

5 February 2014

Dear Parents

On Monday we welcomed the prep class of 2014 for their first full day of school: what a delightful group of children. This morning I had the pleasure of being with them while they said their beautiful morning prayer and marked their roll– “Here Mrs Downs”! The first day of school is definitely one of life’s milestones and one that is remembered with pride, sometimes a few tears and always much love by the mums and dads. It is always special to have the proud grandparents on day one too! On my desk I have one of my favourite photos: my dad holding my hand on my first day of school.

Tomorrow at the Welcome Mass the student leaders will process in with the preppies before blessing them and asking God through song and actions to be with them always.

***May God be in your mind,***

***May God be in your heart***

***May God be always looking over your shoulder.***

At mass this Thursday I have no doubt there will also be some very proud Year Six and Seven parents as they look on as their sons and daughters are commissioned at this year’s student leaders. In response to Father Peter’s invitation to respond to God’s call to leadership this year, the students will pledge:

**Jesus was servant leader and we accept His call  
to become servant leaders within our school community.**

The welcome continues on Friday evening with the traditional P&F Welcome Back BBQ. My thank you to the 2014 P&F Executive – Dave Vidler (President), Jenny Fitzpatrick(Vice-President,) Juliane McPhee (Secretary) and Tanya Force (Treasurer) for their organisation of the evening.

Our congratulations, best wishes and prayers are with Father Peter this coming Sunday as he celebrates his Jubilee of priesthood.

*Best wishes for the week ahead,*

*Kind regards*

*Ann*

## **PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION EVENING: TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY**

<b>6.30pm</b>	Australian Curriculum
<b>7.00pm</b>	Session 1
<b>7.30pm</b>	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.

### **STRATEGIC RENEWAL FRAMEWORK 2012-2016**

**FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLING - ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE** - *The Strategic Renewal Framework details the Archdiocese's systematic approach to managing change and planning and implementing action in relation to Brisbane Catholic education priorities, strategic intents and local school priorities. The Strategic Renewal Framework is based on four priorities: Mission and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships and Strategic Resourcing.*

The annual goals that each school sets for the year ahead must be in alignment with and in the context of the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre's Strategic Renewal Framework. It is within this Bcec mandated framework that we are able to determine our goals for each year.

Please find included with today's newsletter two documents which are integral to setting the goals and strategic direction for us this year. The first document is the *Achievements Report 2013* which includes both the overarching goals for each of the priorities and also highlights ongoing actions. The second document is the *School Renewal Plan 2012-2016 Survey* inviting all members of the school community for their input and reflection on the four priorities of the Renewal Framework that are outlined above. Surveys are asked to be returned by Friday 14 February.

**SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLAN** - Each Brisbane Catholic Education school is responsible for implementing the Brisbane Catholic Behaviour Support Policy by developing a Whole School Student Behaviour Support Plan. The development of this plan is supported by BCE consultant. Various documents and aspects of school life, including School Mission Statement, School Profile, Beliefs About Learning and Behaviour, Consultation And Data Review, Roles, Rights & Responsibilities Of School Community Members, Student Behaviour Support and Behaviour Support for Individual Student Needs.

Last week all students were introduced to the four rules which underpin the School's Behaviour Support Plan. With their respective class teachers the students have established class and school expectations around these four rules.

- I Am Safe
- I Am Responsible
- I Am Respectful
- I Am A Learner

Included with this newsletter is draft of one part of this document – Behaviour Support in the Playground that teachers have introduced to the students this week.

**YEAR FOUR 1-1 LAPTOP PROGRAM** - An exciting year ahead for our Year Four students with the introduction on the 1-1 laptop program. Much work has been done in preparation for this program. To date, all devices have been imagined and are currently being accessioned in the library. Bootcamp for the students will be Tuesday 12 Feb and Wednesday 13 February with the parent sign off evening being included as part of the Parent/Teacher Evening on Tuesday 18 February. Year 4 parents will receive early next week information regarding the deployment of the laptops.

**FROM OUR APRE** - Our Opening Mass is on this Thursday at 9am in the church. Our theme is 'Walking with Jesus in Faith, Love and Charity'. We will be joined by Sister Margaret Mines, a Sister of Charity. Members of staff have helped me to prepare this opening Mass and it will be a wonderful celebration as we welcome our new Preps, new families and new staff into the community. We will also commission our Year 6 and Year 7 student leaders. Please come along and celebrate with us.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for the warm welcome to St Finbarr's school, for the kind words and thoughts. I am looking forward to the busy year ahead.

*Kathryn Willis, APRE*

**CLASS PARENT CALL OUT 2014** - Now that we are all back & hopefully settled into our classes, we need a volunteer from each class to be the class representative for the year.

The class parent role consists of :

- Welcoming new families into the school/ farewelling families
- Coordinating gifts/ assistance to families &/or teachers for happy event & during times of loss &/ or illness
- If you happen to like socializing, organize as little or as many get togethers as you like with your class families.

If anyone would like to take on this very simple yet important role on behalf of your class can you please contact Juliane on [jmcp8525@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jmcp8525@bigpond.net.au) or sms 0402407666.

**TUCKSHOP NEWS** - Tuckshop will commence on Friday 14 February. If you can bake some cupcakes, give a few hours on a Friday morning, make jelly, or help me with the running of the tuckshop, fill out your volunteer form and return it to the office by Friday. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. Thanks Melissa Apelt.

## TERM 1 - 2014

Wednesday 5 February	Swimming begins and will continue until 2 April for Years 1 to 7
Thursday 6 February	Welcome Mass – 9am
Friday 7 February	Welcome Back BBQ & Disco – 5.30pm start
Monday 10 February	Assembly – Awards – 2.15pm - Year 4 Faith
Tuesday 11 February	P & F Meeting in Library 7pm
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
Monday 24 February	Assembly – Awards – 2.15pm – Middle School Love
Thursday 27 February	School Mass – 9am - Year 4 Faith and Year 4 Charity
Friday 28 February	Tuckshop
Monday 3 March	Assembly – Prayer – 2.15pm – Middle School Charity
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
Tuesday 11 March	P & F Meeting in Library 7pm
Wednesday 12 March	School Swimming Carnival – Stafford State School
Thursday 13 March	Anointing Mass – No school attendance
Friday 14 March	Tuckshop
Monday 17 March	Assembly – Prayer – 2.15pm – Year 1 Faith
Tuesday 18 March	Zone 4 Swimming
Thursday 20 March	School Mass – 9am – Middle School Charity & Middle School Love
Friday 21 March	Tuckshop
Monday 24 March	Assembly – Awards – 2.15pm – Year 3 Faith Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Rosalie Church 5-7pm
Thursday 27 March	School Mass – 9am – Year 2 Charity
Friday 28 March	Tuckshop
Monday 31 March	Holy Week
Tuesday 1 April	School Photos
Thursday 3 April	Holy Week Liturgies
Friday 4 April	Last day Term 1
Thursday 17 April	Holy Thursday
Friday 18 April	Good Friday
Saturday 19 April	Easter Saturday
Sunday 20 April	Easter Sunday