Dear Parents and Carers,

Enrolment period begins this week and we are having our Open Day tomorrow. I love this time of year because it is a time to watch the Year 6 students take tours with parents and families. I have been fortunate enough to have been at this school since these Year 6 students were in Kindergarten and I feel very proud of the maturity and responsibility they display when it is required of them. I am also enamored by the care and concern they show for welcoming our guests and helping them feel comfortable.

I would like to share with you a reflection I recently heard from a colleague. It is a reminder in this Year of Mercy that we need to be merciful to ourselves.

I’ve learned

I’ve learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
I’ve learned that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
I’ve learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
I’ve learned to never say no to a gift from a child.
I’ve learned that I can always pray for someone when I don’t have the strength to help in some other way.
I’ve learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
I’ve learned that sometimes all a person needs a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I’ve learned that we should be glad God doesn’t give us everything we ask for.
I’ve learned that it’s those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
I’ve learned that under everyone’s hard shell is someone who wanted to be appreciated and loved.
I’ve learned that the Lord didn’t do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
I’ve learned that love, not time, heals all wounds.
I’ve learned that you can make someone’s day by simply sending them a little note.
I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by how they handle these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas lights.
I’ve learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you’ll miss them when they are gone from your life.

I’ve learned that making a ‘living’ is not the same thing as making a ‘life’.

I’ve learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I’ve learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I’ve learned that I still have a lot to learn.

This Friday we welcome our Director, Ms Moira Najdecki, who will be visiting our school and meeting members of our community. We appreciate her ongoing support and interest in the journey and life of the school.

Be kind and merciful to yourselves over the coming weeks as you continue the journey of learning and growing.

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.

First Friday Mass
This Friday, 6th May, the whole school will gather to celebrate our First Friday Mass. The theme for this Mass will be ‘mothers’. Year One are very excited to be preparing the readings and music for this special Mass. All families are invited to join us at this liturgical celebration. We will be blessing all mothers within our community as a part of this Mass.

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator
SCHOOL NOTICES

Canteen
FRIDAY, 6 May 9.00am – 11.30am
  Helpers Needed
  11.30am – 2.00pm
  Helpers Needed
MONDAY, 9 May 9.00am – 11.30am
  Helpers Needed
  11.30am – 2.00pm
  Helpers Needed

Thank you for all help given.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Peter C, Gabriella S, Elvy B, Lauren C, Obi O and Oliver L.

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

- Canteen Roster – Helpers Needed
- Scholastic Bookclub – Due by 13th May
- RedGum Bookclub – Due by 23rd May
- School Fees – Due by 25th May.

Dates to Remember
✓ 5th May – Open Day 9am – 12noon and 5.30pm – 6.30pm
✓ 6th May – First Friday Mass 10am-11am
✓ 6th May – Mothers Day Stall
✓ 6th May – Visit by Ms Moira Najdecki, CE Director
✓ 10th May – Joint School Board and P&F Meeting 6.30pm
✓ 10th–12th May – Naplan Years 3 & 5
✓ 19th May – Year 6 Healing Liturgy at Mountainview.

Merit Certificates Recipients
KINDERGARTEN Clancy B and Ruby S
YEAR 1 Angus C, Cira N, Lucia M and Michael R
YEAR 2 Hamish M and Joanna M
YEAR 3/4E Shyla M, Claudia C and Jordan C
YEAR 3/4B Zara S, John C and Leila C
YEAR 5/6S Rose L, Matthew B, Nikita S and Lachlan O
YEAR 5/6Y Liam W and Pheobe M

HOUSE POINTS
The points for Week 1, Term 2 were Murramai 470, Arakoola 500 and Tangara 785.

At the end of Week 1, Term 2 the year totals were:
Murramai 7,847, Arakoola 6,810 and Tangara 6,565

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners: Tangara 785!

Well done to Kindergarten who earned the most house points (505)!

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

What’s On
Did you know:

How is your reading going? Don’t forget to record the book titles on your student reading record sheet.
PSSA Cross Country
What an absolute pleasure it was to accompany our 2016 St Benedict’s South Western Region Interschool Team to the South Western Region Cross Country Carnival at Stromlo Forest park yesterday. All the students who attended gave everything that they had and the team spirit was well and truly alive. The event was one which highlighted how truly blessed we are to be a part of this community. Congratulations to the following students who represented St Benedict’s and displayed an exemplary example of sportsmanship.

Marcello M
Mia B
Brigid N
Sebastian B
Riley W
David T
Taylah G
Cara H
Layla C
Mia C
Maxime D
Alexander M
Djanaya B
Mia
Reimber D
Dakota K

Indigenous Cultural Immersion Experience

Last week the St Benedict’s students were blessed to work with Ms Theresa Ardler who is our Aboriginal Education Teacher in Catholic Education. Ms Ardler is new to our school community this year and will continue working with us at various times during the year.

On Tuesday Ms Ardler spent a day with Year 5/6, where she shared her extensive cultural knowledge and guided us through workshops about Aboriginal Bush foods, medicines, tools and weapons. The students were captivated and will be looking with new eyes at our native plants. In the coming weeks Year 5/6 will also work on Aboriginal Art through symbolism.

Last week the students in Junior Primary also participated in an Aboriginal Art through symbolism experience with Ms Ardler. They have participated in painting the areas around our Indigenous garden in our courtyard and their handprints will feature there for many years to come. Be sure to make the time to come and have a look and see these exciting developments.

From a student’s perspective:
‘Yirra do Marang’, That’s how you say G’day in my language, Wiradjuri. My experience with Ms Ardler was really fun, exciting and informative. It was really interesting to learn about Aboriginal artefacts and surviving tools that they used. I was really surprised, being an Aboriginal girl, that you could use plants and trees to make medicine and tools to help survive. I was really inspired to try these things, like the type of plants that grow on a bush and you can brush your hair with and even get honey from, in the morning before the bees get to it.

My favourite part of being with Ms Ardler was getting to try these new things. If you have a look around there are so many things that can help you survive, so get off your device, get outside and start exploring.

Djanaya Brookman
Year 6 2016
St. Benedict’s Primary School
Catholic Schools Focus on School Improvement

Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn have adopted the National School Improvement Tool as the key driver for continuous improvement.

The Tool, developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research, helps schools to review and reflect on current practices, and to use this information to plan specific and targeted improvements. It adopts an evidenced-based approach to making judgements about the school’s performance, allowing for assessments to be made of where the school is at, and where it needs to be. Performance levels are then used as the foundation for whole-school planning that is evidence-based, future-focused, and improvement-oriented.

In conjunction with Catholic Education, teachers and Leadership teams in schools conduct a series of Internal School Reviews using the Tool over a five-year period, and incorporate this information in the development of Annual Improvement Plans based on setting goals and targets to be achieved.

The purpose of using the National School Improvement Tool is to improve educational outcomes for all students, involving decisions on student learning, teaching practices, curriculum delivery, and school-community partnerships. Evidence to date strongly indicates the Tool is being used to provide the language both for and of improvement. It is seen as a crucial instrument in analysing the current educational situation in the school and focusing direction for future planning.
Dear Parents, our school is participating in Redgum Book Club this term.

Redgum Book Club are an Australian owned children’s book club supporting Australian authors, illustrators and publishers. They offer families, books that are engaging and educational, with a strong Australian content, that aligns with the school curriculum. Every book order earns resources and books for our school and includes a free gift for your child.

The catalogue is now open and closes on Monday 23rd May. Ordered books will be delivered free to the school by Wednesday 8th June.

Open the link to the term 2 catalogue. https://issuu.com/redgumbookclub/docs/rg_term_2_2016_60mb

For more information about the books in the catalogue, go to the Redgum website. You will also find hundreds more great titles with books starting from $2.00.

Newly released books this term include:

- *Lulu Bell’s Amazing Animal Adventures*. Four of the best Lulu Bell Stories about animals big and small, by Australian author, Belinda Murrell.
- Celebrating 400 years of Shakespeare. *A Midsummer Night*. A classic is reborn in this fun adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays!
- Bestselling and award winning author Rick Riordan’s new series: *The Trials of Apollo*.
- James Patterson’s *Middle School: Going Bush*. Set in the Aussie bush.

How to place an order:

- Order and pay online by credit card or PayPal at www.redgumbookclub.com.au
- Email your order with your credit card details to: orders@redgumbookclub.com.au
- Fill out the order form on the back of the catalogue and post it with a cheque.

If you have any questions about Redgum Book Club orders, please contact Lesley at schools@redgumbookclub.com.au

Thank you
ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CANBERRA

YEAR 7, 2017 INFO NIGHT
MONDAY 2 MAY, 2016
6.30PM, WANNAISSA CAMPUS

TRY MACKILLOP DAY
THURSDAY 5 MAY, 2016
9.00AM, WANNAISSA CAMPUS

YEAR 11, 2017 INFO NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 11 MAY, 2016
6.00PM, ISABELLA CAMPUS

6209 0100 enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au mackillop.act.edu.au

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FUN RUN
AUGUST 14

EARLYBIRD ENTRIES OPEN

It's Official... Earlybird Entries for The Sun-Herald City2Surf presented by Westpac are OPEN!

Join us on August 14 to enjoy the music, energy and fun from live DJ’s, bands, cheerleaders and dancers in the world's largest fun run. Watch our video for a sneak peak of what's in store for you on our favourite day of the year.

ENTER NOW