This week marks the birthday of Our Lady, Mother of our Lord.

O, most loving Mother!
We who so frequently fly to you for our own intentions,
may we stop today and just thank and acclaim you
for your most perfect obedience that gave us our Lord.

Wow, what an amazing achievement for the Waka Pack! Anyone who has seen the performance, especially at the Riverside Theatre, would agree that the teamwork amongst this group was second to none. I again acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of Ms Vane-Tempest and Mr Hannan and thank them for their efforts. I am extremely grateful to our tireless and devoted group of parents for their support. Of course, the greatest and most deserved applause must go the ‘Pack’ themselves for a wonderful achievement.

At last week’s Literacy and Numeracy celebrations, I announced our intention to review the School’s Homework Policy. This review will be underpinned by the recently completed research, “Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools” which was published in August of this year. The report contains both sides of the argument, ‘The Case for’ and ‘The Case Against’ and our parent community will be offered a number of options to provide them an opportunity to have their beliefs and opinions heard.

I have noticed recently that several children are not joining with their classes during the morning gathering, remaining instead with their parents. I ask you to ensure that your child joins his/her class on the silver seats at this time.

The parking situation continues to cause some concerns when the School hosts large functions. Please be assured that I am committed to attempting to provide car parking attendants on every occasion into the future and to exploring other options to provide more parking spaces. If you were booked recently, please contact the school.

The School’s NAPLAN results were received last week and staff members are busily analysing these to further assist with planning to meet student learning needs. I am especially pleased with the growth which the Year 5 cohort has shown from their results in Year 3. If you have received NAPLAN data and would like to meet with your child’s teacher, please contact the Office and make an appointment.

Due to a change in family circumstances, Mrs Sharleen Hardwick has resigned her position as Canteen Manager, effective end of this Term. I wish Sharleen, her husband and family all the very best for the future and thank her on your behalf for the fantastic contribution she has made to this community. I have contacted the CSO to work collaboratively on a Position Description for Canteen Manager and this will be advertised using CSO procedures.

I will be on principal’s retreat on Thursday and Friday so in my absence please direct any queries to Mr McNee.

A reminder that there will be a staff development day, pupil free, on Monday 17 November 2014.

Term 4 begins on Tuesday 7 October; enjoy a wonderful and refreshing break with your children.
**Religious Education News**

**DATES TO REMEMBER** - Wednesday 10 September – Year 3 Class Mass 9.00am

**FATHERS DAY LITURGY** - We celebrated a beautiful Father’s Day Liturgy on Friday. A huge thank you to all the dads, granddads and carers who were able to join us on the day. A special thank you to the dads who took part in the Liturgy and the Year 5 dads who stayed and worked in the class rooms with their children. We hope you all had a great day on Sunday.

**FROM THE CLASSROOMS** - Year 5 have been learning about the life of Mary MacKillop. The unit concluded with a trip to May MacKillop House in North Sydney. The Year 5 children enjoyed learning more about Mary and were able to see where she lived for the latter years of her life. Emma L wrote the following recount of her day:

**MARY MacKILLOP HOUSE** - At 8am sharp, we got on the bus and began travelling to Mary MacKillop House in Sydney. It was a two hour trip and on the way down some of us played cards, others talked, and some just looked out the window. When we arrived, it was 10am. We got off the bus and walked through a large building out to a little sheltered area where we ate recess. After that we were split into 3 groups and each group started at a different part of the tour. My group started at Alma Cottage. Alma Cottage is where Mary MacKillop lived when she suffered her stroke. Mary also died in that exact cottage. In the cottage was a fireplace and a desk where Mary wrote letters to the other nuns. After she had her stroke, Mary taught herself to use the typewriter with her left hand. Also in the cottage was her bedroom which had her bed and her wheelchair. We also went into the kitchen where we learnt what they cooked and the tour guide told us that the nun in charge of breakfast had the busiest job because she had to cook breakfast and then made sandwiches and placed them outside for the homeless. Next we went to the tomb of Mary MacKillop. It was in the church. There were many people praying around the tomb. I thought the excursion was so interesting and I learnt so many things that I didn’t know about Mary. Even though it felt like a really big trip, I still think it was worth it.

By Emma L – 5 Red

Kell York
Religious Education Coordinator

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**Message from Assistant Principal**

As Term 3 comes to an end a huge thank you and congratulations to all who participated in the 2nd Project night – some fantastic items produced!!! Well done and we will be back next year!!!

It has been great to see parents spending quality time with their children. With Father’s Day just finished and the celebrations that took place last Friday, it is easy to see why the children in the School are so happy – their parents are involved!!!

The readings from the weekends Mass and the messages from my Parish’s bulletin talk about the responsibility we have towards others. As parents we help our children discover the unique talents that God has blessed them with. We encourage them to be of service to others and to be there for them. By participating and showing interest in our children’s life, we are doing what is asked of us.

It is not easy being a dad (parent), but we all hope that we are doing our best to help them grow into healthy young adults. What qualities are we trying to share?? How’s this list: Courage, Compassion, Patience, Gentleness, Humility, Sincerity, Reverence, a Desire to Preserve the Other’s Good Name, Prudence, Delicacy, Tact, Mutual Dialogue, True Listening, Mercy and Resilience.

A tough job, but we always have Prayer to help us!!!!

See you all next Term!
Craig McNee
Assistant Principal
Dear St Brendan's Community

In Week One of Term 4 Mini Vinnies will be holding a ‘Toy Sale’ and an ‘Educational Resources’ collection. This is to raise money and educational equipment for children in the rural communities of Ghana (such as Atonsu and Manso-Nkwanta in Amansie) - West Africa. We are reaching out to children who are learning without books, stationeries and decent clothing. We are asking for donations of pre-loved toys or games, which are no longer being used in your household. These will then be sold to students for $1.00 or $2.00. We are requesting small toys that are still in good condition and that will not be missed. For the ‘Educational Resources’ collection we are asking for donations of books, stationery, general school equipment and clothing (children, babies and adults). These items will be packed and sent directly to Ghana. If you are able to make a donation, we ask that you send these into school with your child and a Mini Vinnies Representative will collect these daily. As this event will occur at the beginning of Term Four, we will be collecting prior to the holidays and when we return to school. We would be very grateful for any donation and if you have any questions please direct these to Mrs Alchin.

Many thanks in advance.

ASSESSING CHILDREN’S VISION - OPSM, together with the Department of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of Melbourne, have created a story book called “Penny the Pirate”. The story can be used by parents to determine whether a child may benefit from a full eye test. The book uses 3 key eye screenings which cover some of the most common vision problems in children aged 3 – 10 years of age. These problems are distance vision, colour vision and depth perception. The book comes complete with instructions on how to use it as well as how to analyse the results. St Brendan’s has a copy of the book and instruction kit in the library which will be available for parents to borrow early next term. Alternatively, a free copy can be picked up from any OPSM store. An online version can also be used on any tablet device with a screen size greater than 7 inches. The free app can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App store.

KINDERGARTEN EXCURSION - Kindergarten had a fabulous excursion to the Reptile Park! We saw lots of exciting things and loved patting animals including koalas, snakes and lizards. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who supported our day and especially those who came with us as helpers. The staff from the Reptile Park as well as our bus drivers made special mention of how well behaved our children were! We are very proud of all them! Keep your eye out on future newsletters for writing by Kindergarten about their day!
How you can play a part - Parents play their part to protect and care for children and young people in our community by providing loving and supportive environments and by showing how to have respectful relationships.

Being a new parent can be challenging. Accept offers of help (especially the ones where cooked meals are involved!) Link in with services that support you – New Parent Groups can be fantastic. It’s ok to reach out and ask for support. Discover what helps reduce your stress and assists you to best care for your children. Parenting courses can help you be the best you possibly can be. Listen to your children and involve them in planning things as a family. Parenting isn’t always easy. Share your experiences and skills with other parents – it can help you realise that you are not alone. Take time out when you feel stressed or upset – look after yourself. Parenting can be positive – notice the good times too. Make plans for enjoyable “family time” – this can help build close relationships.

October is Mental Health Month

Mental Health Month NSW is part of a national mental health promotion campaign held throughout October each year. The timing of the campaign centres on World Mental Health Day, which is marked each year on October 10. It’s a time to look after each other, next term we will be looking at ways to support friends and family with mental health issues.
CONGRATULATIONS to Monique V (6R) long jump, Lily B (4B) 1st in 800m and who made it through to the Interdiocesan Athletics Carnival at Narrabeen last week. At this Carnival Lily B finished 3rd in the 10 year girls 800m. She now progresses to the State PSSA Athletics Carnival in the near future. Great results were also had by Monique V who finished 4th in the open girls long jump and Sienna H who finished 4th overall in the 9 year girls 100m. Congratulations girls!!

IPADS - Several parents have requested information on the Maths games the children have been learning on the iPads, so the following steps will assist in accessing these games at home.
1. Go to Google and type in ‘Cool Maths Games for Kids’
2. Click on the matching search result.
3. When loaded, you then need to locate the word ‘mobile’ near the top of the page. This link is needed if you are using an iPad or android tablet. Click on the word ‘mobile’ and you will be taken to a menu of Maths games.

Susan Hannaford

WAKAKIRRI - Please find below a message received by St. Brendan’s from a very proud parent:

“On Thursday 28th August, I was one very lucky parent to assist with hair, make up and face painting for the Wakakirri performance. I spent all day with the children, Mr Hannan, Ms Van Tempest and Mrs Alchin. I just wanted to let you know how well behaved all the children were on this day. As you can appreciate, it was a very long day for all involved and with outside activities cancelled due to the weather, we were inside all day.

The children were so patient waiting to have their hair, make up and face painting done. All children were so grateful every time we completed this for them. I was so proud to be a part of this great community that we have at St Brendan’s.

I also wanted to acknowledge the amazing efforts of the teachers. The rapport they have with the children is just beautiful and is wonderful to see. They have worked tirelessly with the children and to see their faces beaming with pride after our performance was completed, was awesome. I know it is not always about winning but having a go, however, when Ms Van Tempest came back in to the room after we were awarded Best Teamwork the cheer from the children and the smile on our teachers faces was just priceless. I am so grateful for being involved and sharing this experience with a fantastic bunch of kids and teachers.”

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF TOUKLEY AND LAKE MUNMORAH INVITE YOU TO A PARISH PICNIC to be held on Sunday 12th October at Bargoed House, Swansea on the shores of Lake Macquarie. There are numerous recreational facilities and there will be games for all ages. Please bring a plate to share and your own games. BYOG. Entrance fee $2 per head, children under 6 free. No Pets. More details closer to the date. Gates open 10.30am to 11.15am. Contact Barbara on 49725272. All are welcome.

RAW CHALLENGE - The St Brendan’s Early Learning Centre is putting a team together to participate in the RAW Challenge Mud Run at Doyalson on Sunday the 28th September 2014 at 12 noon. We are doing the Junior Course which is for parents and children who wish to run together. The children must be aged 7-12 years (as per the RAW Challenge Junior Course requirements). It will cost $25 per entrant. We have approx. 10 places left on our team to fill. St Brendan’s ELC would welcome any St Brendan’s Primary School parents and children who might be interested, to fill those places. If interested, parents can call into the Early Learning Centre and leave their details or alternatively ring 4358 1102.

YEARS 6 MARKET DAY - On the last day of term, Friday 19th August, Year 6 will be holding a market fun day. The children have been working hard to make exciting items for their stalls. Items include bangles, pencil tins stress balls and much more. All merchandise will be priced between 50c and a $1. Please support this year 6 fundraiser.

MUNCH & CRUNCH - new date for Year 2 - Year 2 will be holding their munch & crunch this day Friday 19th September. Any year 2 parents that can assist please come along at 10am. The canteen is closed on the last day of term.

CANTEEN CLOSED LAST DAY OF TERM FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2014
‘CIRCLE OF SECURITY’ - In term 4 Catholic Care will be running ‘Circle of security’ every Wednesday morning from 8.30-10.30 and again in the evening from 6-8pm. The Circle of Security is a way of thinking about children that enables carers and educators to look beyond the children’s immediate behaviour and think about how to meet their relationship needs. The Circle of Security helps you observe the different ways that children approach you to seek support and make use of your help. It assists you in understanding children when their behaviour is causing distress, to you and their peers, and in planning how to meet their needs. The Circle of Security helps you to look beneath children’s behaviour to discover their genuine relationship needs.

‘BRAVE ONLINE’ https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/ The BRAVE Program is an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. The programs are free, and provide ways for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are also programs for parents.

INDIGENOUS DAY – OPERA HOUSE - Last Wednesday Harry S represented St Brendan’s along with 16 other Indigenous students from around Australia to celebrate National Indigenous Literacy day. Harry’s thoughts on the day: I got to meet 2 of Mrs Devlin’s favourite authors Andy Griffith and Alison Lester. I felt proud to represent St Brendan’s and support the book swap which raises money for the Indigenous Literacy society. I’m looking forward to helping set up our own book swap at St Brendan’s so we can raise money to support Literacy for Indigenous students in the outback.

LIBRARY RE-ORDERS - Anyone who has re-ordered from the book fair, please pay by this Thursday via the office.

CLOTHING SWAP – Recycling Week 10th -16th November. To celebrate we are having a swap party on Friday 14th November from 2.30-6.00pm in the hall. Swap Parties are the latest way to update your wardrobe or cupboard without buying new things. At the Swap Party we will get together to swap items – from ladies clothes, handbags, shoes and kids clothes. The phenomenon become famous with glamorous ‘swishing’ parties of high-fashion clothes, but the concept is simple just bring in clean clothes in good condition to swap. It’s fun and green. We will accept clothing from Monday 10th November. You just: 1. Bring along good quality, clean items you no longer want; 2. Browse what others have brought; 3. Buy a bag for $5 to put your new items in. Now there is no excuse to not clean out your wardrobe in the holidays!

PRAYING WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME - Please spend a few minutes looking at the Ways to Pray at Home flyer at the end of the newsletter. A simple prayer routine for children can help them to become prayerful adults.

LOST – Tynan K (5Red) has lost his size 14 grey fleece jacket. It has his name written on the inside in black permanent marker. Joshua G (K-2) has lost a rubber dog tag necklace.

CANTEEN – Please note that the Canteen is closed every TUESDAY and will be CLOSED THE LAST DAY OF TERM – FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER.

CLOTHING POOL – This Friday 12th September starting at 8.00 am in the hall.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN COURSE - Free- starting 8 October to 3 December 2014 - Every Wednesday from 9.30am to 2.30pm at Northern Lakes Family Centre Lake Munmorah. This course is designed to help women get into the work force or study and build self-confidence. Support with resume writing, mock interviews and looks at the direction you would like to go. For more information call Danielle Habib 4358 3148 or 0408 654 843 or visit www.unitingcarenswact.org.au E: dhabib@unitingcarenswact.org.au

WYONG WILDCATS JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB – 6 to 16 years. Rego days Sundays 14,21,28 September 2014. 10am-2pm at Wyong Baseball Park, 4 De Lisle Dr, Watanobbi. For more information call Nathan Corrigan 0410 439 664 or James Donoghue 0425 268 004


DATES TO REMEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Sep 10th Wed</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad; Year 3 Mass 9.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 11th Thu</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion to Sydney</td>
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<td>Sep 12th Fri</td>
<td>Assembly 8.20am; Clothing Pool from 8.00am in the hall</td>
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<td>Sep 15th Mon</td>
<td>End of Term Assembly 8.20am Stage 3 Showcase</td>
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<td>Sep 16th Tue</td>
<td>Netball Gala Day Yrs 3-6; Year 2 Munch and Crunch; NSW PSSA Boys’ Softball Lismore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 17th Wed</td>
<td>Kinder 2015 Transition 8.45-10am; NSW PSSA Boys’ Softball Lismore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 18th Thu</td>
<td>Volunteer’s Thanksgiving Liturgy 10.30am (Yrs5-6); NSW PSSA Boys’ Softball Lismore</td>
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<td>Sep 19th Fri</td>
<td>Year 6 Mini Fun Day; Last Day of Term 3; CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<td>Oct 7th Tue</td>
<td>First Day of Term 4</td>
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<td>Oct 13th Mon</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14th Fri</td>
<td>Swap Party – 2.30-6.00pm in the hall</td>
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<td>Nov 17th Mon</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Nov 20th &amp; 21st Thu/Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16th Tue</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Mass 5.00pm; 6.30pm Lake Munmorah Bowling Club</td>
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