From the Principal

Congratulations
Congratulations to our School Leaders for 2017. Students will receive their badges at the Opening Mass on Friday the 3rd February 2017.

Girl Captain Ella Pratt
Boy Captain Lachlan Woolnough
Girl School Vice Captain Jasmine Wheeler
Boy School Vice Captain Sean Valencia

Sports Captains

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice Captains</th>
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<td>Gilroy</td>
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<td>Anneke Dicker</td>
<td>Georgia Allen</td>
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<td>Anthony Abdow</td>
<td>Jack Lovell</td>
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<td>Chisholm</td>
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<td>Charlotte Harris</td>
<td>Sian Barrett-McManus</td>
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<td>Zachary Johnson</td>
<td>Joshua D’Souza</td>
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<td>Therry</td>
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<td>Samantha Goh</td>
<td>Charlotte Prasad</td>
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<td>Joshua Easton</td>
<td>Alex Dunne</td>
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<td>MacKillop</td>
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<td>Tiarna Morabito</td>
<td>Isabelle Hessey</td>
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<td>Michael Royle</td>
<td>Liam Stewart</td>
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<td>Polding</td>
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<td>Lindsay Austria</td>
<td>Isabella Maginnity</td>
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<td>Nicholas McKenzie</td>
<td>Joseph Zeatier</td>
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This will be the final school newsletter for the year. The year has gone so quickly and our children have grown so much.

We are already into the beautiful season of Advent, the time of waiting, preparing and longing for the coming of Christ into the world once again and into our hearts and homes. May He find there love, generosity and gentleness – and may all receive His gift of peace and contentment.

Hopefully at this time we will try to help our children focus on giving rather than receiving material things.

End of Year Mass
This year we will be having our End of Year Mass at 11:30 am on Friday 16th December. You are most welcome to join us in celebrating a wonderful year and take your children home after mass. School will conclude on that day.

Farwell and Thank You
We sadly say goodbye to a number of our staff this year. We farewell Ms Bylsma, who has been appointed

<table>
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<th>Important Diary Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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<td>13 Year 6 Graduation - 6pm</td>
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<td>14 Surf Education Years 5 &amp; 6 - Manly</td>
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<td>16 End of Year Mass - 11:40am</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 4</td>
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Principal at St Philip Neri, Northbridge. Ms Bylsma has been a part of St Agatha’s staff for four years as our Assistant Principal.

Miss Maryanne Kelly has accepted a teaching position at Sacred Heart, Mona vale. Miss Kelly has also been a member of the school leadership team.

Miss Bridget Woods has been one of our Year 2 teachers this year. She will be working as a casual teacher at our schools.

We also thank Mrs Karen Day who has been teaching Year 4 from the later part of this year. Mrs Day will still be with us as a casual teacher next year.

We thank all these ladies for the contribution they have made to the St Agatha’s community and thank them for their dedication to our students and families. We wish them well on the next stage of their journey.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. 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-wide behavioural expectations are:

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

The focus for the last two weeks of the school year will be - at St Agatha’s “We are Responsible” when we remember to “Care for our belongings”. Although we are almost in the final week of the year we encourage students to continue to care for their belongings including their lunch boxes, drink bottles and hats. Please remember to check our lost property outside the TROOSH if your child has misplaced something. Lost property is often overflowing in the last few weeks of term and many items are in very good condition.

It is wonderful to see so many students still striving for their mini –merits at the end of the school year and the smiles on their faces as they achieve their GOLD and SILVER PBL awards at the Monday assembly.

Sports Shoes
A reminder when you are buying school sport shoes over the holidays that sport shoes as part of the St Agatha’s uniform, should be predominantly white with just a small amount of colour. We have a growing number of students wearing sport shoes in bright fluro colours other than white. In 2017 all students will be expected to wear predominantly white sport shoes as described in the St Agatha’s Uniform and Grooming Policy. Thank you to all those already that do and thank you for your attention with this as you shop over the holidays.

Dear Parents,
At the end of next week I say a sad goodbye to the community of St Agatha’s. I have been here for four wonderful years and this time has flown by. I have been very privileged to be a member of this community as Assistant Principal, the EMU Maths Specialist and Coach and Mentor to our staff.

Looking back I am amazed that the Kinder students that started with me in 2013 are about to move into Year 4 in 2017! The children, staff and parents of St Agatha’s have all contributed to giving me my energy, enthusiasm and passion for leadership, teaching and learning. It has been a privilege to be a part of such a welcoming and inclusive community.

I also want to thank Kevin, Fr Paul, the Parish team and all my teacher colleagues and support staff for their support, guidance and friendship. I will always remember our shared laughter and our joys. Thank you for your words of encouragement, sharing of time, ideas, professional dialogue and resources but mostly for your sincerity and trust. To our wonderful parents and Aggie’s families, it is your faith, assistance and valued support to all of us at that helps to make this school and parish such a welcoming community.

Finally, thank you to each of you, for being with me along a very important part of my leadership journey. I will be
forever grateful for your company and for the enormous collection of shared experiences and memories you have indelibly printed on my mind.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2017.

Take care

Fiona Bysma - Assistant Principal

From the REC

Last Tuesday, 29th November Year 5 and 6 went to St Leo’s College to see a nativity play called, “The Road to Bethlehem”. There were many other schools from across the Diocese who had come to watch too. It was really smelly as we walked up to the sheltered area as there were live animals there. We were interested in the camels, as we have been studying deserts and how animals adapt to survive. We could see the humps to store water and fat and their long eyelashes to keep out the sand. We also saw sheep and a donkey.

The play was a re-enactment of Jesus’ birth. The students had made the realistic sets that were in different parts of the playground. There were dressed in authentic costumes to retell the story, some of the audience were also dressed in costume which added to the immersive experience. It was great to see some ex St Agatha’s students involved in the play.

In between telling the story, a choir of angels sang Christmas hymns. The animals were involved in the retelling too. Mary rode on the donkey and looked rather nervous, especially when the donkey started going in circles. The shepherds came to visit and brought real sheep with them. Finally, the Three Wise Men arrived majestically on their decorated camels. Another realistic element was the use of a real baby as Jesus. From where we were sitting we could just see little baby arms waving above the manger.

It was fun to watch but also a very moving and memorable experience for us. As we left we were all given a showbag as a souvenir of this awesome event. Click here for photo’s.

6 Red

A big thank you for your wonderful generosity in donating to the Parish Christmas hamper appeal. The Social Justice Committee worked very hard last Friday to collect the hampers from the classrooms and take them over to the Parish house. One of the children commented that we needed an army troupe because there were so many. Our hampers covered an entire room in the parish house.

I want to wish you a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. Take care during the holiday season. To the families who are leaving St Agatha's, I wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives.

God Bless

Vicki Ford - REC

Pastoral Care

As we come closer to the end of another school year it is a good time to reflect on the many things that have happened throughout the year. While some activities and events are fantastic achievements, sometimes life does not always go the way we planned. A few weeks ago I wrote about resilience. The Kids helpline describes resilience as “the capacity to cope with change and challenge and bounce back during difficult times.” While not all children are as resilient as others, the good news is that resilience can be taught and improved!

The attached page from KidsMatter gives great information on what resilience is and ways we can develop this vital life skill in our children. Over the holidays is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our kids, talking and simply being with them to build their protective factors so they are ready to face the challenges of the New Year!

Fiona Tubb - Well-being Coordinator
News from the Library

Merry Christmas and Thank You

It’s been a busy year at the library and we have really appreciated the help of our loyal volunteers. Maya Weiss has been an excellent Senior Library Monitor and we really appreciate her dedication. A special thank you also to all of the Year 6 Monitors, we will miss you. Another big thank you to all the other Monitors who work exceptionally hard and we look forward to working with you again.

Congratulations to the following students who will receive their Gold Premier’s Reading Challenge Certificate at assembly: Ryan C, Caitlin G, Samantha G, Isabella M, James R, Caitlin S. Another 53 students must be congratulated as they have completed another year of the Challenge, certificates should be going home soon.

Book donations have been at a record high and we are so grateful to those of you who have taken the time to bring us books from home, from garage sales and also bought brand new. We feel blessed by your support.

Thank you so much and may you find books under your tree!

Julie Mason and Vicki Ford

Gold Awards

Silver Awards

Congratulations
Congratulations to Jasmine W who was awarded a "Distinction" in her Royal Academy of Dance - Grade 4 Classical Ballet Exams. Well done!

P&F News
On behalf of the P&F we would like to leave you with this message. May the peace and joy of the Christmas season be with you all. Have a safe and relaxing holiday break.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President