Principal’s Report

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to welcome you back to a brand new school year! We have had an excellent start as we welcomed back 282 students for testing and their first full day of school yesterday. I would like to say how proud we are of all the children for the positive way in which they have begun their new school year.

We were delighted to welcome fifty of the most beautiful little Foundation students who started ‘big school’ for the first time last Thursday. They are a welcome addition to our community and we hope that they and their families feel at home very soon.

We also welcomed new students across Year One to Year Six and we hope they feel as though they belong at St Brendan’s very soon. They are:

- Erika and Helena Bilic
- Oscar Mellor
- Rohan and Isla Hart
- Stephanie Hall
- Tex and Sonny Allen
- Red Sevilla
- Mia Atkins
- Josie, Eddie and Abbie Brent

We also welcome Mr Ben Thorn (Year 3/4T), Mrs Andrea Connors (Year 3/4B), Mrs Daniela Ruberto (Italian), Mrs Kim McKeown (Prep K and Year 1/2T) and we welcome back from leave, Mrs Emma Chapple (Music).

Some Changes at St Brendan’s

Adventure Sandpit
I hope you have seen the magnificent new adventure sandpit, dry creek bed and casurina forest that was constructed over the holidays by Richard Bellomo and his wonderful team. Our thanks must go to you the parents as this wonderful new area was constructed with funds that were raised through your social and fundraising efforts over the past year. It is lovely to see the children really enjoying this new play space.

Car Park and Drop Off and Pick Up Routines
As you will have noticed, our car park layout and drive in and drive out arrangements have changed. These changes have been made first and foremost in the interests of child safety and secondly, to smooth the flow of school traffic.

While we all adjust to the new arrangements, we ask the following of you:

- Observe the speed limit of 5kph while driving inside the school grounds
- Give way at the ‘give way’ sign—parents coming from ‘drop zone’ must give way
- Reverse into parking bays
- Watch out for children
- Follow directions from staff on duty
Senior ‘drop zone’ is for Years 4-6, Junior ‘drop zone’ is for Years 1-3
Where possible, tell your children whether you’ll be going through the drop zone or parking and picking them up
Respect the local residents when driving on Austin Rd
If dropping children in the ‘drop zone’, do not get out of your car. Children must be ready to get out with their school bags and move towards the building
Parents who are in pickup zone must give way to ongoing traffic

Thank you all for your support as we work together to make this work.

Assembly
This year assembly will be held on Monday afternoons at 2:20pm. All parents are most welcome to attend. Next week, on Monday afternoon, Year 5/6C will present the assembly.

Information Evenings
Information evenings for each of the year level groups will be held over the coming weeks. The dates and times are as follows:

Year 5/6 Wednesday 3rd February at 7:00pm - an important meeting as curriculum, expectations and School camp will be discussed
Year 3/4 Wednesday 10th February at 7:00pm
Year 1/2 Wednesday 17th February at 7:00pm
Foundation Wednesday 24th February at 7:00pm

Parent Conversations
This is an opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s class teacher to discuss items of mutual interest. They will be held on Wednesday March 9th between 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Please mark the date in your diaries.

Working Bee
We are giving all parents advance notice of our upcoming working bee where we plan to complete some works in the school gardens. The working bee will be held on Sunday, 6th March from 9.00am to 1.00pm. All families are asked to give at least an hour of their time. In coming newsletters, we will provide you with a list of tools we need you to bring with you. Children are welcome and we will have a sausage sizzle at the conclusion of the day.

Please complete the form contained in this newsletter and return it to school as soon as possible so that we can plan the jobs we can complete and cater for those who will attend. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Do you ski?
Katty Luczak mum of Sebastian Year 4 and Millie Year 2 is wanting to make contact with families who have primary school children who can ski. Katy is interested in possibly forming a team to compete this winter. Please contact the school office if you and your children are interested and we will put you in contact with Katty.

School Board
The St Brendan’s School Board will hold it’s first meeting on Tuesday 23rd February at 7:00pm. We have a vacancy on the Board as Liz Gazzola (Sophia Year 4 and Emilia Foundation) has had to step down due to work and study commitments.

Thanks to Liz for her energy and many contributions. If you want to work with a team of parents in an advisory role, please contact the Board Chairperson; Hayden Marsh (Marissa Year 6, Boyd Year 3, Scarlett Year One), the Board Secretary; Hayley Wallace Bella Year 5, Sam Year 2) or Sue Carr via the school office. We welcome new people regardless of how long you’ve been a member of the school community.

The staff and I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Have a great week.

Sue Carr— Principal
OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER REVIEW

Name: Ben Thorn
Previous School: Just graduated from ACU
Favourite Sport: Basketball - goes for Chicago Bulls
Favourite Hobby: Listening to rock music
Thoughts from Ben: ‘The school has been extremely welcoming and I love the atmosphere and friendly students and parents. Although I would love to have more male teachers!’

LITERACY NEWS

TO ALL PARENTS INTERESTED IN OFFERING ASSISTANCE IN THE CLASSROOM

On Friday, 12th February, 2016 in the Multi Purpose Room, I will be running a session for parents to inform them about the different ways they can assist in the classroom during the Literacy Program, under the direction of the classroom teacher. The session will begin at 9.00 am.

Much can be achieved when partnerships with parents and teachers are formed, as most Literacy Programs require assistance if they are to be run efficiently and productively.

It is essential that all classroom helpers have a Working with Children Check. Even if you do not have one of these yet, please attend the session. Forms are available online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au.

If you are interested in attending the session please complete the form below by Tuesday, 9th February.

Thank you in anticipation,
Sue Slavin (Literacy Leader)

I _________________________ would like to attend the session for parents interested in offering assistance in the classroom on Friday, 12th February, 2016 in the Multi Purpose Room.

Signed: ____________________ Child’s Name &
Grade ________________________
Help Wanted

The Uniform Shop are after helpers on Mondays from 8.30am—9.00am. If you are able to help out on a regular basis, please complete the slip below and return to the office.

Name:_____________________________
Phone Number:_____________________

Happy Birthday to...

Luke Taranto  Angus Kasbach  Lily Currie
Jada Taylor  Jack Tropeano-Smartt  Chase Mantel
Nicholas Bloom  Samuel Wallace  Luka Varga
Logan Goodwin  Red Sevilla  Milla Hall
Kade Burns  Tiffany Maestrale  Tyler Harkin
Sofia Gazzola  Flynn Smallacombe  Marissa Marsh
Ryder Scott  Roman Rae  Boyd Marsh
Joel Vincent  Ruby Chellingsworth-Foster  Edward Brent
Ciel Murcott  Lexi Tropeano-Smartt  Abigail Brent
Deklan Dukes  Mrs. Wendy Sullivan  Ms. Julie Thomas
Mrs. Sue Slavin  Mrs. Lorna Heath  Father Michael Miles
Mrs. Catherine Hare

Wishing you a fabulous time with your family and friends!

WELCOME
to our new Prep families

We are very excited to welcome our new Prep families to St. Brendan’s Primary School. We hope that you have an enjoyable experience here.

Allen  Ashley  Bader-Leon
Benfield  Bright  Bryant
Corbridge  Cronin  Grimaidi
Granger-Horton  Hall  Jonker
Judd  McInerney  McGowan
Pidgeon  Rodgers  Smith
Sperway  Trotter  Wardley
Warren  Wolter  Young

Come
Join Us
Welcome Back!!
Canteen needs your help! Can you spare some time on a Friday from 12 noon to 1.30pm helping with school lunch orders. No toddlers allowed!

The canteen is open for lunch orders. It will also be open for icypoles only every day during the hot weather season at lunchtimes.

If you would like to help out either selling icypoles or during lunch order days, please contact Jeanette on 0408 378 968.

For new parents who are unsure of the process for putting in a lunch order for their child, here are a few tips.

Write the order on a paper bag big enough to contain the food ordered. (If a bag is not available, write the order on an envelope and enclose a little more money to cover the cost of the bag which will be provided.) Select the food required from the lunch order list provided by the school and write the order onto the lunch bag or envelope. N.B. Ice creams are collected directly from the canteen. Place the written order with money enclosed into the classroom lunch basket on a Monday or Friday.

Thank you, Jeanette Mounsey

UNIFORM SHOP
Please note the 2015 hours for the uniform shop will be

The uniform shop is located at the back of our new building.

Asthma Management Plan
Students who are known to be asthmatic; be it occasional or regular, are asked to provide the school with an Asthma Management Plan and their own named personal medication.

Medication
Medication of any kind, sent to school with a student, must be handed in at the office along with a written permission note providing details of its use.
Children are not permitted to administer their own medication. Medication must be administered with adult supervision and written parental permission.

CDF BANCING
School banking will commence next Tuesday, 9th February. Books will be processed on Tuesday mornings, so please have your bank books in by Monday. If you are interested in starting your child a bank account, please contact the office.
New accounts will receive a gift from CDF.

RUNNING CLUB
Running Club will be back this term starting Wednesday, 9th February, be ready to start at 8.15am.
We hope to see you all there on the running track.

A note went home yesterday explaining how to book your school interview online.
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
The code is FZW3E
Please note that the date is WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH
Bookings will close on Tuesday, March 8th.

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Thank you, Jeanette Mounsey
ST. BRENDAN’S WORKING BEE

Family Name: __________________________________________________

No of adults attending: __________________

No of children attending ___________________

HOSPITALITY REPRESENTATIVE REPLY SLIP

NAME: _________________________________________________________

CLASS: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________

SAVE A TREE! GET YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Yes, I would like my weekly newsletter via email.

Name:_________________________________________

Email:_________________________________________

Eldest Child’s Grade:__________________________

LITERACY HELPER

Yes, I am able to help with reading
Mornings □
Afternoons □
Name:_______________________________________

CHILDRENS LITURGY HELPER

Yes, I am able to help with Children’s Liturgy at Saturday evening’s Mass at 6pm

Name:_____________________

Phone:______________________
**Digital Learning**

**BYOD Update for Year 5/6**

A reminder that devices (ipads, ipad minis etc) can be brought to school during Week 3 (8th - 12th February). If your child’s device has a passcode on it, please either take it off or provide it with the device so that the wifi settings and security certificates can be installed. Passcodes can then be put back on.

Please ensure you have installed the required apps and appropriate security settings on the device.

If you have not already signed and returned the User Agreement to your child’s class teacher, please do so as soon as possible.

App lists and User Agreements can be collected from your child’s teacher.

**The Uniform Exchange**

Hello and welcome to the new school year. For all our new parents to St Brendan's we are a second hand uniform shop that sells good quality items at very reasonable prices. We also offer an exchange service whereby you can swap your second hand items (provided they are in clean and good used condition) for alternate items to the same value. However, we do rely heavily on people simply donating uniforms that are no longer needed. We open once a term for three consecutive days from 3.00 till 3.30pm. Profits made are put back into our school’s fundraising account.

So, if your child has grown over the Summer or you had a child leave last year we would love donations of good quality second hand uniforms. Also if you know of any grade six children from last year with no further siblings we would love their old uniforms to re-sell, so please spread the word.

We are opening this term on the 15th, 16th & 17th of February from 3.00pm, operating from the uniform shop at the rear of the multi purpose room. Please note we only accept CASH PAYMENT on the day.

We look forward to offering this fantastic service once again in 2016.

Regards

Cristy & Liz

**R.E. NEWS**

Welcome to the 2016 year. It is a very exciting time in the teaching of R.E. for the staff and students at St. Brendan’s due to us being one of the focus schools to use and review the use of the new Religious Education Outcomes. As part of this change in teaching Religious education, we are setting our teachers in all levels with a new R.E resource kit which includes many items for enhancing storytelling and meditative prayer. On that point, I am looking for sewers to help hem table cloths and cloths for these kits.

So if you can sew or know somebody who is happy to hem some material please email me on amrobb@sbsomerville.catholic.edu.au

This term will be busy with the Grade Three children preparing and participating in Reconciliation activities and our very early Lenten period. Grade 6 leaders will be attending the St. Patrick’s day Mass on the 17th of March and the teachers will be attending Mass on Saturday night to commit themselves to your children’s education for another year. Please come along and support them in teaching your children.

Yours in faith Anne-Marie Robb
CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVE 2016

Please consider being your child’s Classroom Representative in 2016. This is a rewarding role, and a great way to get to know other parents, not just in your child’s class, but throughout the school. You will be supporting your child’s teacher and the school community.

Reps are required for the following classes:

1/2H, 1/2/T, 1/2S, 1/2F, 3/4T, 3/4R, 5/6N, 5/6T

Below is a list of what is expected from the Class Representative.

To be the liaison between the parents and teacher
To be a Fundraising Team Member
To be the Displan Representative

1. Liaising between the parents and teacher:
   - Organise a class contact list to distribute amongst the parents in your class
   - Organise a social event for the parents in your class (not compulsory)
   - Send out reminder text messages to parents in your class of any events happening at the school (at your discretion)
   - Organising a card and gift for your class teacher and teacher aid, for their birthdays and at Christmas
   - As advised by your class teacher, organise gifts for families in your class

2. A Fundraising Team Member
   - Attend scheduled fundraising meetings with the school Principal or the Deputy Principal
     (Meetings are scheduled once a month on Mondays at 1.00pm)
   - Organise and help with fundraising activities throughout the year

3. Displan Representative
   - You are required to contact the families of the eldest children in your class should an emergency arise
   - You will be notified by the school in the event of an emergency
   - The contact list must be kept with you at all times

Every class needs a representative, so please considering being your child’s class representative. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Social and Fundraising Team members through the school office. Please return the below slip to the office before Wednesday 10th February 2016.

Thank you for your consideration

Social and Fundraising Team

Classroom Representative

Parent Name: ...............................................................

Class: ...........................................................................

Contact Number (mobile): ............................................
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 $60.00 per student was due and payable on the first day of school. If you have not yet paid this account, 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.

Camp for students in years 5 & 6 has been billed. The cost of Camp is $250.00 per student. The students will attend Camp between Monday 15th February and Wednesday 17th February 2016. Please attend to payment of $250.00 prior to Friday 5th February 2016.

Swimming and Lifesaving will be billed at a later date.

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 (see explanation). 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.

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.

CSEF

Please see the attached Flyer if you hold a current Health Care Card. You may be eligible for the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF).

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) you 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. If you are an existing family who already receives this payment and you have a new child commencing school, please contact the office for a form.
Welcome to all our families to the 2016 school year and a particularly big welcome to all new families in our schools. Your school is part of the Western Port Cluster which consists of St Brendan’s Somerville, St Joseph’s Crib Point, St Mary’s Hastings and Padua College Tyabb. We represent the four catholic schools located in the Western Port Parish and together work in our schools and with each other to create opportunities to improve relationships between you as parents, your children, the staff in our schools and the community.

In newsletters throughout the term I will endeavour to bring you relevant information that can assist you as parents to support your child’s education. We are about relationships, relationships, relationships.

We have an online community through our Facebook page that you and your friends are most welcome to join. The Western Port Cluster is our name and I am also working on a Western Port Cluster website which we will launch very soon.

In the next few weeks we have activities planned where we will invite you to come along and get to know us and others in your community. We look forward to working with you and in the meantime have a read of the following article.

Anne-Marie Houlihan
Family School Leader
Graham Jaeschke: Learning at home is as important as what happens in the classroom

AS parents across South Australia get their children ready to go back to school at the end of the month, it’s a timely reminder that a child’s education is about more than what happens in the classroom.

How parents interact with their children strongly influences the way they see the world, and this includes their attitudes and approach to education.

There is no question that parents want the best for their children. Instinct will tell them that engaging in their child’s learning will give them a good start in life.

There is an expectation, though, that parents will know how to support their child’s learning. But many parents may be time poor or lack the confidence and skills to help their children with their education.

Parental engagement is more than attending school fêtes, volunteering on the P & C and attending parent/teacher nights. It’s also about parents taking an active interest and getting involved in their child’s learning journey.

It means supporting what they are being taught in the classroom with learning activities within the family, but it doesn’t mean parents have to be experts in what their children are studying. They don’t have to spend unlimited hours to make a difference.

The evidence is clear that the strongest influence on a child’s future is a parent’s expectations and aspirations for their child — the value they place on education and what they believe their child can achieve.

A child with engaged parents, no matter what their background, is more likely to do well at school, graduate and go on to higher education.

It can be as simple as conversations about what their child is learning and is interested in, parent-child reading, a positive environment for homework, and having learning resources at home.

Parents who don’t engage in their child’s education are unknowingly risking the quality of their educational outcomes. If they feel unable to support their child’s education at home, through lack of encouragement, inability to provide resources, or through their own negative experiences of school, their child may lose interest in their education altogether.

When children fall behind at school, they may give up entirely. The knock-on effect is early-school leaving, poorer job outcomes, and potentially a reliance on welfare later in life. At The Smith Family we’re working with families to break this cycle.

All parents want the best for their children. The more we can do to facilitate their engagement in their children’s learning, the better the long-term outcomes will be. Supporting them to engage in their children’s education is critical, particularly among families from our nation’s poorer communities, where education is a key enabler to a better future.

Graham Jaeschke is General Manager SA, The Smith Family
Welcome to all
Welcome to all
Welcome to all