

newsletter

11 March 2014

Dear Parents

Congratulations to the Student Leaders who were presented with their leadership shirts at assembly on Monday. Thank you to P&F President Mr Dave Vidler for presenting these leadership shirts which are sponsored by the P&F. As mentioned at assembly the Year 7 students were presented with the traditional student leadership shirt and the Year 6 students were presented with a contrasting shirt.

I am delighted to announce that this Thursday a group of Middle School students will be visiting St Vincent's Aged Care Home at Bardon. The students will be joining some residents for Mass and sharing morning tea with them. Mr Luke Thomsen and I will be accompanying the students. It is hoped that we will be able to visit this Aged Care facility which is part of the Jubilee Parish on a regular basis. Connecting the school to the wider parish community is one of the school's goals for this year that were identified in the Renewal Plan that was sent home last week. Father Peter is supporting this goal and Parish/School initiative which sees Luke Thomsen working two days per week to give students various opportunities to engage in the life of the Parish. We have decided to call this program Kids In Action. Included with this newsletter is an article by Luke on some aspects of this program.

**FIND NEW WAYS TO SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD TO EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD.
POPE FRANCIS**

This week the staff are involved in two twilight seminars. This evening the Australian Curriculum is our focus with a hands on Geography workshop which has Google Earth as the central learning tool. On Thursday evening we will be doing more work on the School's Behaviour Support Plan with Bullying as the focus for the session. Both the Australian Curriculum and the Behaviour Support Plan are priorities for us this year.

The forecast is for fine weather for our swimming carnival tomorrow at Stafford State School with the bus scheduled to depart school at 8.45am. Included with today's newsletter is a copy of the letter dated 6 March that was sent home with information regarding the swimming carnival. Unfortunately Brew Booth is not available for coffee at the swimming carnival this year.

Tonight is the monthly P&F meeting to be held in the staff room and this Sunday is the first Working Bee for the year. I commend these two events to you as the involvement and support of parents ultimately benefits your children. More details are included in this newsletter.

Kind regards,

Ann Hall

OPEN DAY – Thursday 27 March 9am -12pm. An invitation is extended to all parents, friends and future parents to come and visit the school and see first- hand what is happening in the classrooms.

KIDS IN ACTION - Kids In Action is an evolving program which is a Parish/School initiative aimed at giving the students various opportunities to engage in the life of the Parish. There are two avenues through which this initiative is enacted; *Social justice and faith formation/evangelisation.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE - *Social justice obliges people to be active and productive participants in the life of society and insists that society has a duty to enable them to participate in this way. (Economic Justice for All, 1986, n.68-71).*

The year 5, 6 and 7 students are involved in a program on Thursdays which invites them to identify perceived injustices surrounding them in the world today, and identify realistic ways to act for justice.

FAITH FORMATION/ EVANGELISATION - *Evangelisation means bringing the Good News to all strata of humanity, and through its influence, transforming humanity from within and making it new. (On Evangelisation in the Modern World, 1975, n.18).*

Sacred Singing is held every Tuesday morning and provides the opportunity for all the students to learn the hymns that we are focusing on for weekly Masses in the Term. On Friday the students have a session in the church which gives students a relevant and age appropriate look at the weekly scriptures, the Mass and Church teachings. Music, drama, humour are integral to these lessons/activities.
Luke Thomsen

FROM OUR APRE

PROJECT COMPASSION - CARITAS is a group that works with people all over the world and helps them to improve their lives. Our school will raise money for CARITAS through Project Compassion during the 6 weeks of Lent. Each week Project Compassion shares the story of a 'feature person' to help us to connect with people all over our world.

MARISTELY'S STORY - BRAZIL

Maristely, 18, lives in a favela (slum) in São Paulo, Brazil. Caritas Australia's partner Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents is working to improve living conditions within her community and other favelas in the city.

CARITAS and MDF have given me awareness of my dignity ... I know that to live in a favela is nothing to be ashamed of."
Maristely

Through CARITAS and MDF, Maristely's family, along with thousands of others, now has clean water, electricity and toilets. They also have a certificate of home ownership which provides greater security and means they cannot be thrown out of their home. Maristely is now a young leader with MDF's Youth Program, working to promote peace, improve basic facilities and increase awareness of rights and dignity.

If you would like to see or read more please go to <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-1-maristely>

PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH - As you know I took Archie, Will, Bella and Maddy to the Cathedral for the launch of Project Compassion 2014. Here are a couple of photos:



FOOTSTEPS TO EASTER - At assembly we shared our first 'footstep' to Easter – Pray More. We will try to do more, to grow and change each week as we journey towards Easter. There is no class Mass this week. God Bless, Kathryn

SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLAN – GOTCHA AWARDS AND SCHOOL RULE OF THE WEEK.



CLASS NEWS

PREP – We have been very busy in Prep Love. We have been learning the letters I and P and the numbers 4 and 5. We have made Indians, peacocks and spider webs with our buddies. We have also started our perceptual motor program and learning connections.

YEAR 1 LOVE - Year 1 Love have been working hard in literacy; unjumbling sentences, writing sentences, reading for the teacher, writing in different colours to make rainbow words and today they cut up letters to make words. They are now familiar with spelling words and successfully complete their Friday test. In number the addition sign has just been introduced and the children are grouping in tens too. Year 1L have started their Lenten booklet and will draw pictures each week to show what they will do in preparation for Easter. This week they are trying to 'pray more'. The children visited the garden last Friday and enjoyed working with Mrs Enter. They are working very hard.

YEAR 1 FAITH - Bugs, Bugs, Bugs. Last week the class enjoyed looking after the garden for Mrs Enter. This meant that each day we visited the garden to water and more importantly hunt for bugs. They aren't always easy to find hiding under a leaf or even a rock. Even more challenging was the task of trying to photograph them with an iPad. Amazingly the students did achieve some good pictures of a dragonfly but the bee and butterfly were simply too fast. In Show and Share this week students are sharing their findings from exploring their own backyards and we're making comparisons.

YEAR 2 - We have been very busy working diligently in the Year 2 classroom. In Maths we have explored fact families and have moved on to time. We are learning to say and write the time to the quarter hour. It's a bit tricky but we are enjoying the challenge! In Literacy, we continue to read Charlotte's Web. We really enjoy this time as it gives us the opportunity to practice being an active listener. In Science, we have watched our plants grow big and tall. They have grown and changed a lot in the last few weeks and hopefully this Friday we may plant them in the school garden with Mrs Enter. We are all very excited for the swimming carnival this Wednesday and look forward to swimming our personal best!

YEAR 3 - In 3 Faith we are all about numbers! We have learnt how to subtract by counting on, solve addition and subtraction word problems, estimate with subtraction and addition, choose appropriate strategies for adding three-digit numbers and use division and multiplication in word problems. As part of our Life Skills we have turned trash into treasure by finding things at home that we would usually throw away and make something useful out of them (see picture).



The season of Lent is now underway and we have come up with 3 Lenten promises each, but you won't hear us boasting about them because Jesus teaches us, in this week's scriptures, to be humble.

YEAR 4 FAITH - We are really looking forward to the swimming carnival tomorrow. We have worked hard in the pool trying to improve each week. We will do our best in our races and cheer on others throughout the day. In English we are still reading Rowan of Rin. We are really enjoying this fantastical book and we are investigating and comparing the characters in the story. We have written, typed and added pictures to our own revolting recipes. They are disgusting!!! In History we watched the first episode of a series called 'The First Australians'. It is helping us investigate the nature of contact between British settlers and Aboriginal peoples. We have officially launched our own Twitter page. A note went home last Friday to invite parents to follow our page. This page is totally private and only parents in our class will be accepted to follow us and view our page. We have put up lots of photos of our Shrove Tuesday celebration last week. It was a great experience. We definitely learned some new things and had lots of fun while learning.

YEAR 4 CHARITY - Year Four Charity have been very busy watering the garden and praying for rain (this looks like it has worked).

The students have led the Parish Mass, worked closely in groups with parents to produce pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and led the very busy assembly where the story of Brazil's poor was presented to assist in our understanding of the importance of Project Compassion.

We have been working on the reflection about Shrove Tuesday and in Science, planning and writing our first procedure.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOVE - We are all very excited about competing in the Swimming Carnival and the whole day will be an exciting and enjoyable experience. Thank you to the Miss Crowe and Mr Brown, all staff and parents who have been involved in making our carnival something special each year. In class, we are experimenting with Chemical Sciences, researching significant Australian Catholics and powering ahead in our Maths. Our work with Mr Thomsen during this term, is reinforcing our Lenten motto from a true hero, Oscar Romero: *"Aspire not to have more, but to be more!"* Finally, the Year 6 and 7 leaders in our class were extremely excited about receiving their Leadership shirts at Assembly this week. Together with our badges, we will wear them with pride – setting a positive example for the whole school. Keep smiling from MS Love.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARITY - In Middle school Charity this week we have been researching websites that are linked to the seven Corporal works of Mercy. We have selected a charity to study and have been researching their goals and aims. Some of us have started creating a poster that illustrates the great work that some these charities do every day.

ICT

ICT - Computers, mobiles, tablets and the internet have become part of daily life for students in the 21st century. Each fortnight we will share with you information from Cybersmart to assist in developing safe practices for both home and school. This is an Australian Government website set up to assist all Australians in developing their digital awareness.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACTIVITY - The internet is an incredible tool. It offers the chance to become part of an enormous virtual community connected by mutual interest rather than geography. The internet can provide young and old users benefits, including:

independent learning and research skills and improved communication skills, through experience with learning technologies to access and create resources, and communicate with others.

Children access the internet for entertainment, research, school assignments and to communicate. In doing so they can also, often unknowingly, place themselves in risky situations. This includes by:

- giving out personal details about themselves to people or organisations they don't know
- posting unsuitable information online
- agreeing to meet people they've only ever met online, without speaking to a parent or carer
- sharing passwords
- posting public profiles about themselves
- unsafe browsing or searching
- opening messages from people they don't know
- responding to unpleasant or suggestive messages
- using online games or virtual worlds recommended for older people
- accessing inappropriate material.

Not all internet users will experience problems. However, ensuring children understand these risks and have the knowledge to be cybersafe is important when accessing the internet at home, at school and in public places.

CYBER RULES FOR SAFE AND FUN INTERNET USE

Young internet users should know how to stay safe and have fun using the internet. One important step is learning the following cybersafety rules:

- Think before you post information online—once posted it's difficult to remove.
- Ask your parent/carer before you give anyone on the internet your name, address or any personal details.
- Be careful who you trust online. Making new friends can be fun, but there's a chance that they may not be who they say they are.
- Always keep your password a secret.
- Set your profile to 'private' so your personal information is kept secret.
- If someone is nasty, offensive or makes you uncomfortable in a chat room, don't respond and leave straightaway.
- Don't open messages from people that you don't know. These could be nasty, contain viruses or be trying to sell you something.
- Tell your parents if you are upset by language, pictures or anything scary on the internet.
- Don't accept any offers that seem too good to be true—they probably are.

For more information about the cyber rules go to www.cybersmart.gov.au

Source: www.cybersmart.gov.au

FROM THE CURRICULUM DESK

Our teachers are currently undergoing professional development in the new Geography Curriculum. On Thursday we worked with colleagues from Newmarket and BCE Education Officers to explore the Curriculum documents and this evening our staff will train in the use of new geo-spatial technologies. Geography, introduced as a Learning Area as of 2014, is a structured way of exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using the concepts of: place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change.

Geography integrates knowledge from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to build a holistic understanding of the world. Students learn to question why the world is the way it is, reflect on their relationships with and responsibilities for that world, and propose actions designed to shape a socially just and sustainable future. Geography uses an inquiry approach to assist students to make meaning of their world. It teaches them to respond to questions in a geographically distinctive way, plan an inquiry; collect, evaluate, analyse and interpret information; and suggest responses to what they have learned. They conduct fieldwork, map and interpret data and spatial distributions, and use spatial technologies.

Our aim is for students to experience a very positive sense of awe and wonderment about our world as they investigate key inquiry questions:

Prep

- What are places like?
- What makes a **place** special?
- How can we look after the places we live in?

Year 1

- What are the different features of places?
- How can we care for places?
- How can spaces within a place be rearranged to suit different purposes?

Year 2

- What is a place?
- How are people connected to their place and other places?
- What factors affect my connections to places?

Year 3

- How and why are places similar and different?
- What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?
- How do people's feelings about places influence their views about the protection of places?

Year 4

- How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?

- How do different views about the environment influence approaches to sustainability?
- How can people use places and environments more sustainably?

Year 5

- How do people and environments influence one another?
- How do people influence the human characteristics of places and the management of spaces within them?
- How can the impact of bushfires or floods on people and places be reduced?

Year 6

- How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?
- What are Australia's global connections between people and places?
- How do people's connections to places affect their perception of them?

Year 7

- How do people's reliance on places and environments influence their perception of them?
- What effect does the uneven distribution of resources and services have on the lives of people?
- What approaches can be used to improve the availability of resources and access to services?

Next week, teachers will begin planning units of work in Geography for Term 2, integrating the 2 strands: Geographical Knowledge & Understanding and Geographical Inquiry & Skills. We have purchased lots of new globes, maps and books for our students to enjoy as they embark on their Geography learning journey. Bon voyage! *Mel Green – Curriculum Support Teacher*

FROM THE LIBRARY

The role of the Teacher Librarian in a BCE school comprises 4 Key result Areas. One of these is to; 'advocate reading, promote literature for children and young people and offer reader guidance'. It is such a privilege and pleasure to be able to do this. We are constantly weeding our book garden here in the library to make way for the constant stream of beautiful new books. We certainly keep our canon of classics but fully appreciate the fluctuating trends in reading preferences and cater to requests from our students as much as possible. We love to match the 'right' book to student so that they may truly experience the joy of reading immersion – 'The Flow'. Most of this magic happens during borrowing times. The small but meaningful chats enhance the Librarian-Student relationship over time and provide the insight necessary to get the right book in the right hands. This is our *raison d'être*. *We ask that every student remembers their library bag and books each week for this magic to happen. Unfortunately, we still have students who have not yet borrowed in 2014 or have only done so once. May we ask for your support in providing all students this expanding opportunity through weekly reminders to bring their bags and books. We whole-heartedly thank the students who do this regularly and look forward very much to our next little book chat on Borrowing Day.*

Once the books get home, there are many things parents can do to help students improve in and get more enjoyment from their reading. If you would like to know more about this, student development in English language and literacy or how you can help your child achieve great success in English, we are holding a special '**Literacy Development**' **Parent Information Evening on Monday 31st March**. All welcome!

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

We invite all parents and friends to join the St Finbarr's Parents' Book Club. We meet approximately every 6 weeks. 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;

- '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.

Mel Green – Teacher Librarian

FROM THE P & F

WORKING BEE- SUNDAY 16TH MARCH - A working bee will be held this Sunday 16th March from 8.00am. We really need as many people to help as we can, to make the working bee a quick and productive one and we would appreciate ANY time you can give us on Sunday. If you can help, please contact James Sorbie on 0433 486 611 or james.r.sorbie@gmail.com . BYO shovels, wheelbarrows and gardening gloves. Due to Workplace Health and Safety, our Working Bees are child free zones.

P&F MEETING - There will be a P&F Meeting tonight at 7.00pm. P&F meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and all parents are welcome to attend. The meetings are a great forum to discuss various school issues and determine how the P&F can assist the school with current and future needs and resources. Be involved and help create a better school environment for your children. The P&F also now have a Facebook Page - St Finbarr's Ashgrove P & F - join up and be kept up to date with all the happenings from your P&F.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER Friday 14 March Team 4 Mel Doherty 0403 161542, Tina Wilkins, Nicole McDonnell, Karin Bryan, Susan Duffy, Pina Tsiros. **Homebaking:** Kate Tyndall, Phillipa Nina, Michelle Lizee, Lisa Betti, Nicole Zipf, Karin Bryan, Jodie Proietti. **Jelly:** Kylie Ballinger.

REMINDERS

Tuesday 11 March	P & F Meeting in Staffroom - 7pm
Wednesday 12 March	School Swimming Carnival – Stafford State School
Thursday 13 March	Anointing Mass – No school attendance at Mass
Friday 14 March	Tuckshop
Sunday 16 March	Working Bee
Monday 17 March	Assembly – Prayer – 2.15pm – Year 1 Faith
Tuesday 18 March	Zone 4 Swimming
Wednesday 19 March	Swimming – Years 1 to 7
Thursday 20 March	School Mass – 9am – Middle School Charity & Middle School Love
Friday 21 March	Year 3 Reconciliation Retreat Day Tuckshop

IN & OUT

	IN	OUT
Tuesday 18 March	Mrs Maryanne Thompson Mrs Sharon Kennedy	Mr Terrence Brown Miss Cathy Crowe