catholic Education Week.

You might like to consider:

- selecting one or more of these ideas to run in your school or cluster/region
- shifting an existing event to coincide with Catholic Education Week.

2. Open day / principal’s tour

Consider holding an open day or principal tour either during the week or in the weeks following Catholic Education Week. There will be opportunities to promote these events through the CESA website.

3. State-wide profile raising

We strongly encourage you to support our state-wide promotional campaign. There will be three key elements to our campaign:

- **Signage** – Schools will receive signs to display in prominent locations.
- **Advertiser Magazine** – Schools will be asked to supply a profile piece for our feature magazine in the Advertiser.
- **Social media** - There will also be opportunities to help us share our good news stories through social media.
Photo: Students from Dominican School, Semaphore featured in The Southern Cross in celebration of Catholic Education Week 2016.
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A - Z of ideas for local celebrations:

Wondering what to do? Here are some ideas and examples of how other schools have celebrated Catholic Education Week...

Ambassador/s

You might like to consider nominating a local ambassador to support your Catholic Education Week celebrations. Ambassadors could be past students, teachers or members of local communities who are, or have been, affiliated with the school or with Catholic Education in some way.

Breakfast / community luncheon

A breakfast provides the perfect opportunity to invite leaders in the community such as parish priests, religious sisters, politicians, media, university, pre-school/kindy or TAFE representatives, parents and business people to come along and enjoy a shared meal while sampling student performances or looking at displays.

Connect with others

Technology offers great opportunities for students to communicate with other school communities from around the world. You may wish to consider contacting a school with the same name as yours or one that was established by the same religious order. You may also wish to set up a liaison with a school from an area that is disadvantaged due to a natural disaster or economic hardship.

Display

Prepare a creative display in your school foyer or front office. Consider creating some fence art or a mural. Or why not hold a display at a local shopping centre or community hub?

Educational activities / workshops / courses

Consider tapping into your staff and parent skill base and offering a free workshop or course to the public. If your budget permits, you may also employ a guest presenter on a topic of wide community interest (eg parenting teenagers).

Fundraising effort

Even if you already contribute to various charities throughout the year, Catholic Education Week is an excellent week to focus on a fundraising project (eg coin drive).
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Grandparents / Grandfriends Day
Help students to become more aware of the strength, wisdom and love that they have gained from their grandparents, grandfriends and volunteers by holding a shared lunch, liturgy or school tour.

Host an event for parents
Encourage your Parents and Friends Association to conduct a special activity or function as a part of Catholic Education Week.

Invite an old scholar
Invite prominent or interesting past students or staff back to present at an assembly. Consider inviting other special guests such as your mayor or local politicians.

Jam session
Organise a celebration of songs that captures the energy, enthusiasm and joy of life at your school – this could be shared during lunchtime or turned into a podcast.

Kindy / Aged care visit
Could students read to children at the local kindergarten? Could one of your classes visit an aged care facility to perform songs and interact with the residents? Or perhaps students could assist with some garden maintenance at a local community facility?

Letter writing
Honour members of the local community who are supportive of the school/college by getting students to write a special letter of thanks.

Make a difference
Have each grade or homegroup focus on a service project for the week. Invite students to brainstorm ways they could use their skills and talents to support others.

Take positive action against global warming by switching off school lights and other electrical devices for a full or part day. This event connects with the philosophy and principles of Earth Hour.

Or why not hold a Clean Up Day - encourage students (in class groups) to clean-up part of the local community – parish grounds around the church, local streets and parks.
Newspaper article
Invite your local paper to write an article highlighting one or more of your events.

Open libraries / learning centres
Schools may invite parents, parishioners or a local seniors group to tour the library and explore books and electronic resources with students.

Pop-up prayer spaces
Consider providing the resources and opportunities for students to create pop-up prayer spaces around the school.

Quiz or games afternoon
Celebrate Catholic Education Week by organising a quiz or games afternoon. Do something different – maybe an afternoon of activities or games from yesteryear (eg egg and spoon / three legged / sack races etc).

Regional / cluster Eucharist
Regional or cluster schools could combine for a Mass / liturgy and a day of celebration / picnic / activities.

Signage
Display Catholic Education Week signage in prominent locations at your school.

Transition events
Primary schools might consider inviting local kindergartens, playgroups or early learning centres to participate in activities.
Secondary schools/colleges may invite students from local primary schools to participate in an afternoon of science or sport activities.

**Updates and information**

Update and refresh your school website with a Catholic Education Week section. Be sure to include highlights in your newsletter and social media.

**Video**

Video your students sharing “My school is great because …” and post on your website and social media.

**Walk to school day**

Designate one day during Catholic Education Week, where students, families and staff are encouraged to walk to school (safely). This event might conclude with fresh fruit for all.

**X, Y, Z**

And no doubt you can think of plenty of other creative ideas!

*Photo: Battle of the Bands - an inter-school Catholic Education Week 2016 event hosted by Rostrevor College.*
Want to know more?
If you have any questions, please contact:

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