A warm welcome to 2015 to all our families both new and familiar. I look forward to another exciting year here at St Brendan’s as the staff and parents continue to strive to serve the needs of all students. It was with great delight that I visited Kindergarten classrooms and noted the excellent preparation that occurred last year to ensure a seamless and happy first day at ‘big school’.

There are a few functions at the start of the year which I draw your attention to: Sunday 8th February at 6pm Bishop Peter Comensoli will celebrate Mass at St Mary’s Toukley; Wednesday 11th February at 9am Fr Peter will celebrate our Opening School Mass; Monday 16th February Years 3-6 (along with 8 year old Year 2 children) will participate in the swimming carnival at Wyong Pool; and, on Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday) St Brigid’s will join with Years 3-6 to participate in 9am Mass. As always, it is a joy to see so many of our parents joining in and assisting at these events.

You will find this edition of the newsletter to be quite lengthy with several attachments, including: Term 1 calendar, Term 1 Overview, full staffing list and information and a survey for the Parent Sharing Interviews which will be held on Tuesday 24th February. If you don’t receive these additional documents, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or the Office. Whilst this fortnight’s newsletter is sent in hardcopy to all families, future editions will arrive via email to those who have supplied an email address. If you need to update your address or remind the Office staff that you would like a hard copy fortnightly, please email or send in a note.

Unfortunately, one of our wonderful young staff members has resigned her position due to very serious health concerns. Erin Burgess who taught ‘The Hive’ in 2014 will be missed and the community is a better placed for having shared in Erin’s talents. A replacement for Erin will be announced within the fortnight. In the interim, Ms Kellie Prendergast is supporting these students along with the very capable Ms Meg Raedler.

Some teething issues:
Whilst the carpark, more precisely the entry and exit, has caused some delay to parents and buses I assure you that Craig and I are working collaboratively with the leaders of the local schools and the RMS (formerly RTA) to move traffic as safely and quickly as possible. There was an unfortunate incident where a parent drove across the grassed area and the pedestrian crossing illegally last week. I think all would agree that meeting a deadline pales into insignificance when you are placing the lives of young children at risk.
All classes will continue with the routine of ‘Fruitbreak’ this year. Fruitbreak takes place between 9-9:30am and is an opportunity for your child to have a small piece of fresh fruit or vegetable (NO fruit pouches or yoghurt at this time please).

As noted in the Parent Handbook, it is an expectation that full school uniform be worn. All students are expected to wear black leather school shoes and predominantly white joggers.

I offer sincere thanks to Mrs Amanda Lewis for designing the new newsletter format.

Over the last six months the subject of uniform supply and quality has regularly been discussed via newsletters, emails, parent and principal’s coffee and chat and at P and F meetings. The new supplier Cowan and Lewis, who supply uniforms to several of our Diocesan schools’, including St Brigid’s, is now active. Please find below a letter from Cowan & Lewis

Again, I wish all members of our community a joy-filled and productive year.

Luanna Fletcher
Principal

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**PURCHASE OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Cowan & Lewis is pleased to be appointed the new supplier of the St Brendan’s Catholic school uniform. We do ask for your patience during the transition from Lowes and while the existing stock is sorted out.

The uniform will be available to purchase from **Thursday 5th February** through the following channels.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>9449 9777</th>
<th>Monday to Friday between 9am – 5pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>9440 8931</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sales@cowanlewis.com.au">sales@cowanlewis.com.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Line shop</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cowanlewis.com.au">www.cowanlewis.com.au</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A order form will be available from the school office or to download from the Cowan & Lewis website and can be faxed, emailed or left at the school office for collection.

Deliveries will be made to school twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 7.30am and 8am free of charge. There is an option for orders to be sent via Australia post for home delivery which will incur a fee.

At orientation for kindergarten, back to school and change to winter uniform, fitting times will be provided to purchase uniforms from the school. These times will be advised via the school newsletter and the Cowan & Lewis website.

Please feel free to contact myself or to speak with a sales people for any further information on 94499777

Regards

Matthew Welsh
Cowan & Lewis Pty Ltd
MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome back!

A wonderful start to the year – it was great to see all the happy faces again. It never ceases to amaze me how much the children of St Brendan’s enjoy our School; the eagerness to help each other and to give their best in the class is a credit to themselves and their families.

I had the pleasure in the holidays to visit Vietnam and Cambodia. Both countries were fantastic; beautiful food, scenery and very friendly people. It wasn’t until I got home that I realised that there was something missing from both countries. I honestly can’t remember hearing a child cry or complain about what was happening in their lives. This made me think about how so many of us complain about life – probably because we already have too much!

PARKING!!!!!! As always, the beginning of the school year means more parents drive until their children settle into a routine. Yesterday was quite hectic, but everyone was safe and I thank all parents who assisted by allowing us to direct you to a parking spot or to exit the School safely. The traffic lights are a concern at the moment, but we have been in contact with the RMS and they adjusted the lights last Friday and will do so again, as there was still a delay yesterday.

Some parents have been parking around the back of the School on a new section set aside for parking (about 15 spaces). This will mainly be for use by the Early Learning Centre, but when available, you are welcome to park there – please do not park on the grass.

To help the traffic exit smoothly, priority will be given to the Buses and the Kiss & Drop cars – this means that at times we will need to hold traffic from behind the Early Learning Centre back.

A great time of year to encourage your children to join the Kiss & Drop line!

Craig McNee

Religious Education News

DATES TO REMEMBER: Wednesday February 11 – Opening School Mass
Wednesday February 18 – Ash Wednesday – Years 3-6 Mass, K-2 Liturgy (Times TBA)
Wednesday February 25 – Year 6 Class Mass

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 have received a roster for the Sacramental Program for 2015. Children receiving Sacraments are:
- Confirmation – Year 2
- Reconciliation – Year 3
- First Eucharist - Year 4

Important information regarding dates and times for these Sacraments were sent home last week electronically and in hard copy. If your child is in one of these grades and you didn’t receive the note there are spare copies in the office. If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and has not received their Sacraments, please collect a note from the office.

BISHOP VISIT: We are blessed to have our new Bishop, Bishop Peter celebrating Mass at St Mary’s Church this Sunday (February 8). This will be a wonderful opportunity for all in our Parish. Some children will be playing a role in the Mass.

May God bless you all.
Kell York - Religious Education Coordinator.
ST. BRENDA\'S SCHOOL - STAFFING 2015

Principal
Mrs Luanna Fletcher

Assistant Principal
Mr Craig McNeef

Religious Education Co-ordinator
Mr Kell York

K-2
To be advised

KB
Mr Matthew Ward

KG
Ms Lisa Milton

KR
Mrs Joanne Moore

1B
Ms Rachael Burgess

1G
Ms Sue Purdue (Coordinator: WHS)

1R
Ms Ashley Kennedy

2B
Ms Emma Goodwin

2G
Mrs Amanda Ward

2R
Ms Cassandra Vane-Tempest

3B
Mrs Melissa Townsend

3R
Ms Kerry McDonald
Mrs Fiona Fenning (Supporting teacher)

4B
Ms Bridget White

4R
Mrs Anne Neems
Mrs Prue Nelson (Supporting teacher)

5B
Mrs Stephanie Alchin (Higher Ability Coordinator)

5R
Ms Emily Keenan
Supported by Mr Craig McNeef

6B
Mr Damien Lobb

6R
Mr Kell York/Mr Greg Banks
Supported by Mr Craig McNeef

Literacy & Numeracy Coach:
Mrs Katrina Gordon

Special Needs Teacher
Ms Kellie Prendergast

Special Needs Aides
Mrs Kim Riley
Mrs Kerrie Richardson
Ms Megan Raedler
Mrs Angela Thornton
Ms Ashley McConkey
Mrs Louise Mally

Librarian
Mrs Karen Devlin

Release from Face-to-Face
Mrs Vicki Anderson/Mrs Susan Hannahford/Mr Greg Banks

Supporting Teacher (Term 1)
Mrs Danni Peterson

Italian Teacher
Ms Gioia Di Donato

Office Administration
Mrs Sandra Grogan

Family Liaison Officer
Mrs Cathy Norris

Aboriginal Education Officer
Mrs Jo Spek

Cleaner
Ms Brittany Pass

Groundsman
Mr Gary Aquilina
Mr Shane Keywood
SCHOOL FEES
- Invoices for 2015 have either been emailed or sent home with your eldest child.
- If you have not received an invoice for 2015, please contact the office as soon as possible.
- If you think you have been billed incorrectly, please contact the office.
- If you have applied for hardship for 2015, credits will be processed as soon as possible.
- If you think you may experience hardship this year, please contact the office.

The following fees for 2015 have been approved by the Catholic Schools Office:

**Diocesan Tuition Fees:**
- 1st child: $1,462.50 per annum
- 2nd child: $1,170.00 per annum
- 3rd child: $731.25 per annum
- 4th child: -

**Building Levy:** $880.00 per family per annum

**School Based Fees:** $432.00 per child for years K-6

**Year 5 Leadership Camp:** $102.00 per child

**Year 6 Canberra Excursion:** $290.00 per child

**Year 6 T-shirt and Graduation:** $69.00 per child

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**SPIRIT OF ST. BRENDAN'S AWARDS DECEMBER 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K Red</th>
<th>Angelo C</th>
<th>Maddison R</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Blue</td>
<td>Chloe C</td>
<td>Olivia P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Green</td>
<td>Lachlan B</td>
<td>Abigail K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Ella B</td>
<td>Jewel R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Imogen M</td>
<td>Beau C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Green</td>
<td>Tanaya B</td>
<td>Bella A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Red</td>
<td>Holly R</td>
<td>Bailey K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue</td>
<td>Samantha M</td>
<td>Kahli B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Green</td>
<td>Rhianna J</td>
<td>Will M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Sophie P</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Red</td>
<td>Kyah B</td>
<td>Coby T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>Sarah D S</td>
<td>Skye S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Red</td>
<td>Erin M</td>
<td>Aidan R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Blue</td>
<td>Justin L</td>
<td>Paige R</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Red</td>
<td>Jarrod S</td>
<td>Tamara B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Blue</td>
<td>Braith H</td>
<td>Imogen M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Red</td>
<td>Alyssa B</td>
<td>Brandon L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Blue</td>
<td>Brooke L</td>
<td>Courtney J</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 Green</td>
<td>Gordon C</td>
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LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to 2015 in St. Brendan’s Library.

This year we have a new team comprised of Mrs. Karen Devlin (Mondays and Thursdays) and Mrs. Vicki Anderson (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). We will be supported by Ms Ashlee McConkey who will be assisting with administration.

Classes will participate in library lessons on the following days.

Monday: 6 Blue, 6 Red, 5 Blue, 5 Red and 4 Red
Tuesday: 2 Green, 2 Blue, 2 Red, 1 Green, 1 Blue and 1 Red
Wednesday: Kinder Green, Kinder Blue, Kinder Red, 3 Blue and 3 Red
Thursday: 4 Blue

We expect all children to bring a library bag on their designated days and to borrow and return their books regularly.

This year we will be forced to charge the students for lost or damaged books. Hopefully this will result in a greater sense of responsibility from the children. With the average Picture Book and Non-Fiction Book costing $25-$30 and a paperback costing approximately $15, you can appreciate that with hundreds of books overdue we need to take some action to keep within our budget. We will still chase up any overdue books from last year (and previous years) but the replacement costs will only come into effect for the books borrowed from today on. If you have any questions regarding an overdue notice please come and see us or send a note. We will be sending regular notices to keep you informed of the books in your child/ren’s names.

We are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead filled with much reading and enjoyment of books.

Thank you in anticipation of your support,
Karen, Vicki and Ashlee.

Hi, everyone and welcome back to St Brendan’s for another great year!

Coffee and Conversation Tracie Richards a counsellor from Catholic Care will be joining us again this year for more coffee and conversation. We will meet every Tuesday from 8.30 in the hall beginning Tuesday 10th of February. The topics of discussion are group led and range from healthy eating to building resilience in our children. From these discussions we are able to plan parenting programs and resources, which will be made available at the school.

KidsMatter – St Brendan’s is a Kidsmatter school, an inclusive connected community. All our families are made welcome and enjoy a happy safe environment to grow and learn. If you are interested in joining the Kidsmatter team and would like to know a little more about the role you would play in that team please come along for coffee and conversation on Tuesday 10th of February in the hall at 8.30 to find out more or visit www.kidsmatter.com
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on Friday, 20 March 2015. This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/parents/index.html There is a parent section on this website containing many helpful hints for families

Harmony Day

Harmony Day (21 March) celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Harmony Day 21st of March http://www.harmony.gov.au

Pastoral Care Coordinators - P&F

Eliessa Mattison (Ronan Yr 2) and Stella Smallwood (Imogen kinder) will be coordinating community based events, and creating networks to support families, parents and care givers. They would like to start the year with a coffee and chat for kinder parents. A chance to get to know other parents and ask any questions to help you in the first stages of your school journey. Date: Tuesday 10th of February.

Aboriginal Education Worker – AEW - Brittany Pass is working 2 days per week at St Brendan’s providing support and assistance to Aboriginal students, their parents/guardians, teachers, the school and the community. AEWs fulfil this role through their knowledge, understanding and the sharing of local Aboriginal history, language and culture. Brittany along with Catholic schools Office personnel with create PLPs (Personal learning plans) for individual Indigenous students this year in partnership with families and school.

Anniversary of the National apology to Australian Indigenous people
February 13th

I will be advertising for class parents - an expression of interest will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Kind Wishes
Jo Spek – Family Liaison Officer (2 Days)

FOR SALE - 3 x size 6 girls uniforms in good condition. $10 each

Phone Danielle on 0424391031.

CONGRATULATIONS - St Brendan’s Year Six student Gordon Clark and his family flew to Melbourne on 28th November to participate in the National Mixed Martial Arts Tournament. Both Gordon and his sister Molly, a St Peter’s Year Nine student, represented NSW at the recent Tournament. Their dedication and perseverance was evident in their performances with Gordon demonstrating his skills and self-control in all rounds. Molly, after many rounds, achieved 4th place at the Australian Championships. Congratulations to the Clark family on their outstanding sporting results at a national level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<th>Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>26 Public Holiday</td>
<td>27 Teachers resume MAI's</td>
<td>28 MAIs</td>
<td>29 Yrs 1-6 Resume</td>
<td>30 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>2 Newsletter</td>
<td>3 Staff Meeting 2.45pm 7.45am Breakfast with new staff - hall</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Mass 6pm Toukley with Bishop Peter Comensoli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall</td>
<td>11 Opening School Mass 9.00am MSP Photograph Kinders 11.00am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Assembly 8.20 am P &amp; F Exec Meeting 9.00am Anniversary National Sorry Day</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>16 Newsletter</td>
<td>17 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall</td>
<td>18 Ash Wednesday Mass 9.00am Yrs3-6 Liturgy K-2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>23 CCC Swimming Mingara</td>
<td>24 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall Parent/Sharings Interviews</td>
<td>25 Year 6 Mass 900 am</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb/Mar 6</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>3 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Diocesan Staff Mass</td>
<td>6 Assembly Stage 2 Showcase 8.20 Spirit of St Brendan's Awards P &amp; F Meeting 9.00am</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>9 Catholic School's Week</td>
<td>10 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall Broken Bay Swimming Mingara 6.00pm</td>
<td>11 Open Day 10.30-11.00am Year 5 Mass 9.00am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>16 Sandra LSL to end of Term</td>
<td>17 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall</td>
<td>18 Yr 6 Canberra Year 4 Mass 9.00am</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Assembly 8.20 am Yr 6 Canberra Primary Creative Arts Forum National Day Against Bullying</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>23 Kinder 2016 Information Evening 6.30pm</td>
<td>24 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall Lisa Milton LSL to end of Term</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Assembly 8.20 am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar/April 10</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>31 Staff Meeting 2.45pm Coffee &amp; Conversation 8.30am - Hall</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 End of Term No Assembly Easter Bonnet Parade K-2 1.45pm</td>
<td>3 Good Friday</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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