



St Benedict's Primary School

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NEWSLETTER 8

28th March 2018

Let mercy live among us

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move closer to Easter and celebrating the Risen Christ we prepare ourselves during Lent by remembering those times we have hurt ourselves and those we love and live with.

Throughout the gospels, when Jesus' simple presence challenged others there was no judgement, just forgiveness born out of love. During Lent we seek, receive and offer forgiveness in our relationships to bring the harmony and peace that is the very presence of God's love.

Walk gently this week and take moments to pause and be a presence for peace and forgiveness amongst your family, friends and colleagues. Most importantly, allow the peace and humility that comes from forgiving yourself, help you to experience the love God has for you, shown through the passion and rising of Jesus this Easter time.

A Reflection on the Cross

Christians attempt to comfort sufferers by touting the benefits of suffering. "Suffering builds character," we say. "I don't want character," says the sufferer. "I want relief." Then come the inevitable questions: "Why does God let bad things happen?" and "Where is God when it hurts?"

The care that parents give their children suggests answers to both questions. For example, suppose a seven-year-old girl is taking her first ride on a bicycle. Her father, running alongside her, sees that she is about to hit a rough spot on the road but restrains his impulse to reach out and steady the bike. The dad wants his little girl to learn how to ride with confidence, so he does not prevent her fall. When the bike bounces off the bump, the girl panics, tumbles to the pavement, and scrapes her elbow and knee. The dad scoops her up into his arms and comforts her. Then he carries her into the house, cleans and dresses her scratches, holds her on his lap, and tells her a favourite story.

God is like that dad. He lets us navigate our way, but he stays alongside us. He does not prevent bad things from happening because he wants us to learn to deal confidently with hardship. But when we suffer, God scoops us up and stays with us. He shares our pain, sustains us, and consoles us.

That's the message of the cross, and signing ourselves opens us to hearing it. God's only Son became a man in Christ. In his human nature, God himself suffered rejection, humiliation, ridicule, abandonment, buffetings, scourging, crucifixion, and death. He embraced suffering as a man so that he could comfort us in our suffering.

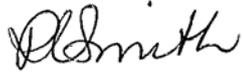
Nurturing personal and academic growth...

...a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.

When we make the sign of the cross we invite the Lord to join us in our suffering. We touch our forehead and move down to our breast, telling the Lord with this gesture that we want him to bend down to us. Then we cross our shoulders in a movement that asks him to support us—to shoulder us—in our suffering. From [The Sign of the Cross](#) by Bert Ghezzi.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and holy Easter.

God Bless.



Rachel Smith
Principal

Principal's Notes

Reconciliation

Congratulations to our students who experienced the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday. It was a lovely celebration and was made even more special by the families then joining the Parish for the Saturday vigil mass.

Thank you to each family for their partnership in preparing the students. Thank you also to Nat Wright, Camille Ellison, Nicole Jones and Melanie Stratford for the support they gave the students and thank you to Fr Dan for making this sacrament such a prayerful and reflective experience for all involved.

Palm Sunday Liturgy

Thank you to Fran Tomadini and Kindergarten for their prayerful leadership of the liturgy on Monday. We were led to reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and what it means for us to welcome Jesus. We are challenged to remember to be faithful to Jesus, particularly in times of difficulty.

Holy Week Liturgy

Tomorrow, Thursday 29 March at 10:15am students in Years 1/2 Blue and Year 6 will lead the whole school through a liturgy for The Last Supper and The Passion. Weather permitting we will begin this liturgy in the courtyard and then move into the hall. We will remember Jesus' last meal with his friends and the important messages he was trying to impart. We reflect on Jesus' passion and death on Good Friday. We will wait with hopeful hearts for Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter Liturgy

On Tuesday, 3rd April, students from Year Four will lead the whole school in an Easter celebration of The Resurrection. This will begin at 10:30am on the oval.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt

Next Tuesday, 3rd April, at 11.30am after our final Easter liturgy students are invited to participate in our Easter Bonnet Parade. Following the Easter Bonnet Parade our Year 6 Peer Support Leaders will lead us in an Easter egg hunt around the school grounds.

Working Bee

We have our working bee happening on Saturday 7th of April. If you are available to help for an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated.

Remember, many hands make light work!

Uniform Sale

Thank you to Barbra Cox and her wonderful helpers for a well-attended 'Clothing Pool Open Air Sale Day' last Thursday. If you missed last week's sale the clothing pool is open by appointment on Thursdays and Fridays and is well stocked with a variety of sizes and uniform pieces. Thank you to Barbra for the hard work you put into the clothing pool and the service you provide to our wider school community.

Disco

Thank you to everyone who came to the school disco on Friday evening. It was fun, relaxing and a great opportunity for parents to catch up and see their children happy with friends. Thank you to the P&F, in particular Belinda Daunt and Sonia Domitrak for their organisation of the night. Thank you to the parents who helped out on the night by cooking the BBQ, serving in the Canteen and manning the doors. We appreciated your help. Thank you also to the staff who attended. We look forward to the next opportunity to all get together.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

Sacraments



Congratulations to the children who experienced the greatness of God's love and forgiveness through the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Saturday evening. We will continue to pray for these students as they continue their sacramental journey into Term 2 in preparation for First Eucharist.

School Easter Liturgies

The Last Supper and Passion Liturgy	10:15am Thursday 29 th March	Courtyard in front of the hall, then moving into the hall.	1/2 Blue and Year 6 Blue and Gold
Resurrection Liturgy	10:30am Tuesday 3 rd April	Courtyard in front of the hall.	Year 4 Gold and Blue

St Benedict's Parish Easter Liturgies



Holy Thursday 7:30pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10:30am, Liturgy 3pm

Saturday Vigil 7pm Easter

Sunday Mass 9am and Charismatic Mass 7pm

First Friday Mass



Year 5 Gold and Blue will be preparing the First Friday Mass for April which will be on Friday 6th April. 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 5 Gold and Blue. Parents are invited to stay after Mass for morning tea and a chat with Staff in the Library. Parents of the hosting class are welcome to bring their child along to the morning tea.

Project Compassion



Please return your Project Compassion donation boxes to school by Friday Week 9 (6th April). Your generous donations will be used to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity for many people around the world. For more information regarding Project Compassion please visit <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

Global School Partners



St Benedict's Primary School has been partnered with Gesore Preparatory School in Kenya through a program called Global School Partners. Global School Partners facilitates partnerships between schools in Australia and schools in developing nations to enable students from across the globe to connect, share and learn with one another. In addition, Australian schools are encouraged to support their partner school through fundraising for school projects. Global School Partners is 100% run by volunteers and is a 100% not for profit program. The first stage of this partnership will involve developing our student's awareness and understanding of the relationship between developing and developed nations. Our students will gain an understanding of the life and culture of the students at Gesore Preparatory School and the realisation that they can make a difference to the lives of others. We are looking forward to commencing this global mission as a school community. Opportunities for sponsoring individual students at Gesore Preparatory School is also available. For more information please visit <http://www.globalschoolpartners.org.au/>

Are You Handy with a Sewing Machine?



We are looking for some helpers to assist with making liturgical prayer table cloths. We need approximately 34 1 x 1m square cloths hemmed. If you are able to assist, please email natalie.zarb@cg.catholic.edu.au

Student News

Lasting Energy Saving Plan at St Benedict's

Last week on Friday was Earth hour. Although this day is amazing at St Benedict's we want to create a longer lasting approach to Earth hour.

We are holding a competition where all the classes are making their own energy saving plan for their classroom. On Thursday this week all the classes will present their plan to us and the winning class will receive an awesome prize.

The Environmental Leaders:

Julia N, Imogen B and Molly W



St Benedict's Earth Hour Competition

What plan will your class come up with to save electricity every day?

Enter your plan into our competition to see which class can be the most energy efficient?

Plans Due Thursday 29th March. Send to the Environmental Leaders



IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

CHOCOLATE REWARDED

As you all may know, Easter will soon be here and we would like to reward you for your hard work so far this year. By doing so we have organised a **CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG HUNT!** As you may be excited the teachers and us (Peer Support Leaders) will hide many chocolates (all shapes and sizes) around the school for you to find. At the end of the session you may trade chocolates with others chocolates and have a chocolate FEAST!! And when is this scrumptious day you may ask, it is Tuesday 3rd of April. As for the people who have allergies please let your teacher know on the day to receive a prize of your very own!

Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool will be open this Thursday only as Good Friday is a public holiday. See you on Thursday, otherwise enjoy the Easter break.

Lost Property

We have just gone through the lost property box and have handed back the uniforms that has names on it. We also discovered that there was a large amount of every day clothes left over from the Disco and Harmony day, please take some time and have a look in the lost property box otherwise it is very generous of you to donate the clothes to St Vincent de Paul.

Over the next couple of weeks the lost property box is going to be slowly cleared, so now is the opportunity to have a look before everything is taken cleaned and either given to St Vincent de Paul or the school clothing pool for repurchasing.

Happy Birthday to the children who celebrate their special day this week: Carla C and Jade C.

Weekly Notes

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

- Queanbeyan Basketball – Term 2



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

Dates to Remember

- ✓ 29th March – Passion Liturgy, 10.30am (court yard – all welcome)
- ✓ 30th March – Good Friday
- ✓ 1st April – Easter Sunday
- ✓ 3rd April – Easter Liturgy, 10.30am (Court yard – all welcome)
- ✓ 6th April – Whole School Mass, 10.00am (all welcome – morning tea after in the Library)
- ✓ 7th April – P&F Working Bee, 8.00am to 12noon
- ✓ 8th April – Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival
- ✓ 10th April – School Board Meeting, 6.00pm
- ✓ 11th April – Cross Country – Whole school event
- ✓ 12th April – Learning Showcase, 2.00pm (all welcome)
- ✓ 13th April – Outdoor Education Day
- ✓ 13th April – Last day Term 1



Wanted

Empty shoe boxes - If anyone has any empty shoe boxes laying around that they don't want Year 5 would really appreciate them! Please drop any unwanted shoe boxes to the front office. Many Thanks!!

School News

ICAS TESTING

ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. ICAS provides a suite of academic assessments for primary (Years 3-6) and secondary school students but **this testing is optional**. These tests do not assess recall of curriculum content, but rather assess the higher order thinking and problem solving skills needed for success in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling and Digital Technologies.

This year the tests are being conducted in May, June, July and August. **If you would like your child to participate in any of these tests, please return the accompanying note and payment by Wednesday 28th March.**

ICAS TEST	DATE OF TESTING	COST
Digital Technologies	Tuesday 8 th May	\$9.90
Science	Tuesday 29 th May	\$9.90
Writing	Thursday 14 th June	\$19.80
Spelling	Wednesday 13 th June	\$13.20
English	Tuesday 31 st July	\$9.90
Mathematics	Tuesday 14 th August	\$9.90

I would like my child/ren _____ in class/es _____ to participate in the nominated ICAS tests. I have included the required payment for each of these tests.

(please mark)

Digital Technologies	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$9.90	Tuesday 8 th May.
Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$9.90	Tuesday 29 th May.
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$19.80	Thursday 14 th June
Spelling	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$13.20	Wednesday 13 th June
English	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$9.90	Tuesday 31 st July
Mathematics	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 9.90	Tuesday 14 th August

Total money included: \$ _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer

Name: _____

Canteen

THURSDAY, 29th March No Canteen

Dear parents, carers and friends.

Easter is upon us. How exciting. Loads of chocolatey fun for all the family. Although Easter is time for reflection, it is a wonderful time to spend with those we love, sharing a meal and watching children indulge on colourful foil-wrapped rabbits, eggs and just sweet brown deliciousness in general.



It also marks my mid-semester exams. Unfortunately, my first mid-semester exam falls on Holy Thursday and therefore the Tuckshop will not be open. I try very hard to limit absences from my role as much as possible, however exam timetabling is something I have no control over. Please accept my sincerest apologies for my absence and the closure of the Tuckshop.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

Yours in tongs

Cara Cook, Canteen Manager

Growth Mind Set Awards

1/2Blue	Miah H
1/2Gold	Ekamjot K
3/4Blue	Adam A
3/4Gold	Matthew S
5/6Blue	Sophia M
5/6Gold	Mia Brookman

Merit Certificate Recipients

KINDERGARTEN	Alishia W & Jayden L
1/2Blue	Rocky-James & Joe R
1/2Gold	Alana W, Archie B & Lalia D
3/4Blue	Lailani A, Zack W & Adam O
3/4Gold	Zella K, Amelia C & Michael R
5/6Blue	Lara H & Jacinta V
5/6Gold	Cara H & Keira M

SAVE THE DATE

Marian Procession & Youth Pilgrimage 2018

Sunday 14 October 2018

St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

For more details contact 02 6239 8500

www.cgatholic.org.au

8.30am Youth Pilgrimage

10.30am Sacrament of Penance

11.30am Mass with Archbishop Yllana

12.30pm BYO lunch

2:00pm Procession to the grotto

Diversity Challenges Chatterbox

Can your friends complete a challenge within 24 hours?

Instructions:

1. Colour in the **background** of each corner picture a different colour (eg one background red, another blue etc). Then colour in all of the people and numbers.
2. Write different challenges on the lines (see suggestions).
3. Cut out the square.
4. Turn the square over, and with the square face down, fold the four corners to the centre.
5. Turn over and fold all corners to the centre again.
6. Fold in half, crease, and repeat in the other direction.
7. Put your thumbs and index fingers in the pockets and you're ready to play Diversity Challenges Chatterbox.

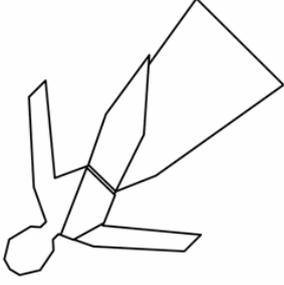
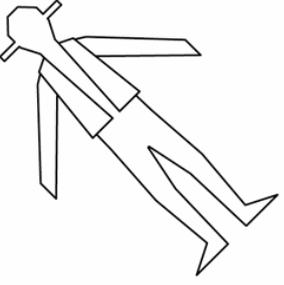
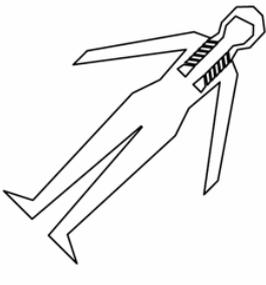
How to play:

1. Hold the chatterbox closed with only the four people showing.
2. Ask someone to choose one of the four people and name the background colour.
3. Open and close the chatterbox in different directions the number of times of the letters in the chosen background colour (eg if they choose red – three times).
4. Ask the person to choose a number from the centre of the chatterbox.
5. Open and close the chosen number of times.
6. Ask the person to pick another number. Lift up the flap and read their challenge to them. They have 24 hours to complete the challenge.

Some Suggested Diversity Challenges

- Find out where your best friend's grandparents were born.
- Learn to say 'thank you' in another language.
- Find out the name of the Indigenous people who originally lived where you live now.
- Say something friendly to a person in your class you don't usually talk to.
- Find a word in English that comes from another language.
- Ask your teacher if she/he can speak any other languages.
- Try eating some food you've never eaten before.
- Find out how many people in your class have been outside of Australia.
- Help someone who is younger than you to do something.
- Find someone who is bilingual (can speak two languages).
- Make up your own challenge!

Diversity Challenge Chatterbox

 1	Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	2	
8	Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	3	
Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	
4	Write your diversity challenge here	Write your diversity challenge here	5	
	6	Write your diversity challenge here	7	