



Dear Grade 5 and 6 Parents,

Our schools have for many years offered “Friday Sport” for children in Grade 5 and 6. The sports are typically played as a Summer Sport roster of 6 or 7 weeks in Term 1 and a Winter Sport roster of 8 weeks in Term 2.

Most schools leave at 12.15pm to arrive at venues for a 1pm start to games. Typically games last 1 to 1.5 hours. Children normally return to school and are dismissed shortly afterwards.

Catholic School Principals in Launceston have in the past two years considered closely the value of these events. Last year we consulted with Grade 5 and 6 teachers in our schools. The following was noted by Principals and teachers

- The impact on learning was significant (loss of time out of class)
- Significant time spent preparing and travelling to and from games
- Very significant financial costs to all schools with buses and extra relief teaching staff
- Challenging to have enough parent support as coaches and managers
- Are all students provided for with the sports we offered?
- We all agreed the positive social impact these Fridays have for most children

After considering all possibilities ALL Catholic Primary schools have agreed to trial a new format for 2018.

- We agreed to provide 4 Gala days, one in each term where children would arrive at venues for a 10am start and conclude games by 2.15pm.
- Term 1 and 4 would be Summer Gala Days and Term 2 and 3 Winter Gala Days
- We are exploring continuing to offer the traditional sports (Cricket, Softball, AFL, Netball, Hockey, Soccer) along with alternative “physical exercise” (Gymnastics, Dance, Yoga).

The benefits as we see it are as follows

- The children, weather permitting, would spend more time playing games but less time out of class
- The financial costs to school would be more than halved
- We are working on combining a skills component for each sport/activity so children are able to enhance their skills as well as enjoy the competitive opportunities.

In the next few weeks teachers will speak to children about the sports on offer and equally all schools will be looking to parents to assist with coaching and managing.

If you would like any more information or to discuss our “Gala Days” please make contact with your school Principal/Grade 5 and 6 Teacher

Kind Regards

Northern Catholic Primary Principals