FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Whilst the paint is barely dry on the commencement of 2014 some schools are already advertising for enrolments for 2015. Indeed some Sydney schools encourage parents to enrol children before they are born!! Education writer Jane Caro has recently penned a piece on what parents should look for when discussing schools for their child.

Ms Caro says parents and prospective students need to look beyond a school’s “impressive achievements” and look at its emotional tone.

“Parents need to know that the school is interested in the individual” says Ms Caro. Parents and kids need to know that they are not special, they are just as important – and just as un-important – as one another.

“Being student-centred doesn’t mean giving the student everything they want, it just means they look at the whole child. No matter which school, education is about relationships; not about marks. A student who has a good relationship with their teacher, fellow students and the school itself will have a better experience.

“Kids learn best when they are having fun, when they are engaged. If you go to a school and everything is technically brilliant, but no one looks like they are enjoying themselves, be worried.”

“Look for a school that is open and honest. If you look for a school that is perfect for your child, you won’t find it. No school is perfect and you wouldn’t want it to be because in real life, things aren’t perfect.”

Ms Caro says a great school is not about great facilities. “All the research says the quality of the teaching staff makes the biggest difference to students’ learning.”

“A lot of leaders say there is a tendency for parents to rush in and rescue their children when a difficulty arises. Some people whip their child out of one school and into another as soon as something goes wrong and then out of that one and into another when something else happens. That’s not good for resilience”. Instead, we need to help kids learn to deal with problems and overcome them, she says.

“There is a real world out there – there are difficult bosses and nasty colleagues. You don’t want your child to be in a cult-like environment where everything is perfect and nothing goes wrong”.

Hopefully Catherine McAuley ticks all those boxes for present and future students.

Michael Croke
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Student of the Week: Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Roman Lane, Bella Blowes, Lachlan Crump, Nicholas Rowland, Charlize Spurr, Koby Reid, Hayley Norris, Tess Hazzard, Evie Nunn, Makayla Milne, Laura Daniel, Will Warner, Antonia Lander, Ethan Dillon, Tim Simpson, Sophie Beatty, Meera Nair, Tyler Bartimote, Justin Rhind, Brendan Dwyer & Anna Akimovova.

Catherine McAuley Swimming Carnival: The Catherine McAuley Swimming Carnival was held last Thursday. It was a fantastic day with McAuley spirit on show for all to see. A big thank you to Mrs Carpenter and Mrs Connor for all their hard work to ensure the day ran smoothly. Also thank you to the teachers and parents for their assistance on the day. Without their assistance events like this would never take place. Well done to all who took part in the carnival.

House Places: 1st – Woomera  2nd – Kabbarli  3rd – Bennelong  4th—Euroa

Age Champions:  8 years – Rachel Masling & Harry Madigan  9 years – Riley Sutherland & Tallis Thomas & Henry Madigan  10 years – Emily Bekavak & Arnie Tancred  11 years – Audrey Madigan & Cooper Turner  12 years – Lucy Nagle & Oscar Williams

New Records: 9 records were broken on the day:
Lucy Nagle  - Girls Open 100M Freestyle – 1:12:37  - 12 years 50M Freestyle – 31:40  - 12 years 50M Backstroke – 38:91  - 12 years 50M Breaststroke – 44.71
Rachel Masling  - 8 years 50M Freestyle – 55:26

Southern Region Swimming Carnival: Congratulations to the forty one McAuley swimmers who represented our school at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival that was held today at the Orange Aquatic Centre. Mrs Carpenter and Mrs Lenehan accompanied the team.

Whole School Assembly: Year 6 will host and present work at the whole school assembly in Kenna Hall on Friday 7th March commencing at 12.00pm. All welcome.

Sabbatical Week: This week is Sabbatical Week therefore there will be no homework which will bring a smile to many faces! We also try to keep classroom interruptions and meetings to a minimum in this week.

Professional Learning: Mrs Petty, Mrs Miller & Miss Wilson attended an in-service this week on Tuesday & Wednesday to learn about Professional Learning Communities. We have begun these in our school and they have been useful in work with the new English and Mathematics curriculum that we have begun to implement. Mrs Sands, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Croke & Mrs Wright will attend an Occupational Therapy Roll out of Resources this Thursday. The resources and information they receive will greatly benefit our students especially in the infants classes. Mr Croke will attend a Principals Meeting this Thursday & Friday.

Peer Support Training: The Year 6 children will take part in Peer Support Training this Thursday 27th (in Kenna Hall) and Friday 28th (at Burrendong). Thank you to the Year 6 teachers for organising this fantastic opportunity for the children to develop leadership skills. This training will allow us to run the Peer Support Program next term.

Lunch boxes, containers & drink bottles: The number of lunch boxes and drink bottles that are left on the playground after recess and lunch is amazing. There was a lot of lost property from the swimming carnival including a rolled up blue blanket, which is in the school office. The teachers are currently having a blitz to ensure they are all picked up. The number of these items without names on them is disappointing. They are expensive items to replace. Please assist us in ensuring all items are labelled so they can be returned easily to the owner!

Steve Maguire
FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Grant, almighty God,
Through our Lenten observances
That we may grow in our Understanding of the riches hidden in Christ.

**Ash Wednesday**: Next Wednesday, 5\(^{th}\) March, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Church’s Lenten Season. We will be celebrating Mass with the Parish at 10.00am, and all are invited to join us for Mass. During Mass, all children will receive Ashes on their foreheads to remind them of our need for God, and of all that Jesus has done for us. The Ashes come from burning the Palm Leaves that have been left over from Palm Sunday last year. Throughout the next forty days of Lent, we are asked to do three things:

- Think of others and help those in need in whatever way we can;
- Deny ourselves some of the luxuries we often have in our lives, like chocolate, etc and give this up for Lent;
- Take the time to grow in our love and understanding of Jesus.

Adults are asked not to eat meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as a form of penance.

**Project Compassion**: Teachers have begun work in their classrooms on Project Compassion for this year, and most children will have brought home their boxes. The theme this year for Project Compassion comes from St John’s Gospel: (John 10:10) “Have life, and have it to the full”. Caritas Australia, who run Project Compassion, have identified groups of people in six different areas around the world, including Australia, who desperately need our help to bring about ‘fullness of life’. Throughout Lent, we will look at how we can help people in Brazil, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, the Philippines and Australia through our contributions to Project Compassion. More information is available from the Caritas Australia website [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au). Please take the time to talk to your children about how we can help those who are so vulnerable.

Wishing you a great week,
God Bless,

**Robyn Petty**

**INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK**

The Queen is the legal owner of one-sixth of the Earth’s land surface.
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

WOW week 5 already where is the time going. The Kindergarten Students are really beginning to settle into school and routines which is great to see. The Year One students are now showing more responsibility as they are the eldest on the Byng Street site and need to help their younger Kinder friends. If your child is still experiencing separation problems please see the teachers for ideas. The best one is Drop and Go. Your child will settle within a few minutes, however we know its hard for you.

We are still as a staff working on teaching the students about the disposal of rubbish. We do have three bins at work in the playground and the classroom. The Red Bin for general rubbish, The Yellow Bin for Recycle and the Green Bin for Natural Waste just like at home. We understand that this will take time, however any small reminders you can give at home would be very helpful.

A huge congratulations to our wonderful Kits Lit Quiz Participants who appeared in the CWD on Friday. I’m sure some of the questions would stump your teachers, so give them a challenge this week. Maybe parents might like to think about this one.

What book does this quote come from "Would you eat them in a box, would you eat them with a fox"?

Enjoy the NO HOMEWORK week and spend some time having fun as a family.

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**Bookworms take a squiz**

*Picture courtesy of Central Western Daily, Orange.*

**Belinda Wilson**

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Just a reminder that Koala Club banking has started again. Infants children can bring in their banking on Fridays and Primary children on Mondays.
LIBRARY

Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying two teams of children to the Australian heat of Kids Lit held here in Orange. Kids Lit is a world wide literature competition where teams battle for a chance to travel to the world final. This year the final will be held in Cornwall, England. Our teams had a fabulous day with some team members winning novels and five dollar notes! Congratulations goes to Oscar Williams, Isabel Joseph, Thomas Dews, Jada Hatch, Aaron Cox, Callan Arden, Archer Casey and Maeve Kennedy for great team work, good sportsmanship and knowing so much about books! Well done to you all.

Catherine Bishenden

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:
Patrick Haydon, Zachary Irwin, Audrey Madigan, Jack Mulligan, Sophie McFarlane, Caitlin Cox, Chloe Jones, Cameron Bray, Harrison Bray, Sophie West, Jayde Spicer, Evie Nunn

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 3rd March to Friday 7th March, 2014

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MORE THAN A GREAT EDUCATION

catholic schools week 9-15 March 2014
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