Beattitudes For Grandparents

Blessed are the gentle ….. as they will recognise and be patient with the weaknesses of old age.
Blessed are they who are merciful and who forgive the old for the faults and failings of yesteryear.
Blessed are the peace-makers and the agents for reconciliation between generations.
Blessed are they who can look back on a life of integrity and know they are loved.
Blessed are they who do not judge their young, so that they will not be judged.
Blessed are the old and the young, children, parents and grandparents who acknowledge with gratitude the great gift of life they have been given to share… for the Kingdom of God is theirs.

(an excerpt from Toni Rowland’s prayer)

Thank you to all who contributed to last Friday’s celebration acknowledging the wonderful grandparents and carers in the children’s’ lives. Our celebration was timed to coincide with the Feasts of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of Jesus’ mother, Mary.

Last week the Kindergarten and Year One staff members, supported by Mrs Gordon and Ms Prendergast, facilitated a parent information evening on developing fine motor skills and writing. The evening was extremely well supported and I offer a heartfelt thanks to all who attended. If you weren’t able to make either the morning session (Term 2) or the recent evening session but are keen to find out more please contact Katrina.gordon@dbb.catholic.edu.au and she will arrange a time to meet with you.

Each year the school prepares an Annual Report detailing the achievements of the year prior. This report is available to all parents and can be found on the school’s website. Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy please enquire at the office.

A reminder that our whole school focus on public speaking begins next week. If you have any queries please speak to your child’s teacher or Mrs Alchin.

On the 6th August, St Brendan’s is privileged to host a forum on Board Governance. The forum begins at 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start and will be facilitated by Dr Mike Gaffney who is an expert in this field. Our St Brendan’s Catholic School Enrichment Board will participate in this forum along with other schools across our Diocese. If you are interested in joining us to find out more about how a Board operates and/ or believe you have something to offer to the evening’s discussion, please contact me.

As the school has grown, staffing numbers have increased and previously unoccupied spaces for parent and staff gatherings are being utilised for classrooms. To cater for this growth, I am currently investigating a small extension to the staffroom which would also create a meeting / gathering space for parent meetings. At this point, preliminary drawings are being prepared which will assist in determining an approximate costing. Please be assured that the parent community will be kept informed. This item will be placed on the Term 3 P and F meeting for discussion.
Winter always brings with it a number of ‘bugs’ and all staff members have been enthusiastically encouraging students to wash their hands frequently, to wear jumpers when outdoors and to access the tissue box in the classroom when necessary. In addition, at all times staff members are committed to ensuring the good health of the students. If you would like your child to sit on a hand towel during the weekly assembly please know that this choice will be supported.

I send out my very best wishes to all students competing at the Central Coast Cluster Athletics carnival on Friday.

Kind regards
Luanna

SORRY!

On the feast of St. Valentine this year, Pope Francis spoke to married couples about the secrets to a loving and lasting union. He said that couples need to treat each other with respect, kindness and gratitude; never letting daily struggles and squabbles sabotage making peace and that saying, "I'm sorry" were the foundations of a strong relationship.

Pope Francis said that "...if we learn to say we're sorry and ask forgiveness, the marriage will last." The aim of all families is to have a healthy, happy family life. Pope Francis tells us that this requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry." People need to be more attentive to how they treat each other, he said.

The reason that I bring these words of our Pope to your attention is that our School Community is like one big family that has its ups and downs, but we all have the same goal of having a 'healthy, happy family life'! Just as saying sorry is ‘tough’ for adults, because it means we are admitting to have fallen short of expectations, so it is for children.

Mrs Ward, as our PBL coordinator, has distributed a number of posters to the classes on “How to say Sorry”. This is another avenue that our children can continue to show Respect for Others. The process has as its focus the reconciliation of the parties involved. To reconcile with someone we have hurt can be tough sometimes, but ‘sorry’ should not only be words. We should try to ‘fill the bucket’ of those we have hurt. The posters that are throughout the School help the students through this process. If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Ward.

As Pope Francis reminds us, love isn't tough or aggressive. It's courteous and kind, and in a world that is often violent and aggressive, we need much more courtesy.

Craig McNee
Assistant Principal

WAKAKIRRI – The Year 3 teachers, school staff and Robyn Hughes (Abby 3R), would like to thank the superb helpers who have helped to bring the sets for Wakakirri towards completion. These wonderful people are Irene Fuller, Mandy Carrigan, Dana Dyson-Smith, Julie Barr, Mr Hannan and Miss Vane-Tempest. Also, a big thank you to Alicia Robbins who has provided very useful equipment supplies, and the children in our prop production crew.
DATES TO REMEMBER
Wednesday 30 July          K-2 Mass at 9am
Thursdays 7 August and 14 August Confirmation Parent Classes (Compulsory) 4pm-5pm at St Brendan’s.
Saturday 9 August           Confirmation Renewal of Promises – 5pm Mass

GRANDPARENTS DAY - What a fantastic celebration! Congratulations to everyone concerned. We had a huge turn out to help us celebrate the gift of our Grandparents. We hope all our Grandparents enjoyed themselves. You deserve it!!

CONGRATULATIONS!! - On behalf of the St Brendan’s Community, we extend our congratulations to Father Abbott and Father Carmello who celebrated 110 years of priesthood between them at St Mary’s Toukley on Sunday. A big thank you to the St Brendan’s children who contributed to the celebration with their Gospel Procession.

WELCOME BACK - It’s great to see Father Peter home safely from his well – earned break. Welcome home Father!

FROM THE CLASSROOMS - Every now and then we would like to share with you some of the wonderful things happening in our classrooms, especially during our Religious Education lessons. This week we would like to share with you a beautiful prayer written by our wonderful students from “The Hive.”

**Dear God**

Please help me to make friends.
Help me be nice to others and invite them to play.
Help me to listen to my friends and show them respect and love.

**Amen**

A HUGE thank you to our “Hive” wonderkids for sharing their beautiful prayer with us!! We look forward to seeing the great work being done in other classrooms.

Kell York
Religious Education Coordinator

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<th>Class</th>
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<td>Molly R; Takarsha D</td>
<td>Carissa D; Summer R</td>
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<td>Mitchell G; Owen K</td>
<td>Joshua N; Gia H</td>
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<td>Lachlan B; Fletcher W</td>
<td>Thomas B; Hailey D</td>
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<td>Zeke G; Tara E</td>
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From the Library

The Premier’s Reading Challenge - All of the students have now received their usernames and passwords. We have included the website with the passwords where you can log on using your child’s details and record the books they have read. Congratulations to Ella Knowles in Year One who has already completed the challenge by recording her reading on a piece of paper and then transferring these details to the website. Well done Ella!

The Children’s Book Council of Australia Shortlist - Throughout this term we are reading the shortlist during our library lessons. You can see the books on the list by visiting http://cbca.org.au/ShortList-2014.htm

The theme for the term is "Connect to Reading". This focus on literature is part of our Book Week celebrations which last the whole term. We have many exciting events planned to highlight the importance of reading and literature in our lives.

On Wednesday 13th August our Primary students will be entertained by "The Surfing Scientist". He appears on ABC TV's Catalyst and Sleek Geeks and has written four children's science books. It should be a fantastic show.

On Saturday 16th August we officially launch Book Week with Family Mass at 5:00pm followed by pizza, pyjamas and picture books. The children are invited to wear their PJs to Mass and when they leave the church they will go to the Hall to have pizza for dinner. Many of our library books will be available to read and we can have 10 minutes of family reading to acknowledge National Reading Hour. Keep this date free for Pizza and Pyjama night.

The Book Fair will be set up in the library and will be open for sales. Our Book Fair is supplied by Central Book Suppliers and they provide a great variety of books at reasonable prices. Look out for the order form that will be sent home next week.

On Monday 18th August we have a surprise school performance. More details to follow.

Friday 22nd August at 8:20 we will have the Book Parade where the children are asked to dress as their favourite book character. After the parade the Infants children will be entertained by the Travelling Storytelling Show, provided by Wyong Shire Council Library services.

Throughout the whole week the Book Fair will be operating so find a time that suits you to come along and browse. If you are unable to get to school we have a “wish list” system where the students can write what book they would like and how much it is. Older students will help the younger ones with this.

Hope to see you at some of these fabulous events,
The Library Team
Calling All Knitting and Craft Enthusiasts - At St Brendan’s, Lake Munmorah Year 5 Knitting group has started again; we are making squares to make into blankets for St Vincent De Paul. We welcome parents, grandparents and parishioners to join us for our knitting group that will be starting on Wednesdays the 30th of July at 9.45 in the year 5 classrooms. Any donations of 4mm needles or 8ply wool would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you at St Brendan’s.

Adult Craft Group - On Wed 6 August we will be starting our Adult Craft Group this will be held after the knitting group from 10.30am till 1pm in the Oosh Centre every second Wednesday. All parents, grandparents and parishioners are invited to come, bring your own craft to do or join in the group that are learning to Tat (make Lace). For more information call Barbara on: 49725272

Lap Volunteers – The meeting with the Lap volunteers last week again made me feel blessed to have such a fantastic group of people give up their time to support the students in our school. THANK YOU!

Coffee & Conversation starting Thursday 7th of August - Tracie Richards from Catholic Care will be joining us every Thursday morning starting next week. Tracie will give parents and carers a snapshot on a range of topics to support their children from pre-school to high school. Topics include: *Circle of security *Attachment * Emotional intelligence*Resilience *Interactive play. Please come along for coffee and conversation on how in partnership we can support your child. Please register at the office, for catering purposes.

Spirituality day September 4th, 8.30-11.30am - This is the third in a series of Spirituality day’s we have run at St Brendan’s. For those of you who have been before, please book in the date. If you haven’t experienced this pampering morning please come along for conversation, relaxation and morning tea. This term the theme is courage! Child minding available, please register at the office.

Pop up play group Is on tomorrow, we invite all pre-school children parents and carers to come along. Sally Harrison our early childhood expert from the Catholic Schools Office will be here to talk to you about the excitement of play for our pre-school children.

“The Resilient Child” workshop, Monday August 25th at 6.30 in the hall. Carmel Hewitt, Family Liaison Officer from the Catholic Schools Office, will be presenting a new parent workshop on building resilient children. Based on current research and information from the recent Positive Schools Conference, the workshop will look at strengths and strategies to help parents build happy healthy resilient children who enjoy good social and academic outcomes. Please register your interest at the office.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who help each other in so many ways; we have a beautiful community at St Brendan’s. Have a wonderful week……………

Jo Spek – Family Liaison Officer

CONGRATULATIONS to Koby K in Yr 1R who has a new baby brother, Zayden. Congratulations also to Charlotte B in KR who has a baby brother Benjamin.

CLOTHING POOL – This Friday from 8.00am to 9.00am

CANTEEN – Please note that the Canteen is closed every Tuesday, (with the exception of the Meal Deal for Year 6 next Tuesday).

SPRING FAIR – St. Peter’s Catholic College, Gavenlock Road, Tuggerah on Sunday 17th August from 9.30am to 3.00pm. Lots of stalls, entertainment etc. Money to raise funds for much needed renovations to Wyong’s Parish Church. Under cover – it will be on rain, hail or shine.
WYONG SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE - Karissa from Wyong School Community Centre would like to share with you a special series of information sessions for families with children with a disability. This can be families about to get a diagnosis, newly diagnosed children or even those who have been on the journey for a while. These sessions cover how to manage funding, conversations with specialists, how to manage routines and family life, home/school partnerships, changes under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and access to the range of support services available on the central coast. This is a unique opportunity where all sessions are free as supported by the SaCC, Northcott and specialists donating their time. Additionally free child care is available for families with young children when booked in, provided by Wyong Shire a Child & Family Services. If you have any questions or would like to send along staff please feel free to contact me on 0401 414 177 or via email WYONGFAMILYDAYC@wyongfnc.asn.au  Karissa Baker, Local Facilitator

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jul  Wed  30th  K-2 Mass – 9.00am; P & F Pie Drive Orders Due

Aug  Fri  1st  Clothing Pool 8.00-9.00am; CCC Athletics Mingara
      Tue  5th  Meal Deal for Year 6 (no other food or drinks available for recess or lunch)
      Wed  6th  Public Speaking 8.30am; Enrichment Board Meeting 4.00pm; Forum 6.15pm
      Fri  8th  8.20am Assembly; Years 5 & 6 Higher Ability Learner’s Day (Maths)
      Tue  12th  P & F Pie Collection Date; ICAS Maths
      Wed  13th  Year 5 Mass 9.00am; The Surfing Scientist Incursion Yrs 3-6
      Fri  15th  8.20am Assembly; Feast of the Assumption Mass
      Sat  16th  Family Mass 5.00pm; Pizza & Pajama Night (Book Week)

Mon-Fri 18-22  BOOK WEEK

Mon  18th  NSW Girls Touch Wagga Wagga
      Tue  19th  Northern Central Coast Cluster Public Speaking Finals at St. Brendan’s
      Wed  20th  Year 6 Mass 9.00am; Maths Olympiad; 9.10-10.30 POP Up Playgroup
      Fri  21st  8.20am Book Week Parade; 9.00am P & F Meeting; 6pm Year 6 Trivia Night
      Sat  22nd  Confirmation Ceremony
      Tue  26th  Year 5 Excursion
      Wed  27th  Year 4 Mass 9.00am; BB Athletics Narrabeen
      Thu  28th  Wakakirri
      Fri  29th  8.20am Assembly

Sep  Wed  5th  Parent & Child Project Presentation

Term 4

Nov  20th & 21st  Thur/Fri - Year 5 Camp