From the Principal

Welcome Back to Term 3
It has been wonderful talking to the children about their holidays. There was a great sense of enthusiasm, as we started our new term.

Ask, Search and Knock
This weekend we will hear St Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer, which has 38 words and is a great example of how a few sentences have changed history. This short prayer has six major themes running throughout it: prayer, hospitality, compassion, forgiveness, the common life and care for the outsider.

Jesus very clearly reminds us to, ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.’ The actions of asking, searching and knocking are means by which we initiate the encounter with God. If we don’t ask, search and knock, how is anyone (including God) to know our needs or know what it is that we are searching for. Particularly in our spiritual lives, it is only through the search and the knocking on the doors of different experiences that we ever come closer to finding answers.

2017 School Fees
Earlier this week, you would have received an email from the Catholic School Office, explaining the challenges that will be experienced by the changing of the funding arrangements for schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay. In particular, the letter mentioned how this would effect us here at St. Agatha’s.

Our school has a long tradition of supporting families bearing financial hardship and this tradition will not change in the future. I wish to stress that no family will be denied a place at St Agatha’s because of their inability to pay school fees due to financial hardship. I am very aware of the potential impact on families and any family who foresees difficulty in making the required adjustments to their payment arrangements is encouraged to have a conversation with me.

Building Work Update
We are currently waiting on contracts to be signed off and work is planned to begin in early August.

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

Important Diary Dates

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Phone: 9484 7200    Fax: 9484 6235    Email: saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au    Web: www.saphdbb.org.au

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From the Assistant Principal

ICAS University English Competition
REMINDER for those Yrs 3-6 students entered in the 2016 ICAS – ENGLISH Competition on Tuesday, 2nd August (Week 3)

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

The English 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 Green 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.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
Our PBL rule for Weeks 1 and 2 is: We are Responsible: Take Turns and Play by the Rules

“Do to others as you would have them do to you: for this is the law of the prophets” (Mt 7:12)
The purpose of this rule is to emphasize the concept that knowing the rules and playing by the rules will provide a safer and happier learning and playing environment, at school and at home.

When we follow rules we can:
-relate well to others in work and play situations
-develop positive relationships with peers and other people
-make positive contributions in group activities
-act in ways that enhance the contribution of ourselves and others in a range of cooperative situations
-identify how individuals care for each other
-identify the ways in which we communicate, cooperate and care for others
-describe how relationships with a range of people enhance well-being
-describe roles and responsibilities in developing and maintaining positive relationships.

At home, discuss these questions with your child:
When do we take turns at home? What are the rules for sharing? Why is it important to let everyone have a turn? Have you been left out, how did you feel?

Helpful Mathematics Fact Sheets for Parents
Parents often get confused by some of the mathematical terms used in today’s classrooms. You might not understand what your child is talking about when they say they use the “Jump Strategy or Split Strategy” when adding numbers. A useful website for parents explaining many of the mathematical terms used in today’s classrooms can be found using the following link:


Olympathon Fundraiser - Wednesday 10th August

A major fundraising event for our school this year is our Olympathon which will be held at school on the 10th August to coincide with the Rio Olympic Games. On the day students will be participating in K-6 teams (countries), rotating through events and completing 16 sporting activities throughout the day. An information note detailing what your child will need to wear on the day and a Sponsor card with details was sent home this week.

For every $5 that students are sponsored they will receive a ticket into a weekly prize draw for K-2, Year 3-4 and Year 5-6. These prizes will be drawn each Monday at Assembly. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes for the highest
fundraisers in the school will also be awarded. There will also be a free ice block and afternoon of playtime for the class that raises the most money (Total amount raised divided by number of students in the class)

We will need some parent helpers on the day from 8.45am-3pm. We ask that parents volunteering to assist don’t bring toddlers for safety and supervision reasons. All parents assisting must have completed a Volunteer Declaration Form available from the office if not previously completed. If you are available to assist with an activity on the day could you please complete the form using the link below and return it to the office by Monday of Week 3 (1st August).

[Click here for the Olympathon volunteer form.]

Thanks for your support of this fundraiser as all money raised will be used to provide more technology (ipads) in our school. Every $600 raised is one more ipad for our school.

**Parish Mass**

Our next Parish Family Mass will be held at the 9am mass on Sunday 31st July. The parish family mass is a wonderful opportunity for the children at St Agatha’s to participate in the mass by doing a Reading, Prayer of the Faithful or assisting with the Offertory Procession. If you would like your child to participate in one of the roles above please reply to the email with your child’s name and class, or [click here](#) to complete a return slip.

*Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal*

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**From the REC**

Welcome back! The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered to the children in the Parish this term. At St Agatha’s, most children from Year Two will receive the Sacrament. The parent information night was held this week so if you missed it you will need to contact the Parish office. The children’s preparation will take place over the next weeks and the ceremony will be on Saturday 20th August with two sessions at 10:00 and 12:00

At St Agatha’s, we have offered the parents a time for prayer when they can unite in community, let go of their busy lives and reflect and pray for ten to fifteen minutes. Unfortunately timing seems to be an issue for many parents, so for this term we will trial two prayer sessions straight after assembly. We will have the first one on Monday of Week 3 and Week 9. I hope you can come. Toddlers are most welcome.

Finally, please let all grandparents know that our Grandparent’s Liturgy will be celebrated on 19th August at 10:00. After the liturgy, the grandparents will be able to visit the classrooms and enjoy a beautiful morning tea. At this time, they will also have the opportunity to visit our library and purchase a book on behalf of their grandchildren. As in previous years, we are asking for donations of cakes for the morning tea.

*God Bless*

*Vicki Ford - REC*

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**From the Sports Desk**

All students who participated in the Netball and League Tag gala days competed with great sportsmanship and school spirit and had a fun day. A huge thank you to all of the parent helpers who assisted at the Netball Gala Day. Sylvana Boyd, Jacqueline De Zotti, Phil Wheeler, Sarah Wong, Geraldine Hessey, Sarah Tan, Louise Williams, Alison Herring, Martina Storgato, Danielle Kelso and Robyn Withford.
From the P&F

Welcome back to term 3! I hope you had a lovely relaxing break with your families over the holidays.

On Saturday 6th August we are having our annual movie night - we will be screening Kung Fu Panda 3. Invitations will be coming home this week. Pack cushions, pillows, picnic rugs and head to the school hall 6pm - 8pm for a fun family night out.

This term we are gearing up for our biannual fete which will be held on 16th October. This is a great way for our school community to come together to create a fun filled day! I encourage you take the opportunity to be involved as much as you are able. We are looking for some stall co-ordinators, sellers of raffle tickets, volunteers on the day and lots of donations! Keep updated via the St Agatha’s Fete Facebook page and through regular Fete Newsletters on the “Skool Bag App”. We look forward to seeing you at the Fete Meeting on Tuesday evening 26th July in the Troosh Room.

We are looking for a person to co-ordinate selling gifts for the Father’s Day stall. If you are able to assist please contact Rachael Anderson on 0408 228 640 or rachjane_anderson@yahoo.com.au

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President

Silver Awards


Happy Birthday to:
Kyle S, Daniel M, Elaina C, Leo H, Aiden F, Ann C, Samantha G

TROOSH Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

Community News

Thornleigh try baseball
OLMC Parramatta Open Morning
Chess
1-2-3 Magic Workshops