Thought for the Week

The Gentlest Need

At least once a day our old black cat comes to one of us in a way that we've all come to see as a special request. It does not mean he wants to be fed, or to be let out. His need is for something very different.

If you have a lap handy, he'll jump into it. Once in it, he begins to vibrate almost before you stroke his back, scratch his chin, and tell him over and over what a good kitty he is. Our daughter puts it simply: "Blackie needs to be purred."

He isn't the only one who has that need: I share it, and so does my wife. Still, I associate it especially with youngsters, with their quick, impulsive need for a hug, a warm lap, and a hand held out.

If I could do just one thing, it would be this: To guarantee every child, everywhere, one good purring every day. Kids, like cats, need time to purr.

Fred T. Wilhelms

Our vision for St. Pius X school community is that in providing a quality, positive learning environment, all children will reach their true potential and be witnesses to the Catholic faith.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Please look in your child's bag for their school report. I have read every child's report and am pleased with the progress children are making.

I thank Mrs Sharon Taylor for holding an information night for Year 1 parents to explain the A to E grading system. This is because of the transition from the Kinder report which has no grading to the A to E system. Please read this explanation from the Department on the grading system which Mrs Taylor gave out.

Don't panic if your child received a D or E. It means at this time of the year they are not on track and need to work harder. Please take the time to read, discuss and praise your child on their report as a family. If you need to have an interview, please ring and make an appointment.

Pupil Free Day

Our final Pupil Free Day is on the 19th July—Friday (Week 1 Term3). This day has been organised by the CEO Bathurst for all the schools in the Diocese. It should be an excellent day with such a dynamic guest speaker.

We welcome back Mrs Jones from her wonderful holiday abroad. She is now a grandma again. Thank you Mrs Mann for the great job you did with Year 5. Thank you also to Mrs Jenny Fuller who looked after Year 6 on Thursdays.

Recipes

Come on parents, we are waiting—time is running out—please send the photos and recipes to the email address or you can send them to the school office.

All recipes and photos must be emailed stpiusrecipes@hotmail.com.au by the end of Term 2 to allow the books to be produced. If you are unable to email, please drop it into the school office.

Along with each recipe, can you please provide a photo of your child to be associated with it. Eg: Family cooking or eating.

Categories include:

Entrees
Mains
- Meat, * Poultry; * Seafood; * Pasta; * Salad; Rice
Desserts

If you have any queries they can also be emailed through to stpiuxrecipes@hotmail.com.au
A new way of reporting

By the end of 2006, all schools will provide parents with written reports that meet NSW Government requirements and respond both to parent feedback and academic research.

Parents will receive two written reports each year. The reports will give you a clearer picture of your child's achievements. They will help you understand how your child is progressing and how we can support your child's future learning.

The new written reports will build on current quality practice in schools and will be more consistent for students and their families. Written reports are just one way that schools work to communicate with parents about how their child is doing in school.

This brochure will give you a broad overview of the details of the new reports and a better understanding of A to E grading. If you have any questions, you should contact your school or visit the Department's website www.det.nsw.edu.au

The introduction of A to E grading is probably the most significant change that you will notice about the new reports, especially for primary aged children.

These new grades are different from the grades you might remember from your school years. The new A to E grades don't rank your child in his or her class. Rather, the grades indicate whether your child is 'on track', and learning what is expected, doing better than expected or needs more help.

For example, a grade of C indicates that your child is making sound progress in relation to where he or she was expected to learn over the last semester — your child is 'on track'.

Kindergarten students, students with learning difficulties and students who are learning English for the first time will receive a written report but without the A to E grades.

Why use the A to E grades?

Schools currently use some form of a scale when reporting to parents, but there is no consistency across schools.

The A to E scale will be used by all schools and provide a consistent language for reporting to parents across the state.

Teachers will make a professional judgment, using the grade descriptions, about how well each student has performed and what he or she was expected to learn in the past semester (two terms).

A to E grades are part of the picture

While A to E grades are an important indicator of your child's progress at school, they are only part of the picture.

Student reports will also include information on your child's level of effort and teacher comments on progress in each subject. For example, your child may have received a D in a particular subject but the report will also tell you about the effort that he or she has made.

This mix of information will help you discuss with your child and his or her teacher how to provide encouragement and improve progress.

If you have a concern about your child's progress or behaviour, or you just want to have a general discussion about your child, you don't have to wait until you receive a written report.

Schools provide opportunities for parents to talk with teachers or the principal. As well, you can always call the school to make a time for a special meeting. It's best to ring the school in advance to schedule a mutually convenient time.

The Board of Studies has developed the following descriptions of achievement for use by all NSW schools.

A - Outstanding achievement

The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can apply this knowledge in new situations. The student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills in new situations.

B - High achievement

The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.

C - Sound achievement

The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

D - Basic achievement

The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a basic level of competence in the processes and skills.

E - Limited achievement

The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding of some areas of content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

Your child's new reports will:

- Be written in plain language.
- Provide information about your child's learning in each subject.
- Include teacher comments that identify areas of strength and areas for further development in each subject.
- Provide you with a snapshot of your child's achievements in each A to E grade.
- Provide information about your child's developed and uncommitted development in learning.

What do D and E mean?

- A grade of D or E indicates that, in relation to what he or she was expected to learn, the student has demonstrated only basic or limited achievement.
- The student has learnt some things but not enough to be on track in relation to syllabus standards.
- The grade of D or E is an alert to the student and parents that more needs to be done to keep the student on track.

What A to E means

The Board of Studies develops statewide curriculum standards for all government and non-government schools in New South Wales. These determine what students are required to learn. The Board has also developed the A to E descriptions of achievement. These will be used to describe how well a student has achieved in each subject over the past semester (two terms). Achievement standards will be applied consistently across the state.

What do A to E mean?

- A grade of A to C means that the student is 'on track' in relation to what he or she is expected to learn. Other grades indicate whether your child is doing better than expected or needs more help.

C means that your child is 'on track' in relation to what he or she is expected to learn. Other grades indicate whether your child is doing better than expected or needs more help.
Kinder Information Night 2014
This has been changed to Week 1 of next term on the 15th July at 6.00 p.m. All parents have been informed of the change of date.

Events for this week

Monday  Reports sent home by children
Tuesday  Years 3, 4, 5, 6 girls to Mudgee for the Netball Gala Day. They are being accompanied by Mrs Jones, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Edmunds. Have a great day girls.
Wednesday Year 2 excursion to Japanese Gardens with Mrs Jo Taylor and Miss Emily.
Kinder and Year 4 to the Zoo with Mrs O’Connor, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Knight, Mrs Edmunds and Mr Mann
Thursday  Year 1 and Year 3 to the Zoo with Mrs Sharon Taylor, Mrs Hart, Mr Mann and Mr Ferguson
Friday  Last day of Term 2.
Miss Pruszinski finishes her prac in Year 2. We enjoyed having you Emily.
I daresay you learnt valuable teaching strategies from Mrs Jo Taylor

Thank you Thank You
A huge token of thanks to all my staff for their commitment and dedication beyond the call of duty this term. Thank you to Fathers Greg and Mark for their support. Last but not least all the parents and volunteers for Multilit for all your hard work and support.

PSSA
Thank you to all the children who played so well in PSSA. Thank you to Mr Cant for his perfect organisation and the staff who accompanied the teams—Mr Cant, Mrs Mann, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Edmunds, Mr Mann and Mrs Gavenlock.

Congratulations to the Junior boys Rugby who were undefeated for the competition and won. Congratulations also to the Senior boys Rugby who only lost 1 game.

Have a really lovely holiday with your children and we hope all the bugs, viruses etc are eradicated in the two weeks holiday.

Don’t forget to email the Recipes.

Please be safe and happy.
God be with you.
Yours sincerely

Heather Irwin
Principal  Dip T ELIC BED.MED

Moore’s Mufti Day

Congratulations to Moore (blue) who won this term’s house challenge. The members of Moore are awarded with a mufti (casual clothes) day this Friday. Please remember that this does not mean we have a fashion show and many of the classes will be doing sport, so please dress appropriately.

PSSA
The final week of PSSA sport was completed last Friday. I would like to thank all the staff who assisted and made my life as organizer very easy. Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who showed their support at the ground and of course to the students who had some great fun and represented the school so well – thank you.
We had some great results throughout the rain interrupted term. Special mention to the junior boys rugby league who went through undefeated and were presented with the Lex Richards Memorial Shield, congratulations to: Liam Mulholland, Jake Hutchison, Joey Cant, Eli Hausia, Matt Connolly, Lachlan Clark, Zac Williams, Jordan Killom, Tom Coady and Hugh Ridley.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
The program has now finished but if you have any stickers or sheets (unfinished is fine) at home please send them in by Wednesday so we can finalize our count. Thanks for your support of the program we have a huge job counting the stickers/sheets, at last count we have approximately 25 000 stickers!

Go the Blues!
Greg Cant
Another term over so enjoy the lack of routine as next term is shaping up to be just as busy.

The sacrament of Confirmation is the main focus as the year 6 children prepare for the last of the sacraments of initiation. Please take note of the dates listed below.

Have a wonderful break and enjoy the time with your children.

Dates to remember:

Enrolment Weekends
Saturday 22nd June and Sunday 23rd June
Saturday 29th June and Sunday 30th June

Cut-off date for Enrolments—Friday 5th July

Home Groups
Week 1 commencing 22nd July
Week 2 commencing 29th July
Week 3 commencing 5th August
Week 4 commencing 12th August

Reconciliation Evening
Tuesday 20th August (St Brigid’s)

Confirmation Practice Evening
Monday 26th August (all candidates—St Brigid’s)
Tuesday 27th August (St Laurence’s candidates only—St Laurence’s)

Confirmation
Saturday 31st August—6.00 p.m.
Sunday 1st September—9.00 a.m.
Sunday 1st September—11.00 a.m.
Sunday 1st September—6.00 p.m.

Therese Jones R.E.C.
Just to fill you in on what's occurring.

**Friday 23rd August** is an open day where you can look at the displays in the ITC Centre and wander around the school. Morning tea and lunch (sandwiches) will be provided. Please spread the word around to our past families.

**Saturday 24th August** is the Dinner at the Civic Centre. Cost $40 for a 3 course meal—(children’s menu won't cost $40). During this dinner there is some entertainment which is in the form of dancing by Kinder and Year 6. We need to know by **Monday 24th June** without fail whether your child will participate or not. The return slip must be sent in by this date, if not I'll assume your child is not interested, then we will invite other classes. **Costume**—seeing they will be sitting down to dinner there is no costume. They need to wear their best evening outfit and suitable dancing shoes—no heels.

**Sunday 25th August** is our Mass at St. Brigid’s Church commencing at 9.00 a.m. with many children (hopefully) singing in the choir. This will be followed by a BBQ back at St. Pius X. So parents we would really like your cooperation and support. The cookbook will be the memento of our 40 years celebration. Please send in the recipes by next week.

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**Library News**

**OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS:**

Notes have been sent home to children with overdue library books reminding them that they need to be returned. Library books have a borrowing period of two weeks then they need to be exchanged. Please ensure all books are returned within this time frame.

Children are allowed to borrow during all holidays with the exception of the Christmas break. Reading for pleasure is great way to spend some of our holiday time!

*Bernadette O'Shaughnessy*  Teacher/Librarian

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**Chorale A'capella**

You are invited to Concert of A'capella Choral music featuring **The Song Company**.

Also performing will be **The Orana Voices**, a newly formed community choir and the **Choir of St Johns College Dubbo**.

The **Song Company** are an Australian 7 piece A'ccapella group of national and international renown.

**Venue:** St Brigids Catholic Church Dubbo  
**Date:** on Friday July 19,7.30 pm.  
**Cost:** $20 per person or $50 for a family (2 adults and 2 children)  
**All tickets available at the door.**

*This concert is presented by St Brigids Parish and St Johns College*

Paul Dunn  
23 Charmere Pl Dubbo NSW.2830  
Hm 68842501  
Wk 68843766
YEAR ONE – HSIE

‘GROUPS WE BELONG TO’

This term Year One have been learning about groups that people belong to in our community. We were very fortunate to have some special guest speakers during this unit, who came and shared information with us about the groups that they belong to.

Mr Mann spoke about many different groups that many he and many other people are associated with around Dubbo. Mrs Jen Furney (Emma’s Nan) spoke to us about being a Zoo Volunteer. The information she shared about many of the different animals was very interesting. Mrs Anna Hall (Ben’s mum) came to speak to us about being part of the local Pistol Club. She explained many of the important rules and safety procedures involved with her sport. Mr Damien Pfeiffer (Alexis’ dad) spoke about the various activities he is involved in with the Dubbo Triathlon Club. He showed us all the special equipment and clothing he needs to train and compete.

The children collated the information each guest speaker shared with us and then we drew some labelled diagrams of each person.

Mrs Furney – Zoo Volunteer by William Fletcher
Mrs Hall – Pistol Club
by Bailee-Jade Hutchins

Mr Pfeiffer – Dubbo Triathlon Club
by Hayley Gardner