From the Principal

Our Mother’s Day celebrations last Friday were a wonderful example of our Christ centred community of children, parents, teachers and parish that are all part of St Agatha’s.

It was great to see so many mums at our breakfast and liturgy, visiting the classrooms and participating in learning activities with the children. Special thanks and appreciation to our Year One teachers and students for their co-ordination of the Mother’s Day liturgy along with all our staff for creating such a welcoming atmosphere and for their preparation behind the scenes. Thank you also to Mrs Lucy Daniels for organising and preparing our special breakfast and Miss Jenny for conducting our school band. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning with one of their greatest role models, their mum. Thank you for your overwhelming presence.

At St Agatha’s one of our goals as a KIDS Matter school is to build strong positive, respectful relationships with all students and families. We strive to achieve this in many ways and it is always good to receive feedback on things we are doing well and ways we can continue to improve. Recently we received some feedback from one of our 2016 Kinder parents about their first term at St Agatha’s and I thought I’d share it with you this week.

Warm, welcoming, friendly, inclusive, supportive, encouraging ... These are just some of the words that come to mind when I reflect on our introduction to the St Agatha’s community as first time Kindy parents and newcomers to the Pennant Hills area.

Like most new Kindy parents, we fumbled our way through Term 1, worrying about everything from how our eldest would handle the transition to school to whether we had purchased the right lunchbox. New levels of efficiency and organisation were reached and we would quietly congratulate ourselves at the end of each week if we successfully managed to remember allocated sports days, library days, fundraising days, home readers, permission slips and lunch for that matter!

Our overarching concern, however, was not just about our child, but about how we, as a family, would be accepted into our new community. Had we found our new tribe? Would we feel welcomed and accepted here? The answer was confirmed as I stood at the back of the Church at the Welcome Mass, listening to the St Agatha’s children beautifully singing the opening hymn: “Welcome to the family, we’re glad that you have come to share your life with us, as we grow in love…”

From the point where we first enquired about attending play group just prior to moving into the area, to the kindergarten park plays in January, welcome BBQ, information sessions and buddy program, we have felt nothing but supported, welcomed and included by the St Agatha’s family. Thank you.

Lisa Boys
Kindy Mum

Thanks to Mrs Boys for sharing her experience as a new St Agatha’s parent. It is a lovely reminder that there is much to celebrate about our wonderful St Agatha’s school and parish community.

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Important Diary Dates

May

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fete Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4G Assembly - 2:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Disco Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year 5 Grade Mass - 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Year 4 Grade Mass - 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>2R Assembly - 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Prayer - 2:45pm</td>
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Phone: 9484 7200  |  Fax: 9484 8235  |  Email: saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au  |  Web: www.saphdbb.org.au

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Mrs Ford - REC Appraisal

Every 3 years Religious Education Coordinators go through an Appraisal and Contract Renewal process. This is an opportunity to affirm the work they do in our school and provide feedback for future direction. Mrs Vicki Ford is having her appraisal in early June and we are offering both the staff and parent community opportunity to provide her with feedback as part of the appraisal process. If you would like to complete one of the online parent surveys for Mrs Ford’s appraisal please click on the link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VB8833M

MATHEMATICS IN THE MORNING for PARENTS- MADE EASY
9am Wednesdays (commencing Week 5 - 25th May)

This term we will be running short Parent Education Sessions for parents Mathematics for Parents-Made Easy

These sessions will be aimed at parents who have children in the MIDDLE YEARS (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4) and will run for only 20-25 minutes each Wednesday morning from 9am-9.25am in the TROOSH room. Miss Bylsma and Mrs Harrington will lead these sessions.

Each week during the 25 minute session, a new Mathematics game/activity will be introduced. Parents will be guided in how to play the game or activity and assist their children with the development of number concepts. Parents will then have some time to explore the activity and get a copy to take home. Over the 6 weeks that the sessions are run, parents will gain a bank of Number activities that will help support their child’s learning.

I hope many parents can join us. It is in partnership we can achieve great things for your children.

Could you please RSVP via email saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au if you will be attending our Maths in the Morning Sessions so we can ensure we have enough equipment and materials.

Fiona Bylsma - Acting Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

This week our PBL focus is, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE - ‘CARE FOR OUR APPEARANCE.’

This is an aptly timed focus as we change into our winter uniform on Monday. Please ensure your children wear their full winter uniform.

The girl’s winter uniform:
- blue long sleeve blouse with Peter Pan collar
- winter tunic no shorter than knee height when kneeling
- tab tie
- grey sock or tights
- zip jacket/crew neck sweat
- black school shoes
- school hat
- hair must be worn off the face and long hair is to be tied back

The boy’s winter uniform:
- long sleeved button front shirt tucked in
- grey, winter long pants
- school tie
- zip jacket/crew neck sweat
- black school shoes
- grey socks
- school hat
- hair must be short and neat

For any time you volunteer at St Agatha’s, for example, literacy groups, sports’ carnivals or excursions, you must have filled in a ‘volunteer’s declaration form’. These forms are available at the office or on the St Agatha’s website under the ‘all school page’. If you already have a ‘working with children check’ from the RTA you do not need to do anything else. Please send your number to the office.
If you have not filled in one of these forms, you will not be able to volunteer as a helper. Please ensure you have completed the appropriate ‘volunteer declaration form’ before you volunteer to work with the children.

It is now a requirement that when accompanying a class on an excursion, parents must be briefed on the “Risk Assessment” at 8:40 on the day of the excursion.

Vicki Ford - Acting Assistant Principal

From the REC

Mother’s Day Celebrations

It was great to see so many mums last Friday at our Mother’s Day celebration. We began the morning with some delicious food, a coffee fix and music from the band. We then had a liturgy which was a perfect opportunity for us to pray for and give thanks to our mothers and maternal figures. This liturgy was prepared over many hours by the Year One teachers and children. The creative delivery of the snippets from the gospel, the quotes from mothers of famous people, the slide show of Year One’s with their mums and Father Paul’s reflections reminded us of how appreciative we are of our mothers.

We finished the morning with visits to the classrooms. During the visits, the children were able to show off their wonderful work and get a bit of help from their knowledgeable mums!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Mother’s Day celebration. We hope all the Mothers had a great day on Sunday!

Winter Appeal

This year Pope Francis has called the Church to a special Jubilee Year of Mercy. “Mercy”, the Pope says, “is the name of our God”. The God who asks us not to judge and condemn but to forgive and to love, and to do this over and over again (something that mums know all about!). This is the challenge that we are being called to every day. We are called to love and be compassionate. We are called to be caring and considerate. We are called to be merciful, just as our Father is merciful.
In light of this, this term we are hoping to contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Each night, over 90,000 Australians are homeless, 17% of which are under the age of 12. With winter on our doorsteps, the evenings are getting cooler and I imagine the homeless are dreading it. We are hoping to make a small difference to the lives of these 90,000 people by donating warm pyjamas. If your child is able to bring in a pair of warm pyjamas by 1 June, we would be really appreciative.

Parent Prayer

On Thursday, 5 June, Mary Connor from the Mission Services team at the Catholic Schools Office will be running a parent formation session with the St Agatha’s parents. We would love for you to join us. Keep your eye out for more details to come!

In an effort to be more accommodating to parents, we are trialling Parent Prayer on Fridays just before you pick your children up from school. Therefore on Friday, 20 May, there will be a short parent prayer session in the library at 2.45pm. We would love you to join us.

God bless

Maryanne Kelly - Acting REC

Silver Awards

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


Administering over-the-counter medications at school

In accordance with the CSO and NSW Government guidelines, staff at the school are not permitted to dispense over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol to students.

If these medications are required by students, a request to Administer Medication in School Form must be completed and returned to the school office before the medication can be given.

Administration of Medication Form