From the Principal

Stewardship

After such a wet week, I then ran my eyes over the Gospel for the weekend and saw the theme of Stewardship. Interestingly Peter questions Jesus in a roundabout way by speaking about a steward acting either faithfully and with wisdom or alternatively irresponsibly and recklessly. A steward is one who stands in the place of the master during the master’s absence – taking on the duties, responsibilities and authority of the master. That’s exactly what we as Christian people are called to do: become stewards who act in the place of Jesus as we await his return.

You will also note a sense of “warning”, “to be ready” present-day believers may not share the keen sense of the Lord’s return that characterised the early generations and has left such a strong impression upon much of the New Testament. But the sense of life as something for which we are always accountable remains. Like the servants awaiting their master’s return, we are responsible and accountable – responsible for the welfare of others, especially the poor and disadvantaged, and accountable to God. A very powerful message and one that we need to hold close to our hearts.

Olympathon

Our Olympathon will take place next Wednesday and I would encourage you to support your children with this activity. Each morning we have had our torch relay happening with the Olympic fanfare playing and the torch moving from class to class. In the background our own Olympic Committee have been busy making flags, designing games for the day, sourcing cauldrons and various sporting equipment. This should be a wonderful day. If you would like to help out on the day please complete the eForm on our school app.

1-2-3 Magic workshops - Building Emotional Intelligence & Managing Behaviour

Monday 8th and Monday 15th of August at 9.30 – 11.30 in the school hall

The Program consists of two, 2 hour sessions, working through a parent resource booklet with a trained facilitator. The course will cover childhood development, emotion coaching in practice, mindfulness, self-regulation and how to encourage wanted behaviour. The program supports parents and caregivers with effective strategies to help their children self-regulate and manage their emotions and behaviour. To register email your details saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Letter from the Director – Fees 2017

I am hoping to arrange for a member of the CSO leadership to address a parent meeting early September and to gather a list of questions that you would like answered on the night. Please send these to saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au with “Fees Questions” in the header of the email. These emails will be dealt with the utmost confidentiality.

Last week I met with the P&F Executive and had a discussion about the implications of the increased fees and
I do want to emphasise that I am committed, as a Principal in a Catholic school, to support families who may experience difficulties or face hardship in terms of school fees. Every family who chooses Catholic education for their children, deserves to have their place maintained here at St Agatha’s.

Please contact me if you wish discuss this further.

**2016 Census**

The Census will be held on August 9. It’s a moment for everyone to pause and play a role in shaping the future of Australia.

The aim of the Census is to collect accurate data on the key characteristics of the people in Australia on Census night, and the dwellings in which they live.

The information collected in the Census helps estimate Australia’s population and this information is used to distribute government funds and plan services for the community - housing, transport, education, industry, hospitals and the environment. Census data is also used by individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors to make informed decisions on policy and planning issues that affect the lives of all Australians. Get online on August 9 and make a difference for your community.

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.

*Kevin Bauer - Principal*

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**From the Assistant Principal**

**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**

As you know the three school rules are:

- We are **RESPECTFUL**
- We are **RESPONSIBLE**
- We are **LEARNERS**.

During Weeks 3 and 4 this term we will be focusing on the rule **We are Learners** with a particular emphasis on how we can "Be prepared to learn and have a go".

Being prepared to learn means coming to school with the right equipment. As we are now more than halfway through our school year it might be time for children to check that they have all the equipment ready to learn for the second semester (e.g. sharpened pencils, rubber, ruler, glue sticks). This week we will also highlight to children the importance of "having a go" when completing activities in the classroom. Much of the children’s learning takes place when they attempt something harder and more challenging. It is important for children to recognize that when they “have a go” they will sometimes make mistakes but this is all part of our learning.

**ICAS University Mathematics Competition**

**REMINDER** for those Yrs 3-6 students entered in the **2014 ICAS – MATHEMATICS Competition on Tuesday, 16th August (Week 5)**

What to bring: 2B or B pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler (marked in millimetres).

The Mathematics competition will take place **before school** in the following classrooms:

- Year 3 students in 3 Green classroom
- Year 4 students in 4 Green classroom
- Year 5 students in 5 Red classroom
- Year 6 students in 6 Blue classroom

The test will commence at **7:50 am** promptly. Please ensure your child arrives in sufficient time [preferably around 7:35 am] to be seated for instructions and ready to start the competition at **7.40 am**.

Students who arrive after the competition start time **will not** be permitted to sit the test.
OLYMPATHON - Wednesday 10th August

Our whole school Olympathon will be held on Wednesday 10th August. Thanks to parents who have offered to assist with the day. Details for parent helpers will go home on Monday next week.

We ask that all sponsorship money be collected and returned to your child’s class teacher after the Olympathon. We encourage children to ask family, neighbours and friends to sponsor them. For every $5 children bring in they will receive a raffle ticket e.g ($20 = 4 tickets in raffle, $50 = 10 tickets in raffle). These tickets will go into a weekly raffle prize draw for K-2, Yr 3-4 and Yr 5-6. The raffles will be held on Monday’s at assembly for 4 weeks. We are looking forward to a fun Olympathon Day!

Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal

From the REC

We have three important dates coming up this month. Monday 15th is the Feast of the Assumption and as it is a Holy Day of Obligation, there will be a whole school Mass at 11:40. You are very welcome to join us. Then on Friday 19th our celebration for Grandparents will commence at 10:00. To make this a special morning tea, we are asking you to bring a plate of food so that we can give our grandparents a delicious morning tea. Please send the food to school on Friday morning. Saturday 20th is the day many of our Year Two children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the grace of God through this Sacrament.

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Frances urges us to ponder on God’s undying mercy and the love God has for all of his people. “From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends.” (Pope Francis) It is certainly comforting and reassuring to know that God’s mercy is like a never ending stream and is always there for us.

The word merciful is very multi-faceted and there are many ways we can show mercy. The kinds of words and gestures we use help us to express love, compassion, forgiveness and kindness. How merciful am I in my actions and my thoughts? Do I readily look for the good in other people? Do I honour my promises? Do I readily say ‘I’m sorry’? Do I utilise the power of smiles, warm expressions and direct eye contact when I engage with people? Do I show empathy? Can I walk in the shoes of another?

We all need to be aware that the kinds of words, gestures and facial expressions we use, may communicate a lack of mercy to others? Am I stuck in judgmental habits that cause people around me to feel ‘unsafe’— scoffing, sarcasm, critical comments, gossip, bullying? Take the time to reflect on how you relate to others and how you can add more mercy into your life and those you meet.

God Bless

Vicki Ford - REC

From the Library

Yes Please!

If you have offered to help with the Grandparent’s Day Book Sale on August 19th – the answer is: Yes Please! Books will be sold from 11am. We need 10 book seller, but we can also use help with set up and pack away.


We are celebrating Book Week for the whole term. The theme is Australia! Story Country. Please pop in and have a look at the beautiful work the students are doing.

Julie Mason & Vicki Ford
Please join our lovely family community on Saturday evening from 6pm for a free movie night and sausage sizzle.

BYO nibbles and drinks, pillows, blankets, beanbags etc. As it is family event we request no alcohol please.

The P&F committee have heard from many families over the past fortnight in relation to the fee increase next year. At our recent P&F executive meeting we discussed the recent letter to families. Our parents are keen to understand what has changed so dramatically that a 20% increase in fees is to be applied in 2017.

The P&F are working with Kevin and the Diocesan Parent Council (DPC) to obtain more information so that we can understand the recent fee increase and what it means for our school community. We are lucky to have the opportunity to be able to submit our questions via our principal, Kevin Bauer.

Thank you to all who attended the fete stall holders meeting. We have some great new stalls this year.

Our next P&F general meeting is Wednesday 17th August, 9:30am in the Troosh Room.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President

Silver Awards

Happy Birthday to:
Jamie B, Shanay S, Andrew Z, Zachary J, Patrick A, Emily T, Chelsea H, Mia R, Jacob B, Lucy H

100 Days

TROOSH Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

Community News
Beecroft Cricket
Children’s book week performance
Learn music
The Wesley Family Newsletter - families helping families
Oakhill Basketball Club Registration