From the Principal

Building Works Update

This Sunday marks culmination of months of background work getting ready for our school fete. The weather report is for a sunny hot day. I would encourage you to all come and support our school. We are hoping to use some of the funds in the area of technology and to improve some of our play space for our children.

I have very appreciative of the many hours of time and effort that has already gone into the preparation for our fete. The committee and stall holders have done a wonderful job, it is now up to all of us to support these efforts by inviting our friends and families to be part of our day.

I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for their support and ask that you in turn support them if possible.

Child Protection Alert

On Thursday 27th Oct we will be involved in the “Day for Daniel”, as the school photos will be taking place on the Friday, the actual day. Miss Bylsma has written specifically about the details of this day in her section of the newsletter.

You maybe aware of current “Crazy Clown” craze that has been in the media and on social media over the past few weeks. This would be an appropriate time for you to reinforce with your children the rules that you have

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Important Diary Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
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<td>16 School Fete</td>
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<td>17 Catholic Mission Workshop - Years 3 to 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Kindy Orientation Session 1A - 9:00am to 10:30am Year 6 Grade Mass - 9:30 am</td>
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<td>20 Diocesan Mission Mass</td>
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around stranger danger and to empower them to RECOGNISE, REACT and REPORT if they feel something is not right or they feel unsafe. Next week our staff will also reinforce this and we will also do this again on our “Day for Daniel”.

Police have indicated that “any intimidating or threatening, as well as anti-social behaviours will not be tolerated and will be investigated.” Please contact your local police station if you have any concerns.

Building Update
Our building works are proceeding well. This week the classroom walls are going up and we had the first of our three concrete pours. The deck over the tuckshop was completed and we are now waiting for the concrete to harden. We are starting to order our furniture. It is anticipated that the work will be complete, before the end of Term 4.

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

Privacy Update
As of Term 4 the following documents have been updated, please take the time to read them.
Privacy Policy Update
Standard Collection Notice update
School Photography update

Michelle Breytenbach - Privacy Officer

From the Assistant Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
Our PBL focus for the first two weeks of Term 4 falls under the school rule, WE ARE RESPECTFUL-BE A GOOD LISTENER

“Our various gifts and talents are not merely for personal use and satisfaction, but for the glory of God and the service of others.” (1Cor 12:4-6)

Speaking and Listening is one of the key strands of the NSW English syllabus. So, by using the focal point of ‘Being an active listener’, teachers will engage the students with a variety of activities in the classroom that cover outcomes suitable to each stage.

Good listeners:
♦ look at the person who is speaking
♦ are attentive when someone else is speaking
♦ think about what is being said by the speaker
♦ are able to respond appropriately to the speaker, with either comments or questions

This rule can be reinforced at home when parents and siblings are speaking to each other. We as adults, are role models to our children, so highlighting the features of a good listener as we speak to each other, is a good way to support the work commenced at school. A good time to do this is at the dinner table when conversations about the school/work day are valuable family interaction times. It is also important to model appropriate listening skills during a variety of other general conversation times.

Naplan Data 2016
Towards the end of last term we received the NAPLAN data on our Year 3 and 5 students. Every year our staff participate in a number of professional learning sessions analyzing our data, highlighting our celebrations and looking closely at the areas where we need to improve. Teachers across K-6 use the data to plan and meet our students at their point of need. We also receive data on our 2015 Year 6 students who also sat NAPLAN at the beginning of Year 7. Each year an extensive summary of our data is published on the My School website and in the Annual School Report.

St Agatha’s results in all areas are significantly higher than the State.
Some of the highlights of this year’s NAPLAN data:
Year 3 Reading - 61% of our students in top 2 bands
Year 3 Writing - 68% of our students in top 2 bands
Year 3 Spelling - 67% of our students in top 2 bands
Year 3 Number, Patterns and Algebra - 51% of students in top 2 bands

Year 5 Reading - 51% of our students in top 2 bands
Year 5 Writing - 44% of our students in top two bands
Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation - 61% of our students in top 2 bands
Year 5 Number, Patterns and Algebra - 37.8% in top two bands

ICAS Mathematics Competition
Students from St Agatha’s achieved some outstanding results in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Mathematics Competition. Congratulations to those students whose achievements were rewarded with certificates of Merit, Credit and Distinction and High Distinction. These certificates will be presented at Monday morning’s Assembly.

Year 3

Year 4
James E, Alexander K, Jack L, Alessandro T, William T

Year 5
Mitchell A, Jet C, Liam F, Samantha G, Jonathan N

Year 6

Day For Daniel - Thursday 27th October (Week 3)
Day for Daniel is a National Day of Action that is growing annually. It is where schools, businesses and community groups across Australia promote child safety and deliver safety messages to children and parents. Day for Daniel is the largest child safety awareness day of its type in Australia. In recent years more than 1 million Australians joined with us in protecting children. On Thursday the 27th of October St Agatha’s will be participating in the “Day for Daniel” promoting the importance Protective Behaviours and Child Safety. On ‘Day for Daniel’ all St Agatha’s children are encouraged to wear a RED T SHIRT with their sports uniform. The children in K-6 will be completing some Child Safety / Protective Behaviour activities during the day.

Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal

From the REC

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
October marks ‘Mission Month’ in St Agatha’s calendar. This year, the Catholic Mission focus is on children in Cambodia who cannot go to school because their families live in poverty. Without education, the children of Cambodia will not be able to get good jobs when they get older and consequently, their cycle of poverty will continue. This mission focus links with the Year of Mercy, as we are called by Pope Francis to be the hands of mercy.

In one Cambodian village, the Daughters of Charity visit the children one morning per week. During this visit, the Sisters teach the children to read, give them hygiene lessons and provide each child with a nutritious meal.
St Agatha’s is challenged to raise money and awareness over the coming weeks to help the Daughters of Charity visit more Cambodian communities.

On 27 October, we will be having a Change the World Day. Children are encouraged to bring in any spare change they have in their piggy banks, in the bottom of their drawers or lying around the house. Our aim is to have enough coins to go around the entire perimeter of the basketball court! For every $150 St Agatha’s raises, we will be providing 15 disadvantaged children with education for one year. As a school community let’s see how many Cambodian children we can give a year of education to!
Invitation to a Parent Reflection Morning
You are invited to attend a morning of gentle meditation, interactive discussion, engaging clips, scripture and a delicious morning tea. Earlier this year we had our first reflection morning and the feedback was very positive. We look forward to you joining us on Thursday 27 October at 9am. Click here for more information.

St Agatha’s Talent Showcase
After a successful inauguration last year, the St Agatha’s Talent Showcase is back for 2016! Try outs will begin in week 5 and the final performance will be on Thursday 15 December. If you have a child who can sing, dance, tell jokes, play an instrument or has any other talent, we would love them to try out! We are looking forward to seeing the tremendous talent our children have to offer! Click here for more info.

God Bless
Maryanne Kelly - Acting REC

From the Parish
Remember that families from St Agatha’s school are always welcome to join us for Sunday Masses and anything in the life of the parish. Our Family Masses for this term will take place on the 30th October and 27th November at 9:00am.

Fr Paul

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
From the Uniform shop

The tuckshop is still 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

From the Uniform shop

The uniform shop is open every Monday and Friday morning from 8:30 am - 9:30 am. In order to ensure the continued smooth running of the uniform shop, we are looking for more volunteers to work one of these mornings per month. If you can assist, please come and see me at the uniform shop or email on saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

I am also looking for some assistance for Kindergarten Fittings on the following dates:

- Mon 17 Oct 9:30am - 11:30am
- Fri 21 Oct 9:30am - 11:30am
- Mon 31 Oct 9:30am - 11:30am
- Tue 1 Nov 10:30am - 12:30pm
- Tue 8 Nov 10:30am - 12:30pm

Your assistance is always greatly appreciated and your children love to see you helping at school.

Elise Dittmar - Uniform shop Supervisor

Gold Awards
Liam B, Shriyaa M

Silver Awards

Happy Birthday to:
William M, Megan R, Olivia K, Lucy B, Rochelle S, Abbey B, Hannah T

TROOSH Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

Community News
Go4Fun
Aggies Net Set Go Program
Leo’s Movie Under the Stars
Australian Girls Choir Open Day
Sydney Kings Offer