Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

Welcome to the 2014 school year. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful family Christmas and a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with your children. It was lovely to see them all last week as they arrived to meet with their teachers and to participate in the literacy and numeracy testing that will assist the staff to provide the most effective learning programs for each child this year. Thank you for supporting us in this gentle and staggered introduction to the new school year.

I feel extremely fortunate to have commenced my principalship in Term 4 last year as this allowed me some time get to know the staff, the children and the community of St Brendan’s. I now look forward to adding to the already rich culture of this learning community. My two main focuses for the year are:

Learning and teaching
Student wellbeing and student behaviour

As many of you are aware, I introduced three words to the children last year. These words ‘respectful, safe and orderly’ will be the guiding principles for all members of the St Brendan’s community.

It is an exciting time for St Brendan’s as it is experiencing a period of rapid growth. This year, we have welcomed 42 new Prep children and 20 other children into our school community. We welcome the following families:

Bachiera        Bagnall        Bertram        Black        Bohan
Charles         Clarke         Cremen         Dale          Degrave
Drew-Goard      Dunn           Fraumano       Giew          Griffin
Hobley          Houben        Hunter         Jones         Jennings
Manning         McKinley      Milton         Mitchell      Oakley
Ortiz           Osborne       Parkinson      Piercy        Pinzan
Prestney        Rhodes        Rogers         Scott         Sheehan
Smallacome      Smarrelli     Smits          Stylanou     Watt          Whately

It was a delight to see our 42 new Prep children embrace their introduction to ‘big school’ in such a settled and positive manner. This positive start is a credit to their parents, their kindergartens and our beautiful Prep teachers Kay Donovan, Julie Kloppenborg and Raelene Lavery. I wish them all many years of success and happiness at St Brendan’s.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our two newest members of staff:

Miss Loren Fuccio who will be working in our Year3/4 team
Miss Rose Smith who will be working in our Year 1/2 team

It is our sincere hope that both Loren and Rose feel welcomed and supported by our school community and we wish them every success and happiness in their teaching careers.

CHANGE OF DATES

Please note that this year the date and time for school assembly will change to Thursday morning at 8:45am. We have decided to hold our assemblies at this time so that we can
I have introduced a new award system whereby the Year 6 leaders have been asked to come up with a different reason each week for a student from each class to win the Principal’s Award. The reason for the award will be the focus of student behavior and effort for that week. The class teachers have been asked to select one student from their class to win the award. They will also select a maximum of two other students to win a class award for any effort or behavior the teachers would like to encourage.

Each class will take a turn to creatively present some aspect of their learning to the school community. All parents are welcome to attend assembly each Thursday morning. At this week’s assembly, we will announce the names of our house captains, who will be presented with their badges and who will join our school captains Emily Wilson and Zac Lilley as they work with the staff in leading St Brendan’s in 2014.

The other change of date is for the distribution of the school newsletter that will now go out on Tuesday. We hope that this will give parents the vital information relating to school business at the beginning of each school week. We will endeavour to send only electronic copies of the newsletter by the end of Term One. Can you please ensure that your email address is up to date and if not, can you please contact the office as soon as possible to make the changes. All entries for the newsletter must be received by the office no later than 9:30 am on Mondays.

SCHOOL CARPARK AND SCHOOL PICKUP ARRANGEMENTS
In the interests of the safety of all children, they will be dismissed from in front of the main building at the end of each school day. The only exception to this rule is for our new Preps who must be collected by their parents from their classrooms. We will keep this practice for all of first term and then Preps will follow the same procedures as the rest of the school.
All other children will be supervised by their classroom teachers in front of the main building. The children must stay in their class groups until they are collected by their parent or sent to the drop off zone for collection. I ask that parents who drive through the drop off zone follow our procedures carefully.

- Children will only be permitted to get into the first 3 cars waiting in the queue
- Please drive as far forward towards the crossing and the supervising teacher as you can
- Please do not park in the drop off zone to enter the school building
- The children will require the maroon bench seats under the verandah to sit on for dismissal

WE ASK THAT ALL PARENTS OBEY THE CARPARK SPEED LIMIT OF 5 KPH AND THAT THEY ENSURE EACH PERSON IN THE VEHICLE IS WEARING A CORRECTLY BELTED SEATBELT. We share a collective responsibility for the safety of all children in our school.

HOT WEATHER
Please ensure that your children have sunscreen applied at the commencement of each school day. It is wise for them to have sunscreen in their bags so that they can reapply if necessary.
Also ensure that they have a plenty of cold water in their drink bottles each day. Where the weather is too hot or extreme in any way, the children will be supervised inside during recess and lunch breaks. We look forward to a happy and successful year for all our students.

CANTEEN
Our school canteen will operate on Mondays and Fridays. Please where possible; send clearly written orders with the correct money in paper bag. Included in this newsletter is the new canteen price list.
Please note icy poles will be available for purchase at lunchtime every day. Children may purchase for themselves and any sibling who is with them at the canteen. They may not purchase an icy pole for friends.

Please remember communication works best when it is a two way process. Please join us in helping to make the 2014 school year an outstanding one for all in the St Brendan’s community.

Have a great week.

Sue Carr - Principal

Reverse Parking
Please note that our school requires all parents to reverse park when parking in the car park.
This is for safety reasons.
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!

- Bachiera Black
- Bohan Charles
- Clarke Cremen
- Dale Degraeve
- Dunn Fraumano
- Griffin Hobley
- Hunter Jennings
- Manning Mitchell
- Oakley Ortiz
- Osborne Parkinson
- Piercy Pinzan
- Prestney Rhodes
- Rogers Scott
- Sheehan Smallacombe
- Smarrelli Smits
- Stylianou
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen and
- Be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concession Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29th January, 2014) and Term 3 (14 July 2014).

Please see the school office with your card to make arrangements.

Student Levies (Due Now) School Fees
The Student Levies of $330 per student were due and payable as of Wednesday, 29th January. Some families have not yet attended to this payment and we ask that this be paid this week. School invoices were sent home with your eldest child. Please note the term fees have been billed and an amount of $470.00 is due for payment for Term 1, prior to 28th February, 2014.

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 a.s.a.p.

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.

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.

EMA PAYMENTS
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NEWS FROM YOUR DEPUTY!

Welcome back to school, I hope you all had a terrific break and enjoyed your time together as a family.

I thought I would put together a list of tips to make the start of school an easy transition.

**TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL – KIDSHEALTH**

- Emphasise the positive things about coming back to school, such as hanging out with friends, meeting new classmates and getting involved in sports and other activities.
- Try to arrange a time with your child to talk about school and what is happening – they love giving you a rundown of their day!
- Get a school night routine happening as quickly as possible.
- Establish a reasonable bedtime so that they will be well rested and ready to learn in the morning.
- Eat a healthy breakfast – they are more alert and do better in school if they eat a good breakfast every day.
- Use a wall calendar or put up a whiteboard with important school dates.
- Have the children organise their bags and clothes the night before so they are not looking for things in the morning.
- Offer children a productive alternative to watching TV or playing video games, such as playing sport, playing outside or go to the library.

**HOMEWORK – Love it or hate it, homework is a very important part of school. To help children establish a routine for homework here are a couple of tips:**

  - Make sure there’s a quiet place that’s free of distractions to do homework
  - Don’t let children watch TV when doing homework.
  - Set rules for when homework needs to be done, and when they can watch TV.
  - Never do your child’s homework. Make it clear you are available to help or answer any questions but if they are unsure of the task to ask the teacher straight away.

To ensure children get the most out of school, maintain an open channel of communication with the teachers by talking to them throughout the school year to discuss your child’s academic strengths and weaknesses and their social interactions.

*Most of all, whether it’s the first day of school or the last, make sure your children know you are there to listen to their feelings and concerns, and that you don’t expect perfection – only that they try their best.*

Happy Birthday to...

Luke Taranto  Angus Kasbach  Lily Currie
Jada Taylor  Jack Tropeano-Smart  Chase Mantel  Chase Mantel
Nicholas Bloom  Samuel Wallace  Luka Varga
Lucy Barrow  Logan Goodwin  Tiffany Maestrale
Venetia Teisini  Sofia Gazzola  Flynn Smallacombe
Marissa Marsh  Hendrix Charles  Ryder Scott
Boyd Marsh  Connor McMahon  Joel Vincent
Ciel Murcott  Mrs Sue Slavin  Mrs Wendy Sullivan
Ms Emma Chapple  Ms Julie Thomas  Mrs Catherine Hare
Father Michael  Mrs Lorna Heath  Mr Peter Brady

Wishing you a fabulous time with your family and friends!
Welcome Back!!
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

Our Condolences to the Robb Family on the loss of their grandfather and father to Anne-Marie, who sadly passed away during the holidays.

Also the Vincent Family who are grieving the loss of their mother and grandmother to Connor.

All of St. Brendan’s prayer for their loss

Massive Showroom Toys & Furniture
Children’s parties
Mascot Hire
Children’s Haircuts $10.00
Children’s Activities email for program
45 Mornington Tyabb Rd Mornington
PH: 03 5976 8889
Email amazingtoys@bigpond.com
To Danielle Wheeler on the arrival of Harvey David Wheeler. He arrived on 24th January, weighing 8lb 6oz. A wonderful new addition to the family.

Also to the Ades family. They welcomed Everly weighing a healthy 7lb 12oz. A new sister to Cooper in Grade 3./4F.
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:_________________________