



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Recently.....

Term 4 Week 4
4 November 2020



Upcoming Events

- *All Saints Liturgy*
1.50pm
Thursday
5 November
- *CPR Years 5 and 6*
Friday
6 November
- *Kinder Transition 2*
9.30am
Wednesday
11 November
- *Years 5 + 6 Touch Gala Day*
Friday
13 November
- *Year 1 Incursion*
Friday
13 November
- *Leadership Team Planning Day*
Tuesday
17 November
- *Kinder Transition 3*
9.30am
Wednesday
18 November
- *Year 1 and 2 Virtual History Tour*
Thursday
19 November
- *Mackillop and St Brigid's Year 7 Orientation Day*
Friday
20 November

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

Recently, we have celebrated a number of important liturgies: both our Mission Liturgy and our World Teachers Day Liturgy were beautiful experiences. We commend the children on their prayerful, respectful and reverent manners. On Thursday, Year 4 will lead our All Saints Liturgy at 1.50pm with parents able to join us via Zoom.

Our Year 6 led their final primary school Assembly last Thursday. They helped us journey through 7 years of their education. Year 6 continue to be a great group of kids who repeatedly set a tremendous example for the rest of our school. Excellent work, Year 6.

It's That Time of the Year

As we flow through Term 4, a number of things occur. Our Year 5s are involved in discussions about leadership. Over the next month or so, Year 5 children express interest in various leadership positions—School Captains, Student Parliament, Mini Vinnies, Sports Captains etc. The leadership in Year 6, 2021 invites all children to take responsibility. Regardless of whether a Year 6 child has a formal role or not, we rely on each and every one of them to lead, guide and be role-models for the other 400 kids at our place. It is a crucial role they have. And one that heavily influences the culture of our school.

Shortly, we begin drafting our Class Lists for 2021. Each year the children in a grade are re-grouped. Regrouping enables children to be agile, flexible and to form additional friendships.

Your child's Semester 2 Report will be a full and comprehensive Report (our COVID Semester 1 Reports were abbreviated). It will be posted on Compass on Friday 11th December.

Year 5 and 6 CPR Training

On Friday 6th November both Year 5 and Year 6 will be involved in CPR training. Delivered by the experienced, qualified paramedics who train our staff, we trust that the training will help give the children the confidence and skills needed in a difficult situation.

Leaving Students

If you know that your child will be leaving us at the end of the year, you are required to write to us, detailing your child's last day and the name of their destination school.

If your financial situation is leading you to think about leaving our school community, stop worrying. Please call Kevin or Emma and we can arrive at an arrangement that does not interrupt

or disrupt your child's learning and markedly reduces any financial pressure.

Every Day Counts

Attendance at school is critical.

The average number of days a child is absent from our school during a term is 5. Many, many children have 5 days absence or less per term. If your child is well in excess of 5 days absence you can be assured that it is affecting their learning.

When a child misses whole chunks of a term, their learning becomes disjointed. The skill they needed to learn to help build the next skill just does not happen. And it can lead to a child feeling inadequate or incapable.

Every day counts. Learning is important.

Smart Watches

There has been an increase in the amount of smart watches being worn by our students. Many smart watches have the capacity to link to a phone, connects to Apps and makes calls. For these reasons, we do not allow children to wear a smart watch at school.

Girls Uniform

A reminder that the 'old' girls uniform can only be worn this year. From 2021, all girls must be in a new summer uniform. There are still a number of girls who are yet to purchase one. Please call Leesa in the school office to place an order.

Late Arrivals

If your child arrives to school after the 9.00am bell, a parent is required to walk them into the office to sign them in. Recently, we have had an increase in the amount of students who are walking to the office after the bell without an adult to sign them in.

Seasons for Growth

Recently we enjoyed an afternoon tea celebrating the completion of our *Seasons for Growth* program. Led by trained facilitators, *Seasons for Growth* is an innovative grief and loss program for 6-12 y.o. It aims to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of children experiencing significant life changes.

Kind regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

ESellars

Emma Sellars
Principal

Parish Details

Ph. 8379 1730
Email. toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au
Office Hours. Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9am - 12pm

Merit Awards

Katy-Leigh P
Manaya M P
Asha G
Eadie M
Riley G
Ella T
Ashlee S
Gwyneth M
Oliver R
Cooper S
Tessa G
Rhani L
Summer G
Mia S
Kobe J
Lukas F
Eden L T
Lily D B
Ma'Niyah J
Darcy M
Zac W
Jared B
Elijah P S
Rylee F
Zara B
James M
Samuel T
Mia M
Bailey J
Vasiliki P
Tiarna G
Cooper O
Sienna S
Tyler D
Lyla P
Trinity T

Dates for 2021

Wed 27th Jan-Staff Development Day, no students
Thurs 28th Jan-Yr's 1-6 MAI Testing Day, Kinder Best Start Assessment
Fri 29th Jan-Yr's 1-6 First Day of School, Kinder Best Start Assessment
Mon 1st Feb-Kinder Best Start Assessment
Tues 2nd Feb-Kinder First Day of School

From Our REC

World Teachers' Day

On Friday 30th October, we celebrated World Teachers' Day. A huge thank you to our students for helping to prepare and run the assembly. It was much appreciated!

All Saints' Day Liturgy

Our All Saints Liturgy, led by the Year 4 students will be on Thursday, November 5th at 1.50pm. We will send out a zoom code to Year 4 parents on Thursday morning.



From Our Librarian

NOT AGAIN!!

As parents we enjoy reading with our kids but often we are asked to read the same book over and over again. Are you guilty of accidentally putting that favourite book in a very safe place and forgotten just where it is? It can get a little boring... for us but that is definitely not the case for our children!!! Children who read and re-read the same book are gaining huge benefits!

DEVELOPING VOCABULARY

If you are at the point of having memorised that favourite book you have read every night for the past 3 weeks the chances are your child has too. When children read a book over and over again they are reading and developing a larger vocabulary. When you read aloud to your children they are becoming aware of how words are pronounced as well as the how words sound when they are put together. They benefit from hearing the patterns and rhythm of text which also affects the way they form and speak aloud their thoughts and ideas.

FLUENCY

Children who love to read the same book over and over again become fluent readers. The text is familiar and predictable so children tend to read without stumbling or stopping.

Remembrance Day

Next Wednesday is Remembrance Day. On Wednesday we will stop to remember and acknowledge all of the men and women who have seen the horrors of war. Our 2020 Parliament will lead the liturgy. Let's we forget.



NAIDOC WEEK

Next week is NAIDOC Week. This is celebrated nationally. The theme this year is "Always Was, Always Will Be." Our Aboriginal students will lead a liturgy during the week. Teachers will also designate time to share Aboriginal history and culture with our students using the resource, SBS Learn.

Cath Kyle
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

COMPREHENSION

Have you ever re-read a book and learnt something that you hadn't noticed before, ... especially in a good mystery! Each time children re-read the same book they discover more about the plot and the characters. They dig deeper into the story's meaning. Comprehension is at the heart of reading. Each time children re-read a book they are preparing to move onto more complex narratives.

CONFIDENCE

Re-reading books builds children's confidence. They read fluently and clearly understand what they are reading. When they are ready, children choose more challenging books because they have confidence in their own ability to read, navigate and problem-solve their way through the story.

The next time your child asks you to read that old favourite again know that you are helping your child grow into a confident reader.

Miss Gray
Librarian



A Spotlight on Year 3

Year 3 Aboriginal Incursion - "Earth, wind and fire"

Year 3 participated in an incursion called - "Earth, wind and fire" linked closely to our Religion and History units. The activities during the day included Aboriginal song and dance, learning about Aboriginal artefacts, weaponry, bush survival and history, Aboriginal face painting, didgeridoo and storytelling, boomerang throwing and making an Aboriginal art on a huge canvas. Year 3 had lots of fun!



Canteen News

Due to changing work or family commitments quite a number of volunteers are no longer able to help out in the Canteen. If you have a spare couple of hours, just once a month, and are able to support students by volunteering in the canteen, please contact the office.

Reminder

The school canteen is **CLOSED** on Tuesdays.

Donna & Janet

Star Awards

Benny E
Tianna O C
Van B
Flynn B
Billy H
Mya C
John M
Ayla B
Henry H
Keoni L
Chloe S
Lincoln S
Charli D
Ava G
Silongo K
Harry H
Mia J
Zara H
Olivia C



From Our PE Teacher

League Stars Afterschool Program

Due to Covid restrictions we cannot have parents on site.

Children attending will be in their sports uniforms on Fridays so no clothing needs to be changed.

Children will sit in the 'Drive Up' area with their classes at 3pm.

Football coaches will pick them up from this area.

Parents can then wait at the gate for pick up at 4.15pm.

Please make sure children have a water bottle and snack for afternoon tea straight after school.

Touch Football Gala Day

Our Touch Football Gala Day for all Year 5 and 6 students is fast approaching - Friday 13th November.

Thankyou for the prompt return of notes. Children awaiting consent via compass have been notified.

Thankyou to our wonderful volunteers - we have 1 parent for each team, which is exactly what we are allowed.

Looking forward to a great day!

Liz Bain

Sports Coordinator



From The Office

Family Registration Forms were sent home with your child/ren this week. They are due back no later than Friday 20th November. Both parents must sign this form for it to be valid. The information on this form is used to apply sibling discounts. If you have misplaced the form you can arrange for another one to be sent home or you can download a copy from the school's website.

Thank you
Jacqui, Leesa & Julie

Join us for
Storytime

in the library

IS BACK!!!

*An invitation for our families with
toddlers and pre-schoolers*

Storytime runs for 30 minutes every Thursday morning from 9am and is an opportunity for toddlers and pre-schoolers to experience stories being read to them, share books with their parent/ carer, participate in craft activities with other children and borrow from our school library.

It is a great way for children to familiarise themselves with the library and become comfortable in the school environment.

Parents will need to sign in at the school office and head straight to the library at 9am.

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