Dear Parents,

Two weeks are over and school is in full swing. Kinders have completed their Best Start testing and one week of exciting school work. A token of thanks to Mrs Jo Taylor for spending a part of her Christmas holidays preparing for the Best Start program. It is an Online test and to enter the children is a nightmare but she did it after days of trying. Well done Jo!

Thank you to all staff for their time spent in the holidays preparing work, setting up rooms and ensuring a smooth start for their class.

Important: Upcoming PUPIL FREE DAYS: 19TH MARCH & 29TH OF APRIL
No students to attend school on these days

The levy each family pays in their school fees is put to very good use. Years ago our visionary Director hired a firm to assess every school in the Diocese so a maintenance program could occur. It was called the P Project, e.g; P1, P2, P3, P4. Our school is now in the P4 stage. Over the last few years quite a bit of renovation has occurred.

Stage 3 classrooms were painted inside, Yr 5 got new carpet (as Yr 6 got new carpet last year), LED lights were installed, new doors and the next step is Aluminum windows with Crimsafe for security. The Stage 3 teachers and Helen Smith spent a part of the holidays getting the rooms ready for the painter and carpet layer. Not to mention Mr Sutton’s massive help.

I have a few plans to make our tired looking school look bright and refreshed– that’s in the pipe line, should occur in the next holidays hopefully. We spent over $21,000 on new Readers for the Infants in the Christmas break – as the CEO have a program for the Infants (Phonics based) to further improve literacy. The teachers will briefly outline what the program is about at the Infants Grade Night this week. They worked very hard to cover lots and lots of books in their down time, over weekends, etc.

As I mentioned at the A.G.M at the end of last year– funds raised will partly pay for this program that is the wish list for staff and myself. Within the new constitution (P & F) it states that staff will request what is needed to improve childrens learning

Being a small school we don’t make unreasonable demands but that’s where all families assist with fund raising projects and not leave it up to the P & F Executive and a dedicated two or three. You are very generous, caring parents but we need 100% co-operation in fund raising.
Students with Medical Problems

For legal reasons medications are only administered to students by Mrs Puckeridge who is trained in First Aid, once parents have completed a Parents Medical Consent Form and Medical Advice to School Form. Medicine will be stored in the office. If your child receives medication please speak to your child’s class teacher or contact the school office for the forms. Under no circumstances are teachers to administer medication unless these forms are completed by parent/guardians. Students should also not take any form of medication by themselves. Parents are also asked to complete a Student Asthma Record Form if their child suffers from asthma. A copy will then be kept with the class teacher and one given to Mrs Puckeridge. Appropriate Forms need to be completed or updated as needed by parents whose children are at risk of severe allergic reactions so that an Individual Health Plan can be put in place. Remember no nut products for recess and lunch.

Catholic Education Office: Use of Children’s Photos

From time to time, the school will place photos of your children in the newspaper, newsletter or website and associated publications to acknowledge their successes in various aspects of school life. If you have objections to this practice, please contact the Principal to discuss the matter, otherwise the school will presume it has your permission to publish the photos and names of your children.

Interviews

If you need to speak to the Principal or staff, kindly ring and make an appointment. Teachers/Principal cannot talk to parents during class hours, or answer phone messages: Tuesday is staff meeting day; Friday – social activities, so the Principal or staff are unavailable after school Tuesdays and Fridays.

Secretary’s Hours

Monday to Friday 8:00am—4:00pm.

Contact Information

It is of the utmost importance that the office has your current landline and mobile numbers of both parents and the emergency contact. If both parents don’t answer the phone then the contact is rung. Current email address as well.

Events for the Week

Monday— St Pius X Swimming Carnival
Tuesday— P & F meeting 6pm, Chapel.
Wednesday— Yr 5 Bracken House Infants Information Night 6:30pm
Thursday— Primary Information Night 6.30pm
Friday— Systems Day Principal and AP’s Yrs 5 & 6 PCYC. 2-3pm
Take a bow Mr Cant!, a superbly organised carnival. We were blessed with good weather, the children’s behaviour was spot on. Every child swam their best. Thank you to staff and parents for all your support – we could not have a carnival without you.

God be with you,
Yours sincerely

Heather Irwin
Principal

Daisy Jones, Amelia Job, Maebelle Clarke and Jim Sullivan.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

SECURITY and SAFETY of CHILDREN

According to our Security and Safety Policy our utmost PRIORITY is the safety of children and we cannot become COMPLACENT.

All gates will be locked from 9:15am to 3pm daily, except the single gate near the office.

The gate at the far end of North Street will always be locked.

The parking area in front of the office is to be used for pickup only, otherwise you will be booked by the POLICE.
As most of you would be aware, our Library is open at second half lunch, on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Children are always welcome. During this time they can read, borrow, draw and play games.

Children must use a library bag when they borrow books as this helps protect the books.

Please remember that books are on loan for a maximum of two weeks so when books are due back please ensure they are returned promptly. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated!

**Scholastic Book Club:** Our school subscribes to Scholastic Book Club. Twice a term flyers are sent home for you to have a look at, and perhaps place an order. The products are generally of very good quality and have discounted prices. Coupons are also given to the school for each dollar spent and these are used to purchase resources for the school.

Your child will have received their first book club flyer for the year already and orders are due back this week by 9.10am Wednesday the 13th of February. Please ensure you put the correct amount of money in a well-sealed envelope and place it in the Book Club Box at the office. It usually takes about 2 weeks for the orders to be filled. All orders are given to the child to take home. If you would like me to hold the order for you because it is a present please indicate this to me on the order form.

Parents may prefer to order online via loop orders and the instructions for this can be found on the back of the book club order form. If you have misplaced the form it can be found online [http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/bc_parents.asp](http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/bc_parents.asp)

**Congratulations to our new library monitors for 2019!**

- **Year 3** - Amarni and Reuben
- **Year 4** - Elsie and Harvey
- **Year 5** - Heidi and James
- **Year 6** - Maegan and Roman
RE NEWS February 12th

Congratulations to all our new school leaders who were presented with their badges at our opening Mass. It was lovely to have the buddies of our Year 6 choir members join us in the choir. We were very proud of their behaviour and attempts to join in the singing.

Some important dates this term for RE include:

- Week 6 - Ash Wednesday Mass at St Brigid’s on Wednesday 6th March at 10 am.
- Week 7 – Catholic Schools Week
- Week 7 Saint for a Day – Tuesday March 12th
- Week 7 – Senior Citizen’s Liturgy, Friday 15th March at 9.30am
- Week 8 - St Patricks Day Monday 18th March. Class Liturgy
- Harmony Day Wednesday 21st March/NAIDOC Day
- Holy Week Liturgy Friday April 12th

St Brigid’s Sacramental Calendar 2019

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS:

St Pius X Information Evening – Thursday Feb 28th @ 5.45 pm. This meeting is for the parents of all sacramental candidates for Confirmation, First Communion and Reconciliation. You may attend the information evening on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week if Thursday is not suitable.

- Enrolment weekend and 30/31st March and 6th & 7th April 2019
- 3 sessions commencing the week of 5th May 2019
- The Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Michael McKenna on 1st and 2nd June

God Bless
Therese Jones REC
School Swimming Carnival

Big congratulations to Moore who are the 2019 school swimming carnival champions!

The age champions were: Brock McCoy (Moore), Sienna Angus (Shannon), Dusty Picton (Sarto), Milly Heckendorf (McAuley), George Amor (McAuley) and Ava Francisco (Shannon).

A big thank you to all the people (parents, grandparents and staff) who helped out on the day, without your help these types of days do not happen.

A big congratulations to all students (especially the house captains and Year Six), your effort, encouragement and sportsmanship was brilliant.

A note will be sent home this week with those students who have gained selection in the school swimming team to represent in Coonamble on the 21st of February.

On a VERY BRIGHT note the Floaters and Drowners trophy goes to the teachers – first time since 2013! Bad luck to those parents who swam – we feel so sorry for you – not!

Greg Cant

Thank you for reading!