Dear Parents and Carers

As our children prepare to make their First Holy Communion, I ask that you remember them daily and pray for them and their families. To their families: this is a very important step in your child’s faith journey and they will now depend on you to ensure that they receive regular opportunities to attend Mass in order to be fed by Eucharist.

Over the course of this term many new families have visited St Brendan’s to make an enrolment enquiry. On such occasions, it has been custom and practice to offer these families a tour of our school. Each time a tour is conducted, the family gives heartening feedback about our children. As the first educators of our Years 5 and 6 I particularly commend their parents on the exemplary way in which they have nurtured and expected excellent manners, and an ability to exhibit a genuine welcoming attitude from their children.

Staff members are busily preparing half-yearly reports. These will be sent out early next week and I ask that you both congratulate your child/ren on their efforts and achievements and assist them to set goals as they move forward into Semester Two.

On Thursday and Friday of this week, the Leadership Team is attending a conference focusing on ‘Positive Schools’. In our absence, Mrs Yvette Owens (Assistant Principal, St John the Baptist Woy Woy) will lead the school on Thursday and on Friday, Mrs Frances Reynolds (CSO Consultant, Central Coast)

Many of the Year 6 students have opted to be ROSE Reinforcers and support all children to follow the ROSE rules on the playground. The children have participated in a full day’s training to ensure they are proficient in carrying out the role. I look forward to hearing feedback from year 6 and other students alike.

There are new requirements to the ensuring the privacy entitlements of all community members are upheld. In his Term 3 newsletter inserts, Mr McNee will provide information pertaining to these entitlements. In the meantime, I urge you to always ensure that you are vigilant and demonstrate integrity when considering matters of privacy.

The final assembly for this Term will be held at 1:30pm on Friday 27th June. Prior to the assembly, beginning at 12:15pm, all parents and carers are invited to a cuppa and chat with the principal regarding the Parent and Student Wellbeing surveys which were recently completed. Please feel free to bring along a sandwich, or place an order through the canteen, and enjoy lunch whilst chatting.

Many staff members have opted to attend a professional learning course focusing on Restorative Justice next Saturday at St Cecilia’s Wyong. I am blessed to lead such a professional staff willing to give of their own time to ensure they are able to implement best practice to support their students’.

A practical component on bus safety will be offered to the Kinder – year 2 students next Monday 16th June. I thank Mrs Elsey for following up this opportunity.

I express sincere thanks to Fiona Hancock and her team for facilitating the P and F meeting last week. There were approximately 12 parents present, all of whom enjoyed a ‘taste’ of the classrooms meditations currently being experienced across years K-3. The Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website later next week.

Enjoy the week

Luanna
AP News
It’s on again!!!  **St Brendan’s Project Night!**
Fathers, mothers, big brothers and sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents - join your children in producing a ‘project’ to share with the rest of the School in Week 8 of Term 3.
The aim of this night is to showcase some of the wonderful things that children and their fathers (or a significant adult in your child’s life) can do together. I have offered some hints below, but the possibilities are endless. There are quite a few weeks before the big night; plenty of time to organise some time together – you may even have to skip homework on a couple of occasions (just send a note to the class teacher explaining why)! Don’t forget, the possibilities are endless:
Some things to ponder!!!
Every adult should remember that one day their children will follow their example, instead of their advice!
A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall, but instead picks you up, brushes you off and lets you try again.
Good luck everyone – time spent with our children is irreplaceable!

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**Religious Education News**

**FIRST EUCHARIST DATES**
Thursday 12 June:  PRACTICE and RECONCILIATION – (4-5PM)
Sunday 15 June:  CELEBRATION of the SACRAMENT

**PENTECOST SUNDAY:**
On Sunday we celebrated Pentecost Sunday. On this day we remember the wonderful gift Jesus gave to His Disciples to help them to continue His work. That gift was the Holy Spirit. We are reminded that we too, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. At times when things get tough it helps to remember we are not alone.
We had 6 students perform a very reverent Liturgical Movement at the St Mary’s Toukley Pentecost Mass on Saturday night. Congratulations to each of these children who represented our school so beautifully.

**POPE FRANCIS:**
I was very fortunate to spend two days last week being introduced to the Papal Document written by Pope Francis titled “EVANGELII GAUDIUM – THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL”
It is so encouraging to hear the words of hope from our spiritual leader and to see the importance he places on the everyday people in our world and the importance of “going out” to share the joy of God’s message. This is our Pope who still carries his own brief case and who was happy for a six year old to join him on the altar at a recent celebration. He certainly is a Pope for the people.

Over the next few newsletters, I hope to share some of his thoughts with you.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
Thursday 12 June – First Eucharist Practice and Reconciliation (4-5pm)
Sunday 15 June – First Eucharist Celebration
Wednesday 18 June – Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) Mass
Kell York - Religious Education Coordinator.
MISSING HATS - There have been several reports of missing hats that have children’s names on them. If your child has the wrong hat can you please return it to the office. We have some hats for sale for $10.

NAIDOC WEEK - “This year’s NAIDOC celebrations will be held in week 9 of term 2. We will be having an indigenous performance, sausage sizzle lunch and other cultural themed activities that the whole school will be a part of. We will also be having visitors from St Brigid’s to come and join us in these celebrations. NAIDOC week is a time for all Australians to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders culture and we at St Brendan’s encourage all members of our community to participate in our celebrations positively and cooperatively.”

BOOK CLUB - Orders are due back on 18/6/2014.

JUST ONE THING! As a parent what is Just One Thing that you can commit to doing to help your child ready for school and ready to learn? It can make a world of difference.

Perhaps…… Be on time for school each day. This is so important to get the school day off to a positive start.

SCHOOL JARGON BUSTERS
Curriculum – The Australian curriculum in NSW is the planned program of teaching and learning constructed by educators, in partnership with learners and others, to achieve agreed educational outcomes.
Syllabus – The description of what students are expected to learn in a course of study or key learning areas
Pedagogy – The art of science and teaching

Have a great week
Jo Spek – Family Liaison Officer (2 days)
**Ways to Get More Veggies in your Family Meals**

- Make veggie chips by chopping potatoes, parsnips, or carrots into thick sticks, brush with olive oil and oven bake.
- Add veggies like corn kernels, capsicum, peas, potatoes and broccoli to soups, pasta sauces, and rice or noodle dishes.
- Grate carrot or zucchini and add to homemade hamburger patties or pasta sauces.
- Add some salad to rolls, sandwiches or wraps for lunch.
- Put out a platter of different veggies & let everyone choose which ones they want to eat.
- Try to serve veggies with each meal – don’t worry too much if it is the same ones your child wants each night, as long as they eat them!

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**June**  Fri  **13th**  Assembly 8.20am; NSW CPS Cross Country Eastern Creek

**Term 4**

**Nov**  Thur/Fri  **20/21**  Year 5 Camp