

newsletter

**BE SEEKERS OF TRUTH
AND DOERS OF JUSTICE.
Mary Ward**

26 February 2014

Dear Parents

The weekly Gotcha Awards are a lovely way to begin the school week. Last week the focus school rule was *I am a Learner* and on Monday Hannah Bond and Henry Teall (Year 1 Faith) were the two students whose names were drawn out of the Gotcha Box. Hannah and Henry had in some way last week demonstrated that they were following the school rule – *I am a Learner*. This week the focus has been on the rule, *I am Respectful*. As part of the writing and implementation of the School's Behaviour Support Plan each week there is a focus on one of the four school rules. *I Am Safe, I Am Responsible, I Am A Learner and I Am Respectful*. With their respective class, teachers explicitly teach these rules each week.

Yesterday we welcomed Mr Roby Curtis from Blind Eye Ministries – Emmanuel Community to our weekly assembly. Roby was accepting seven backpacks filled with non-perishables that had been purchased by last year's Middle School Students. In making the presentation the Year Seven students explained that in their final unit of work last year they worked together to raise funds to help the homeless of Brisbane. From a 'True Colours' Day the students raised \$400. With that \$400 the students worked together in seven groups, each with \$50. *'With that money, we were able to purchase non-perishable items that we decided would be suitable for some homeless people in our community. We researched for suitable items online and then went to the local supermarkets to purchase each item. Each group donated a backpack to hold the items and for each homeless person to keep. There was a wide range of items bought – some necessities; some to assist in finding a job; some for survival; some for comfort and some just as treats. Our purchases ranged from: Cans of non-perishable food and water bottles; sunscreen and a hat – to survive. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo – for health and hygiene. Hair brush, pens, notebooks to assist in finding employment. Novels, sweets and lollies – as a treat. And even a yoga mat and pillow – for comfort.'*

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to Middle School Teacher Mrs Denise Shaw for facilitating this opportunity for her class last year.

This Sunday is the first Family Mass to be held at 8.30am. All children present will be involved in the celebration. Please refer to Kathryn Willis' request for children to be readers at Mass on Sunday. Parishioners are always very appreciative of the presence of young families at Sunday Masses so it would be lovely to have a good representation of school families at this Mass. Morning Tea will be served. Please bring a plate to share. Thank you to Jenny Fitzpatrick for organising Brew Booth for coffee.

*Best wishes for the week ahead,
Ann Hall*

YEAR 7 TO SECONDARY IN 2015 Planning for the move of the Year 7 students to secondary has been a complex and involved process. Secondary colleges will require more buildings and teachers to accommodate the increase in student numbers while primary schools will need to adjust their staffing and other local arrangements to cater for the decrease in student numbers. One of the BCE strategic initiatives to support Year 7 to Secondary has been to provide interested primary teachers with a structured opportunity to work/teach in a secondary school/college. Last year Mrs Denise Shaw spent five days at Mary Mackillop Nundah and this year Mrs Fiona Whelan will spend five days at Mary Mackillop Nundah. Fiona will begin her experience of working in a secondary setting this week.

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL The St Finbarr's swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 12 March at Stafford State School. This Friday you will receive the events that your child/ren has/have been nominated in by the swimming teachers, in consultation with the child's teacher. This process has been completed over the course of 5 weeks on each Wednesday.

After reviewing these nominations you will be asked to return the nomination form to your child/ren's class teacher by Monday 3 March. If you see a challenge with the nomination you are asked to let your respective child's class teacher know by the Monday 3 February.

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGIA WALKER Georgia qualified for the Regional Championships in all 5 events contested on Friday 14 February NW District Primary School Swimming Carnival - 100M Breaststroke, 50M Breaststroke, 50M Backstroke, 50M Butterfly and 50M Freestyle. Georgia's best results were in Breaststroke where she achieved a first place in the 100M and a second place in the 50M. We wish Georgia the best of luck tomorrow when she competes at the Regional Championships to be held at the Valley Pool.

CLASS NEWS

PREP – In Prep Love we have all settled into school routine really well. We have been learning new letter sounds and names and have looked at S A T so far. We have been learning to count and we all count how many children are in Prep everyday! Our special numbers have been 1, 2 and 3. We have been busy creating lots of beautiful art work too. Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Nothard are especially proud of our s,s, snakes and a, a, ants and our t, t, tigers. We have also been making our own special patterns using coloured pencils, patty cake cases and peg boards.

YEAR 1 LOVE - The children have taken reading books home this week for the first time. Routines are now well established for homework and spelling tests.

Year 1 Love have revisited all of the individual sounds now. In number the students are grouping tens and writing 'teen' numbers. The children wrote on paper chain people and recorded how they felt at different gatherings. We have all enjoyed looking at baby and toddler photographs during talk time.

Last Thursday we gathered together for our first Year One Mass. It was great to see so many parents joining our special celebration. In Science, our topic this term is 'curious creatures' and the class enjoyed their time in the garden with Mrs Enter as they were able to examine the wriggly earthworms.

YEAR 1 FAITH - In Year 1 Faith we had a huge week and I asked the children to tell me some of the things they enjoyed. They told me they had Year 1 Mass. Everyone had lots of fun learning the songs and were grateful to see so many parents who were able to join us. Each Wednesday we go swimming and are practicing our bubble arm, breathing arm strokes. This week we started readers and everyone is enjoying their stories. Four readers will come home each week and can be returned Friday. In class we are beginning to look at insects and other bugs for common characteristics. Try looking in your backyard to see what you can find.

YEAR 2 - Week 5 already, how the term is flying!

We welcomed some special visitors into the Year 2 classroom last Monday. Ten eggs arrived in an incubator and one by one they all hatched. We were very lucky to see the very last egg hatch and it was very special.

The chicks are now getting big and we can see them growing and changing before our very eyes. They are eating a lot and now that they are stronger we will be able to take them out of the brooder box this week and hold them. We are all looking forward to that!

In Literacy we have been learning about the structure of a narrative and we are learning about the different character archetypes. Already we have looked at the hero and trickster character and this week we will look at the maiden. It is very interesting.

We have all been very busy in the pool and are practicing hard for the upcoming swimming carnival.

YEAR 3 - What great progress we are making! In English, we have been reading the Spiderwick Chronicles and exploring different character archetypes common to most narratives. We are also looking at effectively getting a point across with persuasive writing. In Religion we are now in the process of making Prayer Flags using our favourite psalms. Once we are finished we will begin our "Saying Sorry and Meaning It" unit on Reconciliation. This week, the students completed their Turrbal Time assessment and we will now be blasting through time into Ashgrove's recent history.

YEAR 4 FAITH - We are in the full swing of Term 1 now. We are using pencils, computers, books, songs, games and lots of other tools to help us learn. In Maths we have moved on to addition and subtraction. We have used number lines and also the written method to add and subtract. In Religion we found the definition of 'community' in the dictionary and online at kids.net.au and came up with our own individual definition. We then found an image to match that definition. In English we started reading Rowan of Rin and we were predicting what we thought was going to happen next. We looked at the revolting recipe 'Slimy Sandwiches' and we are now thinking of our own revolting recipes. This week, on Friday, our class is harvesting and parents should have received a note inviting them to purchase some produce from our very own garden. We were out watering the garden today and we were thankful that some rain came along to help us. Finally this week Year 4 are leading Mass and we hope to see lots of families there on Thursday to celebrate with us.

YEAR 4 CHARITY - Year 4 Charity was busy last week doing Athletics and earning points to be first in Australia and finally ended the week on an extraordinary 140000 points. *Well done 4 Charity.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOVE - Term 1, 2014 is well underway and we in Middle School Love have been busily becoming familiar with the expectations for learning as school leaders. We welcomed Audrey O'Brien to our class and for Years 6 and 7 we are working towards High School, as it is our final year at St Finbarr's. We enjoy spending time with our Prep buddies and are getting used to being role models for the younger grades at our school. Our Assembly this week focused on 'I am Respectful' and we explored many ways that we can be respectful to ourself and others. All students in our class have been working well, becoming familiar with Mrs Shaw's particular 'brand' of organisation and working on our main focus, this term, of learning about significant 'great' people in History. Keep smiling from Middle School Love.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARITY - In Middle School Charity, we have been studying the qualities that leaders possess. We have researched elements such as their early life, achievements, and challenges. We've also been learning about dissolving, and have undertaken a salt dissolving experiment. We now know everything there is to know about the different states of matter! Library and Drama started and we have been really enjoying going to these classes. We have been focusing on our four rules, be safe, be responsible, be respectful and be a learner. We made really nice shields, which demonstrate how to follow those rules, and be responsible members of our school community.

FROM OUR APRE

EMMANUEL COMMUNITY - On Monday Roby and William joined us from the Emmanuel Community to receive backpacks filled with food, toiletries, stationery and sleeping mats to distribute to the local homeless. Thank you to Mrs Shaw for organising this fundraising effort at the end of 2013.

FAMILY MASS - On Sunday (2 March) we will celebrate our first Family Mass at St. Finbarr's Church at 8:30am. We are looking for interested students to do the readings at Mass this Sunday. Please reply via email if



your child would like to be considered to do a reading at Mass. All students who attend this Family Mass will be involved in the final hymn. Please come and join us.

LENT - Lent begins next week. On Tuesday 4 March the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes will be served. Please see letter attached. Also on Tuesday four student leaders and I will attend the Project Compassion Launch 2014 at the Cathedral of St Stephen's. The CARITAS theme this year is ***Have Life And Have It To The Full***. Join us on Wednesday (5 March) to receive your ashes. We will celebrate Mass at 9am. Swimming groups will receive their ashes later in the day.

CLASS MASS - This week Year 4 will celebrate Mass with the parish on Thursday morning at 9am. This is another chance to celebrate with us.

God Bless,
Kathryn



FROM THE CURRICULUM DESK

Following our 'Introduction to the Australian Curriculum' presentation at the Parent Information Evening last week, we would like to offer further insight into the Australian English Curriculum. As in all Learning Areas (subjects), students will be explicitly taught the knowledge, understanding and skills outlined in the Curriculum. These are organised into developmental sequences called 'strands', which are inter-related and inform and support each other as well as students' growing understanding and use of English.

The three strands of the English Curriculum are as follows:

Language – Knowing about the English language: a coherent, dynamic, and evolving body of knowledge about the English language and how it works.

Literature – Understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature: an enjoyment in, and informed appreciation of, how English language can convey information and emotion, create imaginative worlds and aesthetic and other significant experiences.

Literacy – Growing a repertoire of English usage: the ability to understand and produce the English language accurately, fluently, creatively, critically, confidently, and effectively in a range of modes, and digital and print settings, in texts designed for a range of purposes and audiences.

Our teachers plan for educational experiences that systematically build capabilities over time, so that students will learn how the English language is constructed: patterns of pronunciation and spelling; the grammatical classification of words, sentences, and textual patterns; the bases for responding to literary texts; the production of texts that combine visual and linguistic information, and so on.

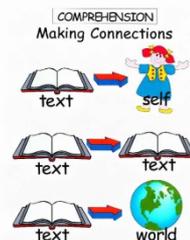
Our timetabled classroom 'Literacy Blocks' will always include a range of activities with a focus on specific knowledge, understanding and/or skills, which engage students with an increasingly systematic understanding of the creative processes of composition. We understand that it is the interaction of the three strands that matters most, rather than single aspects such as home-reader reading levels.

Your child's teacher may require assistance in the form of parent helpers for Literacy Blocks or with individual activities at home to support classroom learning. If you would like to know more about student development in English language and literacy or how you can help your child achieve great success, we are holding a special 'Literacy Development' Parent Information Evening on Monday 31st March. All welcome!

Mel Green – Curriculum Support Teacher

FROM THE LIBRARY

Library lessons and borrowing are now well under way. We are asking our students to set reading goals for the year and to read daily. Please support your child by reminding them to bring their bags and books each week. The CBCA (Children's Book Council Australia) theme for 2014 is 'Connect to Reading'. We encourage our students to 'Connect to Reading' by: thinking about what the story/content means to them, how it compares to other books they have read and how it connects to the real world around them. These are good discussion questions to raise with your child to help improve their reading.



ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE ST FINBARR'S PARENTS' BOOK CLUB!

Firstly, big thanks to Thea for hosting the first Book Club meeting of 2014, much appreciated. We would like to invite all parents and friends to join the St Finbarr's Parents' Book Club. We meet approximately every 6 weeks. We provide a selection of titles to choose from and you may read as much as you can manage. Even if you just read one book from the list, please come along to share your thoughts. The discussion is much more light-hearted reviews than a scholarly analysis of the texts! The current selection is as follows;

<http://www.billings.k12.mt.us/literacy/comprehension/connections.JPG>

- 'Monkey Business' by Kathryn Ledson
- 'Divergent' by Veronica Roth
- 'Jerusalem: A Cookbook' by Yotam Ottolenghi

Most titles are available for loan from Brisbane City Council libraries although some may have numerous holds. Alternatively, Book Club members have found The Book Depository website (<http://www.bookdepository.com/>) to offer very reasonable prices and quick, free delivery. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th April at 59 Holmesbrook Street, Ashgrove.

REMINDERS

Thursday 27 February	School Mass – 9am - Year 4 Faith and Year 4 Charity
Friday 28 February	Tuckshop
Sunday 2 March	Family Mass 8.30am
Monday 3 March	Assembly – Prayer – 2.15pm – Middle School Charity
Tuesday 4 March	Shrove Tuesday – Please see letter included with details.
Wednesday 5 March	Ash Wednesday Mass 9am
Thursday 6 March	Parish Mass – No school attendance
Friday 7 March	Tuckshop
Monday 10 March	Assembly – Awards – 2.15pm – Year 4 Charity

IN & OUT

	IN	OUT
Thur 27 February	Mrs Lenora O'Connor Miss Tenille Webber	Mrs Maryanne Thompson Mrs Fiona Whelan
Fri 28 February	Miss Tenille Webber Mrs Carmel Currenti	Mrs Fiona Whelan Miss Carlie Dole
Mon 3 March	Miss Tenille Webber	Mrs Fiona Whelan
Wed 5 March	Miss Tenille Webber Mrs Lenora O'Connor Miss Cathy Crowe	Mrs Fiona Whelan Mr Terry Brown Mrs Sharon Kennedy

TUCKSHOP ROSTER Friday 28 February – **Roster:** Team 2 Juliane McPhee 0402407666, Emma Canniffe, Robert Sorbie, Barbara Petrie-Repar, Amy Teall, Nicola Nuss. **Homebaking:** Barbara Petrie-Repar, Nicola Nuss, Keiren Bennett, Charlie Pearse, Krit Bala, Wendy Sorbie, Amanda Benson. **Jelly:** Charlie Pearse.