FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The welcome barbecue held in the school grounds last Sunday was certainly a great success. I hope it was a great chance for parents "new and old" to connect with the school community on a social level and to witness the culinary skills of the teachers. Given our foundress, Catherine McAuley, was an Irish lady she would have been raised on the importance of getting together and making people feel comfortable with each other (normally in colder weather). The one Irish tradition we did not use on Sunday was the use of alcohol and dancing to encourage community. This may come a later date and will be an adults only night time event!!

I do encourage all parents to join in school functions wherever possible. From School Masses and liturgies, assemblies to parent social functions it is a wonderful thing for children to see those that care for them on the home front taking an interest in what is happening at school. There is evidence that such interest has a strong connection with enhanced performance in the classroom and all school activities. It is a powerful message for a child to note that somebody from home took the time to attend a school function as it creates a real sense of school home partnership.

Michael Croke
Student of the Week: Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Chloe Cox, Abby Gregory, Emily Tilston, Zak Wright, Jack Coffey, Daniel Cooper, Harry Madigan, Sheawyn Whitta, Jorja Taberner, Feba Abby, Jessica Richards, Jack Petty, Sam French, Agieg Aluk, Oliver Connaughton, Elizabeth Gibson, Maeve Kennedy, Sean Donato, Gabby Biviano, Mollie Patterson & Isabel Joseph

Changes to the McAuley Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behavior Management Policy: The staff are currently reviewing the schools Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behavior Management Policy. You will be informed of the major changes when they are finalised and copies will be made available. As part of this review we will introduce a House Point System. Details of this will follow. As the first step in this process I am happy to announce the following House Captains who were elected by their peers.

- Euroa: Sean Carpenter & Jesse Dean
- Woomera: Oscar Williams & Mia Rowland
- Bennelong: Will Thomas & Audrey Madigan
- Kabbarli: Cooper Monk & Amelia Wilcox

Swimming & Athletics Carnivals: Mrs Carpenter & Mrs Connor are busy working on our swimming carnival which will be held on Thursday 20th February. We will begin preparing for field event finals in Sport and PE lessons.

The finals for field events will be open to children from Years 3-6. The events will be Junior (8yrs -10yrs), 11Years & Senior. Finals will be held at school on the following dates:

- Long Jump – Thursday 6th March
- Discus – Thursday 13th March
- Shot Put – Thursday 20th March
- High Jump- Tuesday 25th March

Student Information: All children will bring home four notes today. These notes are to ensure our records are up to date at school. It is difficult to contact parents if you have changed phone numbers, addresses etc and not informed the office. One of the notes included requests permission to use photos of children in publications, newsletters and websites. Please be advised if you request that your child's photo not to be published or put on the internet we can't use their photo in the newsletter as it is placed on the Website.

Notes to be returned by 17th February, 2014.

* Standard Collection Notice
* Student Information Sheet (change of address, contacts etc)
* Computer and Internet Contract
* Food Allergies, Not for Publication Note

Parent Information Evenings: All meetings will commence in the Sr Clare Murphy Room on the ground floor of the new multi purpose hall on the Hill St site. Please walk down either side of the Hill St building and enter through the glass doors at the back of the building.

Wednesday 12th - Year 2 & 3 – 6.30pm
- Year 4 – 7.30pm
Thursday 13th - Year 5 - 6.30pm
- Year 6 - 7.30pm

School Office:
Please be advised that all contact for our school should be made through the Office in the Hill St site. Even if it is regarding a student or teacher on the Byng St Site. The School Office Phone number is 6361 3344.

Head Lice:
We have had a reported case of head lice in Kindergarten. Could all parents please be vigilant in checking your children's hair. It is school policy that children not be sent to school until treatment has be applied at home. It is then essential that daily checks are made, and reapplication if necessary, to ensure complete eradication.

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.

Steve Maguire
**Lent, Easter and Project Compassion:** This year Easter is a little later than usual, falling during the next School Holidays. Therefore our Ash Wednesday Mass is not until Wed. 5th March. During Lent we look at the plight of children who are living in great poverty in the world. Caritas Australia identify several areas each year where they are able to be of most help with their funding. Through their “Project Compassion”, we too are asked to assist these families. Children will be learning about these chosen communities over the next few weeks, and how our small contributions can help to change the lives of these people significantly. The theme this year is “Have Life, and Have It To The Full”. More information and boxes will be going home next week. Please take the time to talk to your children about how we can help those who are so vulnerable.

**Conversations About Catholics:** Once again we are running our ‘Conversations About Catholics’ discussion groups for any parents who would like an opportunity to find out a little more about what children are learning about in Religious Education in school, and assist parents to participate in their child’s faith development. During the sessions we talk about God, Catholic tradition, the Sacraments, prayer and other topics. It is a time to ask questions in a relaxed atmosphere. Session times are from 9.15 on a Wednesday for about an hour, and the discussion is led by Sr Helen Saunders. If you would like more information, or a form, please let me know and I will send one home.

**Liturgy and Masses for this Term:** Here are the Liturgies and Masses for this Term once again. Please feel welcome to join us at any or all of our Liturgical celebrations.

- **Week 4:** Wed 19th Feb: Year 4 Grade Mass 12.30pm
- **Week 6:** Wed 5th Mar: Ash Wednesday Mass 10.00am
- **Week 7:** Wed 12th Mar: Catholic School’s Week Mass 10.00am
- **Week 9:** Wed 26th Mar: Year 5 Grade Mass 12.30pm
- **Week 11:** Fri 11th April: Holy Week Ceremonies

Wishing you a great week,

God Bless,

Robyn Petty

**INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK**

**All polar bears are Irish:** they’re descended from brown bears that lived in Ireland over 10,000 years ago.
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Thank you to those parents and family that came to our Information Nights. We still have some grades to follow this week so check your calendar.

Although it might seem that it is just a small transition in your child's schooling to move up a grade it is still very important to attend these meetings, as each year new teaching and learning issues arise. As part of our school community we encourage the home/school connection and look forward to meeting with you.

REMINDERS:

We know it's only week three however if we address these issues early on it will make for a happy, safe year.

When entering and exiting the Byng Street building, please use the FRONT gates for safety reasons. The LANE WAY next to the school is totally out of bounds due to the traffic flow from delivery vans and traffic from the Community Services Centre next door.

In the morning and afternoon all PLAY EQUIPMENT is out of bounds due to the safety issue of being unsupervised. If you could encourage your child to stay with you once picked up that would cause minimal disruption to the routine.

Please LABEL everything your child brings to school to make it easier for everyone.

It is highly noted by all staff at how your children have settled into the new school routine for 2014 and a lot of that is due to your assistance. We thank you.

Something to think about........

“Talent is like electricity----we do not understand electricity. We use it.”----- Maya Angelou

Belinda Wilson

Cyber Safety

Throughout 2014, children in Years 3-6 will be using Google Docs as a learning tool. Part of the rollout in using this technology is the issue of an email address to each student. This email address is managed by the Catholic Education Office.

Included with the newsletter today is the Standard Collection Notice and an Acceptable Use Agreement. Please read both forms carefully and if you are happy for your child to be issued with an email address, sign and return to school. Please note that students also need to sign the Acceptable Use Agreement.

Please be assured that rigorous measures to ensure cybersafety will be put in place by the school before email addresses are issued. These measures include a cybersafety program for all classes from Years 3-6 and an opportunity for parents to come to an information session (Dates to be finalised).

The link below provides information regarding the safety and privacy of the email system used by the Catholic Education Office.

Privacy Matters

https://sites.google.com/a/bth.catholic.edu.au/sharecloud-learning-centre/privacy-matters

Clare Miller
**BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday to the following children:* Isabella Budworth, Emmasen Buesnell, Makya Wright-Zerafa, Georgia Bennett, Jack Petty, Charlotte Lawson, Archie Dunn, Maya Thompson, Jordan Wykes, Emily Mathews, Riley Sutherland, Sage Fabar-Robey, Makayla Milne.

**TUCKSHOP**

**Roster—Commencing Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February, 2014**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>E Jeffery</td>
<td>K D’Ombrain (12.45pm)</td>
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**Blessing of the School Vegetable Patch**

Our thanks go out to Mr Paul Pappalardo for his guidance in the creation of our beautiful vegetable patch. Our students have benefited greatly from his expertise. Fr Paul Devitt was called in to bless the garden before harvest which is tradition in Italy. Mr Pappalardo has planted five different types of tomatoes as well as Italian beans, green beans, butter beans, yellow zucchini and cucumbers.
Boys and their toys!!
Playing on the new softfall in the Byng Street Area.
Is the boy in cap really in Year 1??