Principal’s Report

Many of our neighbours in Austin Road are upset with the changes to our drop off and pick up arrangements. We ask you to ALL be mindful of the following:

- Respect our neighbours at all times
- Drive slowly in order to keep Austin Road safe for students and residents
- Drive slowly to help prevent neighbour’s houses and cars being covered with dust
- Be aware that the police have been asked to attend to monitor the speed at which everyone leaves the school grounds

Thank you for your support in this matter. We want to maintain respectful relationships with our neighbours and we want to keep all students and their families safe.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER.

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

I am very pleased with the respectful, safe and orderly start your children have made to their learning this year. I would like to congratulate you all on the many ways you support us in partnership. It’s difficult to believe that the end of first term is already within our sights. We already have so much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Foundation Information Night

We warmly welcome all Foundation parents to this special evening that will outline what the early learning experiences for your Foundation child will look like. We look forward to welcoming you all on Wednesday 24th February at 7:00pm. We will meet in the multi-purpose room. We look forward to seeing at least one parent from each family at this event.

School Closure Day – Friday 26th February

On this day, the staff will work together to learn more about the effective use of data to drive student learning in Literacy and Mathematics. We will also work to deepen teacher knowledge around the latest approaches to the teaching of writing and spelling. A reminder to all that this is a pupil free day.

---

**Diary**

**Tuesday: 23/2**
- Year 3 Retreat Day—Hastings
- School Board Meeting at 7pm

**Wednesday: 24/2**
- Information Night—Foundation
  - 7pm—8pm

**Friday: 26/2**
- School Closure Day
- Selected Students Swimming Trials

**Monday 29/2**
- Year 3/4 Excursion to Somerville
- Assembly 3/4B

**Friday 4/3**
- Twilight Sports & Welcome BBQ
  - 5.00pm

**Sunday 6/3**
- Working Bee
  - 9.00am—12.00pm
School Board Meeting
The St Brendan’s School Advisory Board will hold its first meeting for the 2016 school year tonight at 7:00pm in the staffroom. This group is vital to the life of the school and they work collaboratively with me to provide an advisory parent voice in decision making at St Brendan’s. We are still seeking one new member to join the Board. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Sue Carr at school. Please also be aware that the Board has a suggestion box at reception where parents can express ideas and ask questions. Please note that items from the box must be lodged one week prior to our meetings.

Welcome Barbeque and Twilight Sports – Friday 4th March 5:00pm
All families are warmly invited to attend our Welcome Barbeque and Twilight Sports on Friday 4th March starting at 5:00pm. This is a wonderful event where members of our community can meet each other in an informal, family friendly setting. It is the first opportunity for our Sports Captains to show their leadership skills. All Year 6 students will be involved in the preparation and running of the sports.

The barbecue is our first fundraising event for the year. Please see the Social and Fundraising page in this newsletter for all the details.
I look forward to seeing you there.

Working Bee and Barbecue – Sunday 6th March 9:00am – 12:00pm
It is my plan and the plan of the School Advisory Board that we hold two working bees per year. We would like to see at least one parent from each family attend for at least one hour on Sunday 6th March commencing at 9:00am. We have a list of simple tasks that we aim to complete on this day. Please come along with your children and gardening tools and spend an hour or so with other members of the St Brendan’s community improving the grounds for our students. Maintenance and beautification of our school grounds is a time consuming and costly process so your support is greatly appreciated. Please complete the attached slip to let us know you will attend. This will help us with catering.

Have a great week.

ST. BRENDAN’S WORKING BEE
Sunday 6th March 2016

Family Name: __________________________________________________
No of adults attending: ___________________
No of children attending: ________________
Lent is well under way and already into Day 12. Ash Wednesday started the period of 40 days of fasting, praying and giving. This year, the senior school and the junior school had separate services for the Ash Wednesday celebration. The senior school made full use of their Hub with the doors being pulled back and a liturgical space being created. The Year 5/6 children showed respect towards each other and the intimacy of their gathering. They were asked to reflect on the words in their Gospel reading and participate with discussion amongst the students around them. The Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 classes participated in a different service which focused on ‘throwing’ out the bad feelings and actions and starting with a new mindset. Both groups of children were reverent and respectful.

The Year 3 children are participating in their Reconciliation retreat day at Saint Mary’s church in Hastings today… We pray they find a connection with the Gospel stories and embrace this phase of their Faith Journey.

All classes have Project Compassion boxes on their prayer tables and all groups are keen to fill them….. encourage your child to occasionally forgo an icy pole to contribute a few cents in the box.

Yours in Faith,
Anne-Marie Robb
School and Parish Community working together:

It was lovely to hear that our Parish and school communities have been working together. A sausage sizzle run by the Knights of the Southern Cross, who are a group operating in the Western Port Parish hosted a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hastings on Saturday the 13th of February.

Each year, the Knights of the Southern Cross offer a $500 scholarship to one Year 6 student from each of our three Parish Primary Schools located in Western Port who will be attending Padua College Tyabb. The award also includes an invitation to the family and the winning child to attend a special dinner hosted by the Knights of the Southern Cross and it is a wonderful occasion that allows us to recognise the strengths of our students.

The sausage sizzle is one such fundraiser to help raise money for these wonderful scholarships and a big thank you to those in our communities that offered to help and attended this very successful event. Great work for all concerned.

The Western Port Cluster Community Cooking Program:

It is with great excitement that I launch another wonderful venture that our schools and Parish are about to embark on. As part of our Family School Partnership for the Western Port Cluster we are working on hosting cooking evenings to be held once per term in the beautiful kitchens of Padua College Tyabb. The purpose of this cooking evening is to bring volunteers from all our four schools together to cook meals that will be then frozen and shared between our schools and the Parish for the purpose of helping members of our community who are in need. As a community we experience families dealing with major illnesses, death, birth of a baby and short term difficulty within our families. We as a cluster wish to support others in our community with the provision of meals to assist them in their time of need.

We are currently finalising the date for our first cooking evening to be held early in Term 2 and at this point I am wanting to create a database of volunteers who would be willing to come along and cook. All ingredients and recipes are provided and we need you to bring your clean hands and an apron. You do not have to be a fantastic cook but simply someone who is willing to give it a go and be involved. If you can peel, chop or wash dishes then you are qualified!

I will need around 30 volunteers for each cooking evening and by registering on our database you are saying you’re willing to be involved. We understand that you may have other commitments and can only make an occasional night and that is fine. I am hoping to have enough volunteers to share the load around. I can say that the nights will be fun and as well as getting to know other parents you are really helping to make a difference.

To clarify, some of you may have heard of a similar program that I am involved in with the Padua College Parent Group. This new cooking group called the Western Port Cluster Community Cooking Group is a replica of that model and the great news is our meals will help even more families in our community.

Please think about getting involved and I encourage mums and dads to email me at fsl.westernport@gmail.com. Please send me your name, email address, mobile number and school your child(ren) attend. I will be in touch and I thank you in advance for supporting this. I am really excited and looking forward to cooking with you.

Anne-Marie Houlihan
Family School Leader
CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Any new families to the school who live over 4.8 kilometres from St Brendan’s School (and St Brendan’s is the closest Catholic school to your home) may be eligible for Travel Allowance. If you believe that you are entitled to this benefit, please contact the school office for the relevant form ASAP.

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note there is an updated Uniform Price List / Order Form effective January 2016. A copy will be attached to the Newsletter email. Please note that orders can be placed through the message tub via the order form and delivered via your child’s classroom. Please provide payment details when ordering.
SAVE A TREE! GET YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Yes, I would like my weekly newsletter via email.

Name:_________________________________________
Email:_________________________________________
Eldest Child’s Grade:_______________

DISABLED PARKING AREAS

Please be advised that parking in a Disabled Parking Area is only allowed with the display of a Disabled Parking Permit. Please do not park in these areas if you do not have a permit.
Thank you

FEES & LEVIES

Please note all School Fees & the Student & Excursion Levy for 2016 have now been billed.
The Student Levy of $300.00 and the Excursion Levy of $65.00 per student was due and payable on the first day of school. If you have not yet paid these levies, please do so this week.
The total 2016 Family Fee is $1550.00 of which $520.00 is due and payable by 29th February 2016.
A further payment of $520.00 is due in Term 2 and the balance of $510.00 is due in Term 3. Please attend to payment of the amount of $520.00 before the end of February.

Swimming and Lifesaving will be billed at a later date.

CSEF

It is very important if you hold a current Health Care Card, that you advise the office and obtain an application form for the CSEF. If you are eligible, the payment is an amount of $125.00 made to the school to apply against levies for either Camp, Sports or Excursions.

Direct Debits

Please note that we can implement a direct debit payment system for fees. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact the office.

If you have any questions regarding school fees, please contact Karyn Dickson in the office.
St Brendan's Fundraising Committee
The St Brendan's Fundraising Committee are a group of parents and friends who volunteer to raise money to put towards updating & improving our school. We add value to our children's education and create social events to bring our school community together.

The core fundraising committee has an elected president, communications representative, treasurer, secretary, and class representative from each class.

Introducing our 2016 Fundraising Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President: Emma Rumler</th>
<th>Treasurer: Bernie Carne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Wendy Ziino</td>
<td>Communications Representative: Liz Gazzola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation K: Bernie Carne</td>
<td>3/4T: Donna Smyth / Andrea Dent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation D: Liz Gazzola</td>
<td>3/4R: Megan Onley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2H: Lisa Fraumano</td>
<td>3/4BP: Wendy Ziino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2T: Lisa Griffin</td>
<td>5/6C: Karen Tilley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2S: Sam Piercy</td>
<td>5/6N: Emma Rumler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2F: Alison Manning / Maxine Pritchard</td>
<td>5/6T: Kat Drago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All St Brendan's community members are welcome to attend fundraising meetings which are held once a month at 1pm in the Italian Room. Meeting dates, fundraising & social events will be regularly updated in the school newsletter.

With our busy lives, it's not always possible to attend a meeting, but there are lots of ways you can still be involved; by volunteering your time to an event ie. school disco's, mother & father day stalls, selling raffle tickets to family and friends attending social events

Our children love to see their parent and friends helping out, it also encourages a sense of community, spreads the workload, and is an opportunity to meet other families & make new friends.

Our Calendar of Events for Term 1:

**FRIDAY 4th MARCH - ST BRENDAN'S TWILIGHT SPORTS.**
The fundraising committee runs a barbeque at this event and we will need volunteers to help staff the barbecue. Please contact Liz Gazzola on 0417 523 776 if you are able to help volunteer one hour of your time.

**MONDAY 7th MARCH - HOT CROSS BUNS**
Look out for the order form in your children's reading wallets.

**FRIDAY 18th MARCH - SCHOOL DISCO**
Ticket purchase details to come at a later date.

**FRIDAY 18th MARCH - FREE DRESS DAY**
For this privilege each student is to bring an Easter egg to put towards the Easter raffle.

**THURSDAY 24th MARCH - EASTER RAFFLE**
Will be drawn the last day of term at 12.45pm.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 15th at 1.00pm in the Italian Room, we hope to see you then.
Parent Helpers are needed in the library on a regular basis. Even once a week would be greatly appreciated. We will also need literacy books covered at home at certain times of the year.

Please fill in and return the form below if you can assist us. Please ensure you have a current Working With Children’s check.

Thank you

Kathy Cunningham
Librarian

LIBRARY ASSISTANCE

I am able to help in the Library: [ ]

Available Days: ________________________________

I am able to cover books at home: [ ]

Name: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________