



Term 2 | Week 2 | May 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome back!

I hope you were able to spend some great family time together over the break - the children all seem refreshed and ready to continue with some challenging work this Term.

There have been a number of baby announcements recently to the individual classes concerned. As a Community, I would like to send congratulations to Jen Robinson, Madeline Martin and Laura Lewis (nee Bath).

This Term, we welcome Ellen Rae and Lily Lonergan to our Team. Ellen will be working with a number of grades until she takes over Madeline's class later this Term. Lily will be taking Damien Lobb's class who, due to unforeseen circumstances, will be working one day a week with students and teachers. He will focus on using technology (other than iPads and Chromebooks) to engage students in collaborative problem solving, research, or artistic creation.

Just a reminder that we have a Working Bee scheduled for Saturday, 14 May (10:30 am - 1:00 pm). If you are able to help out, please respond via [link](#).

Please remember to inform the school before 2 pm if you are collecting your child early as it can take a while to locate students and the Office is extremely busy at this time of day. More importantly, your child is missing out on valuable learning time when they leave early - it is best to limit early departures.

Have a great fortnight,
Craig McNee
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy



TERM 2 DATES:

- 7 May
- 14 May
- 21 May
- 28 May
- 4 June No Children's Liturgy (St Brendan's Family Mass)
- 11 June
- 18 June No Children's Liturgy (First Eucharist Mass)
- 25 June

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

COME JOIN US

SATURDAY VIGIL

ST BRENDAN'S
CHURCH

5 PM

We are very excited to let you know that we will be having Children's Liturgy this Term at the 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Brendan's Catholic Church.

Mrs Jacqui Fletcher, Miss Alli Foskett, Mrs Maureen McDonnell and Mrs Jo Spek will be facilitators. We hope you can come along and join us!

Are you interested in becoming a Catechist?

Do you enjoy working with children? Toukley/Lake Munmorah Parish are in urgent need of five new Catechists in the Parish, to teach Catholic scripture in local public schools. You can either lead a class or be a helper for one of our current Catechists.

Classes run once a week for approx. 30 minutes.

If you've ever considered this rewarding Ministry, please speak with Fr Tomy or Fr Baby after Mass or contact the Parish Office for more information at toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au or ph 4396 4455.

Training & support provided. We'd love to hear from you!

THE COMMUNITY COTTAGE



We all get a little overwhelmed at times...

Do you have a lot going on?

Are you feeling stressed?

Are you struggling to get back into a routine?

Are you seeing different behaviours in your child?

Stress is a life event or situation that causes an imbalance in an individual's life. Often stress results from something that is beyond our control. Control has a great deal to do with levels of stress.

For children, stress can impact behaviours, feelings, and development. Stress presents in a number of ways, including complaints about stomach aches, feeling nervous, trouble sleeping, emotional outbursts, and even illness. Stress in children can also be seen in behavioural changes such as acting out, regression of previously mastered skills, and clinging behaviours.

Some coping strategies:

- Notice your child's behaviours – see these as forms of communication; they are trying to tell you something. If you know their signs you will be able to pick up on these early
- Be positive – encourage your child, talk about what they might be looking forward to
- Acknowledge feelings – teach your child the names for emotions and help them express how they are feeling
- Avoid shaming – this has a big impact on self-esteem
- Have activities that are about cooperation, not competitiveness – make time for fun
- Learn mindfulness – there are many great apps out there, practice deep breathing, do mindful walking or eating
- Empower children to take control over situations, this will build their confidence
- Children will copy what they see. Think about how you handle stress and what you do. Show them the best way to manage stress



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

SPORT NEWS

CCC Cross Country

The CCC Cross Country has been rescheduled to Monday, 9 May at Adcock Park West Gosford. Good luck to all the students representing us at this carnival.

A huge thank you must go to the St Brigid's Yr 9 and 10 students who organised the wonderful Cross Country carnival last Friday. A massive thank you must go to Meredith and Kayla (PDHPE) teachers from St Brigid's. It was great to see both school communities working and celebrating together.

Greg Banks
Sports Coordinator



Mother's Day Celebrations

Friday 6 May

7:50 am - Open Classrooms

9:00 am - Mother's Day Mass
followed by morning
tea in the Hall

HIGHER ABILITY and GIFTED LEARNERS

At St Brendan's we believe it is important that students are taught at their individual point of need, and this is something that our teachers do wonderfully. Through our NETMA, we aim to demonstrate this to our St Brendan's community, while also highlighting the achievements of our students.

To showcase some of the fantastic work our higher ability and gifted students are engaging within their classrooms, each fortnight our teachers will provide examples of a different teaching and learning experience. These learning experiences will be across various Key Learning Areas and will model how our teachers provide opportunities for students to engage their higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills to learn and explore new and exciting concepts.

I look forward to celebrating some of the amazing work happening at St Brendan's with you all!

Maggie O'Brien

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This term at St Brendan's we will be having a school-wide focus on Narrative Writing. Each week, students will be exploring techniques and developing skills to improve their writing through 'Seven Steps'. The weekly writing focus will be shared with parents and carers on Seesaw each week. This information will include an explanation of the writing 'step', as well as ways each step can be supported in the home. This is not meant to be additional work for families, but suggestions of simple discussions that you can be having with your child.

As part of this writing initiative, students will also participate in a Big Write each Friday. This is a special writing session where students get to celebrate their weekly learning. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will complete their Big Write on the same topic. At the beginning of each week, a visual and some thinking questions will be posted to your class Seesaw page. To assist students with their writing, it is beneficial for them to discuss the topic throughout the week to help them gather thoughts and ideas. We are asking that you look at the writing stimulus each week and have a discussion with your family about the topic. The discussion can involve the whole family, as students across grades will benefit from discussing ideas with one another.

The Big Talk should not be anything extra that you need to find time for in your week. There is no need to take notes or write anything down, just a discussion to help your children think about ideas for their Big Write. This discussion might happen around the dinner table at night, when you're having breakfast together in the morning, while travelling in the car or when you're reading a story together before bed. For students to develop writing skills, verbal is vital! By encouraging your children to talk about their ideas, you are supporting the development of their writing skills.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

The Student Achievement Team

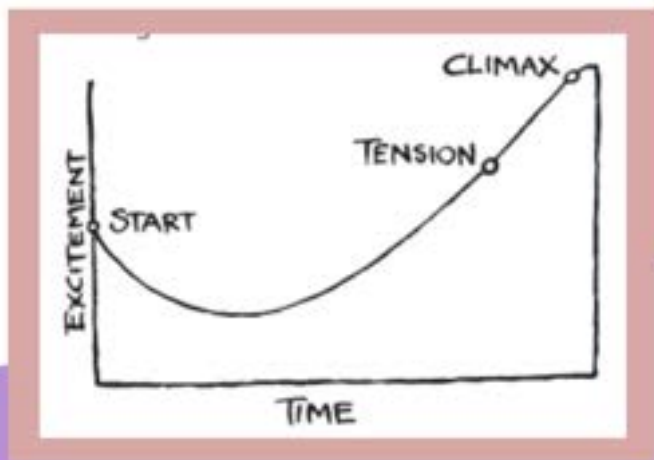
STEP 1: plan for success

Seven Steps Writing Tips for Families

what is it?

Planning is a crucial first step when writing. The difficult part is getting children to do it!

It's hard to show people how to plan, so here's a quick method. Good stories (like movies, books, poems and even jokes) are all planned and they all have a similar structure. This is what it looks like:



1. **Start with a bang** – start with an action scene or at a moment of change.
2. **Backfill** – the Who, What, Why is filled in while the story unfolds.
3. **Pebble** – the character faces a small problem or obstacle.
4. **Rock** – the problem escalates and the tension increases.
5. **Boulder** – the final tension scene has the reader on the edge of their seat; the stakes are very high.
6. **Action climax** – the character triumphs against all odds.
7. **Emotional resolution** – the character's inner story is wrapped up.

Once writers master this basic structure, they can plan more effectively and this will really improve their writing.



TOP TIP

Think first, write second.

Encourage your children to draw a graph and plot their stories out before they start writing.



action activities

What can you do at home to support planning?

While watching TV together, discuss how TV advertisements often 'tell a story'. In 30 seconds, some advertisements include a Sizzling Start, a tension scene and an Exciting Ending, exactly like the Story Graph.

Discuss your child's (or your) favourite book, movie or TV show. Talk about how they could fit on the Story Graph.



CANTEEN NEWS

IMPORTANT

THE CANTEEN WILL ONLY BE STAFFED BY PARENT VOLUNTEERS TOMORROW (THURSDAY), MONDAY, AND TUESDAY WITH LIMITED ITEMS AVAILABLE ON THESE DAYS.

WE WILL CONFIRM WHETHER THE CANTEEN WILL BE OPEN THIS FRIDAY (6 MAY), TOMORROW MORNING.

Lunch Orders

Please remember to order your child/ren's lunch. An increasing number of students are coming to the canteen at lunchtime to collect an order that has not been placed. This can be very upsetting for the child involved, and often means they have to wait for Tracey to prepare something for their lunch. Ideally, orders should be placed the night before to avoid the morning rush.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

Chicken Coop - Working Bee

We are aiming to have a Working Bee on Saturday, May 14 from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm to resurrect our chicken coop! If you are able to help, please complete this [linked form](#).



Staff Spotlight



Name: Chloe Lovett

My Class: Class Teacher - 6R

Birthday: 23 September

Siblings: One brother

Favourite Food: Lychees

Favourite Colour: Lilac

Do you have any pets? If so what type of pet? No

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend? Read a new novel (wild I know)

What is your favourite hobby? Reading and travelling

Anything you'd like us to know about you? I absolutely love Harry Styles - just ask my class!

Name: Gioia Di Donato

Role at St Brendan's: Italian Teacher

Birthday: 3 August

Siblings: Two brothers

Favourite Food: Italian Food

Favourite Colour: Blue

How long have you been teaching? 13 years

Do you have any pets? If so what type of pet? A mini foxie called Spike

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend? See live bands

What is your favourite hobby? Gardening, Reading, Drawing, Music

Anything you'd like us to know about you? I love living near the beach. I love travelling. Family and friends are important to me



TO NOTE

Phone calls from the school number

Please ensure you listen to the voicemail that is left by a staff member if you have this service available. Knowing whom you need to speak to when you return the call is vital for your call to be directed to the right person.

Clothing Pool

Will be open on Friday mornings for your convenience.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Term 2

6 May	Mother's Day Mass - 9:00 am hosted by Yr. 2
11-13 May	NAPLAN
12 May	Year 4 Parish Mass - 9:00 am
16 May	St Brendan's Feast Day Mass - 11:00 am; Colour run to follow
18 May	Year 1 Excursion - Awabakal Environment Education Centre
24 May	Mary Help of Christian's Mass 11:00 am - Yr. 3-6 hosted by Yr. 4
25-27 May	Year 6 Camp - Canberra
26 May	Sorry Day Liturgy - 8:20 am - Whole school
1 June	Year 5 Parish Mass - 9:00 am
4 June	Parish Family Mass
8 June	Year 6 Parish Mass - 9:00 am
13 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
14 June	Winter Uniform Transition
15 June	Year 1 Parish Mass
18 June	First Eucharist Mass
24 June	Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass 11:00 am - Yr. K-2 hosted by Kinder
29 June	CC Soccer Gala Day Yr. 5 & 6
30 June	NAIDOC Week Liturgy - 9:00 am
1 July	CSBB Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Children's Liturgy St Brendan's Church - Saturdays 5:00 pm

7 May
14 May
21 May
28 May
11 June
25 June



St Brendan's Playgroup

FREE!



**EVERY
TUESDAY**

**DURING SCHOOL
TERMS**

8:30 - 10:00

St Brendan's Catholic
Primary School Hall

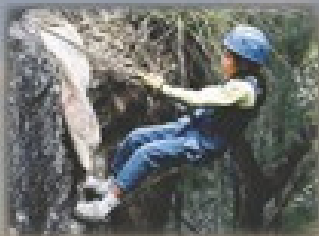
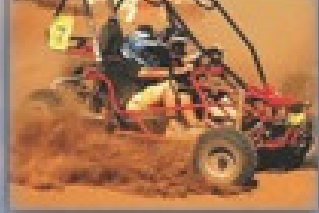


FUN & CREATIVE INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Playgroup is for newborn to school-age children and is a great place to get to know other parents and carers in our local community. There is no cost and everyone is welcome!

Morning tea is provided

*Playgroup will be held weekly for the rest of the term (Covid restrictions permitting) - Covid safe practices in place.



discover fun and freedom! build confidence!
 make friends! challenge yourself!
 get active! try new things! test your limits!

Be Prepared...



1st Mannering Park Sea Scouts

Wondering what to do after School? Try Scouting!

We are back on deck, starting THIS week

- Joeys (5 - 8 y/o) - Monday - 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- Cubs (7½ - 11 y/o) - Tuesday - 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- Scouts (10½ - 15 y/o) - Wednesday - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Venturers (14½ - 18 y/o) - Thursday - 6:00pm to 8:00pm



Join
 Scouts Today
 Active Outdoors Social



Want to know more? | E: GL1stManneringPark@nsw.scouts.com.au

