From the Principal

We have had a wonderful week at school and all of our children have settled into their classes. Tomorrow, our kindies will meet their buddies for the first time. No doubt this will be the beginning of some great relationships.

Punctuality is Important

Children arriving after the school bell are getting the message it is ok to be late. All children are expected to be on site by 8:30 am, ready to start the day at 8:50 am. I understand the occasional problem, but tardiness is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Playground Carers

Our new play area is certainly getting a workout and with the introduction of some new dinosaurs to the area the children are really enjoying it. I am looking for a few parents to help maintain the area. I have some of our school leaders helping but would really appreciate a few adult helpers each day. If you can help please complete the attached form https://goo.gl/forms/9W582hhigg6waVl72.

Nut Products

Please make sure that your children do not bring peanut butter or any nut products to school as we have a number of children who are allergic to these products.

Cleaning Paint from clothes

The children often are involved in painting activities and sometimes paint ends up on clothing. If this happens, here are some washing instructions to assist you. If possible wash spills out of clothing immediately. The pigment levels in Chromacryl are high for paint quality reasons and pigment stains may occur. Instructions on how to wash paint stains from your child’s clothing are as follows:

Wet thoroughly; soap well; leave for twenty minutes. Hand wash with a small nailbrush in cool water. Repeat if necessary. Hot water may fix the stain permanently.

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

Important Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Parent Helpers in the Classroom - 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome BBQ - 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>MAI Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Students are not required to attend school unless they have booked for MAI testing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>5R Reconciliation - 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reconciliation Information in the church - 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Family Mass - 9:00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**From the Assistant Principal**

**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**

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)

As you are aware, our three school rules at St Agatha’s are:

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

This past week, we have been focusing on the rule “We are Learners”. Throughout the year your child will probably receive a bright blue “Mini Merit” for demonstrating the behaviours, qualities and skills of a good learner. In the classroom being a learner can mean:

- Choosing to listen to the teacher and listening to the instructions given
- Choosing a good working partner or even a good working position
- Choosing to complete work to the best of my ability
- Is this my best handwriting?
- Could I add more detail to improve the quality of my work?

On Monday we will be conducting MAI (mathematical assessment interview). The data we receive will give the teachers a good indication of each student's growth point and allow them to program to cater for the needs of all their students. Please be punctual to your allocated times as the teachers are endeavouring to test as many students as possible on the day.

The school has purchased a school subscription to World Book Encyclopedia and World Book eBook Series which has over 160 titles currently available. This subscription gives each student and their family, both from school or home, access 24/7 to a wealth of information, historic timelines, images, videos, audio and ebooks. It is recommended that the students begin their research in the Kids section and then move onto Student if more extensive information is required.

Two features that are particularly useful are the text to speech function and the ability to translate the text into other languages. The former will make the information and ebooks more accessible to our younger students and emerging readers. If English is your second language, then some parents may find it easier to help their children in a language they feel more comfortable with. You will be sent an email to access this amazing resource.

**Family Mass**

Our next Parish Family Mass will be held at the 9am mass on Sunday 26th February. 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.

**Vicki Ford - Acting Assistant Principal**

**From the REC**

We celebrated St Agatha’s Feast Day at our Opening School Mass in the first week back at school. We welcomed all our Kindergarten children and new children in other grades. It was also a big welcome to the returning students and teachers. At this Mass, our new school leaders were also blessed and commissioned into their roles for the year. I would like to acknowledge and thank all our teachers who work together with the children to make our Masses come alive. A special thanks also goes to the musicians, singers and the Year Six children who provided the technical experience to operate the computer, PA system and overhead screen. They did a great job!

**Vicki Ford - REC**
Pastoral Care

Today as I write this, it is my daughter’s 17th birthday. It seems like only yesterday that she was a little girl and now we are in the midst of learning to drive!!!! Those early years seem such a long time ago and despite it being very busy, hectic, tiring and messy, it was a wonderful time that I now look back on fondly. Lizzie loved to play shops and would get out her clothes and swipe them over her Barbie laptop pretending she was a shop assistant and I would be the customer. The benefits of imaginative play cannot be underestimated.

Children develop their social and emotional skills through play

Young children learn through their relationships with others and the world around them and they learn through play. A good deal of children’s important early learning about how to express and manage their feelings takes place through play. Children’s play is ‘an important training ground for intellectual and emotional development’. This learning underpins much of children’s future success and wellbeing. (Kidsmatter website) https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

Our new playground helps facilitate imaginative play. There is a shop front with a phone to order your takeaway pizza, river stones with dinosaurs to take children back in time, circular tables to engage in conversations, a sand pit to dig tunnels to faraway lands, little chairs to be moved for children to chat and wooden blocks to build skyscrapers and towns.

It is through these games and play that children are developing their social and emotional skills.

These skills include recognizing and managing our emotions, developing care and concern for others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively and ethically. They are the skills that allow children to calm themselves when angry, make friends, resolve conflicts respectfully, and make ethical and safe choices.

Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

As promised in the last newsletter, I have attached some photos of the children playing at lunch time, click here.

Let us as parents make time in our busy lives to just play with our children! Not all their time needs to be structured and organised, it is also much cheaper playing with things around home! Relax and have fun with our kids, otherwise you blink and they are driving cars!

Fiona Tubb - Well-being Coordinator

P&F News

We look forward to seeing many new and returning families at the Welcome BBQ this Friday evening. The weather forecast is not as hot as last Friday. Bring rugs, balls, nibbles etc. Sausages and drinks are free and we will be selling Snow Cones for $2 each.

Many hands make light work.... Helpers needed for set up, cooking, serving and clean up.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President

Class Parents:

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to be class parents this year. We are still looking to fill 1R and 5R class parent roles.

We are working on class lists and hope to have them out shortly. Please return any forms ASAP.

Fiona Turnbull - Class Parent Coordinator
From the Sports News

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to the following students who are the 2017 St Agatha’s Swimming Age Champions

8 Yrs  Ethan Goh  Laura Challita
9 Yrs  Ryan Cleland  Caitlin Shannon & Sophia Byrnes
10 Yrs  Lachlan White  Caitlin Goh
11 Yrs  Jamie Brown  Sian Barrett McManus
12 Yrs  Joshua Easton  Jemima Cusack

Year 6 Champions  Joshua Easton  Jemima Cusack

Polding Reps
Congratulations to Ashton Bugeja and Joey Symin who were selected to represent Polding at the NSWPSSA Basketball Championships to be held in July Term 4.

Kristen Vella