Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done Year 2

Last Friday I was fortunate enough to visit the Year 2 Showcase for their independent research projects into the life cycle of various animals. It was wonderful. I learnt so much from them. I learnt that some zebras are black with white stripes while some are white with black stripes. I learnt that there was a creature called a Yeti Crab and that it is hairy! I learnt that frogmouths are not owls, they are completely different animals.

There was so much work and learning that had gone into their project presentations. I know that at this young age parents and teachers provide a lot of guidance and help. It is good for those parents and teachers to know that every child I asked questions of was very fluent in their answers and thorough in their understanding of the facts they’d learnt.

I praised them at assembly and acknowledged that if this is what they can do with a little assistance in Year 2 then imagine what they will do by Year 6 as they journey along our Primary Learning Program (Years 3 -6). Well done Year 2!

School Reports & Parent-Teacher Interviews

On Friday you will receive your child’s school report. It has been a thorough joy to read about the achievements of our students. Throughout this Semester I have seen great examples of the extra effort that many of our students apply to their learning. I feel privileged to be part of a small school where the Principal can be directly engaged with each learner in some way and see how their learning enthuses them, drives them and gives them energy and life.

I just want to remind you that these reports are designed for parents and not for children and should be viewed by you first. They will be handed out to students on Friday so please make sure that you let them know to hand them to you first before being opened. There will be a cover letter inside the envelope that reminds you of the way the reports are structured and helps with interpretation.

The report structure is standard across all Catholic systemic primary schools. Catholic Education is currently looking at ways to restructure the report to reflect the new Australian Curriculum and the teaching and learning strategies that now take place in our schools. We are looking forward to making some changes that will increase the effectiveness of reporting on student learning.

Parent-Teacher interviews are on next Monday and Tuesday after school in the hall. Thank you to all those parents who sent in their preferences for times. Teachers have organised the times and you should receive
notes today that tell you when your child’s time is. If you didn’t send back the preference form the teachers have allocated you a time and sent this home with your child today. Please advise the teacher directly if this time does not work for you.

Below I have included a copy of Michael Grose’s article Reading your child’s report. It has some simple but important advice on how you can use this opportunity to continue building your child’s academic confidence.

Thank you for your support and collaboration.

Matthew Garton
Principal

Reading your child’s report

By Michael Grose

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:
Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

First Communion

Sebastian  Teresa  Johny
Layla      Grace  Maxima
Claudia    Marcello  David
Brooke     John    Ventura
Joel       Jacinta  Levi
Gregoire

It is with great anticipation that we pray with the above named students and parishioners as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion this weekend. All members of our parish and school community are invited to share this special celebration on Sunday 26th June at the 9:00am Mass. There will be morning tea in the Father Greg Collins Wing after Mass.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Sunday 3rd July is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. St Benedict’s Parish is fortunate to be hosting the Diocesan Mass for this special day. Bishop Prowse will be the celebrant for the 9:00am Mass, focusing on our Indigenous brothers and sisters and our shared journey of reconciliation. I understand it is the first Sunday of the mid-year school holidays but it would be a wonderful community building opportunity to make a special effort for our families of St Benedict’s School to attend the 9:00am Mass on Sunday 3rd July and be a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.
St Benedict’s Day

Our custom at St Benedict’s School is to honour our patron saint, St Benedict, on the last day of Term Two even though St Benedict’s Feast Day is actually 11th July and falls in the holidays. So set aside Friday 1st July to come along and celebrate our Feast Day with the whole school. We will have our traditional Mass at 10:00am and look forward to seeing many families there. All students and staff who have joined our community since last St Benedict’s Day will receive their own St Benedict’s medal. Students and teachers from across the whole school are involved in preparation of elements of Friday’s Mass. After Mass there is a shared morning tea under the trees for the children and morning tea in the Library for parents and staff. Could Parent Representatives in each class please coordinate parents to assist with morning tea (including set up and cleaning up afterwards). There will be a Talent Quest held after morning tea.

Mini Vinnies

Wow! Wooly Wednesday was a HUGE success last week. Thank you so very much to everyone who took the time to go through cupboards and find the lovely, warm clothing and blankets that have been donated. Jaime, from Mini Vinnies, visited us yesterday to collect our donations and to present the school with a certificate of appreciation. There were so many donations her car was full to overflowing and we have arranged for the St Vincent de Paul people to come and collect the rest of it soon. Thank you again, locals who are doing it tough will benefit from your generosity.

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator

SCHOOL EVENTS

Athletics Carnival

The Athletics Carnival is a whole school event, Kindergarten to Year 6. The carnival is tomorrow Thursday 23rd June, 9.15am to 1.00pm at the Woden Park Athletics Field (also known as Phillip Oval 3). The students will be transported to and from the Oval via a bus with the arrival time back to school being 1.30pm.

If your child is late to school tomorrow (after 9.15am) you will need to drop your child to the Woden Park Athletics Field as no teaching staff will be at school between 9.15am and 1.30pm.

What to Bring: Labelled

- Full Sport Uniform including Jumper and sport shoes / running shoes. (Warm Clothing)
- All students may wear a coloured Tee Shirt to support their sporting house colours.
- Water Bottles
- Lots of Food for Recess and Lunch
SCHOOL NOTICES

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Michael R, Emily S, Tessa P and Claudia C.

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

- Boorowa Netball Carnival
- Catholic Schools Netball Carnival
- School Fee Reminders – Overdue

Dates to Remember
✓ 23rd June – Athletics Carnival
✓ 24th June – ACT 12&U Swimming Championships
✓ 24th June – School Reports to go Home
✓ 26th June – First Eucharist Celebration 9.00am Mass
✓ 27th June – 9.30am – 11.30am Mother’s Prayer Group & morning tea.
✓ 27th & 28th June – Parent Teacher Interviews
✓ 1st July – Last Day of Term 2

Merit Certificates Recipients
KINDERGARTEN  Mikayla T, Tessa P, Allanah C
YEAR 1  Oliver M, Finn W, James N
YEAR 2  Sam S, Lillian E
YEAR 3/4E  Joel T, Imogen B
YEAR 3/4B  Jacinta V
YEAR 5/6S  Oliver L, Josephine S, Ainsleigh B
YEAR 5/6Y  James Hipwell
ITALIAN  Ari B, Edith B

Canteen
FRIDAY, 24 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am
 Helpers Needed
 Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
 Helpers Needed
 Helpers Needed
MONDAY, 27 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am
 Helpers Needed
 Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
 Helpers Needed
 Helpers Needed

Thank you for all helpers that have given some time over the past couple of weeks as your help has been invaluable. Please continue to let Belinda know at the Front Office if you are able to help over the next couple of weeks. Any time will be greatly appreciated.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager

Lost Property
All lost property is now on display in the canteen area. Items will be there for collection between Tuesday and Thursday this week and next week. If your child is missing any items please ask them to have a look. All remaining items will be taken during the holidays, washed and returned to the Clothing Pool.

House Point Winners
The points for Week 8, Term 2 were Murramai 5,276, Arakoola 4,509 and Tangara 5,915.

At the end of Week 8, Term 2 the year totals were: Murramai 27,213, Arakoola 26,449 and Tangara 28,600.

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners: Tangara 5,915!

Well done to Year 2 who earned the most house points (3,900)!
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
Charismatic Mass 7.00pm (last Sunday of the Month)
Baptisms: 11.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

Special Masses:
Sunday 3rd July 9.00am – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mass with Archbishop Prowse and members of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Sunday Youth Mass: Youth Mass is held at 7pm on the last Sunday of every month. Next Youth Mass is 26th June.

Mother’s Prayers Group
On the last Monday of Term, 27th June at 9.30am. The Mother’s Prayers group will be meeting in the school Library for their weekly prayer session and all are welcome. At 11.00am they will then be putting on a morning tea for all.

Marymead
Monster Garage Sale – Saturday 2 July – 9.00am – 1.00pm
Come along and snap up a bargain at the Monster Garage Sale on Saturday, 2 July from 9.00am - 1.00pm at 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah. There will be plants, books, craft, toys, bric-a-brac and clothing for sale with all proceeds going to Marymead. Also enjoy the sausage sizzle with sausages proudly donated by our friends at the Griffith Butchery.

NAIDOC Week Celebration – Tuesday 5 July – 11.00am – 2.00pm
Marymead together with several other community organisations are celebrating NAIDOC Week (3-10 July) at Marymead. On 5 July from 11.00am – 2.00pm. NAIDOC Week is a time to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Come along with your friends and family and enjoy this free event, which will feature indigenous displays and stalls, entertainment and a BBQ lunch.
CANBERRA OLD TIME DANCE CLUB BALL WEEKEND
Thank you St Benedict’s for allowing us to hire your beautiful hall for our Old Time and New Vogue Sequence Dance weekend.

We held our usual Club Dance on Thursday evenings. Approximately 60 persons danced the night away at the Pre Ball Social on the Friday evening. We transformed the Hall into our Bush Capital on Saturday morning and in the evening we had visitors from Bairnsdale, Lithgow, Oberon, Albury, Guyra and many local groups – all dressed in their formal gear. Our musician from Victoria played his heart out both nights and we wearily went home just after 12 Midnight. Some fronted up Sunday to dismantle the decorations and met up for lunch at one of the local Clubs and onwards for coffee and leftovers at the President’s home in Fisher. We hope we are all able to do it all again in 2017.

Duncan Souter
Speech Pathology

Free Consultations
for primary school aged children

Issues discussed during the 20 minute consultation may include:

✓ Speech sounds  ✓ Spelling / reading
✓ Stuttering       ✓ Comprehension
✓ Following directions ✓ Forming sentences
✓ Vocabulary       ✓ Grammar

THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Level 4 Woden Centre, 20 Bradley Street Woden

Please contact us to secure your place.
Bookings are essential.

MAXIMISING POTENTIAL
1800 7 ASONE (27663)
asonetherapy.com.au  info@asonetherapy.com.au
Occupational Therapy

Free Consultations!!

Does your child have difficulty with fine motor or self care tasks?

This school holidays asOne Therapy will be offering a limited number of free consultations with our Occupational Therapist.

Issues discussed during the consultation may include:

- Eating
- Sensory Processing
- Handwriting
- Cutting
- Dressing

THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Level 4 Woden Centre

Please contact us to secure your place.

Bookings are essential.

MAXIMISING POTENTIAL

1800 7 ASONE (27663)

asonetherapy.com.au  info@asonetherapy.com.au