



St Benedict's Primary School

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NEWSLETTER 2

14th February 2018

Let mercy live among us

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents and Carers,

National Apology Day

Yesterday we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Australian Parliament's Apology to the Stolen Generations. This marks a day of great significance in the history of our nation. On the 13th February 2008, the Australian Federal Labor Government made an apology to the Stolen Generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It was a moment of solidarity and empathy that could be shared by everybody who heard it. National Apology Day is a day to remember and pray for the children who were taken away from their families and homes. This apology was a step on the path to reconciliation. It is a commitment to right the wrongs of past injustices and is about building a bridge of respect between all people.

Ash Wednesday

Today is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. You might remember Lent as being a time of giving up things. Instead of giving up – why not take up? Take up spending time in prayer each day, going to Mass, saying only kind things, being more patient, tolerant, considerate.... Pope Francis offers the following thoughts about fasting during Lent;

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Open House BBQ for Families and Teachers

We look forward to meeting you tomorrow night at the Open House and BBQ. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to show off their classrooms and learning environments to their parents. Teachers have information for you to take home and students have completed displays and some initial work to share with you.

The Open House will be from 5.00pm until 6.00pm and parents can drop into the classrooms with their children between these times. Teachers enjoy meeting as many people as possible so they won't be able to

Nurturing personal and academic growth...

...a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.

have any in depth conversations. Please feel free to email the teachers to book a time for the following week for those important conversations.

Another important part of the evening is to meet the parents of some of your children's friends. That's why the Parents & Friends committee is providing a free sausage sizzle for families between 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Thank you to the P& F for organising this.

Staff News

I am excited to announce that we have a new Italian teacher for this year. Mrs Carina Merritt will begin working with the students as of next Thursday. I know you will join with me in making her feel welcome.

Student and Family Information Update

Thank you to those families that have already returned their student contact forms and made any alterations. Through this process we have noticed an increased amount of changes to parent's contact details, including emails and home addresses. If throughout the year any changes are required I encourage you to make them as soon as possible after the change via email (office.stbenedicts@cg.catholic.edu.au) rather than waiting till the beginning of the new school year. This helps us to ensure we have the most current contact details for all our students.

School Swimming Carnival

We hit the ground running (swimming) with our school swimming carnival to be held next Thursday, 22 February. This will be the first carnival for our Kinder students. Separate notes have been sent home regarding the carnival. Please remember to return the permission note, by this Friday 16th February.

School Board

Expressions of Interest are being sought from parents who would like to participate on the School Board. The Board provides the opportunity for members of the school to support the mission of Catholic Education at St Benedict's. Working with the Parish Priest, Principal and Staff, the Board members provide leadership to the school community.

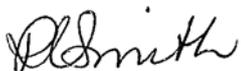
The Board has a decision-making role on certain policy areas and an advisory role in others. Specifically, the Board is responsible for developing, approving and monitoring the School's annual budget; contributing to the longer term planning of the school; and consulting with the P & F on the expenditure of funds raised on behalf of the school community. Additionally, the Board has responsibility to provide advice on curriculum offerings, educational and student welfare policies and parent support processes.

Parents who would like to contribute to this very important role would need to commit to meeting once a month on a Tuesday evening for 2 hours.

This is a great way of being involved with St Benedict's and there will be a note going home shortly seeking nominations.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Open House BBQ for Families and Teachers tomorrow night.

God Bless.



Rachel Smith
Principal

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

Opening School Mass

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and celebrate our Opening School Mass last week. It was a lovely way to celebrate the start of our school year as a community.

Sacraments



At the Open House BBQ for Families and Teachers there will be Parish enrolment forms for all families wanting their children (Year 3 and above) to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Eucharist, 2018. Please note that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered in 2019 to students in Years 5 and 6.

Important Term 1 Sacrament Dates:

Reconciliation Retreat: Saturday 3rd March 9:00am-12:00pm followed by a barbeque lunch

Sacrament of First Reconciliation: Saturday 24th March 4:30pm to be followed by Mass at 6:00pm

First Friday Mass



1/2 Blue will be preparing the first Friday mass for March which will be on Friday 2nd March. Mass is held in the St Benedict's Church from 10:00am. Families are warmly invited to join us for this liturgical celebration. Morning tea will be provided by the families of students in Years 1/2 Blue. Parents are invited to stay after mass for morning tea and a chat with Staff and other parents in the Library. Parents of the hosting class are welcome to bring their child along to the morning tea.

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. While the ashes symbolise penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.



Natalie Wright

Religious Education Coordinator

SCHOOL SNAPSHOT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

One of the most important roles within a school is to regularly evaluate programs and procedures to ensure students are functioning at their optimum and feeling comfortable in the educational environment. St Benedict's Primary has commissioned Mark Crouch Educational Consultancy to develop a process to review Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education outcomes in our school. The *Snapshot* involves Mr Mark Crouch having conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents, staff and community members.

St Benedict's Primary School will be undertaking the *Snapshot* on THURSDAY 15/2/2018

The purpose of these conversations is to undertake an 'audit' of current practice. It is important to note that responses provided by both adults and children will be anonymous. Following the review process, the school's executive will be provided with feedback which will help us shape plans for 2018 and onwards.

Parents/Carers and community members are most welcome to speak with Mark to provide a personal perspective. I am providing you with the following timetable and ask that you contact the front office if you would like to speak with Mark with your own views.

Thursday 15th February 12:15 – 1:15pm Aboriginal parents and community

Thursday 15th February 2:30 – 3:00pm Non –Aboriginal parents and community

If you are unavailable during these times, please contact the front office and we will try to make an alternative time.

I am also sending home notes seeking permission for students to speak with Mark Crouch, so that their honest opinions can be considered as part of this process.

Kind regards,
Alana Quirk

Weekly Notes

The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website.



- Swimming Carnival – Due by Friday 16th February
- Year 5/6 Birrigai Camp – Due by Wednesday 14th February
- Year 3/4 Google+ Community
- Year 5/6 Head Lice
- School Fees – Due by Friday 2nd March

Thank you to all the families that have returned their notes so far.

All notes can be found on the website, please check regularly.

Happy Birthday to the children who celebrate their special day this week: Arthur S, Troy J, Alexander H, Bryce T and Finn W.



School Fees

The school fees have been sent home today and including via email to those who requested this option. If you have not received your School Fees by Friday 16th please contact Belinda at the front office as we have been having some IT issues this week. School Fees are due on Friday 2nd March. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Belinda in the Front Office.

Dates to Remember

- ✓ 20th February – Parents and Friends AGM, 6.30pm (all welcome)
- ✓ 22nd February – Swimming Carnival, Kindy – Yr 6
- ✓ 27th Feb – 1st March – Year 5 & 6 Camp to Birrigai
- ✓ 27th February – Kinder to Year 2 Parent Reading Night
- ✓ 2nd March – Whole School Mass, 10am
- ✓ 2nd March – Interim Reports sent home
- ✓ 3rd March – First Reconciliation Retreat

Library News



Another exciting year of reading has truly started today with the Library now open for students to borrow. Let our imaginations run wild.

Canteen

THURSDAY, 15 FEB

9.00am – 11.30am
HELPERS REQUIRED
11.30am – 2.00pm
HELPERS REQUIRED

FRIDAY, 16 FEB

9.00am – 11.30am
HELPERS REQUIRED
11.30am – 2.00pm
HELPERS REQUIRED



Dear Parents and Carers,

The year is off to a flying start and we are straight into the thick of life. Last week I made sausage rolls and had the staff and students try carrot balls and a

new tomato and strawberry salsa. The freshly made muffins sold out and the new Bento box (pictured) on the menu was enjoyed by a number of students.

So with this in mind I will continue to ask for helpers each week. This is to help our small canteen have a wonderful variety of freshly made items for our little cherubs', especially seeing that we are part of the Fresh Tastes program.

Yours and Tongs

Cara Cook, Canteen Manager



Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool is open every Thursday and Friday between 2.50pm to 3.15pm by appointment. Please inform Mrs McRae at the front office.



Student Banking

Get ready for a Super Savers adventure with School Banking.

CAN

This year in School Banking, your child will join the Dollarmites on a Super Savers adventure, developing strong savings skills.

School Banking encourages children to learn the value of saving and rewards those who demonstrate a regular savings behaviour.

New Super Savers reward items.

Introducing an exciting new range of reward items with two released every term. Available in Term 1:

- Twister Power Handball
- Secret Scratch Notepad.

Your child can redeem one of these rewards, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Remember,

 with the CommBank Youth app, it's easy for your child to monitor the Dollarmites tokens they earn when making School Banking deposits and track their savings. Available to download from the App Store on any iOS9+ device.

A chance to win a family trip to Hawaii.

Students who truly are Super Savers will have the chance to win a family trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, staying 7 nights at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort, plus AU\$2,000 spending money.

To enter, students simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3 2018, and they will automatically enter the Super Savers Grand Prize Competition.

To find out more about School Banking, or explore fun activity sheets for your child, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking



CatholicCare
Caring for people & supporting

There for any human

Bringing Up Great Kids



Parents and Carers are invited to Bringing Up Great Kids—a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation for Parents and Carers of children aged 2–13 years. *

This course will give you insights and skills needed to:

- Promote positive and nurturing relationships between parents and children
- Explore the management of stress in your parenting role
- Encourage the development of your child's positive self-identity
- Develop the ability to contain strong emotion and to think through the responses to your child rather than give 'knee-jerk' reactions
- Overcome some of the obstacles that are getting in the way of being the kind of parent you would like to be
- Create opportunities for positive exchanges with your children.

The course is offered 3 hours per week for a 3 - week period.

DATES: Mondays, 19 February - 5 March

TIME: 6PM—9PM

VENUE: 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill

FEE: \$100 (Concessions available)
Fee includes light supper & course materials

Bookings

Essential

Contact

1800 068 698

Parish News

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 9.00am

Youth Mass 7.00pm

Charismatic Mass 7.00pm (last Sunday of the Month)

Baptisms: 11.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

