Let mercy live among us

PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

Dear St Benedict’s Families,

We welcome back Mrs Amanda Basedow who has returned after a few weeks away. My sincere thanks to Mrs Ann Geysen who taught in 3/4B during her time away. It was absolutely lovely to have Mrs Geysen back with us again.

Education and the Federal Election

It’s election time again and education becomes one of the topics for public debate and so it should be. It is through education policy and funding that parties show us their vision, interest and care for our children and their future. Our children are very important to us and therefore should be for any aspiring government.

Sometimes during the lead up to an election we in schools want to get on with the job of providing a great education for the children we teach without media distraction. But election time is also an opportunity for parents and teachers in Catholic schools to really understand the impact their votes have on nature of school funding, the value of parent contributions through fees and the policy focuses of the various parties about the education we provide for their children.

I will include a little information each week that is relevant to this election but if you are curious to learn a little more then please visit www.schoolfundingfacts.com to seek answers to your questions.
Inquiry Learning
If you are familiar with the International Baccalaureate (IB) then you would know something about Inquiry Learning, a form of pedagogy that the IB program is based on.

Inquiry Learning is not unique to the IB program. While the IB program has seen the value in this approach for years, many Catholic schools in the ACT are now introducing Inquiry Learning into their teaching & learning program as well. We are doing the same, in fact, we have been on this journey for over a year now.

Inquiry Learning is a broad way of teaching that begins with a question posed or a problem to be solved. It involves students in a process of curiosity, information seeking, skills development, constructing understandings and taking action. Some important elements of teaching and learning through inquiry include:

- an equal emphasis on learning skills as well as knowledge, e.g. skills of scientific inquiry;
- genuine curiosity, wonderment and questioning (by teachers AND students);
- student ownership and ‘voice’ in their learning through asking questions, reflecting on their understandings, evaluating their own achievements, receiving feedback and taking action from it;
- a focus on developing deep understandings about the world that can be used to understand new experiences and new knowledge as they grow and learn;
- the importance of learning through hands-on experiences, research, processing information and communicating understandings in variety of ways;
- students learning from each other, together with others, and from those outside of the classroom context.

Inquiry Learning happens here at St Benedict’s and we are currently in the process of drafting a Curriculum Map of exciting units of Inquiry across the year for all year levels. Every student will be engaged in engaging and rich learning about the world. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting curriculum later in the year.

Matthew Garton

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

First Communion
How are you going with your workbooks? Please remember to set aside some time each week to complete a couple of pages at a time. The entire book needs to be finished by July. See you at the Retreat Day on Sunday 5 June. We will begin with Mass at 9:00am and finish by 1:00pm.

Mini Vinnies
This term our St Benedict’s Mini Vinnies team have turned their thoughts to those who live on our streets or are in some way homeless. We are very aware that keeping warm through Canberra’s winter would be very difficult without your own home for shelter and heating. We would like to have another go at making blankets to keep the homeless warm. We will begin knitting/ crocheting squares on Fridays at lunchtimes. We are in desperate need of the wisdom and skills of our knitting/crocheting community. If you can knit or crochet and could give a little time on Fridays, 1:30 – 2:10pm, to help children perfect their own talents with these useful skills it would be most appreciated.
We are also looking for someone who is able to sew together the squares at the end of the project. We already have enough squares to make one blanket and would love to have it sewn up now to help inspire our young knitters.

If you would like to let us know you can help on Fridays, with knitting at home or with sewing up our squares into blankets please contact Meaghan Younger at St Benedict’s School on 6295 8027.

Mountainview Mass

Tomorrow, Thursday 19th May, Year Six students will visit Mountainview Retirement Village and take part in the monthly healing liturgy. This is a part of the Year Six Leadership program, offering students opportunities to reach out within our community. This year it has special significance as we learn more about the Corporal Works of Mercy in this Jubilee Year of Mercy and take part in ‘healing the sick’ and ‘welcoming the stranger’.

Our Lady, Help of Christians – May 24

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's. Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainbleau. The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary. The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome. Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness. Our Lady, Help of Christians is still Australia’s principal patron saint today. St Mary MacKillop of the Cross has been added as another patron saint for Australia, and Australia’s first Australian-born saint.

We celebrate her feast day on 8th August.

St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in Our Lady’s honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry, who arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral. When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title.

To help celebrate Mary, Help of Christians’ Feast Day next Tuesday I am asking for any donations of flowers to help decorate our prayer focus in the front foyer. If you have some flowers to share could they please be brought in on Monday or Tuesday next week? Students will also be having a special focus next week on Mary and the special prayers and rituals we associate with her.

Sorry Day

St Benedict’s school community will pause to mark Sorry Day next Thursday, 26 May. Year One are very busy preparing to lead us in a special liturgy where we will reflect on Sorry Day and how to take healing steps forward in our country. The whole school will gather in the Hall at 1:00 for this liturgy. Parents and families are warmly invited to join us for Sorry Day.

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator
SCHOOL NOTICES

Canteen
FRIDAY, 20 May 9.00am – 11.30am
Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed
MONDAY, 23 May 9.00am – 11.30am
Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed

Thank you for all help given. Please let Belinda know at the Front Office if you are able to help (even for an hour or two). Any time will be greatly appreciated.

Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Slade B, Georgina K, Ava D and Xavier D

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

- School Photo Form – Due by 31st May
- School Fees – Due by 25th May.

Dates to Remember
✓ 19th May – Year 6 Healing Liturgy at Mountainview 10.00am.
✓ 25th May – Kindergarten Screening Tests
✓ 26th May – Sorry Day Liturgy 1.00pm
✓ 31st May – ICAS Science
✓ 31st May – School Photo’s (Change of date)

Merit Certificates Recipients
KINDERGARTEN
Archer B

YEAR 1
Santino E, Isabelle H, Ria C, Rafael V and Alain K

YEAR 2
Mila M, Juach G

YEAR 3/4E
Grace L, April A

YEAR 3/4B
Lara H, Daniel N, Addison C

YEAR 5/6S
Khot J, Charlotte G

YEAR 5/6Y
Oliva K, Elvy B

ITALIAN
Reimer D, Charlotte G

House Point Winners
The points for Week 3, Term 2 were Murramai 693, Arakoola 570 and Tangara 835.

At the end of Week 3, Term 2 the year totals were:
Murramai 9,642, Arakoola 9,210 and Tangara 8,600.

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners:
Tangara 835!

Well done to Year5/6Y who earned the most house points (550)!

Clothing Pool
The school Clothing Pool will be opened each Friday straight after assembly, 2.50pm to 3.15pm.

School Photos Change
Please make a note on your calendars the change of date to Tuesday 31st May, all students will need to be in full winter school uniform. All school photo order forms must be return on or before Tuesday 31st May (Photo Day).

School Banking
A number of students are handing their Bank Books in on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. Staff are allocated time on Wednesdays only for Student Banking. All Bank Books need to be at the Front Office Wednesday morning at the latest.

Cross Country
We would like to congratulate all the following students that received ribbons at this year’s Cross Country.

Archie B Ruby S Alain K
Alec C Sophia R Michael R
Rafael V Tessa P Joshua L
Erik E  Isadora N  Ari B
Ciru N  Lucia M  Ria C
Edith B  Matthew S  Fionn L
Michael T  William C  Amelia C
Jade C  Lillian E  Joanna M
Samuel S  Addison C  Marcello M
Kyle Q  Teresa D  Mia B
Brigid N  Mila M  Sebastian B
Riley W  David T  Johny M
Taylah G  Cara H  Layla C
Grace L  Matthew S  Lewis A
Sean F  Anica K  Chloe D
Sophia M

**P & F Updates**
The P & F are planning the following events and fundraisers for this year:

- Entertainment Books for 2016/2017: These will soon be available for purchasing. These books contain fantastic dining, accommodation and family entertainment discount coupons.
- School Disco.
- Trivia Night for parents.
- Father’s Day Stall: To be held at the school in Term 3.

The next P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th June, 6:30pm in the school library. All parents and friends of St Benedicts are welcome to attend.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Enrolment Period**
The Year 7 2017 enrolment period will close on Friday 20th May 2016. Should you be considering enrolling your sons or daughters for Year 7 next year, please submit your application by Friday 20th May.

**Rural & Regional School Student Transport Scheme**
If you have or know of anyone that has Students that travel on NSW’s transport system, please have a look at the 4-page document on the school website. The document will answer general questions, explain the application process and the bus operator’s roles.

**G.A.T.E. WAYS PARENT ENROLLED MID YEAR FESTIVALS - OPEN FOR ENROLMENT**
The Canberra K-7 Festival will be hosted by Canberra Grammar School in Red Hill on Monday and Tuesday June 27 and 28 from 8.45 - 2.30.
Enrolment instructions are on our website.
Information can be found at [www.gateways.edu.au](http://www.gateways.edu.au) and go to Parent Enrolled Programs.