FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term1 Week 2

This Sunday is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Readings this week all recount a similar idea. God calls individuals to service and hopefully all those called responded positively.

In the First Reading God calls Isaiah and Isaiah responds “Here I am Lord send me” In the Second Reading Paul reminds the community in Corinth that he too was called by God, even after persecuting the church in the very beginning, to preach the Gospel; which he did with great insight, gusto and success.

The Gospel this week from Luke recounts the calling of the fishermen, Peter, James and John, by Jesus to abandon their fishing and to help him with his ministry. The scary part is to imagine our world if any of these individuals had missed the call or answered in the negative. Another point to ponder is what if God is calling you but you are too busy, too deaf, or afraid of the call and what a tragedy it would be to hear the call but to ignore it.

Do you have time and space to listen for God’s call?

St Brigid’s Feast Day Mass

Thanks to all those who were able to accept Fr Rafal’s invitation to attend the Parish Mass on Sunday morning to celebrate the start of another school year and to mark the St Brigid’s Feast Day (Feb 1st).

Tim-tams and tissues morning tea

Thanks to Mrs Julie Rollison and the Parents and Friends’ Association who organised the Tam-tams and tissues morning tea for the parents of our 2016 Prep cohort on last Friday morning.

What is on over the following week

Dental van arrived on Monday.

The start-of-year School Mass was held on St Brigid’s Feast Day (Feb 1st).

Anne Pinnock from CBA will be coming to speak about school banking services at next week’s assembly.

Shrove Tuesday will be marked on Tuesday February 9 and Ash Wednesday the following day.

Assembly prayer this week was led by 6B whilst 6A will lead next week’s.
Parent/Teacher start-of-year Information Sessions will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8, 9, and 10 February.

**Lent**

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the Thursday of Holy Week. Traditionally Lent is a time for renewing and deepening one’s Christian commitment by prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

**Guidance Counsellor News**

I have been advised that our newly appointed Guidance Counsellor will be on leave for Term 1 effective from last week. Ms Danae Ford, an psychologist, school counsellor and registered teacher, has been appointed for Term 1 in Mr Dundas’ absence. Ms Ford will be commencing at St Brigid’s on this Wednesday, February 3rd. Thanks for your understanding.

**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)**

This week we will be introducing/revising our three basic Rules at St Brigid’s;

- Respect for Others,
- Respect for Learning and
- Respect for Property

Like Saint Brigid we show our love for others by showing respect for all those individuals we come into contact with each and every day. Sometimes this can be a challenge but respecting all in our community is the cornerstone of our Positive Behaviour for Learning plan.

**Parent Teacher Evenings**

Early each year we offer Parent/Teacher sessions in the interests of establishing open and constructive relationships between home and school.

Please note the following times and dates for our start-of-school-year Parent/Teacher evenings:

- Monday February 8th Prep and Year 6
- Tuesday February 9th Years 2, 3 and 4
- Wednesday February 10th Years 1 and 5

The evenings will commence at 7 pm with an address by the Principal in the MPA followed by two 30 minute sessions presented by the class teachers in the various classrooms. In the classroom sessions the same material will be presented twice allowing individual parents to attend two different year levels if necessary on the same evening. The classroom session is planned to achieve multiple outcomes; including an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, an opportunity for the class teacher to outline some of the work, activities, expectations and procedures to be encountered during the year, an opportunity for you to clarify any issues that you may have. Parents are welcome to gather again in the hall for a ‘cuppa’ once their classroom sessions have ended.

**Good Advice**

During our lives, people say things to us that we always remember. Sometimes we are given advice that helps to shape our lives. This is what one person remembers a teacher saying, many years ago and I want to pass on the gift to you. I cannot even remember his name. He was a student at our school. I was nine years old. The gift he gave me was a sentence significant only to me. He would not have remembered saying it an hour later. I have never been at all good with my hands and a pottery lesson was spent making coil pots. I could see how it was done; everyone around me seemed to me doing all right, but mine was strangely collapsing. I gave up. Everyone else had made a jar; I had somehow made a flattish sort of thing with centimetre high sides. A plate, possibly. We had to go and present it to our student teacher for advice or approval. I stood in the queue with a friend, chatting. “Mine is awful,” I said casually. “It is really bad.” I was only speaking to my friend, but the student teacher at the front of the room had heard. “Well, then,” he said, “go back and do it again if it is no good.” He was perfectly serious. I extracted myself from the queue, went back to the workbench, and tried again. Of course it was still
awful I could never have made a pot. The sentence was a gift of insight, however, and I learned something that people can take years to discover. There is no point in criticising what you make or what you do. When people say, "Oh, what I have done is awful," what they are really saying is, "I want you to tell me it is okay. I want you to tell me it does not matter." In fact, I think apologising in advance means that often we start off not making much of an effort so we can shrug it off and people will say it does not matter. When my students now give me work saying, "It is terrible, I am so sorry," I think, "Yes, it is. And you made it like that." What we all should do instead is do the best we can and present it with a smile. The very first thing that I say to my students is: "The rule is this: you must not apologise for your work." It changes them. Until then they think it is all right to come and say "This is not very good" because what they have written is not very good, because they did not start by making enough effort, because they never even tried to make it good. I am grateful for that gift from the student teacher. It certainly did not stop me from failing. It did not ensure that what I made would always be perfect. But someone who said, "Do not apologise; make something that you do not need to apologise for" changed my life. So that is my advice to you for this new year, full of opportunities for us all. Do not say "Sorry it is no good". Make it your personal rule always to do work you can hand in with a smile, knowing you have done your best.

Created by--Philip Hensher, Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, UK

Parish News

REQUEST FOR MORE PEOPLE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE LITURGY

We urgently need more people to become involved in the Liturgy of the Mass especially at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in any capacity in the Parish, as:- Sacristan, Readers, Eucharist Ministers, or in any other ministry please call the Parish Office or speak to Father Rafal direct. The more people who become involved means the less often they will be required. Full training will be provided and no one will be asked to participate until they are comfortable and ready for the Ministry.

It is time for another Parish Census to take place. The forms will be handed out at the Masses this weekend and next weekend. Please take a form and complete with the details you are comfortable to give us. All information will be treated in the utmost confidential manner. Please complete the form even if you have filled out a form previously, as details may change over time. Please either hand the form to Father or drop off at the office during office hours.

Car Park

One of the aims of the Active School Travel Program is to reduce the number of cars in the school car park at pick up and drop off times.

Please be aware of the traffic flow in the car park for the after school pick up. Unless other arrangements have been made eg. OSHC or waiting with an older sibling, students with surnames beginning with A-N will be waiting under the church awning and all Prep students and students with surnames O-Z will be waiting under the shelter in front of the Administration building to be collected. Cars collecting students from the church awning side of the car park are asked to enter the car park and join the right hand lane of traffic and those collecting children in front of the Administration building are asked to join the left hand lane. The vehicles in the two lanes then swap lanes at the pedestrian crossing, the left exiting the car park having already collected their passengers, the right pulling into the curb to collect children under the church awning and then exiting the car park.

If the driver intends to leave the vehicle please ensure that the vehicle is parked in a location that does not impede the flow of traffic in the pick up areas.

Please also be aware that the car park is very congested between 2:30 pm and 3:15 pm. To minimise congestion please choose an Active School Travel option

• walk to or from school where possible
• park nearby and walk the last couple of hundred metres,
• car pool with other families,
• use a bicycle/scooter/skate board,
• use public transport where possible
• if using a private vehicle arrive at the car park after 3:15pm. The children waiting in the car park are supervised until 3:30 and then taken to the office to wait.

Uniforms

Congratulations to the children and your parents on the way you wore your uniforms last week. Please keep up the high standard all year.

Change in bell times

There has been a minor adjustment to our school bell times this year. School will now finish at 3:00 pm instead of at 2:55 in previous years.

Oral Health Service

We have been advised that Gold Coast Oral Health Services will commence offering free oral health (dental) services to eligible students enrolled at St Brigid’s starting 01.02.16. This service will be provided ONSITE by Mobile Dental Van 134. Information about making an appointment is produced below in the newsletter

Instrumental Music for Year 3 2016

My name is Glenn Thomas and I’m the new Instrumental Music teacher at Saint Brigid’s School. I will be teaching brass, woodwind and percussion to all the Year 3 students every Thursday throughout the school year. I’m excited to be building a band program at Saint Brigid’s and all Year 3 students are invited to join and participate in a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the foundation of the School Band. Musical Instruments and tuition are being provided without additional charge by Saint Brigid’s School to all Year 3 students and we begin the band program next Thursday, February 4th.

Kevin Bianchi
Principal

APA NEWS

Thank you to the staff, students and community for such a warm welcome to St Brigid’s. As the year quickly increases in pace there are some easy ways to keep up to date about all the events at school. One way is through our Parent Portal. For those of you new to the school, and those who may have forgotten their passwords from last year, there is new system available to login.

When logging in to the Parent Portal you will be asked to enter your email address. The system will allocate you a one time security code and, from there, you can set your own password.

If you forget your password you follow this same procedure.
Just look for this button

The link to our Parent Portal is at [https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/sb](https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/sb)

Once you have logged on and set up your password for the Parent Portal, you can also download the BCE Connect App from any App Store. This App gives you all the information contained in the Parent Portal but maybe more convenient to access if you have it on your mobile phone. You will need your Parent Portal log on details to access the App.

Julie Rey
APA
APRE NEWS

Feast of St Brigid 1 February
Monday was the feast day of our patroness St Brigid which we celebrated together at the whole school opening Mass as St Brigid’s Church.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our feast day celebrations whether this was at the Sunday Parish Mass or at our first school Mass of the year on Monday. As parents and caregivers, you are the primary teachers of the faith to your children. Mass is the central aspect of our Christian life and it plays a central role in the religious formation of your children.

These times provide great opportunities to witness to your faith and to tell stories of how your own parents, family members and friends handed on the faith to you. Children do love stories and these conversations can be part of the tradition handed down to the next generation. The feast of St Brigid is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your children to the stories of the saints. In a time where society elevates entertainers and professional athletes to “hero” status quickly, it is a perfect opportunity to share with them stories of those that have made it to the “eternal hall of fame.”

Did you know?

Years ago, many families in Ireland would place a St Brigid’s cross in their home, usually over the door, to bless all who came in or went out, and to gain protection of the household from fire and disease. As they hung up the cross they would say this prayer:

“May the blessing of God and the Trinity be on this cross, and on the home where it hangs and on everyone who looks at it”

It became a symbol of peace and good will, and has endured from generation to generation, surviving times of great persecution, oppression and hunger.

Click on this link to see how to make a St Brigid’s Cross! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUszDvhMwaw

6B Prayer Assembly

We thank 6B for the messages that were shared in their prayers at the whole school assembly on Monday. The families and friends of our students are always welcome to attend whole school assemblies, which begin at 2.30pm each Monday.

6A will lead next week’s prayer.

St Brigid’s Prayer

Loving God,

You helped St Brigid to become a strong and gentle person.

Help us to see you in the people that we meet each day.

And to serve you as St Brigid did – with joy, courage when things get hard and love for those in need.

AMEN

Beginning of Lent
Part of teaching for social justice at St Brigid's involves education centred on the promotion of social justice, and then instilling these values in students. With this in mind, we will once again be encouraging the St Brigid's community to support the works of Caritas Australia through Project Compassion. This annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal kicks off at the beginning of Lent and brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor in an effort to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. (More information to follow next week.)

Lent Calendar

Did you know that you can download a Lent Calendar for your smartphone, or use the web version and set it as your homepage, to ‘LearnMore’ and ‘CreateChange’ this Lent? Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas Australia’s work in six countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions. A children’s version is also available online.

View or download at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar

Belinda Kingston
APRE
PASTORAL CARE

Year four and five students will have the opportunity of participating in the Grief Programme this term. A letter will be sent home to Parents explaining all the details.

Friendship is born when one person says to another:
"What! You too?
I thought I was the only one"

Grief Manual

May your week be a happy one.

Sr Brigid Frawley

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR NEWS

Thank you to all the students and staff for the kind welcome this morning! I look forward to being the Acting Guidance Counsellor at St Brigid's on Wednesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays this term. I have previously worked in Brisbane Catholic Education in 14 different schools across two years. I can definitely say, St Brigid's students and staff have made me feel incredibly welcome on my first day.
Just for anyone interested in knowing, my background is primarily in guidance counselling for Brisbane Catholic Education. However, for the past six months, I have also been working part time as a psychologist at Young Minds Health and Development Network (i.e. private practice with locations around the North of Brisbane). Please say hello and wave to me if you see me around....or help direct me if I get lost :-) Thank you.

Please enjoy reading the article on confidence.

Danae Ford
Guidance Counsellor

DATE CLAIMERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 February 2016</td>
<td>Year 6 and Prep Parent Info Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CBA Visit to Assembly re school banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9 February 2016</td>
<td>Year 4 Parent Info Evening &amp; Computer Session 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 2 and 3 Parent Info Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10 February 2016</td>
<td>CBA Ne+ Account Opening Session for parents 8:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 and 5 Parent Info evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass Yr 2 -6 9:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Liturgy Prep - Yr 1 1:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 February 2016</td>
<td>Yr 3-6 St Brigid's Swimming Carnival, Somerset Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22 February 2016</td>
<td>District Schools Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March 2016</td>
<td>AST Bling Your Bike Ride to School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 March 2016</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday this week:

CLASS AWARDS
0A Declan, Evie  
0B Max, Matilda  
0C Jack, Ava-Jade  
1A Benny, Will  
1B Mia, Jack  
1C Jaspah, Abbie  
2B Poppy L, Hunter M and William U  
3C Emily, Jonathon  
4C Zara, William

**PB4L**

Robo's Rule of the Week

Respect for Learning  
Respect for Self and Others  
Respect for Property

Robo Awards


**SPORTS REPORT - MR GUDGEON**

2016 Colour Dress-up Swimming Carnival Grades 3 - 6
The 2016 St Brigid's Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 12th February at Somerset Pool, Mudgeeraba. This year's theme is 'COLOURS'. Therefore, students are encouraged to dress-up as anything that is the same colour as their house colour (for example; superheroes, book characters, animals, cartoon characters, sporting hero's, objects, etc.). We encourage all students to dress up as it creates a fantastic atmosphere and builds upon team spirit and individual enjoyment.

Students are encouraged to nominate at least 2 x 50m events and all students are welcomed to participate in the 'novelty events'. Nominations will take place in the first week back, therefore, it is a good idea to discuss specifics such as distances & strokes with your child. This will allow them to make informed choices as to their swimming nominations. Nominations will be completed during class time.

Following this students will bring home a permission note with information about the carnival and a timetable that show the nominations that they have made.

The timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT NO</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>AGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25m Novelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permission notes need to be returned to classroom teachers by Friday 5th February.

We invite all parents and friends to join us on this great day…

Look forward to seeing you all there.

District Swimming

This year’s District Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 22nd February at The Southport School (TSS), Southport.

The carnival is for students aged 10-19 years. Students that swim a district qualifying time will be given a permission note following our school carnival. Parents of those strong swimmers please be prepared in the case of your child qualifying. This will mean providing transport and supervision for your child at the district carnival.

Regards
Simon Gudgeon
PE Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

Library sessions commence week 3. Please send your child with a clean library bag, include a clean plastic supermarket bag inside. If you have any spare clean supermarket bags, why not recycle them through our school library. Ask your child to drop them off at the library.

LIBRARY CLASSES
Monday  Years 5 & 6 with Mrs Coman
Tuesday Years 5 B borrowing with Mrs Knowles
Wednesday Years 1 & 2  with Mrs Knowles
Thursday Years 4 with Mrs Knowles
Friday  Prep & Year 3 with Mrs Knowles

Jan Knowles
Teacher Librarian

THE ARTS

Welcome Back
Welcome back and a special welcome to those families who are new to our St Brigid's community.

Each week, this section will provide news regarding what's happening in The Arts curriculum areas of Music, Dance and Drama, here at St Brigid's in 2016. So please check in and see what's happening, how your child is involved and what opportunities we are offering.

Last year we introduced Dance and Drama, along with the existing Music classes - each class receiving a one hour lesson, each week, with the specialist teacher. For many, it was a completely new way of learning and doing, but any worries were soon swept away when students realised they didn't have to be ballet dancers or actors! It was exciting to see students respond so positively in the lessons.

Singing club

There will be a number of changes to Singing Club in the near future. However, for now we will start Thursday week 2.

Parents, please have your child ready to begin at 8am (arrive by 7.55am), with a display folder for carrying music.

I ask that only students from years 2-6 attend.

Your child will bring home a note which outlines expectations and responsibilities of membership.

Singing Club is free of charge.

Instrumental Music Programme

(This is VERY EXCITING NEWS)

We welcome Mr Glenn Thomas to our staff this year, as our instrumental music teacher. Mr Thomas will be conducting lessons each Thursday with the year 3 classes. Each student in year 3 will be learning a concert band instrument this year. Mr Bianchi and your child's teacher will have further information at the parent-teacher information evening, so make sure you attend!

Extra-curricular instrumental lessons

Your child has the opportunity to learn the following instruments while at St Brigid's:

Guitar : Piano : Drums
Watch out for details in next week’s newsletter.

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead in the Arts!

Mrs Maryanne Sandstrom
Arts Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note: Backpacks have arrived and are available for purchase.

Hours

Opening hours - Tuesday and Friday 8:30am - 9:30am

Help needed! If you have a spare hour on a Tuesday or Friday morning from 8.30 - 9.30am, your help serving would be greatly appreciated. If available to help out, please give me a call or drop in to the Uniform Shop.

We currently have an abundance of second hand uniforms and cannot take any more this term until stocks go down. Thank you.

Debbie Laurie

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Thank you to the families and students who have been able to travel actively so far this year. As you know there are many benefits to this behaviour.
We would like to remind you that we will have the coffee van here next week Wednesday February 17th.

We are going to have a “Bling your Bike” on Friday March 4th for Ride to School Day. We normally have our “hands-up” survey every Wednesday, but this week we will do the “hands-up” survey on the Friday. More details to come!

Happy active travelling St Brigid’s!

---

ECO NEWS

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Visitor's Register

The Visitor's Register is located at Reception and all parents and visitors are required to sign in and out.

This is an essential document that keeps the school informed of all visitors and contractors who may be on site at any particular point in time.

be SAFE be WELL

CLASS NEWS

Prep News
We would like to welcome everyone into our Prep family for 2016.

This week the children are learning the letters and sounds ‘Ss and Aa’. Please encourage your child to know these sounds/letters, as it is necessary for the early stages of reading and writing.

In Maths we are making connections with the children’s prior learning and doing lots of activities involving the numbers from 0-10.

In Religion we celebrated St Brigid’s Day by attending a school Mass, and followed this with creating our own St Brigid’s Cross. The children are becoming aware of the different places that we display crosses. They are starting to learn how to make the Sign of the Cross.

Last week we sent home an information sheet called “All About Me”. Just a reminder that these notes must be returned to school once completed. From this, the children will give an oral presentation of the information received, as it is part of our History Curriculum.

Our inquiry question for Geography this term is “What are places like?” We are starting this unit by looking at world maps, including the globe.

In Visual Arts, we are introducing the primary colours and focusing on the colour “Blue”. We are looking forward to meeting you all again at our Prep Information Evening, Monday 8th February. Additional information can be viewed in this newsletter.

Year 1 News

Welcome to all Grade One families. The children have settled in well and we’re having a great time. We began our year celebrating Australia day with vegemite sandwiches and a thong throwing competition. This week we are talking about St Brigid and how important she is to our community. Currently we are revising sounds and number concepts. If your child has a medical issue the school does not yet know about, please inform the office ladies. We look forward to seeing you all next week at the Parent Information evening. We meet first in the MPA at 7PM, followed by classroom meetings at 7.30. Please bring your questions along.

Year 2 News

Welcome back to a brand new year!

We hope that you had a wonderful holiday with your family and that you are refreshed and ready for the challenges of the year. We look forward to working with you in educating your children in 2016.

The children all arrived very excited on their first day back at school. They had a wonderful first day and had a great time catching up with their old friends and making new ones.

Have a great week!

Year 3 News

Welcome to Year Three! We have had a very busy and exciting start to the new school year. We’ve already celebrated Australia Day and St. Brigid’s Day and we are looking forward to our first swimming carnival next Friday. Please ensure that your child has plenty to eat and drink on the day as well as all swimming equipment they will need. The children swim in the age group that they are turning this year so if they are turning 8, they swim with the 8s and if they’re turning 9, they swim with the 9s. Please send in their nominations ASAP. They are required to swim at least two 50m events (freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke or butterfly). As this is their first carnival, they may need some help from you when choosing their strokes.

You may have realised that some of the classroom names have been changed around. That is
because the classes are ordered alphabetically by the teacher’s surname. So that is why we have Buckley - 3A, Messenger - 3B and Vekaci - 3C.

We have had a change of days for library. This will now be on Friday as we are starting the instrumental group on Thursdays. Your child will have an opportunity this Thursday to try out a variety of band instruments, and will eventually be bringing one home to practise on. They will be issued to your child at no cost to you, and returned to the school at the end of the year. You will receive more information about this in the near future.

3A have PE and music on Wednesdays.
3B have PE and music on Wednesdays.
3C have PE on Wednesdays and music on Fridays.
3A and 3B have the option to also wear their sport uniform on Fridays if they wish to.

Please come along to our parent information evening on Tuesday 9th February.

YEAR 4 NEWS

It is hard to believe we are in Week 2 already.

The children have had a lot of changes during Week 2.

* They have taken possession of their tablets and begun learning how they work. It is a different operating system that is used on the tablets to the other computers in the school.
* Japanese was enjoyed by every student we have spoken with, so perhaps they will be able to teach you a few words very soon.

Please keep Tuesday February 9th free from 6.30 pm.

Starting at 6.30 we will be meeting in the Year 4A classroom to go through the Elite pad roll out for your children. We will be covering the expectations, procedures, the machine itself and a little on cybersafety issues. The computer agreements will be handed out on the night and none of the Elitepads will go home until all signed documents have been returned to the Year 4 teachers.

We are also having our Year 4 Parent Information Evening on the same night so you don’t have to come out twice. This will begin at 7.30 after a brief talk from the school principal, Mr Bianchi. Hope to see you there.

The swimming carnival is being held on Friday the 12th and I’m sure it will be a lot of fun. Your children need to return their nomination forms by Friday to their classroom teacher.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

OFFICE NEWS

Term 1 Fees

School fees for Term 1 2016 were issued on 29 January 2016 with a due date of 19 February 2016. There are a number of payment options available which include Direct Debit, Credit Card, BPAY,
Eftpos, Cash (only with the correct amount as we do not carry any change), Cheque and Centrepay. Forms for Direct Debit, Credit Card and Centrepay are available on the Parent Portal and the School Office.

Please advise the Office if you have not received your fee statement.

Jo Duran
Finance Secretary

Parent Portal

This year parents will be able to set up Parent Portal access and also reset passwords themselves (use link below). Your username will be the email address that you provided to the school.

Please contact the Office if you have any queries in relation to this.

Users need to select the ‘Forgotten Password/First-Time Login’ icon from the Login screen identified in the screen shot below:

Once you have accessed the Parent Portal, you may like to download our BCE Connect App from any App Store. You will need your log on details from the Portal to access the App. The App contains the same information as the Parent Portal but may be more accessible being on your mobile phone.

School Banking 2016
2016’s theme for School Banking is Outback Savers.

The rewards for 2016 with their release dates are:

- Flying Snake Tail and Wildlife Writer Set  Term 1
- Mud Splat Handball and Outback Pat Bag Tag  Term 2
- Backtrack Eraser Pen and Jump and Skip Rope  Term 3
- Bush Fly Fan and Wriggly Glow Worm  Term 4

We still have a supply of selected items from previous years which can be ordered. These are:

- 2014 Money Box
- ET DVD
- Galaxy Glider
- Intergalactic Rocket
- Outerspace Saver Money Box

**2016 Competition**

This year students have a chance to win a family trip for up to 2 adults and 3 children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Bob Irwin.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will automatically be entered into the draw. For more information please visit [www.commbank.com.au/sbc](http://www.commbank.com.au/sbc).

**Lost Property**

Lost property not claimed after a period of time will be given to charity or disposed of.

Please remember to label all items.
Student Absences

When leaving a message on the School Absences Line - please clearly state the following:

- Student's name
- Class
- Reason for absence - VERY IMPORTANT

**Please call the Absences Line prior to 9am on the day of the absence.**

Administration of Medication

Student Medication Request forms must be completed by a parent/caregiver and handed to the school office in order to authorise the administration of medication to a student.

Please click on the link below to download and print a form.

**Have you changed your Contact Details?**

As we may need to contact you urgently at any time due to your child being unwell or in an accident, it is imperative that we have your current contact details. If you have moved house, changed your workplace, email address or phone number/s recently, please call into the office to complete a Change of Address/Contacts form.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Gold Coast Health Oral Health Services**

Gold Coast Oral Health Services are offering free dental check-ups to children in years Prep to 6.

This service will be provided on-site by Mobile Dental Van 134. Hours of operation for this clinic are Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm.

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone:

The Oral Health Client Service Centre
Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted. When your child’s $1000 cap is reached, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses provided your child meets eligibility criteria.

* Eligibility – All Queensland resident children aged four years or older who have not completed year 10 of secondary school.

Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp

**Exciting New Hot Shots Tennis Program**

Tennis Australia Endorsed Program for primary students which uses specially designed court sizes & equipment to help develop skills for life, making it A LOT OF FUN.

**WHEN:** Lessons run 6 days a week Monday through to Saturday

**WHERE:** Hinterland Tennis Club, Price Street, Nerang

**COST:** $12 per lesson

Look forward to seeing you on the court Details & Bookings
Contact Jonathon 0488 696 939
Netball - Winter Juniors

Wanted for the 2016 Winter Junior Netball Season:

Netball Players, Coaches and Team Managers.

Players aged 7, 8, 9, and 10 years.

Season starts end of February.

Please text or phone for further details: Ph 0411 441 310, 0416 527 009 or 0405 048 286

Advertise Your Business

Advertise your business on the Electronic School Newsletter with a link to your website.

If you are interested please call AustNews on 07 3330 1606.