From the Principal

Christianity is a Faith of Paradox

Leadership through service; greatness through humility; and life through death. The greatest paradox of all is the paradox of the cross. The death of Jesus through the most humiliating form of capital punishment in history would appear to be exactly what the Jewish authorities hoped it would be: the end of the Jesus movement. The ignoble death of a group's leader through public execution is usually enough to bring about the end of any movement. However, Christians know that the death of Jesus is not the end of the story.

His resurrection, that we celebrate at Easter next weekend, is the twist in the tale that means the death of Jesus, rather than being a point of despair, in fact becomes a moment of hope. This difference of expectation is captured in the Lukan account of the crucifixion by the two criminals with whom Jesus is crucified. One joins in the mockery of Jesus, whilst the other recognises the innocence of Jesus and has faith that Jesus will enter into his kingdom. This second criminal acts as an example for all people of faith. He reminds us that those with faith still have to face death and still have to face up to the consequences of their actions, and yet the way we approach death should not be with despair, but rather with hope and confidence that we will share in Christ’s resurrection.

The reading of the Passion narrative leaves us up in the air. It leaves us in a better position than the disciples at the time. They were downcast by what they felt was the defeat of Jesus, but we know the end of the story! We know that out of this darkness will come light and hope!

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is being held on Friday, 18 March 2016 and we will be promoting our anti-bully policy and conducting our annual survey to see if our programmes and policies are working here.

This annual day is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to 'take a stand together' against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond.

I encourage you to speak with your children and deliver the powerful message that bullying and violence is never okay.

FAQs : Bullying in Schools
Bullying no way Parent Letter


Important Diary Dates

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<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>Good Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 Student Books go home</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Happy Easter Everyone</td>
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<td>Parent Prayer - 9:00am</td>
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<td>19 First Reconciliation - 8:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Reconciliation - 3:00pm</td>
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<td>21 Holy Week</td>
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Does Your Child Need a Mobile Phone at School?
Mobile phones are not needed by students at school. We understand that some parents may wish to contact their child after school as a safety measure when they are travelling home. It is inappropriate for students to have access to mobiles during the school day.

If parents wish their child to bring a mobile phone to school, a request form is required and the phone needs to be clearly labelled with the child’s name and class. Students will need to hand in the phone to the school office each morning as soon as they arrive at school. They will then pick it up from the office at the conclusion of the school day. No child will be allowed to use their phone on school premises as the office is the point of contact for parent communication, should it be required. The “Request Form” is located on our website. Click here for the Mobile Phone Register

Student Validation Forms must be returned by next Friday please.

Medical Alert Wrist Bands
A number of students at St Agatha’s have one or more medical conditions e.g. Anaphylaxis, Allergies and Asthma as well as other medical conditions.

At St Agatha’s School we endeavour to reduce the risk of any medical conditions by ensuring class teachers, office staff and canteen staff and helpers have up to date medical alert details on children.

To ensure students with medical conditions can be easily identified by teachers on the playground, parent helpers on food days and other students, we have introduced “Medical Alert Wrist Bands”. These colour coded bands are to be worn everyday by students who have one or more of the above listed conditions. As a KIDS matter school we are responsible for the wellbeing of all students in our care. The wearing of these bands will not only assist staff and parents to keep our students safe but also promote an understanding and awareness between students that we all have a responsibility to look out for the safety of others.

Medical wrist band order forms can be found on our website click here.

Bands are sold in packs of 5 for $10. It is a Parent's Responsibility to ensure your child is wearing their band or bands (if required) each day to school.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. I believe that it is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

Kevin Bauer - Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
The focus for PBL over the last two weeks has been

“We are Learners”- Be prepared to learn and have a go”.

The PBL lessons will include discussions about the equipment and positive attitude needed for learning. The children will also discuss what happens when they come to school without the right equipment or attitude to learn.

It would be great if you could also support this focus at home with a discussion about having the right equipment eg library bag, library books, sharp pencils, glue, pens etc.

We are always encouraging children to “have a go” and attempt things that might be a new learning experience. If you are “having a go” at something new, playing a new sport or starting a new activity, this is an ideal time to talk to your child about your attempts as a learner.
Student Workbooks coming home this week
This week the children will be bringing home some of their work books. Please take the time to sit with your child and discuss their work. It is important to look at the quality of the work as well as their handwriting skills. Remember to praise and encourage your child for their efforts so they will continue to learn with enthusiasm. We encourage you to write a comment to your child in their book, after their last piece of work. Children really do treasure your comments and it allows us to see that the book did indeed leave the school bag and that you have had the opportunity to ‘walk’ through it with your child. Additionally, we ask that the books be returned promptly the next school day so that your child can continue their written work in the appropriate book.

Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal

From the REC
This year, we are taking a different approach to presenting Holy Week to our students. Each day beginning on Friday 18th March, the children will be engaged in a liturgy that depicts one of the events of Holy Week. The liturgies will take the same format but will vary in terms of presentation and mode of delivery. Each grade has, embedded in their religious education module for this term, a particular Holy Week event and it is this event that they will be responsible for. The children will pray together, listen to the relevant Gospel and reflect upon Holy Week. Afterwards, back in their classroom, they will be engaged in an activity that will help them to understand the event more fully. It is hoped that this approach will be a prayerful and reflective time that will allow the children to consider and mull over the last days that Jesus lived on earth. When we return from the Easter break, we will celebrate Jesus’ resurrection through our final liturgy.

Many children from our school, but mainly from Year Three, are in the process of receiving the Sacrament of Penance. Some received the sacrament on Wednesday and some on Saturday. Please keep them in your prayers.

God bless

Vicki Ford - REC

From the Parish
This Saturday 19th March we celebrate the feast of St Joseph and the 150th anniversary of Mary MacKillop beginning the Sisters of St Joseph. Mary was a very young woman filled with love of God and neighbour, who in her own words, saw a need and did something about it! May we continue to be inspired by her life and ask her to pray for us.

From this Sunday, we gather as a community of faith to celebrate Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, the Church takes part in the prophetic triumph of Christ as he enters the holy city of Jerusalem in order to pass from this world to the Father. On Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and the powerful command for us the wash one another’s feet, ie to serve one another in loving service. On Good Friday, the Church marks the solemn celebration of the Lord’s Passion. On Easter Sunday, after a day of silent reflection, the Church rejoices in the Resurrection. As his followers, “we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” This is the core of Christian faith.

Fr Paul - Parish Priest

From the Sports Desk
Cross Country
The rescheduled Cross Country will take place on Wednesday 23rd March at Pennant Hills Park. Please ensure all students wear their colour house T-shirt.

Broken Bay Reps
Congratulations to Joshua E (AFL), Megan R, Murphy A and Leo D (Hockey) who have been selected to represent Broken Bay at the Polding Trials. Well done!

Kristen Vella - Sports Co-ordinator
From the P&F

Wouldn’t it be great to have a $20,000 improvement to our playground? The P&F would love to rejuvenate our playgrounds, but we need your help! Last year we produced a wonderful cookbook to raise funds to improve our play spaces. We currently have over $17,000 profit as stock in our P&F room. We need your help to sell these books to the local community. We have covered all our costs, all money collected from the sales of the cookbook will be direct profit.

Are you able to arrange sales at a local shopping centre? Could you sell any cookbooks at work? Mothers Day is coming up, it would be great to maximise this opportunity. Cookbooks are $30 each. Grab a friend and sell some together…. You can make the difference. Please give me a call or email or see the ladies in the office to collect a box or 2 of cookbooks to sell. Payment can be made online https://www.stagathasonline.org.au/events/other-events/Cookbook.

Thank you to Simone Martin and the team of parents who helped with the Disco on Friday night. It was a wonderful night.

At the last P&F Meeting, we discussed what our 2016 Parent Social might be. We would love to have an event that connects the whole school community, and would love your feedback. We ask that you complete the 2016 Parent Social Survey by clicking on the following link- https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F2SGBHL.

On behalf of the P&F I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Easter.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President
0412 114 038
jhordernsmith@gmail.com

Silver Awards

Heidi S

Congratulations to the following students:

Samantha G for her outstanding achievement at the Royal Easter Show Arts and Crafts Competition. Samantha gained 1st Place for her artwork. Well done Samantha.

Zac J and Guy T were part of the winning West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook U/11 Green team who won their cricket grand final.

Happy Birthday to:
Ella B, Tayla C, Sofia S, Alexander D, Sienna T

Community News

Hornsby School holiday Guide
Beecroft Anzac March

TROOSH Contact Greg on 0423 647 607