From the Principal

Jesus was the great boundary-breaker when it came to women.

The Pharisee is shocked at the scene of a woman anointing and kissing Jesus’ feet as he lay at table. But instead of repudiating her, Jesus observes that it is simply the overflow of love of a forgiven woman, and he won’t reject her gesture.

The old rules which created taboos relating to women are superseded by the presence of Jesus. This is a sign of the reign of God.

We know that Peter and others had left their fishing cooperative to follow Jesus, an itinerant preacher of no fixed address. How were they to survive on the mission? His band of followers included rather well-to-do women with funds and contacts which enabled the mission to continue. Without their financial aid, Jesus could not have conducted his mission in the way he wanted to.

Jesus accepted women, overturning all the norms of society. Jesus depended on women to carry out his mission. He was, He is the Saviour of all human beings without distinction based on race, ethnicity or gender.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Catholic Church rid itself of any taboos which are incompatible with Jesus’ Gospel relationship with women.

Fr Michael Tate

Need Your Help

Our parish is looking for your input and support. We are starting to think about what is the best way to use the “Crying Room” at the back of the church and what would an update version look like.

Secondly, we are looking to remake the set of Altar Servers Alb Robes, if you have any sewing skills and could assist in making some new ones.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help - 9484 1427 or office@stagatha.org.au

Staff Development Day Friday 10th June

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

Important Diary Dates

June

10 Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day
13 Queens Birthday - Public Holiday
14 Athletics Carnival - Pennant Hills
15 The Power of Social & Emotional Skills - 9:30am
   The Power of Social & Emotional Skills - 7:00pm
16 Year 3B Reconciliation - 11:40am
   School reports go home
17 Polding Cross Country - Eastern Creek
   KR Assembly
   Parent Prayer - 2:45pm
18 Working Bee
19 Holy Communion - 12:00pm
   Holy Communion - 2:00pm

Phone: 9484 7200  |  Fax: 9484 8235  |  Email: saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au  |  Web: www.saphdbb.org.au

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**From the Assistant Principal**

**Happiness**

In Week 7 of each term at St Agatha’s we have Sabbatical Week. It is one week in our busy school calendar where we highlight the importance of Wellbeing. Sometimes we have to change the everyday routine, slow down and spend quality time with family and friends, to remind ourselves of what is really important.

Clinical psychologists believe that happiness is a product of realisation. Mostly everyone enjoys feeling happy. The shame is that not many people actively recognise when they are happy nor realise how they can stay happy. Happiness comes from within and very often happiness is a choice that we can make. Taking on a happy disposition is something that we can lead our children towards. Try these ten tips for happiness:

1. Decide to be happy:- Yes we all have reasons to be angry, sad, disappointed and depressed, but we all have reasons to be happy. Instead of focusing on what keeps you down, focus on what lifts you up.
2. Smile:- Try to smile when you do not feel like it. The very act of smiling can just make you feel like a new person. Smiling invites others to feel happy too.
3. Laugh:- This is a gift in itself – cherish it. Everything is not always as serious as we first think.
4. Be with others:- Do not be alone too much. Being alone makes you focus on yourself. Talk to others and motivate others to be happy. Ask others about their interest. Happiness is contagious.
5. Help others:- Helping others makes you see your gifts that God gave you. You also have an opportunity to make someone else’s life just a bit more pleasant.
6. Be happy with what you have:- You have been blessed with what you have. You have a lot to be grateful for.
7. Look at the Silver Lining:- In about every situation, there is some hope or something good in life. Hope keeps you going.
8. Pray:- Pray to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that They help you to be happy.
9. Slow Down:- Enjoy life. We only have one shot at life. Each day gives us the opportunity to be happy.
10. Reassess your priorities:- Are God and your family dropping in your list of priorities? Reassess what is important. When you are meeting your priorities you will feel happier.

**Mid Year Reports**

Mid Year reports will be sent out via email at the end of Week 8. The Mid-year report refers to the first half of the year’s teaching and learning and subsequently the End of year report refers to the second half of the year (ie. first semester of learning, second semester of learning). Each year introduces different concepts, content units and skills etc. which can increase in difficulty from the year before. It is therefore possible that your child’s achievement level in a particular Key Learning Area may change. This style of reporting mandated by the Government involves a great deal of processing before arriving at an achievement level for each Key Learning Area. There are many assessments undertaken, work samples examined, observations made and needs discussed. In Week 9, teachers will be having parent interviews to support, discuss and complement these reports, affirm your child’s learning and to give direction / focus for future learning. Together the school and you form an important partnership. This partnership supports your children in reaching their potential so that home and school are united in their approach.

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers for always making themselves available to you. Our teachers here at St Agatha’s are a truly gifted team of Educators. They themselves are committed learners who strive to provide quality Catholic Education for our students. The role of the teacher is never easy, it is a challenge but it is without doubt one of the most rewarding careers. Teachers not only work with the children who are our future, but are part of the Church’s mission in passing on our Gospel values. The commitment, passion and care our teachers and staff bring to their vital role is what helps make our school so great.

**Parent Teacher Interviews – Week 9**

These interviews are an important follow up to the Mid Year reports. They offer an opportunity for parents and teachers to work in partnership to support the children’s ongoing learning.

Please ensure that you have booked your appointment.

Thank you for your support. It is in partnership we can achieve great things for your children.

_Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal_
From the REC

Over the last year, a life size cut out of Pope Francis has been circulating around all the schools in the Broken Bay Diocese. It was St Agatha’s turn this week to have the cut out. You may have noticed signs around the school saying PF is coming. We did this to create an air of wonder and anticipation. It is hoped that all children at St Agatha’s will recognise Pope Francis and know something about him and his role in the Catholic Church.

Thanks for your wonderful generosity and support for our pyjama drive over the last couple of weeks. We have over 230 pairs to send to the St Vincent de Paul society so it can distribute to those who are in need. The social justice committee did a superb job in promoting and educating the children about the importance of reaching out to others in need.

God bless

Vicki Ford - REC

From the Parish

It is already June and we are well into term two! In the church’s year, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday (the special coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church) on 15th May.

This was followed by Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi Sunday, and then on Friday 3 June the whole school celebrated the Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As we do each year, we took this opportunity to reach out to those in great need through our Winter Appeal, this year giving warm pyjamas. Jesus said, remember when you do good to one of the least of these, you do it for me.

On Sundays 19th and 26th June, at 12 noon and 2pm, we shall celebrate First Holy Communion with 152 children in the parish, mainly from Grade 3. I shall meet with our St Agatha’s Grade 3 classes before that day to reflect with them about the Mass and the sacrament. I thank parents and children for the way you have entered wholeheartedly into reparation. Enrolments have now finished for preparation for Confirmation in August.

With best wishes and prayers for every family at St Agatha’s.

Fr Paul

Morning Tea at Sydney Parliament House

Discipline, Determination and Dedication, the qualities of a leader. On the 2nd of June we got the opportunity to visit Sydney Parliament House, with Mrs Tubb and our parents. We were invited by Matt Kean (MP) to participate in a morning tea with all the other school captains from the Hornsby Shire.

We all met up at the gate at Parliament House. As we entered we found ourselves in a library where we met Matt Kean and went on a tour to see all around Parliament House. After that we all sat down and had some morning tea. While having our morning tea, we were greeted with surprise - we got to meet some famous people.

Two very talented sports-stars (leaders), Sharni Layton (Sydney Swifts Player) and Jason King (retired Manly player) gave us a very inspirational talk about the challenging experiences they went through to get where they are now. Both delivered a great speech about leadership and then gave us a chance to ask questions about their sporting careers and mentors. We got the opportunity to meet the athletes and Matt Kean and have a photo with them (Mrs Tubb was very excited!).

We also received a certificate and some information. We believe this experience has really influenced our leadership skills. The inspirational speeches have encouraged us to be better people and better leaders on the playground and in the community.

Emily, Clodagh, Evan, Ben
Wellbeing
Recently we had Constable Debbie Crystal speak to our students on cyber safety. As parents know children are increasingly involved with devices. While these can be a great way to communicate it is imperative that we set boundaries and rules to keep our children safe. Interestingly she told students that at their age, they should have no more than 10 friends!

Included here is a tip sheet on keeping kids safe from Michael Grose, a leading parenting educator.

This week for Sabbatical Week we have had a Kindness Week. We have looked at the value of being kind to others; hopefully children are doing this at home too! Students are gaining an understanding that random acts of kindness benefit the giver as well as the receiver!

Attached is another article by Michael Grose on how to raise caring and empathic children.

This Friday we are having our Staff Development Day on Social and Emotional Learning. We are fortunate to have the services of Jane Nethery and Carmel Hewitt from the Catholic Schools Office. Staff will be investigating how we can better teach these skills at school. Carmel Hewitt is the Parent Liaison Officer for Wellbeing and will show staff what she will be presenting to parents next week. It is not too late to RSVP to our parent sessions on Wednesday 15th June at 9:30am and 7:00pm. Both these sessions have vacancies and we would be thrilled to have as many people as possible attend!

Click here for more information

Fiona Tubb - Well-being Coordinator

From the Sports Desk
There will be a coffee van on site at the Athletics Carnival on the bottom oval from 12:00 onwards.

Gymnastics Carnival Program
Gymnastics Carnival Rules

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


Working Bee
Our next working bee will take place on Saturday, 18th June from 8:00am - 10:am.

Luke Palmer - Maintenance Coordinator
From the P&F

We are looking for volunteers to help with collecting donations for the fete from local businesses. If you are able to assist, please contact Melissa Gillooly on melissa_gillooly@eppingclub.com.

Like us on facebook!
The Aggies Fete Facebook page is here! Like us to keep up to date on stalls, ride pass information, raffle ticket selling times, donations secured and lots more.

We’d love for you to tag us in photos of any fete prep you are involved in or post fete related messages. Please don’t tag photos of other people’s children and of course content should be family friendly.

Our Facebook page is also a key attraction for potential sponsors. So the more Likes we have, the more we can offer businesses supporting our school.

Find us at http://www.facebook.com/aggiesfete

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!
Thank you to everyone who completed St Agatha’s P&F end of year function survey. We compiled the results and heard what you had to say and an end of year function has been booked.

When: Saturday, 29 October 2016
Where: Pennant Hills Golf Club, Beecroft

Book in the babysitter now and join us for a fun casual end of year function. An invite will be sent home towards the end of term 2.

We look forward to seeing you there!

P&F Team

In class we have been praying for Mrs McLenaghan’s sister who has been diagnosed with cancer and also for all the families in our school community who have been touched by cancer.
This is why Year 4 will be hosting an Australia’s Morning Tea on Monday 20th June, 2016 at recess. All goods will be sold for $1.00 each. All money raised will be donated to the Cancer Council.

St Agatha’s has a donations page, if you would like to make an additional contribution:
http://nsw.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/StAgathasCatholicPrimarySchool

Please support a wonderful cause by buying a cake on the day or by donating.

Thank you for your support.
Isabella, Alexandra and Lexie
4G

Happy Birthday to:
Charlotte P, Karen A, Liam B,
Rhianna K, Anna T, Lyla D, Chloe F,
Margaret O, Elias S, Gabriel M, Abhijit K,
Sofia S