Central to Celtic spirituality is the notion of ‘sacred spaces’. These are times when one is sharply aware of a presence larger than oneself at work within a situation; a time when both the visible and the invisible are interwoven. It is within these spaces that the power of the spiritual and mystery is most palpable. Oftentimes, human beings find themselves confused and bewildered by the circumstances which surround them. It is at these times that our community can aim to ease the pain of others by praying for them. I ask you to remember in your prayers the sick and their families (those known and unknown to us), and those who are suffering a loss at this time. Please remember especially Allison and Andrew Passafaro on their loss of their much anticipated baby girl, Chelsea.

Over the last fortnight I have had cause to speak to several students about social media sites and tools including Face book and Instagram. These types of tools are obviously extremely beneficial when accessed appropriately but can cause untold angst and ongoing anxiety when used inappropriately. If in doubt as to your child’s emotional maturity to appropriately engage with social media, I implore you to block their access. The development of the child’s mind in today’s society is fragile enough without expecting they can deal with adult themes before even reaching teenage status.

There is significant professional learning occurring focussed on teacher knowledge of the new syllabus documents. Many staff members are actively involved in supporting the implementation of these documents: Mrs Gordon and Mr McNee – English; Mrs Gordon and Ms McDonald - Mathematics; and, Ms White – Science and Technology. Miss Purdue continues to be responsible for Workplace Health and Safety; Mrs Ward for Pastoral Care and Mrs Alchin for overseeing higher ability programs. I thank these staff members for the valuable contribution they make to the education of the students and teachers.

Please check that you have marked the upcoming Staff Development Day, which is Pupil Free, in your diary: 17 November.

Along with the leadership team, I am currently organising staffing for 2015. Several appointments have been made, including Mr Matthew Ward, Ms Rachael Burgess and Ms Emily Keenan. All are experienced teachers who will join our team here at St Brendan’s. Mrs Nelson, Mrs Townsend and Miss Vane-Tempest have all been re-appointed for 2015. Mrs Anderson returns in a part-time capacity. The Catholic Schools Office has approved additional funding for intensive support across Years 3–6. More details about this funding will be communicated in the coming weeks.

If for some reason your child/ren will not be returning to St Brendan’s in 2015, please notify me in writing. You will be issued with an Exit Survey which I encourage you to complete and return to the CSO.

I am grateful to Mrs Mattison (Ronan in Year 1) and her mum who have kindly offered to look after the lost property across the school. Their job will be made all the easier if all items of clothing, lunchboxes and drink bottles are labelled.

Following this Friday’s 8:20am assembly, I will be available to parents for a chat over a cup of coffee.

The St Brendan’s Catholic School Enrichment Board will meet next week with Dr Mike Gaffney to continue the conversation around how can the Board best meet the needs of this community. Mrs Louisa Foxford, Chair of the Board, will issue a summary of this meeting including an outline of the work of the Board moving forward.

Praying for you a fulfilling and peace-filled week, Luanna
**Message from the Assistant Principal**

As we are gradually moving towards the “Cloud” as a way of storage and providing collaborative ways of working with the students, I am fascinated by the possibilities that it provides.

I was working in my Office last week and a student from Yr6 ‘shared’ some of his work with me and I was able to see what he was working on – live! He also found a feature that enabled us to ‘chat’ so I could offer him some suggestions.

There are some people though who are experiencing some issues. As we find out about problems, we are updating our Webpage and Facebook with solutions. We are finding that if the computer being used by the students at home has a Gmail account, that there is a need to either log that person out, or add a new account. To sign your child in, you need to use the username: first name.last name@dbbstu.catholic.edu.au (notice the full stop between the names) and the password the same as school.

If you are having issues, please contact your child’s class teacher – if you are able to provide a screenshot it would be very helpful.

Craig McNee
Assistant Principal

---

**Religious Education News**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 October</td>
<td>Year 1 Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 October</td>
<td>Mission Mass at Waitara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 October</td>
<td>Kinder Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12 November</td>
<td>Stage 3 Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 15 November</td>
<td>Parish Family Mass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THANKSGIVING LITURGY** - Last Thursday we celebrated a Thanksgiving Liturgy for all our volunteers and Service Groups. It was a great celebration of the tireless work done by these people in our Community. These are the people who are responding to Pope Francis’ request to get out amongst the people in greatest need. The Holy Father has said:

> “I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been on the streets.”

This is a real challenge to all of us to help those in our own community in need of help. Our Year 5 and 6 students attended and participated with great reverence and respect and, as always, made us all feel very proud of them. A big thank you to the children from St Mary’s and St Brigid’s who attended to help us celebrate.

**MISSION MASS** - On Wednesday 22 October, four students from Year 6 will represent us at the Mission Mass to be held at the Cathedral at Waitara. This Mass is an opportunity for representatives from all schools in the Diocese to come together to celebrate the very important role of being “mission” people in our communities. I am sure they will represent us well.

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>Lakota S; Isabella K</td>
<td>Bella S; Lou Lou A</td>
<td>Olivia H; Bryce L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Blue</td>
<td>Kayla A; Farid S</td>
<td>Alexandra T; Nicholas P D</td>
<td>Gemma R; Miller G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Green</td>
<td>Riley W; Abigail K</td>
<td>Isaac G; Tristen S</td>
<td>Haylee G; Hailey D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Taj J; Jewel R</td>
<td>Bailey D; Lucas O</td>
<td>Isaiah R; Annalese H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Cody B; Scott R</td>
<td>Sophia S</td>
<td>Sienna T; Riley B, Beau C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Green</td>
<td>Zoe C; Dominic S</td>
<td>Bella A; Jordyss W</td>
<td>Bailee Y; Taen G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Red</td>
<td>Bradley D; Zacoda C</td>
<td>Holly R; Madison H</td>
<td>Travis W; Madison J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue</td>
<td>Tenika G; Tyler G R</td>
<td>Zac N; Thomas S</td>
<td>Nyah D; Hannah M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Green</td>
<td>Jack T; Noah M</td>
<td>Thomas F; Harmony F</td>
<td>Rhianna J; Emily L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sarah P</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Red</td>
<td>Joseph L; Kalan M</td>
<td>Brydie K; Georgia B</td>
<td>Larissa H; Lachlan R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>Hartley C</td>
<td>Emmett B</td>
<td>Ella M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red</td>
<td>Tamika B-H; Jake K</td>
<td>Ethan J; Cooper M</td>
<td>Jay I; Erin M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue</td>
<td>Keira O S</td>
<td>Oliver G</td>
<td>Nicholas M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Red</td>
<td>Josh B; Dylan H</td>
<td>Olivia C; Luke V</td>
<td>Alyssa McC; Isaac A F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Blue</td>
<td>Thomas N; Rhianna C</td>
<td>Faith J-P; Brody H</td>
<td>Jacob M; Makayla B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Red</td>
<td>Lovis T; Ebony J</td>
<td>Brandon L; Piper R</td>
<td>Piper K; Zane P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Blue</td>
<td>Ebony G; Maddy M</td>
<td>Tyler D; Lele L</td>
<td>Jacob K; Nikeah B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 Green</td>
<td>Jacob F</td>
<td>Jake S; Gordon C</td>
<td>Ryan B; Toma K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UP COMING EVENT

**God who is rich in mercy made us alive. Ephesians 2:4-6**

October is Mission Month and this year Catholic Mission Australia is working to support children in Jamaica because it is a community suffering serious crime and high levels of violence. The theme is “When I Grow Up I Want To Be Alive”.

This will be Mini Vinnies final fund raiser for 2014 and so in supporting this mission, we will be holding a “Jump for Jamaica” day on Thursday 30th October (Week 4). For a gold coin donation, Mini Vinnies are inviting all students to come to school **wearing “crazy” socks and to join us in the hall for a skipping disco**. Infants will be invited to skip during recess and Primary during lunch. Students are encouraged to bring in their own skipping rope if possible, but there are some ropes available from the St Brendan’s sporting supplies. Mr Banks has been working on skipping skills during Physical Education lessons and teachers have been exploring Catholic Mission and Jamaica with students during Religious Education.

**Wear “Crazy” Socks and “Jump For Jamaica” Thursday 30th October**

**HIGHER ABILITY NEWS** - This term St Brendan’s is holding a Visual Arts Competition for all Stage Three students. Stage Three has been invited to create an artistic representation of our Catholic Mission theme, “When I Grow Up I Want To Be Alive”. Each artwork will be judged and the six most inspiring, artistic entries will be notified and invited to visit St Cecilia’s Wyong on the 31st October, to enjoy a NEOC HAG day (Northern End Of Central Coast Cluster – Higher Ability Group). This will be a specialised course for students who exhibit higher ability in Visual Arts and they will be joined by likeminded peers from St Cecilia’s, St Mary’s, Our Lady of The Rosary and MacKillop. This is the third Higher Ability workshop that has been offered to students this year and we anticipate it being just as rewarding and enjoyable as the Poetry day and Mathematics day previously offered this year. As Stage Three has many artistic students, we have decided to display these for all of the St Brendan’s community to enjoy. Stay tuned to hear when these artworks will be going on display.
DAY FOR DANIEL - On Friday 31st October (Week 4) St Brendan’s staff and students will be participating in ‘Day for Daniel’. The purpose of this day, organised by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, is to raise the profile of all issues connected with child protection, including child abuse prevention, treatment, research, education, service provision and support for children, young people and families. Schools and organisations around Australia participate and it is recognised as Australia’s largest participation event of its type.

The motto for the day is "Wear Red and Educate". Students are asked to wear RED to raise awareness for child safety and protection. Red was Daniel Morcombe's favourite colour and the colour that he was wearing the day that he was abducted, almost ten years ago now. Each class will be spending some time learning about child safety and protection during Week 4 and we encourage you to talk to your child about their learning in this area.

If you would like any further information, please visit the website DayforDaniel.com.au.

NRMA Science & Road Safety Day – Friday 7 November 2014
Our school will be hosting an NRMA Science & Road Safety Day, a new road safety program that will be delivered free of charge to our school by the National Roads & Motorists’ Association with the aim of helping our students stay safe of the road. This program involves students participating in road safety shows in the hall and completing road safety workbooks in the classroom to help the road safety messages stick.

All children are invited to bring their bike helmets to school on the day for a helmet safety demonstration.

Parents play a vital role in keeping their children safe, and so we would like to invite you to come and watch the first show of the day to see what your children are learning and how you can reinforce these road safety messages at home. Parents are invited to attend the first session in the hall commencing at 8.25am

Thank you – to all the class parents and families who made the beautiful sweets and savouries for our volunteer liturgy.

October is Mental Health Month

KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children.

KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

Children and young people

headspace for young people aged 12–25; information and support at a time that suits you
Kids Help Line online counselling, information and support for young people 5 to 18 years
beyondblue resources and information about depression and anxiety
Clothing Swap – Recycling Week 10th -16th November.
To celebrate we are having a swap party on Friday 14th November from 2.30pm -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.

I hope everyone has cleaned out their wardrobes!!!

Jo Spek – Family Liaison Officer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct
Sat 1st All Saints Day
Sun 2nd All Souls Day
Wed 5th Circle of Security 8.30-10.30 & repeated 6-8pm
Fri 7th Assembly 8.20am; Science and Road Safety NRMA Visit
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

Nov
Mon 17th Staff Development Day – Pupil Free
Wed 19th Rotary Citizenship Awards
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 Swimming Awards
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
Sat 6th Carboot Sale (TBC)
Mon 8th Advent Liturgy
Wed 10th End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 9am, followed by final assembly; Thank you morning tea volunteers
Fri 12th PPC – End of Year Thanksgiving Gathering
Mon 15th Advent Liturgy; Yr 6 Pt Wollstonecraft. 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

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