Pope Francis on parenting: *Without these three attitudes- tenderness, hope and patience- it’s impossible to respect life and growth of the child who is waiting to be born.* (2004)

Yesterday’s **swimming carnival** was a huge success thanks to the hard work of staff and parents. Mr Banks, Mrs Neems and Miss Keenan did an extraordinary job of ensuring the day ran smoothly. There were a number of parent helpers and the effort of all of these people is deeply appreciated. A special thank you to Mandy Carrigan for ‘feeding and watering’ everyone and to Tracey Marley for providing such delicious food. I also offer congratulations to all those children who will represent St Brendan’s at the next level.

Tomorrow marks Ash **Wednesday**, the beginning of the Lenten season. This is a very important season in the liturgical year and I encourage you to reflect as a family on how best you can fully engage with the season.

I have received excellent feedback about the **new uniform supplier Cowan and Lewis**; if you haven’t caught up with the company’s contact details, please phone the office for a copy of last fortnight’s handout.

**St Brigid’s are holding a ‘drop in for breakfast’ this Friday between 6-9am.** This would be particularly worthwhile for parents and students in Years 3-6. Throughout the year, the staff of St Brigid’s will collaborate with St Brendan’s staff to offer students from these classes some extra special curriculum opportunities.

**As the year begins** I take the opportunity to remind you that no physical or verbal reprimand towards another person’s child is permitted. Also, the privacy laws are such that you are prohibited from photographing another person’s child and distributing this material in any way. Please remember that primary school aged students are below the ‘legal’ age for having a Face Book page and in the ethos of a Catholic school, I ask that you refrain from discussing school matters in a negative way using this medium.

All in all, it has been a very positive start to the year and I thank you again most sincerely for the privilege of sharing your child’s life journey with you.

**Important Dates:**
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – 9am Ash Wednesday Mass (Years 3-6); 11am Ash Wednesday Liturgy (K-2)
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February- Parent Sharing Interviews (please book online)
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Stage 1 assembly followed by P and F meeting

Wishing you a wonderful week

Luanna
Religious Education News

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Wednesday February 18       Ash Wednesday – Years 3-6 Mass (9am in Church)
Wednesday February 18       Ash Wednesday – K-2 Liturgy (11am in Church)
Thursday February 19         Reconciliation Parent Information Evening at St. Mary’s (4pm)
Wednesday February 25        Year 6 Class Mass – 9.00am

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by students in Year 3. Some very important information including important dates was sent home last week. A spare copy of dates was also sent home to be kept in a prominent place in the home.

Important up- coming dates to remember regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation are:

- Thursday February 19       Parent Information Evening at St. Mary’s 4pm
- Compulsory Parent Class    3 March and 10 March at St Mary’s from 7-8pm OR
                              4 March and 11 March at St Brendan’s from 4-5pm
- Renewal of Baptismal promises 7 March at 5pm Mass at St Brendan’s
                                 8 March at 9am Mass at St Mary’s
- Commitment Mass for Families 14 March at 5pm Mass at St Brendan’s
                              15 March at 9am Mass at St Mary’s

If your child is in Years 4-6 and HAS NOT received this Sacrament and would like to do so, please contact me.

SUNDAY’S GOSPEL: Sunday’s Gospel was a wonderful reminder of how Jesus wants us to treat outcasts in society. He treated a leper with compassion and dignity even though his condition made it so he was not welcome in the city and had to live outside its boundaries, away from family and friends.

This reading challenges us to ask ourselves “how do we treat outcasts in our school, in our homes, in society?” What would Jesus have us do????

ASH WEDNESDAY: A reminder that this Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate Jesus’ death and Resurrection at Easter. We prepare by talking to Jesus more, by making a personal sacrifice and by helping someone else. Please join us for Mass at 9am or for the Infants Liturgy at 11am on Wednesday.

BISHOP VISIT: We had the opportunity to celebrate Mass with our new Bishop last Sunday. What a terrific opportunity this was and a HUGE congratulations to the students who represented us so beautifully. We are very proud of your efforts. Well done!!! A big thank you to the parents who took their children along.

May God bless you all
Kell York
Religious Education Coordinator.
MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Just a reminder to take the opportunity to book an interview with your child’s class teacher. This can be done online (go to our School Webpage - Featured News and follow the directions) or, if you are not able to access this site, please call the Office.

These interviews are provided to enable parents and teachers to share information about your child so that every opportunity is available to help our children achieve success. This two-way communication process is a way to plot a successful learning path for your child. This ‘learning path’ is not only academic, but also social and emotional.
If you have any concerns about your child’s development, please use this time to work through some strategies with your child’s class teacher.

Just another reminder! If there are concerns that your child has had at School which they haven’t had the opportunity to share with a teacher, please use the ROSE email: ROSE@dbb.catholic.edu.au. Parents can also use this on behalf of their children. There is also the I need to tell somebody... link on the PBL tab of the student page.

Craig McNee
Assistant Principal

MERIT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
<th>Rose Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Red</td>
<td>Haylee B; Ivy R</td>
<td>Kate G; Bronte S</td>
<td>Thomas C; Riley B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Blue</td>
<td>Hailee H; Oliver B</td>
<td>Tristan F; Jade P</td>
<td>Charlotte A; Lily DeB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Green</td>
<td>Annabel A; Gracie C</td>
<td>Ilahe B; Chloe D</td>
<td>Jett C; Taylor D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Hannah M; Mackenzie J</td>
<td>Maddison R; Alexis E</td>
<td>Franky N; Isaac G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Fletcher W; Chanel T</td>
<td>Tristan G; Abigail K</td>
<td>Bella S; Riley DeB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Green</td>
<td>Ella M; Ashton B</td>
<td>Angelo C; Takarsha D</td>
<td>Charlie McF; Tyler W-M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Red</td>
<td>Beau C; Cody B</td>
<td>Briella G-D; Thomas D</td>
<td>Balin F; Sophia T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue</td>
<td>Nathaniel A; Riley D</td>
<td>Tali K; Jordyss W</td>
<td>Mia S; Jacinta A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Green</td>
<td>Ella K; Sophie P</td>
<td>Annaelese H; Alex R</td>
<td>Lucas O; Imogen M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Cobie R</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harrison S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Red</td>
<td>Chloe DeB; Madison H</td>
<td>Alexis L; Trinity F</td>
<td>Sam B; Thomas S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>Kallen M; Beckah G</td>
<td>Amelia H; Kyan E</td>
<td>Bailey K; Charlotte K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red</td>
<td>Willow R; Ivy A</td>
<td>Harry McC; Rachel C</td>
<td>Chloe B; Georgia T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue</td>
<td>Oscar DeB; Emmett B</td>
<td>Laura S; Abby H</td>
<td>Emily T; Brayden P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Red</td>
<td>Kayla W</td>
<td>Gemma B; Graham M</td>
<td>Kaylee N; Tyler H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Blue</td>
<td>Zane H-R; Oliver W</td>
<td>Naiomi V; Kiera J</td>
<td>Jack T; Logan S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Red</td>
<td>Tristen S; Alyssa M</td>
<td>Dylan H; Jarrod W</td>
<td>Tamara B; Bailey G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Blue</td>
<td>Taleza P; Tom S</td>
<td>Jayden Z; Braith H</td>
<td>Faith J; Mattie F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Josh E; Toma K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANZAC Grant

As you may be aware St Brendan’s has secured an Anzac Centenary Grant. We officially launched our project with Jill Hall this morning with coverage from NBN news and the local paper. (Mrs Fletcher will be a TV star on NBN news tonight). We invite families to talk to their children on the significant contributions that our service people have made and of the relatives in your family who may have served. We want to immerse our children through classroom activities and stories on the great sacrifices our diggers made. We would also like to research family members of our community, if you have a grandfather or great grandfather who may have served in WW1 we would love to involve you and them in the project. Anyone who would like to help with this project, please drop me a line. We are all very excited!!

Jo.spek@dbr.catholic.edu.au

Kids Matter

Children’s feelings are very different to those of adults. Children have different responses to feelings depending on their temperament. As children develop, so too will the complexity of their feelings. It can be useful for families to understand the types of feelings children are likely to experience at certain ages. Often this can provide clues to their mental health and their behaviour. Acknowledging and accepting children’s feelings makes them feel understood and it’s easier for them to think things through and deal with problems. For more information and ideas about helping children to understand and deal with their emotions visit the KidsMatter

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/resources/about-emotions

Harmony Day

Harmony Day (21 March) celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Harmony Day 21st of March

http://www.harmony.gov.au

National Day of action against bullying and violence

This annual event provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! There is a parent section on this website containing many helpful hints for families.


Coffee and Conversation is under way with Tracie Richards our counsellor from Catholic Care, Tracie will join us each Tuesday morning for coffee and conversation. The topics of discussion are group led and range from healthy eating to building resilience in our children. Will value your feedback and use this information to plan parenting programs and resources, which will be made available at the school.

Pastoral Care Coordinators – P&F – Our Pastoral Care Coordinators – P&F are Eliesha Mattison (Ronan year 2) and Stella Smallwood (Imogen Kinder) will be coordinating community based events, and creating networks to support families, parents and care givers. Please put your ideas forward to Eliesha and Stella to help build our wonderful community.
Parent Survey - Next Tuesday evening is our parent teacher sharing evening. In between interviews or if you would like to come early, there will be a cuppa available in the library. I will have parent resources available and a survey for parents and caregivers to fill out, this will help us to cater to the needs of our families with Parent Engagement, community building events and parent forums. I will also be available to answer any questions you may have as we start the new year. We always appreciate your feedback. Jo Spek

Kind Wishes
Jo Spek – Family Liaison Officer (2 Days)

ITALIAN

Students will be revisiting pronunciation and use of all the sounds/letters of the Alphabet and express further basic words in Italian. They will extend their knowledge of numbers to 20. In addition, students will continue with conversational greetings and follow simple instructions using classroom vocabulary. Days of the week and Seasons will be introduced and games and role play will be incorporated in the lessons.

Ms Di Donato
Italian Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mass 9.00am Yrs3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liturgy 11.00am Yrs K-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Brigid’s Open Day 6-9am; Parents of Yrs 3-6 very welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>CCC Swimming Mingara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee and Conversation 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Mass 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Open Day 10.30-11.00am; Year 5 Mass 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Family Mass 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 to Canberra; Year 4 Mass 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 Canberra; Arts Forum; National Day Against Bullying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kinder 2016 Information Evening 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR

CLASS PARENTS

Hoping to see new faces in 2015

Responsibilities of the Class Parent
Class Parents are people who are usually up at the school either morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Class parents help the teacher network parents to volunteer either in the classroom or within the school for the benefit of the children and the school. It does not mean they have to be available for ‘everything’ - it is their role to reach out to other parents and network - to share the load! They help bring people together, thus creating a positive community spirit and support system within our school. Class parents are supported by our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators and our Family Liaison Officer Jo Spek.

Desirable Criteria for Class Parent
☐ Confidentiality - this is vital to maintain the integrity of the school and privacy of families
☐ Knowledge of P & F and willingness to work with P&F Committee and Pastoral Care Coordinators
☐ Accessibility to the class teacher and other class parents
☐ Openness and Understanding
☐ School familiarity - with staff, classroom timetables (banking, sport, library etc.), knowledge of class members and their families if possible
☐ A Class Parent Handbook will be given to all selected Class Parents outlining school information etc in detail. A class parent meeting will be held each term to touch base with each other.

Any questions please feel free to contact me or just return the slip below. Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead!
Jo Spek Family Liaison Officer.

---

2015 Class Parent Expression of Interest Slip
Please return to School Office

My name is __________________________. I am the parent of __________________________.

I wish to be considered as Class Parent for Year __________________________.

_________________________________________ (Name)_________________________________________ (Contact no.)

---

Are you interested in being on the MEALS COMMITTEE?

St. Brendan’s has a very successful meals committee which is funded by Munch n Crunch. Meals are made by our wonderful volunteers for families who may be, for example, experiencing a difficult time in their lives. It is a way of reaching out to others and extending the hand of friendship within our own school community and letting people know they are not alone and there are those around them who care.

The costs of meals are refundable to the amount of $25 upon presentation of receipts. Usually you will be called on once a year and that will depend on whether you have the time to make a meal due to your own busy weekly schedules. Please fill out the slip below if you would like to go on the roster or you can call me at school or return the slip below to the office care of Jo Spek, Family Liaison Officer.

---

MEALS COMMITTEE RETURN SLIP to School Office

I wish to be on the meals committee __________________________. (Name) ____________________________________________ (Contact No. ’s)

I am the parent/carer/grandparent of __________________________ in class __________________________.