NEWSLETTER 24

17th August 2016

Let mercy live among us

PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

A rewarding song!

Congratulations to our school choir who took their love of choral singing to the Catholic Primary Schools Choir Festival last week and achieved third place! For a group who went to have fun in singing to an audience they were surprised to have such recognition and we are all very proud of them and not surprised after hearing them lead the singing during our school masses.

Thank you to all of the students who spent many hours practicing during lunch times and thank you to Ms Younger, Mrs Jovi Van Der Kallen and Mrs Maria Dalla Pozza for their support throughout the journey to the Choir Festival and enjoying the fun! You can read a little further about the competition later in this Newsletter.

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

by Michael Grose

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

Nurturing personal and academic growth...

...a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.
However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

**Students not returning in 2016**

As we plan for next year we need to confirm those students not returning to St Benedict’s in 2017. We are then able to set up classes and staffing to match the needs of the students in each year level. Other than Year 6, if your child is not returning to St Benedict’s in 2017 then please inform the school in writing through email ([Matthew.Garton@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Matthew.Garton@cg.catholic.edu.au)) or handwritten note. We are also required to enter the destination school in our records and would appreciate this information as well.

**Rio 2016**

As we watched the Matilda’s play their final game in Rio our hearts did break for the team. Michelle Heyman, the gracious ambassador of our Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival this year had our full support and best wishes for Rio and we congratulate the team on their achievements at the Olympics. They, like many others, worked hard with hope of gold and though they weren’t able to grasp it, we welcome them back as heroes who were skilled enough and worthy enough to represent Australia. It’s has been a great Olympic season.

Matthew Garton  
*Principal*

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Confirmation**

Thank you to all who participated in Sunday’s preparation session for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a great time of faith sharing and development.

**Feast of the Assumption**

Thank you to Year Two and Mr Siljeg for their prayerful preparation and leadership of our Mass on Monday, celebrating the Feast of the Assumption.

Meaghan Younger  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

**SCHOOL NOTICES**

**Fathers’ Day Mass**

As Kindergarten is hosting the Fathers’ Day Mass if anyone has photos of children with their fathers please forward either a hard copy or and digital copy to Mrs Tomadini in Kindergarten.  
Fran.tomadini@cg.catholic.edu.au.
Library News

Next week is BOOK WEEK, the most exciting week of the library year! We will be celebrating on Wednesday, 24th August with a book parade and activities based on some of the short listed books:

Perfect by Danny Parker
Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas by Aaron Blabey
Bogtrotter by Margaret Wild

Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character.

NAPLAN Online – Trial of the new online assessment platform

NAPLAN ONLINE - TRIAL OF THE NEW ONLINE ASSESSMENT PLATFORM

You may have heard that NAPLAN online is being introduced across Australia from 2017, with an aim for all Australian schools administering NAPLAN online by 2019.

NAPLAN online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. Your child’s results will be returned to you faster, within a couple of weeks rather than a couple of months.

Between 16 and 26 August 2016, our school is participating in a trial of the new NAPLAN Online platform (the computer system the test will be taken on). This trial isn’t ‘another’ NAPLAN test for 2016, rather, it is a chance for teachers and students to test the new platform in a real-life classroom environment. A selection of our students will participate in the trial, by undertaking either one or two online tests that include examples of the new NAPLAN online questions. Each of these tests will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

Participating in this trial is important as it will help us make sure we have adequate bandwidth capacity, wireless connectivity, and whether students have access to a sufficient number of devices for NAPLAN testing. During the trial, we will also have the opportunity to practice managing the classroom for an online assessment, as well as the new test administration processes.

Feedback from schools participating in the trial will inform transition to the online assessment as well as provide valuable feedback to shape the final development of the NAPLAN online platform.

Participation in this trial is a key step to ensuring a successful NAPLAN online experience. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Rachel Smith or Matthew Garton.

Further information is available on the Education Directorate Website www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/naplan-online.
School Choir

The 3rd Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Primary Schools Choir Festival was held yesterday at St John Paul II College Nichols, ACT (a great venue) involving some 230 participants, teachers, parents and officials. Participants came from 6 primary schools (2 from NSW and 4 from the ACT. The atmosphere was great and the behaviour and excitement was terrific.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse presented the awards and enjoyed the combined choir performance involving some 180 students and conducted expertly by Mrs Dee McFaul and accompanied by Mr Jim Bowring (both from St Gregory’s School, Queanbeyan. Dee only met the students that day and had them singing beautifully after only 20 minutes of rehearsal. It was her first effort at conducting a combined choir.

The awards were:

1st Place - St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma NSW
2nd Place - St Gregory’s School, Queanbeyan NSW
3rd Place - St Benedict’s Primary School, Narrabundah ACT
Encouragement Award - St John the Apostle Primary School, Florey ACT

A number of choirs had never performed publicly in this type of festival before but were all complimented by the judges on their performances. Our panel of judges comprised – Jaki Kane – Musical Director of St Christopher’s Cathedral, Canberra; Rachel Campbell – Director of Music, Australian Rugby Choir and Director of Music, Intermediate Choir, Woden Valley Youth Choir; Leanne McKean, Head of Music, Radford College and Director of Music, Canberra Men’s Choir.

The trophies were all donated by the Canberra Southern Cross Club with the choir booklets and afternoon tea provided by St John Paul II College.

**The whole festival was run and co-ordinated by the Canberra Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross with the support of Mrs Maree Williams from the Catholic Education Office.**

When asked whether they would like to participate next year, there was a resounding “yes” from the participants.

Thank you to everyone and we hope to see more schools next year – we hope that St John Paul II might again be able to host the festival next year of even another college with the willingness to encourage primary school choirs.

Bob Perkins
Event Co-ordinator
KSC Canberra Branch
12/8/2016
School Photos

The school leader photos are now up on display in the front foyer area. Please come and have a look at this year’s leaders. If you would like to order any, please collect an envelope from front reception or order online below.

8th August 2016

St Benedict’s Primary School

The School Photographer Re-Order Photos

Please find below, a list of all the sports/special photographs. These can be viewed both online at www.theschoolphotographer.com.au and at the school.

School Online Code: S586EL35B

If you wish to order please either;
- collect an order envelope, fill out/enclose payment and return to school.
- visit our website and order/pay online.

The photo prices are:
$16.00 each, 2 for $30.00, 3 for $42.00, 4 for $52.00 or 5 for $60.00.

Any additional photographs are $10.00 each. This discount is only available per family order.

Payment options – Cash or Money Order payments enclosed in the order envelope.
ONLINE Payment by credit card – Envelope NOT required
The photos will be available to view and purchase online

All Orders to be made by 9th September 2016

*Please note if payments are not received before photos are sent to the school,
a late fee of $5 will be incurred*

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MS Readathon 2016 – St Benedict’s Team

We are participating in the MS Readathon 2016 for the St Benedict’s Primary school team. We are currently coming 22nd out of 926 teams! We have been reading some great books!

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is the most common disease of the central nervous system. The Readathon is especially important to us because our uncle, Damo was diagnosed with MS recently. We know that other families in our community have been impacted by this disease. The funds raised by the Readathon will be used to assist people living with MS and their families and for MS research.

We want to raise awareness of MS and we are so happy that other members of our school (Josephine, Fionn and Tessa) have joined the St Benedict’s team for the MS Readathon. Please join our team if you would like to take part in the Readathon, too. We would also really appreciate any donations to the school team.


Thank you! Julia and Brigid N.

Weekly Notes

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

- **Summer Uniform Order** – Due 24th August
- **Expression of Interest** – Boorowa Carnival – Now Due – Last week.
- **Fathers’ Day Stall**
- **School Photos**
- **Trivia Night** – Due 6th September (Adults only)

**Happy Birthday** to the following children who will celebrate their special day this week: Jillian H, Clancy B and Khot G

**LOST AND FOUND**

If you are missing: Samsung camera or large phone battery, X key ring, moroon digital watch or a blue Ipod cable. Please come to the front office and collect.

**Dates to Remember**

- 24th August – Book Week Parade, 9.10am
- 28th August – Mass & Confirmation preparation, 9.00am
- 30th August – P&F meeting, 6.30pm
- 2nd September – First Friday Mass 10.00am
- 2nd September – Father’s Day Stall
- 8th & 9th September – Year 4 Camp
- 10th September – Trivia Night (adults only)
- 11th September – Mass & Confirmation Preparation, 9.00am
- 13th September – School Board Meeting, 6.00pm
- 14th October – School Disco Year’s K-6

**Clothing Pool**

The Clothing Pool is open every Friday after assembly 2.45pm to 3.15pm.
Canteen
FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST  9.00am – 11.30am
Helpers Needed
Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed
Helpers Needed
MONDAY, 22 AUGUST  9.00am – 11.30am
Helpers Needed
Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed
Helpers Needed

Thank you for all helpers so far this year. A new Canteen Roster has been sent home and is also on the website – we are now in urgent need of helpers. If you have anytime available to help even for an hour or so, please continue to let Belinda know at the Front Office.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager

House Point Winners
The points for Week 4, Term 3 were Murramai 2,047, Arakoola 5,020 and Tangara 15,475.

At the end of Week 3, Term 3 the year totals were: Murramai 53,600, Arakoola 59,344 and Tangara 66,773.

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners:
Tangara 15,475!

Well done to Year 5/6S who earned the most house points (9,550)!

Merit Certificates Recipients
KINDERGARTEN  Alec C and Archer B
YEAR 1  Lucia M, Thoreau S, Edith B and Oliver J
YEAR 2  Matthew S and Lillian E
YEAR 3/4E  Ashley L and Claudia C
YEAR 3/4B  Keira M and David T
YEAR 5/6S  Matthew B and Benjamin T
YEAR 5/6Y  James H and Sophie B

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Parish News
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm
Parish Pastoral Council Fr Stephen Fletcher  6295 7879
RCIA Coordinator Matthew Toohey  0409 157 552
Neighbourhood Care
Gowrie Court Helen French  6239 4300
Meals Parish Office  6295 8027
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday  6.00pm
Sunday  9.00am
Youth Mass  7.00pm (last Sunday of the Month)
Charismatic Mass  7.00pm (last Sunday of the Month)
Baptisms: 11.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month
St Thomas More Parish and School

2016 Wine Tasting Event

During the evening you will be able to meet Tim Kirk, Clonakilla CEO, Chief Winemaker, Gourmet Traveller Australian Winemaker of the year 2013 and taste and buy from his great range of Clonakilla wines.

7.30pm - 9.30pm Friday 2 September

St Thomas More's Holy Faith Hall
30 White Crescent Campbell ACT

$40 per person

Canapés and five tasting glasses of Clonakilla wines, including first release of spectacular 2015 Shiraz Viognier

Additional wines can be purchased by the glass

Individual or table group bookings (8 people) available

Live music

Bookings essential

Phone bookings: Julie Ogden 6249 8869

For more information regarding the event
Parish: Lindsay Roe 0428 345 601
School: Candida Spence 0400 327 739

RSVP 26 August 2016

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

For the diary:

Friday, 7 October, 7.30pm-9pm, Hugh Mackay AO, Social Researcher and Author, speaking on "How beliefs can get in the way of faith".

Online bookings open early September.
Violin, Viola and Cello Concert
(Matthew’s students)
Where: St Thomas More’s Primary School
When: Saturday 17th September, 2016
Time: 2.30pm

Do Your Children Love to Sing!! COME JOIN THE WODEN VALLEY YOUTH CHOIR! Auditions will to be held on Saturday, 20 August.

If you are interested in joining this wonderful community please contact;
Rachael Saint: 0417-835-130 or email russrach@live.com.au, for more information.
www.sutherlandact.softball.org.au

Ever wanted to play Softball, T Ball or Diamond Ball?

Did you play softball when you were younger and want to play again?

Do you think your kids would like to have a go?

The Saturday Morning Junior Competition is played at Mawson Playing Fields from October to March (with a break for summer holidays).

We have teams for school age boys and girls
@ T-Ball (8-9 years)
@ Diamond Ball (4 - 5 years)
@ Softball (10+)

Contact person for the Morning Junior Competition is Mike Sargeant on 0411 055 474 or email sutherlandsoftball@gmail.com

Sutherland Softball Club is a friendly family-oriented club that welcomes new members. Check out our website at www.sutherlandact.softball.org.au

Come along to our Gala registration day on Sunday 11 September 11am-1pm
Meet our friendly members, play some games, have a sausage and sign up! You can also register at www.sutherlandact.softball.org.au

The Saturday Afternoon Competition is played at Hawker Playing Fields.

We have teams in the competitive and social grades – so any age and experience welcome.

Contact person for the Afternoon Competition is Alan Bain on 0411 674 355 or email sutherlandsoftball@gmail.com

We also have a mixed team in the Thursday evening Slow Pitch Competition at Hawker – which doesn’t require any experience and is lots of fun! Email sutherlandsoftball@gmail.com for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

St Joseph’s P-6 School is 60 and we would love you to join us!

November 5-6 2016
Email: joeysis60@gmail.com to receive further info and be involved

Open School Afternoon Sat 5 Nov
Dinner at Old Parliament House Evening Sat 5 Nov
Family Mass and Picnic Morning Sun 6 Nov
Play Touch Football this Summer!

With the Summer season approaching, get your friends and team together and register for new season competitions!

By playing Touch Football you are participating in a sport that is high energy, social, non contact and most importantly FUN!

We are on a journey with the NRL to One Million Participants in 2020.

Join Now! Be One in a Million.

The match time is one hour - low time commitment

All matches are played at one venue – see all the children play at once!

It develops motor skills - great way for children to learn to run, catch and throw!

It requires limited equipment - don’t need to spend the extra money!

It is a social, team sport - 14 players in a team!

It is highly inclusive - no time around on the sideline!

It is family friendly - mum and dad can play too!

It is fast paced with constant action - exciting to watch, plus tires the children out!

Boys and girls can play - brothers and sisters can play together!

It is safe - reduced risk of injury!

It is easy to learn - first time players will pick it up quickly!

It is fun!

PLAY NRL.COM

To find a junior competition near you visit

touchfootball.com.au

then type your postcode into the locator

Where can I play?

Search

Postcode/Suburb  Club name