



Term 1 | Week 2 | January 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to 2022!

It has been terrific seeing all the smiling faces of our children as they arrive!!!

A huge welcome to all our new families; it is great to have you as part of our community.

This year has the potential to be a “bumpy” one. Whatever the adventure brings, we have the community to get through it together.

When I meet with parents for interviews, I often say that we are in this together, for the success of the children. Whatever challenges we might face this year that are concerning you, I implore you to contact your child’s class teacher, the ladies from the Cottage ([thecottage@dbb.org.au](mailto:thecottage@dbb.org.au)), myself or any member of the school you feel comfortable talking to, so that we can offer support.

At our Staff Development Day, we spoke about the importance of engagement, wellbeing, high expectations, collaboration, continual improvement, and a positive attitude for all! As a staff, in fact, as a Diocese, we will be focussing on these areas so that our children are successful. Together, parents and teachers, we will help our children have a great year!

### *Compass Notifications*

I was chatting with a parent this week and she gave me some very constructive feedback around communication. I welcome any feedback that will help the community; we try our best from this end, but when given different scenarios we can find different solutions together.

Messages on Compass are set by default to expire after a time period (which we can adjust to suit) and are then not able to be accessed by parents. This is fine when the message is relating to excursions etc. as they will expire after the day but not when you are looking for the NETMA. For this, our NETMA is archived on our [website](#).

Another issue we had was the Compass Calendar. What we are going to do from now is place our dates on Compass and NOT have them upload to the school website calendar as this was posing a problem.

## *Covid*

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) has advised that if a child has to isolate for being a close contact or actually having Covid that parents should access the online [Learning from home packages](#) as the class teacher is not able to prepare the detailed work that took place during HBL. Once your child returns to school their teacher will ensure that they are focusing on their point-of-need so that they continue to succeed.

Looking forward to another great year together,

Craig McNee

Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## *Opening School Mass*

We have been trying to secure a date for our Opening School Mass for the year. Unfortunately, it is currently a very busy time in the Parish as we only have one Priest with Fr Baby taking leave to visit his family overseas. As soon as we have a date secured we will let our families know. Due to the current Covid Restriction, parents will be able to participate in the Mass via Zoom.

## *Altar Servers*

We will be having some training for students who are interested in becoming Altar Servers for School Masses. This training will occur with our Parish Priest and Mrs Jacqui Fletcher or Miss Alli Foksett. Altar Servers must have made their First Holy Communion, therefore students in Year 4 and above. We will be sending home a Compass permission note shortly. It is a wonderful way to support our school and parish faith life.

## *Central Coast Project*

You might have heard about the 'Central Coast Project' happening across our Diocese. Linked is a video outlining the project: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/pastoral-discernment-central-coast>.

The first step at a School level is a 'listening journey' around themes: walking, sharing, listening, participating in mission, dialogue with others, and moving forward together.

We have had the Plenary Council parish gatherings with its discernment journey to the Australian Council of Bishops which will be moving forward with the Holy Spirit to 2023. This project is much more local in terms of the recommendations that will be shaped through our Pastoral Discernment submission.

The project aligns with Bishop Anthony's six priorities for our Diocese and are outlined in his pastoral letter December 2020 - <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/bishop/pastoral-letter-jesus-christ-our-beginning-and-end>.

The project will begin with listening and discernment within our School. Alli Foskett and Jacqui Fletcher and team extend an invitation to our community to share their thoughts about strategies for evangelisation, parish renewal and discipleship, ensuring a sustainable and thriving community, celebrating what we are doing well and what might the future look like for our Church on the Central Coast.

Bishop Anthony is eagerly awaiting our thoughts, and we are invited to shape our Submission, which is due by end March 2022. Watch this space for opportunities to get involved and share your thoughts during February and March 2022. We will outline with you over the coming weeks how we as a Parish will progress the plan for our submission. Please keep this work in your prayers.

## THE COMMUNITY COTTAGE



### Welcome back!

The Community Cottage hopes you had a wonderful break. We are excited to see you all and hear about the wonderful activities you did.

The start of the year can be stressful for little ones, and we sometimes see little wobbles. This is okay, it is to be expected, change is difficult. For children, this is all about fear of what is going to happen.

Will I know where to go?

What to do? Have things changed?

Will I have friends in my class?

Ultimately how will I cope?



Some tips to help with starting the year:

- Try to be as organised as you can, this reduces children feeling rushed
- Keep to a routine especially a bedtime
- Be as encouraging and optimistic as you can on the way to school. Your child will be able to sense any fears or worries you have
- Keep talking. Do not dismiss their worries, they are natural, we all feel them. Try to understand why they are feeling that way so you can produce a plan to reduce the worry
- Use the kiss and drop, this is a quicker and easier way for children to be able to get straight into school. Once they have left you, they tend to easily get distracted by their friends and playtime
- Encourage your child to have fun
- Remind them that you want to hear all about what they did at school and how you will be picking them up. This helps to remind them that you will be there at the end of the day.

Here is a fact sheet to help [Supporting children's return to school during COVID-19 - Emerging Minds](#)

If you are facing challenges, feeling stressed, struggling with return to school or just need to talk to someone please reach out to [The Community Cottage](#).

# SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

## *St Brendan's 2022 Staff*

### Classroom Teachers

KR - Maureen McDonnell  
KB - Laura Lewis  
KG - Fiona Scott  
1R - Sandra Pazaridis  
1B - Maggie O'Brien  
1G - Madeline Martin  
2R - Ashlee Montague  
2B - Matthew Ward (Mon - Thurs)  
    - Teaghan Bateman (Friday)  
2G - Rebecca Zeitsch  
3R - Andrew Lamond  
3B - Sue Purdue  
    - Katrina Gordon (every second Fri)  
3G - Jessica Maleszka  
4R - Nicole Evans  
4B - Elly Dwyer  
4G - Damien Lobb  
5R - Amanda Ward  
5B - Melissa Townsend (Wed - Fri)  
    - Stef Mind (Mon - Tues)  
5G - William Granger  
6R - Chloe Lovett  
6B - Daniel Murphy  
6G - Jaimie Wallis (Mon - Wed)  
    - Carly Taylor (Thurs - Fri)

HIVE - Madeleine Loneragan  
HUB - Alli Foscett

### Learning Support Teachers

- Lauren Betts (Mon - Wed)  
- Tierney DesBrulais (Tues - Fri)

### Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)

Kim Riley  
Kim Hancock  
Sarah Atwell  
Jo Hewitt  
Toni Thian  
Jen Holmes  
Lisa Lear  
Jodie Mizzi  
Louise Malley

### Specialty Classroom Teachers

PE - Greg Banks  
Library - Karen Devlin  
    - Vicki Anderson  
Music - Teaghan Bateman (Mon, Tues)  
K-6 Support - Stephanie Mind  
    Molly Fletcher  
Italian - Gioia DiDonato (Wed)  
Literacy/Numeracy Support K-6 - Katrina Gordon

### Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW)

Taylor-Lee Cheney

### Canteen

Tracey Marley

### Cleaner

Kim Foakeni

### Administration

Gabriela Pinto-Lane  
Lynette Beer  
Cathy Norris

### Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

Eliesha Mattison

### The Community Cottage

School Counsellor - Natalie Ross  
Family Liaison Officer - Rebecca Leahy  
Family Support Advocate - Amanda Pilley

### Executive Leadership

### Religious Education Coordinator (REC)

Jacqui Fletcher (Mon - Wed)  
Alli Foscett (Thurs - Fri)

### Assistant Principal

Kellie Prendergast (Mon - Wed)  
Jacqui Fletcher (Thurs - Fri)

### Principal

Craig McNee



# Staff Spotlight



Name: Nicole Evans

Birthday: January 15

Siblings: A little brother

Favourite Food: Pizza

Favourite Colour: Blue

How many years have you been teaching? 6

Do you have any pets? If so what type of pet? 3 dogs, 1 Maltese, 2 x Australian Shepherds

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend? Go to the beach

What is your favourite hobby? Walking

Anything you'd like us to know about you? I like to solve puzzles

Name: Andrew Lamond

Birthday: May 14

Siblings: 3, 2 brothers and a sister

Favourite Colour: Orange

How many years have you been teaching? 12

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend?

Woodwork and playing at the beach with family

What is your favourite hobby? Woodwork, surfing

Anything you'd like us to know about you? I have a 4 year old daughter called Winnie and my wife is Amy



# LIBRARY NEWS

There have been many changes in the library during our Christmas break, we are now located on the second floor of the Stage 3 building.



## *Library borrowing days for each grade are as follows*

Kindergarten - Tuesday

Year 1 - Monday

Year 2 - Tuesday

Year 3 - Thursday

Year 4 - Thursday

Year 5 - Wednesday

Year 6 - Wednesday

Karen Devlin and Vicki Anderson.

# SPORT NEWS

## *St Brendan's Athletics Carnival*

Our athletics Carnival is scheduled for **Monday March 14** at Mingara Regional Athletics Centre.

We are not sure of the COVID restrictions that will be in place for the carnival at this time.

We will keep you updated as we get closer to the event.

### *PE and Sport days for each grade are as follows*

	PE	SPORT
Kinder	Tuesday	Friday
Year 1	Monday	Friday
Year 2	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 3	Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Thursday	Tuesday
Year 5	Wednesday	Friday
Year 6	Wednesday	Friday

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### *Kiss & Drop Signs*

If you are using Kiss and Drop to collect your child/children after school, it is a huge help if you could have your family name displayed on the sun visor of your vehicle. If you use Kiss and Drop and would like a name sign laminated for you, please complete [THIS LINK](#) and we will send one home for you shortly.

### *Compass*

Just a reminder that you only need to enter an absence for your child/children on Compass if they are away for a whole day. If they come to school late or leave early, they will be signed in by our lovely office ladies.

## Compass Support

We will be holding a Compass Support Session for parents on Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at 9:00 am. This will be an online session to support you with any questions or queries you may have. It is open to all parents and we highly recommend you join us. As you know, we no longer have paper permission notes as they will come to you through your Compass Parent Portal as a digital permission form.

The session will cover:

- Getting to know your Compass Parent Portal
- Adding an attendance note
- How do I complete an Event Invitation (Digital Permission)
- Your News Feed
- How do I access reports
- Ordering from the Canteen
- School Documentation

[Zoom Link](#) for Support Session

Password: 878583

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## Clothing Pool

Could all requests for items from the clothing pool please be directed to The Community Cottage via this [email](#). Your request will be processed and you will be contacted when your items are ready for pick-up. Please do not call the office for clothing pool enquiries.

The Community Cottage email address is [thecottage@dbb.org.au](mailto:thecottage@dbb.org.au)

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## Goal Setting

We will be holding our Parent-Student-Teacher Goal Setting Interviews in Week 4. You will meet with your child's teacher to set smart goals for them for Term 1. It would be beneficial for your child to attend also. These interviews will be held online via Zoom. We will advise you when Compass Conferences are open so you can make your booking.

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

## Term 1

<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>Kindergarten Commence</b>
<b>15 Feb</b>	<b>Compass Support Zoom 9:00 am</b>
<b>14 March</b>	<b>Athletics Carnival</b>
<b>8 April</b>	<b>Last Day Term 1</b>