From the Principal

Stewardship

I have been listening to the US election campaign over the past few weeks with Mr Trump and Mrs Clinton debating how they propose to look after our world and the influence the US has as a world leaders. Interestingly the gospel this week reflects on some of these issues.

From my perspective, we are creatures of this world. We are made of it and we are totally dependent upon it for our very existence. We require its air, its water, its food, its heat. We need it for covering and for shelter; we need it to stimulate our minds and our spirits. Therefore, our use of its phenomenal resources cannot in itself be immoral. What is questionable is the character of our use.

There are many circumstances that contribute to the complexity of these matters. The merchant in the passage from prophet Amos (The First Reading) is not faulted because he was prosperous. Nor is the steward in the gospel criticised for putting resources aside for future use. But how much does a person need when there are others who are really needy?

We live our lives on the horns of a dilemma. We have the right to use and to enjoy the marvels of our world, but we cannot do this free of responsibility to each other and to the world itself. We are not called to disown the world. It is impossible for us to do that, because of our total dependence upon it. But we are called to live in it gently, using what we need and sharing what we can. We must make decisions as trustworthy stewards of the household of God, not like the man in the gospel who was only concerned with his own well being. We must serve God, not money.

Conversation with the Director of School

Last Thursday evening, about sixty parents from our school gathered to listen to a presentation by Mr Peter Hamill, Director of School, for the Diocese of Broken Bay. Mr Hamill listened to the many concerns parents had around the increase in fees for 2017 and gave the reasoning behind the fee increase.

I have written to him and thanked him for his openness and honesty in speaking with our community. As I have mentioned in all of my communication, if you are genuinely are unable to meet the new fees I would ask that you would come and meet with me.

2017 School Year

Over the next few weeks I will begin to plan for next year and I need to know if any of our children will not be attending St Agatha’s in 2017. I already have a waiting list in some year levels so I need to confirm numbers. A form went home yesterday with your eldest child, could you please complete this by Wednesday 21st September and return it to the school.

Important Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16   Fete Mufti Day</td>
<td>10 Back to School</td>
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<tr>
<td>20   Fun Food Day Year 3 - Ice Cream - 1:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23   4R Assembly</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 3</td>
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Building Works Update
This Friday and Saturday the old staircase and internal walls will be demolished, this will allow for some of the structural work and concreting to happen over the school holidays.

Year 5 Red will be relocated to the back of the hall, next week whilst this work is in progress.

Once again, 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

From the Assistant Principal
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
As you know the three school behavioural expectations at St Agatha’s are:

- We are RESPECTFUL,
- We are RESPONSIBLE
- We are LEARNERS.

This fortnight we will again focus on the rule We are RESPECTFUL with a particular emphasis on how we can “INCLUDE OTHERS”

“Do to others as you would have them do to you: as this is the law and the prophets” (Mt 7:12)

Our aim at St Agatha’s is to RESPECT SELF and RESPECT OTHERS. When we include others we are respecting ourselves and others.

In class the students will be discussing:

- appreciating and celebrating the differences of others
- times when they have felt included and excluded.
- the concepts of inclusion and the appreciation of our individuality.
- how to invite others to play in our games
- how to look out for and be aware of others playing on their own
- how to start up a conversation with someone new

At home you can include your brothers and sisters in your games by sharing your toys with them. Teach your brother or sister the rules to the game or the rules around looking after your property to alleviate any disagreements.

Include each other in conversations by asking each person their opinions and listening to what they have to say. Taking turns in a conversation, and appreciating and accepting the opinions of others helps to develop deeper relations with others.

Olymphanton fundraiser - $12,000 Raised!
Thank you to all parents and families for your wonderful support of our Olympathon fundraiser held earlier this term. It was a fabulous day of activities celebrating the Olympic Games and the Olympic Values. Our fundraiser has been a great success raising just over $12,000!! A fantastic achievement! The money that has been raised has been used to purchase 20 new Ipads for use in our classrooms, providing our older students with greater access to 21st Century learning tools.

ICAS English Competition
Students from St Agatha’s achieved some outstanding results in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English Competition. Congratulations to those students whose achievements were rewarded with certificates of Merit, Credit and Distinction and High Distinction.

Year 3

Year 4
As this year is ‘a year of mercy’, it seemed the perfect topic for our staff spirituality day last Friday. Robyn Gallagher, a very gifted presenter, led us through scripture and contemporary stories of mercy and compassion. Through authentic conversation we were able to make connections with the stories and our own lives and how we can live out the call to mercy in our world today.

I’m sure we all answer God’s call to mercy in many ways. The simple fact that we have our families to care for means many acts of mercy are carried out daily. What I found beneficial was to actually name what mercy is. Mercy has many arms; compassion, empathy, forgiveness, caring, reaching out to others, acceptance, and opening the doors of your heart, to mention just a few. To be a person of mercy is to have it in every fibre of your being, to live it and to breathe it. I feel inspired to be mindful of God’s role for me at St Agatha’s and in the world around me.

We have planned a spirituality morning for you and your friends next term on Thursday, 27th October. Our first one last term was a great success with many parents wanting us to plan another one. If you need child care, the school will arrange for someone to look after your toddlers. A flyer was sent out electronically last week with the details.

God Bless

Vicki Ford - REC

World Youth Day (WYD)

WYD in Poland was a great experience for the more than 20 pilgrims from the St Agatha’s parish. Fr Paul and several pilgrims have spoken at various Masses thanking the parishioners for their support & prayers and sharing some personal highlights. Fr Raja and several pilgrims attended the recent Praise and Worship Night at Chatswood for pilgrims.

Confirmation in August

Thanks to Tina Muscat (Sacramental Coordinator) and all who contributed to the two wonderful ceremonies with Bishop Peter and the priests and the 152 children who were confirmed. We pray it’s is a time of blessing for them and their families.

Inquiry Night for those interested in the Catholic Faith

Becoming Catholic – Faith Enquiry Evening Wednesday, 5th October at 7.30pm

Are you someone who would like to explore the Catholic Faith?
Are you a parishioner who would like to accompany adults on the journey to becoming a Catholic?
Perhaps you are looking for a ‘refresher’ course on what the Catholic Church believes and teaches?
Then you are welcome to join us for this evening. Spread the word – issue a personal invitation to others to “come and see”.
We have dozens of ways in which you can become more actively part of the life of the Church through our wonderful Parish of St Agatha’s.
It is open to all: baptised and those seeking to be baptised. RSVP: Parish Office Ph: 9484 1427 e: parishsecretary@stagatha.org.au
Parish Secretary
We are very pleased to welcome Annie Casey who begins as Parish Secretary on Monday 19th September. For family reasons Mal Weber is leaving this position on Friday 16th September. She, Richard and family will remain involved in the parish. There is a farewell morning tea for Mal after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 18th September.

Parish Family Masses
Remember that families from St Agatha’s school are always welcome to join us for the Sunday Masses and anything in the life of the parish. In term four, the 9.00am Mass on 30th October and 27th November have been planned as special Family Masses.

On behalf of the parish, wishing all families an enjoyable time over the school holidays.

Fr Paul

From the Sports Desk
Congratulations to Jack L who has been selected to represent Polding at the NSWPSSA State Athletics Championships to run in the 800m in October. Well Done Jack!

Kristen Vella - Sports Co-ordinator

From the Library
Congratulations to Buddy S, Adam T, Monique T and Sophie B for finishing the Premiers Reading Challenge. This year 59 students completed the Challenge which is fantastic! Grandparents day was a huge success and we were able to add $2500 worth of new books to the library. Thank you to everyone who donated books and of course our fabulous helpers.

Julie Mason and Vicki Ford

From the P&F

P&F Positions Vacant:
As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have a number of executive roles vacant on the P&F for 2017. Perhaps you are thinking you might like to have a go but you are not sure what’s involved, I am happy to have a non-committal chat with you.

Firstly, what is the P&F? The P&F recognises and values the role that parents and carers play in the education of their children and aims to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and the wider community for the benefit of their children’s overall development and learning. The P&F endeavours to build positive relationships between all members of the school and parish community.

The executive committee is the group responsible for the management of the P&F. The executive committee comprises the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the Diocesan Parent Council representative together with the ex-officio members and other members elected at a general meeting.

The President communicates with the principal prior to each general meeting to discuss the agenda to ensure clarity of issues to be raised. The Secretary’s role is to help the flow of information from the secretary to the broader school community, the minutes of each meeting can be attached to the school newsletter; as well as displayed on the school website. The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that all the financial records are maintained and financial reports prepared each term.

If you may be interested in any of the positions, please let me know, as we are now planning for next year.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President
0412114038
P&F End of Year Dinner
Tickets are available now (pay via QKR on the skoolbag app) for our End of Year Dinner to be held on 29th October at Pennant Hills Golf Club. Some people have been asking about the format of the evening.

We will be having drinks and canapés on the terrace followed by a sit down dinner. We have a live band as well as a lounge area. There is no need to pre-book tables, there will be tables available on the evening.

Danielle Kelson - P&F Vice President

Fete News
The fete is rapidly approaching! We are looking forward to raising money for our playgrounds and technology and need your support. We would like to thank everyone who is busy organising stalls and have already donated goods, and time. Thank you to the Ridderhof Family (Kindy) for donating the vast bulk of lollies for the Sweet Stall!

Mufti Day: Friday, 16 Sep - Bring a 1.25L soft drink/mineral water and / or a high bounce, tennis or hand ball.
Raffle Tickets: Volunteers needed to sell raffle tickets at Cherrybrook, Beecroft and Pennant Hills this Saturday. All volunteers receive $10 fete money. If you can help please Email Louise Treloar louisetreloar@gmail.com
Ride Bands are available to purchase via the QKR app.
White Elephant Drop off times: Monday 19th September from 8am – 9:30am and Friday 23rd September 8am – 9am in the Hall.

There will be a Stall Holders meeting on Tuesday 11th October 8pm in the Troosh Room.

Click here to read more…

The Fete Co-ordinating Committee

From the Uniform shop
The tuckshop is looking for volunteers to help one Friday each month, I really need some help. Please contact me at school on Monday, Wednesday or Friday if you are available.

Thank you for your assistance. It is always greatly appreciated. Your child will also love to see you in the Tuckshop.

Lucy Daniels - Tuckshop co-ordinator

Gold Awards
Congratulations to Heidi S and Rachael M who have obtained their Gold Awards. Well done!

Silver Awards

Happy Birthday to:

Community News
Piano lessons
Aggies net set program

TROOSH Contact Greg on 0423 647 607