

newsletter

***Nothing is beyond our reach
If we reach out together,
If we reach out with all the confidence we have,
If we are willing to persevere even in difficult times
And if we rejoice with every small step forward.***
Joan Chittister

11 February 2014

Dear Parents

Congratulations and thank you to all who contributed in some way to the success of Friday night's Welcome Back BBQ. The presence of so many students and their families was testimony to the sense of community that is valued and very much at the heart of our school. A special thank you to this year's P&F Executive – Dave Vidler, Jenny Fitzpatrick, Juliane McPhee and Tania Force- for their efforts to ensure the success of the evening.

On Sunday I attended the Mass of thanksgiving to mark the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Father Peter and his friend from seminary days Vicar General, Monsignor Peter Meneely. The celebratory lunch for 150 guests which followed Mass was held at St. Finbarr's. Bishop John Gerry and fellow priests, Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education Miss Pam Betts and Executive Director of Centacare Mr Peter Selwood joined family and friends to celebrate this significant occasion. Many of the guests complimented me on the school especially the welcoming artwork which captures in so many ways the ethos of our school.

The Year 4, 1-1 laptop program begins this week with Boot Camp on Tuesday 11 February and Wednesday 12 February. This morning I had the pleasure of being in the Year 4 classroom when the laptops still boxed were handed out to the students- it was not too dissimilar to Christmas morning before the presents are opened! On Wednesday we will welcome Mr Gary Kirby who is Senior Information Systems Manager with Brisbane Catholic Education. Gary will join Matt Ryan and class teachers Terry Brown and Fiona Whelan for Boot Camp.

Congratulations to Genna Garvey (Year 7) and Sasha Sofronoff (year 4) who are the inaugural winners of the weekly 'Gotcha Award'. The Gotcha Award has been introduced as part the school's Behaviour Support Plan. The purpose of these awards is to encourage and reinforce the school rule that is being highlighted each week. This week, *I am Responsible* is the rule being explicitly taught by class teachers.

Thank you all for the wonderful start to the 2014 school year.

Kind regards, Ann

FROM OUR APRE

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – RECONCILIATION - Our Parish will begin the Sacramental Programme next week with the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**. Any child who is baptised in the Catholic Church and is in Grade 3 or above is eligible to participate in the programme and celebrate their First Reconciliation. The programme is family-based and parents take the responsibility of preparing their child to receive the sacrament. The parish tries to make the programme as user friendly as possible and it begins by inviting all parents to an information hour where they answer any questions and provide some education to help parents in their role of “handing on the faith” to their child. The Jesuit theologian and educator, Fr Richard Leonard, will provide some input on the night. **The (one hour) Information Session takes place on Monday, February 17th, 7.00pm, at Sacred Heart church, Rosalie.**

For those who cannot make the Monday night an additional preparation session is offered at the Atrium of the Good Shepherd, Rosalie on Saturday, February 22nd at 3pm. This preparation session on Saturday is for both parents and children. For more information please contact the Jubilee Sacramental Co-ordinator – Jenny Donnelly via email at jend@donnellys.net.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – BAPTISM - The tradition of our Catholic Church has been to baptise children shortly after birth so that, from the start, they can grow up within the family of the Church. Occasionally, for many different reasons, a young child misses out on being baptised. Not wanting to diminish the importance of this sacrament, while, at the same time, wanting to provide some form of preparation so that the child understands what is happening, **the parish have traditionally run a preparation course (for older children) during Lent** so that baptism can be celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Parents are the first teachers and even more so in the practice of the Faith. If you have any questions please contact Jenny Donnelly, our Jubilee Sacramental Coordinator at jend@donnellys.net.au or Father Peter. More information can be also found on the parish webpage: www.jubileeparish.com

THANK YOU - We celebrated our Opening Mass last Thursday and were lucky enough to have three Sisters of Charity with us, Sister Margaret, Sister Kate and Sister Carol.



THIS WEEK - Both Year 3 classes will attend the Parish Mass this Thursday at 9am. Please come along if you are free. Don't forget St Valentine's feast day on Friday. This Roman saint secretly married couples during the time of Emperor Claudius.



Last week's Gospel from Matthew was about 'light' and so I leave you with this simple prayer:

You Lord,
Are the light of the world!
Give us your love and truth
That we might bring the light of your love to others.
Amen

God Bless, Kathryn

SCHOOL NEWS

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION EVENING: TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

6.30pm	Australian Curriculum
7.00pm	Session 1
7.30pm	Session 2

6.30pm -7.00pm To begin this year's Parent/Teacher information evening parents are invited to attend an information session on the Australian Curriculum. Miss Kate O'Neill BCE Education Officer Curriculum will present this session.

7.00pm (Session 1) & 7.30pm (Session 2) Teachers will conduct two sessions, each of 30 minute duration for the parents of children in their respective classrooms. The same content will be covered in each session. This format of repeating sessions, will allow parents with two children to go to one child's class for session 1 and the second child's class for session 2.

Families with more than two children are invited to make arrangements to meet with their children's teachers at another mutually convenient time.

A reminder, that this evening does not allow time for individual Parent/Teacher Interviews to be conducted. Thank you for your assistance and understanding with regard to this matter.

SCHOOL RENEWAL SURVEY Thank you to the families who have returned the survey that was included in last week's newsletter. Surveys are asked to be returned by Friday 14 February.

Beginning next week the surveys will be collated and the relevant feedback, in conjunction with the broad 2012 – 2016 goals and the on-going actions from 2013 will be used to establish 2014 goals and actions. This process of discernment will be done in consultation with the school's Leadership Team, Jubilee Schools' Council, Father Peter and Brisbane Catholic Education. It would be my intention that this process is finalised as soon as possible so the School Renewal Plan for 2014 can be presented to the community.

WELCOME MARIST ASHGROVE YEAR 10 STUDENTS This Thursday we welcome five Year 10 Marist Ashgrove students who will work with the Year 3 class as part of their Leadership and Mentoring Program - LAMP. LAMP is one of the outreach opportunities under the MATES umbrella. MATES Ministry – (Marists are taking everybody seriously) is the Marist College Ashgrove's social justice and solidarity outreach program. At its heart it is about Faith, Relationship and Solidarity. It works on a model of compassion, service, and justice.

LAMP is in its 5th year of operation and works on the model of Year 10 boys, walking and working with younger students in the local Catholic Primary Schools. The Marist students visit on a weekly basis throughout term time, and work with students from the school – the ages and type of work/play activity is determined by our host school. The response to the program is overwhelming. The Marist boys enjoy the time spent with younger students and are given opportunity to engage with, listen to and support others.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING Next Thursday and Friday Donna Fiechtner, Kathryn Willis and I will be attending the annual Brisbane Catholic Education Leadership Team Meeting. On Thursday we will participate in a workshop entitled, *The Psychology and Practice of Collaborative Leadership: Engaging Complexity and Emergence- How and why we solve complex problems better together*. Friday will provide the time and opportunity for planning and school goal setting. In our absence, Mrs Denise Shaw will look after all things St Finbarr's. My thanks to Denise for taking on this role and responsibility in my absence.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Welcome back! We have been extremely busy in the library adding many fantastic new digital and printed resources into our system and resourcing our classrooms. Library borrowing will commence this week with lessons starting next week. Prep, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 students will enjoy library lessons and borrowing on Wednesdays. Year 1 and Middle School students will enjoy library lessons and borrowing on Thursdays. Please ensure that your child brings their library bag on their specified day.

St Finbarr's Parent's Book Club invites all parents to join us for relaxed reviews of parent selected titles. Our first meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th February. The venue will be confirmed in our next newsletter. All welcome!

Yours in reading, Mel Green – Teacher Librarian

CLASS NEWS

PREP LOVE - It's so wonderful to see such happy faces every morning in prep love. The children have settled in very well and this is only their second week. We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and created some wonderful art for our classroom. So far we have learnt all about our colours and made black and white dalmations, colourful Elmer the Elephants, and yesterday we made some wonderful yellow and black sunflowers. In art we have drawn the Mona Lisa by DeVinci and created line drawings like Monet. They have also been to Drama, Sacred Singing, their first whole school mass and assemblies. Prep Love have also learnt some new prayers and the letter S. It's so exciting and we can't wait to learn more next week.

YEAR 1 LOVE - We have been working hard writing about our weekend, learning high frequency words and letter sounds, counting and writing numbers to 20 and making tigers to name just a few things. We have also been learning about the days of the week and enjoying writing in our handwriting books.



YEAR 1 FAITH - What a great start to the year for Year 1 Faith. It's been wonderful to hear of the adventures had during the break and see the return of smiling faces. Dragon our pet turtle has transitioned well after being in Prep for two years and is happy following many of his Prep friends up to the next grade.

There are many changes for the class and all are adapting well to increased writing and math. This week is our first for homework and spelling words. Everyone has been showing great effort at school to learn their spelling and I hope this enthusiasm has travelled home. Homework is due to be returned Friday when we will have our spelling test. This week all students are attempting the full list. Adjustments will be made over coming weeks to better suit their ability levels.

YEAR 2 CHARITY - Welcome back to all the Year 2's!

Everyone has settled in well and is getting back into the swing of school life after the holidays. We have started most of our units of work. In Science we are looking at growing and changing. We will investigate lifecycles and next week we will have some special visitors! In Maths we are revising our two-digit place value and will move on and look at three-digit place value.

Every week we will look at our school rule of the week, this week we are learning all about being responsible. We all hope we get a gotcha card while on the playground! We all look forward to a great term ahead!

YEAR 3 FAITH - Our Year 3 faith students have started the year with a big bang! We have been learning about space, and in particular, how and why we have night and day on Earth. A bit more locally, we have investigated the traditional people who lived in Ashgrove; the Turrbul people, and learnt a few indigenous words.

This week we are celebrating class Mass. Our theme is 'God is our Shepherd'. We love praising God for all that he does for us by singing with our angelic voices, reading with confidence and being respectful in God's house. We are looking forward to exploring the bible to see how people in the past have shown their love for God through songs, poems, stories and psalms.

YEAR 4 FAITH/CHARITY – All Year students have been very busy settling in to the year and preparing for "Boot Camp". Swimming began last week on Wednesday and will continue for the remainder of

the term. The students have been working out what the new school rules will mean for them and the St Finbarr's community. They created a personal shield showing their own ideas and then created a class shield that captured their ideas

We have been using "Play is the Way" to reinforce the messages of Safety, Responsibility, Respect and Learner.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARITY - It has been a great start to the year in Middle School Charity. The students are busily working. They have been doing lots of testing. They have learnt about decimals in maths. They have completed grammar activities on verbs and nouns.

They have done science experiments on how things change, such when tartaric acid is added to bicarbonate of soda. Lots of fizz! With Mr Thomson, students have been learning about parts of the Church, such as the sacristy. We have investigated the school rules and agreed on the correct behaviour at school. We have been researching on LIFE and learning to note-take and present persuasive speeches. Phew! It really has been a pleasure to get to know your children over the last few weeks; it is shaping up to be a very fun and productive year.

Claire McGahan and I look forward to seeing you at the parent information night.

WHAT'S ON AT ST. FINBARR'S

Thursday 13 February	School Mass – 9am - Year 3 Faith
Friday 14 February	Tuckshop
Monday 17 February	Assembly – Prayer - 2.15pm – Year 2 Charity Sacrament of Reconciliation Enrolment and Information Night – Rosalie Church –7pm to 8pm.
Tuesday 18 February	Parent Information Night – See newsletter for details
Thursday 20 February	School Mass – 9am - Year 1 Faith & Year 1 Love
Friday 21 February	Tuckshop
Sunday 2 March	First Family Mass – 8.30am

IN & OUT

	IN	OUT
Wednesday 12 February	Mrs Bettina Currie	Mrs Sue Downs – Prep
Thursday 13 February	Mrs Vicki Gallagher	Mrs Moya Frisby – Year 3
Friday 14 February	Mrs Vicki Gallagher Ms Tenille Webber	Mrs Moya Frisby – Year 3 Mrs Fiona Whelan – Year 4