I ask this week that you keep the families of our community who have lost a loved one and the MacKillop Catholic College family (loss of a staff member) in your prayers. Losing a loved one is never easy and it is at these times that our community can be relied upon to send their support via prayers. If you know a family in our school who is grieving please contact Mrs Jo Spek or myself so that support can be offered.

I remind you that there is a staff development day, pupil free day, on 17 November. All staff will be working off-site so there will be no supervision here at school. OOSH is open for bookings – 4358 8157.

The annual ‘step up’ day for classes for 2015 is Friday 5th December from 9:30-10:15am. Any new families to the school from Years 1-6 will be invited to join our community for the full day.

Staffing for next year is all but finalised and I expect to announce all teaching staff within the next fortnight. The Kindergarten teachers for 2015 are Ms Lisa Milton, Mrs Joanne Moore and Mr Matthew Ward.

I remind you that the P and F AGM will be held on Monday 10th November, beginning at 6.30pm. I encourage all parents to attend, babysitting will be available on-site. If you would like to have your child minded during the meeting please email the school at sblm@dcb.catholic.edu.au.

The CSO has allocated additional funding to our school for the 2015 school year and this will be outlined in a letter later this week. Basically, the Years 3-6 classes will receive intensive English and Mathematics teaching and learning across three classes at least three days per week.

Thank you to all parents who completed the School Improvement Plan (SIP) evaluation. Your input is invaluable in giving a voice to your perceptions about the academic, spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the students. The leadership team has already started to use the data gathered from students, parents and teachers to plan the School Improvement Plan for 2015.

All staff recently discussed the success of the Positive Behaviours for Learning framework across the school. The feedback about the students’ overall response to this framework is extremely positive with staff reporting a much calmer and more respectful energy across classrooms and the playground. There is significant evidence to indicate that there are three initiatives having a positive impact on this ‘energy’. These are: the daily praying of the Examen; weekly meditation; and yoga with a focus on teaching the children strategies to breathe deeply. The heightened awareness of both staff and students on the importance of consequences, which are just and fair and respond to the misbehaviour, has resulted in an increase in students taking responsibility for their actions. Given the success of the increased focus on the PBL framework, staff will ensure even greater immersion in the rules by incorporating these into the Religious Education units.

Again, I ask if your child will not be attending St Brendan’s in 2015 that, if you haven’t already, you inform the Office in writing. Please complete the Exit Survey which will be sent to you and send it to the CSO.

Please mark the 1st December, Carols on the Oval, in your diary.

Luanna Fletcher
Principal
MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

HAPPINESS!!!

This week I thought I would choose this topic to write about as I often comment to visitors to our School about how happy the children are at St Brendan’s.

What is it that makes a child happy? Some think that a School with all the bells and whistles make for a happy school. If so, why do we see the smiles on the children at school in developing countries? I feel that a happy school is one where the students know that the people who work there care personally for them. Children need to know that they are part of an environment where they are encouraged to do their best; where they know that if they make a mistake, they have the opportunity to make amends; where they feel safe and have a voice.

Last week was World Teachers’ Day. Unfortunately, I was at another School for the day and missed our Celebrations, but I hear it was a great day!

There was a cartoon in my Parish Bulletin recently that referred to Jesus as The Greatest Teacher of all time – wouldn’t the world be a great place if we all followed his lead!!!!

Craig McNee
Assistant Principal

---

**Religious Education News**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
Wednesday 12 November – Stage 3 Mass 9.00am
Saturday 15 November – Parish Family Mass 5.00pm
Wednesday 19 November – Stage 2 Mass 9.00am
Sunday 30 November – First Sunday of Advent

**PARISH FAMILY MASS:**
Our Parish Family Mass for Term 4 is at 5pm on Saturday 15 November. This is also our Mass for welcoming our new families for 2015, especially our new Kindergarten families. Please join us to welcome them and we will be having supper afterwards. If your child would like a special part in the Mass, please return the reply slip on the invitation sent home yesterday.

**POPE FRANCIS' NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION:**
For the month of November, Pope Francis has asked us to pray especially for the lonely people in our community and in our world. He reminds us that you can have plenty of people around you and still feel alone. Let’s make this our intention for November.

Kell York
Religious Education Coordinator.
### 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>Cooper E; Ashton B</td>
<td>Maddison R; Angus H</td>
<td>Olivia H; Angelo C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Blue</td>
<td>Layla J-R; Mia B</td>
<td>Lachlan B; Gia H</td>
<td>Olivia P; Charlie M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Green</td>
<td>Franky N; Chelsea B</td>
<td>Lachlan B; Thomas B; Lachlan B</td>
<td>Fletcher W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Skyla W; Mia S</td>
<td>Joslyn S; Riley M</td>
<td>Riley M; Lily M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Thomas deB; Sienna M</td>
<td>Imogen M; Mackenzie F</td>
<td>Sienna T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Green</td>
<td>Christopher L; Finn McC</td>
<td>Annabelle McD; Emily N</td>
<td>Jayden H; Tali K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Red</td>
<td>Chloe D; Ruby H</td>
<td>Ruby H; Brad D</td>
<td>Emily H; Jesse W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue</td>
<td>Mason H; Nyah D</td>
<td>Jake P-E; Emily B</td>
<td>Taran C; Tyler G-R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Green</td>
<td>Anthony T; Harmony F</td>
<td>Liam M; Kallen M</td>
<td>Alana C; Jenna D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Red</td>
<td>Madison S; Teagan M</td>
<td>Georgia B; Saffia M</td>
<td>Harry McC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>Zoe W; Bray M</td>
<td>Taela G; Harry H</td>
<td>Brayden P; Finn C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red</td>
<td>Oliver W; Sophia M</td>
<td>Jack T; Amelia A</td>
<td>Aiden R; Anthony P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue</td>
<td>April B</td>
<td>Trinitee A</td>
<td>Zac K-B; Samuel R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Red</td>
<td>Keely C; Taleah P</td>
<td>Tynan K; Shaun S</td>
<td>Jarrod S; Alex G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Blue</td>
<td>Johnathan P; Thomas N;</td>
<td>Jarrod W; Amber E</td>
<td>Kiara S; Braith H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Red</td>
<td>Loani C</td>
<td>Monique V</td>
<td>Mikayla B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Blue</td>
<td>Thomas D; Harry S</td>
<td>Maddison M; Kynan H</td>
<td>Harrison S; Molly C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 Green</td>
<td>Christian C</td>
<td>Joshua E</td>
<td>Jacob F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FROM THE LIBRARY

November is Picture Book Month. This is an international literacy initiative that celebrates print picture books and encourages us all to read a picture book every day during the month of November. We have a wonderful selection of picture books in our school library and know that you will enjoy sharing these with your children.

We hope everyone is enjoying the books they bought last term from our Central Book Suppliers Book Fair. We sold books to the value of $3,500.00 which gave us many new books as commission. Thank you everyone for your support.

Year One have made some fabulous mini beast projects and we are lucky enough to have them displayed in the library. Feel free to pop in any morning or afternoon to view these magnificent creations.

We have 10 bags of books that need to be covered. We will provide all covering and tape so please come and see us in the library and we will happily give you a bag. It would be really helpful, even if you can only take a few books home.

Happy reading,
The Library Team

### CLOTHING SWAP

It’s time to start bringing in your clothes, shoes and handbags – clean and folded in bags. Just leave them at the office.
2014 LAP AWARDS - Below is a recent photo of the Lap association awards in Adelaide. Arthur McQuillan received the prestigious award of *Interstate Lap person of the year*. Peter Hamill the Director at the Catholic Schools Office and St Brendan’s supported us in attending this special event as an acknowledgement of the great work happening with the volunteers and students involved in the Lap program at St Brendan’s.

Arthur was nominated for his 7 years continued service as a dedicated Lap volunteer at St Brendan’s. The judges commented that Arthur’s passion, loyalty and commitment made him a worthy winner. They were particularly impressed that Arthur promotes Lap in his community as a ministry he was called to be in.

We congratulate Arthur along with Beth Johnston and Lorraine Anderson who were also nominated for their 7 year commitment and dedication to Lap. St Brendan’s also had the longest list of 5 year, long service awards whose names were read out on the night and badges were graciously accepted. They include: Kevin Smith, Mandy Carrigan, Tina Laverack, Karen Devlin, Islay Mahony, Lorraine Anderson, Katrina Cumbo, Lorraine Anderson, Arthur McQuillan, Beth Johnston.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Lap for over ten years, you have enriched the lives of the children you meet and are a blessing to the St Brendan’s school community.

St Brendan’s ‘Men of Destiny’

Dear Parents and Friends,

We are searching for people to support St Brendan’s team for Movember 2014. Our team name is: St Brendan’s ‘Men of Destiny’ and we have 2 teachers growing a Mo to raise funds for men’s health. There are 2 ways to support us – *donate online* or *join us*. Mr Hannan and Mr Ward are already in the team but are putting out a call to all Dads, Pops, brothers, uncles, Godfathers and family friends to join our team – the more the merrier!

**To join our team you need to go to:** http://au.movember.com then register as a ‘mo bro’ then search for our team and join.

**To donate you need to go to:** http://au.movember.com and then donate online. If you do donate please be sure to leave us a message so we know who you are.

We are hoping to have lots of ‘mo-bros’ join in to be a member of St Brendan’s ‘Men of Destiny’ and/or raise funds to promote men’s health. There may even be something for the students later in Movember, we’ll have to wait and see.

Hoping to see lots of you getting hairy,
Richard Hannan & Matthew Ward
SCHOOL BANKING – Last day for school banking will be Tuesday 2nd December 2014.

OOSH – St. Brendan’s OOSH will be open on Monday 17th November, St. Brendan’s Pupil Free Day. Please call Ruth on 4358 8157 as soon as possible. Bookings essential.

LOST – Christopher L (1Green) size 6 sport jacket. Please return to the office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov  
Wed 5th Circle of Security 8.30-10.30 & repeated 6-8pm  
Fri 7th Assembly 8.20am; Science and Road Safety NRMA Visit  
Mon 10th P & F AGM 6.30pm  
Wed 12th Stage 3 Mass 9am; Circle of Security 8.30-10.30 & repeated 6-8pm  
Fri 14th Assembly 8.20am; Swap Party – 2.30-6.00pm in the hall  
Sat 15th Parish Family Mass 5pm  
Mon 17th **Staff Development Day – Pupil Free – OOSH open – bookings essential**  
Wed 19th Rotary Citizenship Awards Dinner  
Thu 20th Year 5 Leadership Camp  
Fri 21st Year 5 Leadership Camp; Assembly 8.20am  
Wed 26th K-2 Mass 9am; Circle of Security 8.30-10.30 & repeated 6-8pm  
Fri 28th Assembly 8.20am  
Sun 30th First Sunday of Advent

Dec  
Mon 1st Year 2 Swimming; Advent Liturgy; Carols on the Oval 5.10pm  
Tue 2nd Year 2 Swimming – Outstanding Sports Achievement Awards; Last day for school banking  
Wed 3rd Yr 2 Swimming; Circle of Security 8.30-10.30 & repeated 6-8pm  
Thu 4th Yr 2 Swimming; Yr 5&6 Sleep Out (Leadership Camp)  
Fri 5th Year 2 Swimming; Assembly 8.20am; Step Up Day 9.30-10.15am  
Sat 6th Carboot Sale (TBC)  
Mon 8th Advent Liturgy  
Wed 10th End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 9am, followed by final assembly; Volunteers thank you morning tea  
Fri 12th PPC – End of Year Thanksgiving Gathering  
Mon 15th Advent Liturgy; Yr 6 Pt Wollstoncroft. End of Year Mass at St. Brigid’s.  
Tue 16th Year 6 Farewell Mass 5.00pm; 6.30pm Lake Munmorah Bowling Club  
Wed 17th Last Day of Term 2014

2015  
Jan Wed 28th Year 1-6 Assessment Day; Kinder 2015 Assessment Day  
Thu 29th Year 1-6 return to school; Kinder 2015 Assessment Day  
Fri 30th Kinder 2015 Assessment Day  
Feb Mon 2nd Kinder 2015 commence school 8.20-8.45am; “Tea and Tissues” in the Hall