Welcome back to Term Two. I hope all of you had the opportunity to enjoy the break with family and friends. Earlier this week Australians across the country paused to remember in a special way, all Australians and New Zealanders who have died in war and served our country. We remember this past history of war, and pray that, in the future, all people will work to make peace, not war. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

In 1915, Australian and New Zealand men, some not a lot older than our Year 6 boys, together with British, Indian and French soldiers were sent to fight in the part of Turkey known as the Gallipoli peninsula. It was because of the way those Australians and New Zealanders fought, and the way they faced the hardships and dangers that confronted them, that the initials became a word - ANZAC. Their actions forged what has become known as the ANZAC spirit and that spirit has been the driving force behind all Australian servicemen and women ever since - in France, later on in World War II, Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, all of which happened long before many of us were born. It is also present in the operations our service people undertake today. No Australian is left untouched when a member of our defence force is killed in action. It is difficult to comprehend the grief associated with the loss at war of a parent, partner, child or sibling, so let us also ensure that we remember the families.

As we commence a new term and reflect on this significant event, we need to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are to live in a country where peace and democracy can be taken for granted. Many countries throughout the world continue to suffer from war with death and separation a daily event. May we continue to be Christ like in our words and actions as peacemakers within our own communities.

Peace is quiet.
Peace is no war.
Peace is still.
Peace is clouds floating through the sky.
Peace is a smile between friends.
Peace is a hug from someone who loves you.
Peace is saying sorry.
Peace is a sleeping child.
Peace makes us feel good.
Peace is something we share.

As we remember those who have died so that we may be set free, let us all work for peace.

This Sunday 1st May at the 10.30am Mass, the parish community will be saying farewell to Father Joseph Choi. Mass will be followed by morning tea. We thank Father Joseph for his contributions to St Agatha’s over the last couple of years, supporting our children’s faith development with regular visits to our classrooms and celebrating/concelebrating many school masses and sacraments. We wish Father Joseph all the best for the future.

May

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Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Belinda Wickham (4R) and her husband Brad who are expecting a baby in September this year.

NAPLAN Testing

In May 2016, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

- **Tuesday 10th May** - Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation), Writing
- **Wednesday 11th May** - Reading
- **Thursday 12th May** - Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, Chance and Data; and Space)

Friday 13th May - A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

*International Competitions and Assessments (ICAS) Years 3-6*

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) provide an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. This year, children in Years 3-6 are invited to participate in the ICAS English and Mathematics competitions. These assessments will be run before school at 7.40am. If you would like your child to complete one or both of these assessments please complete the entry form emailed home or via the link below and return it with entry fee to the office.

Sibling enrolments for Kindergarten 2017

A reminder that enrolments for Kindergarten 2017 are currently open. If you have not collected and completed an enrolment package from the school office for a sibling starting school next year we ask that you do so ASAP. Mr Bauer will be conducting enrolment interviews for 2017 at the end of May. As part of the enrolment process we require your child’s birth certificate, baptismal certificate and citizenship/visa information (if child or parents are born overseas). Thank you.

Sports equipment from home

We ask that if students are bringing in soccer/ footballs from home that they are the soft foam balls rather than harder leather footballs/basketballs/soccer balls. This is to prevent accidents and injuries from occurring on the playground. Thanks for your assistance.

Wishing you all the very best as you work for peace with all those you meet throughout the week.

_Fiona Bylsma - Acting Principal_

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**From the Assistant Principal**

**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is embedded into everything we do at St Agatha’s. Each of our rules are grounded in Scripture and the Catholic World View. In relation to ‘learners’, the scripture is; ‘Our various gifts and talents are not merely for personal use and satisfaction, but for the glory of God and the service of others’ (1Cor 12:4-6) and; “Do to others as you would have them do to you: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mt 7:12). As Catholics, we have an obligation to work to create social conditions in which the unique dignity of each person is respected and all human rights protected. The teaching and following of PBL at St Agatha’s is very important for our students as it provides them with the means to become good citizens and disciples of Jesus.

This week our focus is, “We are Learners- Learn and let others learn.” The purpose of this rule is to learn and to respect the rights of others to learn. The main aims are to:

- Identify how individuals care for each other;
- Identify the ways in which they communicate, co-operate and care for others;
- Describe how relationships with a range of people enhance wellbeing;
- Describe roles and responsibilities in developing and maintaining positive relationships;
- Develop a good work ethic and always try our best.
During class, students and teachers will discuss:
Why we learn?
What allows us to learn to the best of our ability?
How can we respect others’ rights to learn?
What choices can I make that will help others and myself to learn?

At home students can demonstrate that they know the rule, to learn and let others learn, by completing their homework and allowing siblings to study and complete their homework tasks. Having a set time as a family in a central quiet area is a good routine to have each afternoon after an afternoon tea break and play. Routines at home help to promote the message to children that we are also helping them to learn.

It’s very important that your children arrive at school in time for the morning bell at 8:50. The most productive learning period for students is in the morning and teachers utilise every minute of this time. If your child is late on a regular basis, they lose valuable learning time. If your children arrive late to Monday morning assembly, a late note must be filled in at the office. This is a requirement of law that the school must comply with.

Next Monday 2nd May, members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and the Social Justice Committee will receive their badges. You are warmly welcome to attend the assembly. These roles are very important and allow the students to have a voice.

Just a reminder that all students are to be dressed in their winter uniform from Monday, 9th May. We are in a transition period for the first two weeks of Term Two where either the summer or winter uniform can be worn.

Vicki Ford - Acting Assistant Principal

Mother’s Day Celebrations
On Friday 6th May we will celebrate Mother’s Day at St Agatha’s. Our celebrations will begin with a special Mother’s Day breakfast at 8.00am, followed by a Mother’s Day Liturgy in the hall at 8.50am. At the conclusion of the liturgy all our mothers are welcome to visit the classrooms of those who admire you most. We hope you can join us.

A copy of the invitation can be downloaded from the school website. www.saphdbb.catholic.edu.au/learning-teaching/202/p/

Did you know that the celebration of mothers can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals to honour the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele? The modern version of Mother’s Day is an early Christian tradition known as “Mothering Sunday” which was held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Originally, this Sunday was a time when Christians would return to their “mother church” for a special service. Overtime, this festival transformed into a celebration and acknowledgement of the wonderful job our mothers do.

Loving God,
Today we turn to you to give you thanks for our mothers and maternal figures.
As they work tirelessly to support their families
may they be showered with your blessings.
Give mothers strength to exercise compassion as
they live each day under your care.
Strengthen our mothers when they are down and
give them hope when they are discouraged.
Most of all, Lord, on Mother’s Day, give our
mothers love, laughter and rest.
We ask you this, in the name of Jesus,
Amen

God bless
Maryanne Kelly - Acting REC
Happy Birthday to:


TROOSH  Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

From the P&F

Mother’s Day Stall – Thursday 5th May

St Agatha’s Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Thursday 5th May. Gifts will range in price from $1.00 to $9.00 and the children will be allowed to purchase a maximum of three gifts.

We will need volunteers to help run the stall. If you are available to help anytime from 8.30am to 12pm, please email me.

*Rachael Anderson*

rachjane_anderson@yahoo.com.au

Entertainment Books

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Silver Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have obtained their Silver Awards.

Nathan D, Eden H, Kate H, Adam L, Rachael M, Jai S, Grace S, Saoirse S, Hannah T, Andrew Z

TROOSHC

Notice: [Click here](#) for information Greg Smith’s leave.

National Data Collection

[Click here](#) for information for Parents and Carers about the National Consistent Collection of Data - School Students and Disability

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Community News

Art Express
OLMC Open Day
MCC Chatswood Open Day
Brigidine Open Day
Triple P Program
School Crossing Supervisors needed