From the Principal

Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’ This is a tough and uncompromising position that Jesus sets for all who set their sights on the establishment of the Kingdom of God. If we look back – if we have doubts and want to return to the world of comfort and injustice – then we are not yet ready for the difficulties of bringing about the Kingdom of God. God invites us all to enter into the Kingdom, however we have to make ourselves ready in our own hearts and minds to want to be part of the Kingdom. I guess the real question is whether we are up for the challenge. We know the rewards.

2016 SIP (School Improvement Plan) Update

I thought it was important to give you an update on how we are progressing in 2016 in terms of our School Improvement Plans.

Mission

• By the end of 2016, increased numbers of students will be able to demonstrate their engagement, understanding of and participation in social justice initiatives through class presentations and focus groups.

So far we have
◊ had regular meetings of Parish Social Justice Committee comprised of parish and school representatives
◊ development of a booklet outlining the mission and vision statement and goals
◊ had joint fundraising initiatives between parish and school
◊ worked with staff to develop quality assessment tasks in RE programs that allows the students to adequately express their learning

Teaching and Learning

• By the end of 2016, we want to maintain or improve the percentage of students achieving the expected growth in writing in NAPLAN.

So far we have
◊ launched our school’s “Learning Belief Statement” during Catholic Schools Week.
◊ provided professional development in literacy, modelling effective practice with staff.
◊ worked with our teachers to improve Assessment Tasks in Writing using the Literacy Continuum K-2 and the NAPLAN Writing criteria 3-6
◊ Provided parent education about the new History Syllabus.

Pastoral Care

• By the end of 2016, exploring opportunities that encourage parents to be engaged in wellbeing initiatives.

Important Diary Dates

June

27 Year 4 Claymation Incursion
27 Open classrooms - 2:30pm
28 Year 5 Excursion - Mary Mackillop Museum
    Fun Food Day - Sausage Sizzle Year 5
29 Maths in the Morning - Middle Years 9:00am
    Choir Concert - 6:00pm
30 Netball Gala day - Years 5 & 6
30 League Tag Gala Day - Years 5 & 6
1 5G Assembly - 2:30pm
Last Day of Term 2
So far we have
- established of a Well-Being Team (a joint PBL and KidsMatter team)
- completed a SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) survey on our children
- provided a Staff Development Day around the Social and Emotional Learning.
- had two parent education sessions around “Social and Emotional Learning”
- embed the KidsMatter components into our teaching programmes.
- provided five parent education sessions relating to Mathematics.
- established a St Agatha’s parent engagement team - SAET

Enjoying Your Kids
Please take time over the next few weeks to smell the flowers with your children, take the bike ride and have that picnic. You are the most important person to your child and giving time and love are the most valuable gift you can give them.

I would like to thank you for your continued support as I believe that it is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children. On behalf of the staff as St Agatha’s, we hope that you have a safe and enjoyable break.

Kevin Bauer - Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
Our PBL focus for the last week of Term 2 is We are RESPONSIBLE- Care for the Environment
“Do to others as you would have them do to you: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mt 7:12)

The purpose of this rule is to reinforce the need to care for the place we are in and develop a responsible and proactive attitude toward our school environment. Teachers and students have spoken at length in their classroom about their school environment as being both inside and outside the classrooms. Inside the classrooms we need to pick up our mess, tuck in chairs and keep our tables and book tubs tidy. In the playground we are focusing on picking up our wrappings and rubbish during recess and lunch and keeping our playgrounds clean and tidy.

This attitude can extend to the home by encouraging children to clean their bedrooms, pack toys away and take their dishes to the bench/sink at the end of breakfast and dinner. Taking responsibility for our own rubbish can only be positive steps towards enhancing our environment.

During the last week it has been wonderful to see so many parents arriving for their Parent/teacher interviews and speaking so positively about their child’s progress, so realistically about their child’s challenges and so warmly about their child’s teacher.

Parents and teachers are both vital and critical to the wellbeing and development of our children and we must always work together to make the most of children’s learning and to nurture their talents. My appreciation and thanks to you for your valuable role as the primary educators of your child. Thanks also to our St Agatha’s teachers, a dedicated team of professionals, who work tirelessly to meet the needs of all our students.

A great website for parents
Parents are often looking for tips on the internet for ways to support their child at school. Recently we became aware of a website that has quick links to a number of websites that parents might find useful support.

Listed below is a snapshot of just some of the great parent links you will find on this site. It’s worth getting online and having a browse at the links.

Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal
From the REC

The heavens opened up with a deluge of rain on Sunday but inside the Church some of our children were preparing to receive a downpour of Jesus’ love. Seventy-two children from our Parish celebrated the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. Fathers Paul, Raja and Harry concelebrated the Mass. Father Paul, in his homily, spoke about the importance of the Sacrament and that this is the reason the priests and children wear their best vestments and clothes and celebrate with precious metals at the feast of Our Lord.

The children have been preparing for the Sacrament over the last four weeks when they attended small groups led by volunteers. During this time, they learnt about the signs, symbols, rituals, scripture and importance of the Sacrament. The Year Three teachers also supported this learning in the classroom.

Father Paul emphasised that you as parents are the first teachers of the faith and that the church supports you in the faith formation of your children. The way we do this is to gather as a faith community, come regularly to listen to God’s word and share in his body and blood through the Eucharist. He encourages us all to be families of faith and families of prayer.

My thanks to Mrs Tina Muscat who did a wonderful job coordinating the sacramental program and to the teachers who attended the Mass to support the children. Next Sunday it will all happen again with a second group of children who are about to receive Jesus into their lives in a very special way. Please keep them in your prayers.

God bless

Vicki Ford - REC

From the Sports Desk

Congratulations to the following 2016 Athletics Age Champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Yrs</td>
<td>Andrew Z</td>
<td>Olivia K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Yrs</td>
<td>Riley P</td>
<td>Isabella P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Yrs</td>
<td>Michael R</td>
<td>Mia L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Yrs</td>
<td>Evan W</td>
<td>Ella P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Yrs</td>
<td>Tom M</td>
<td>Charlotte H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to Charlotte H who broke the U12 long jump record with a jump of 3.73m. Well done Charlotte.

Polding Representative

Congratulations to Jack L who competed at the Polding Cross Country at Eastern Creek last Friday and placed 2nd in his race. As a result Jack has been selected to represent Polding at the NSWPSA State Cross Country in Term 3.

From the Library

A big thank you to our dedicated group of early morning Library Monitors!

Vicki Ford and Julie Mason
Silver Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have obtained their Silver Awards.
T, Lachlan T, Nicholas T, Liam V, Peter W, Ava W, Charlotte W

Gold Awards
Congratulations to Trisha S for obtaining the first Gold Award for 2016.

Biggest Morning Tea - Thank You
Thank you all that baked bought a cake or donated. The day was a huge success! A special thanks to Year Four for baking all the delicious cakes, slices, biscuits and jellies. We really appreciate you letting your kids make a mess in the kitchen while they baked! Thank you to the parents that gave the children money to buy goodies and for Mrs Gessner, Mrs Maginnity, Mrs Allen, Mrs Wong, Mrs Hordern-Smith, Mrs McGrath, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Turnbull for helping on the day. Thank you for all the generous donations. We raised $538 before a cake was even sold! From the Morning Tea and teacher donations we raised $863.30! We had some very generous late donations, bringing our total to $1900!! This money will be donated on behalf of Gemma, Mrs McLenaghan’s sister who is currently battling cancer.

Isabella, Alexandra and Lexie 4G

Sport Changes for Kindy, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 - Week 10 only
PE lessons for Kindy and Year 1 will change from Tuesday to Thursday, therefore sports uniform to be worn on Thursday and not Tuesday. Normal class sport will still take place on Friday.

PE lessons for Year 2 and Year 6 will change from Thursday to Tuesday, therefore sports uniform to be worn on Tuesday and not Thursday. Normal class sport for Year 2 will still take place on Friday and for Year 6 on Wednesday.

Don’t forget the Sausage Sizzle next Tuesday.