**Principal’s Report**

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

It was wonderful to hold our first school assembly last Thursday morning. It was well attended by our new Prep parents and many other parents from across the school. We were proud to announce our House Captains for 2014:

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<th>Red House</th>
<th>Gold House</th>
<th>Green House</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amelia Congreve</td>
<td>Breanna Kilkeny</td>
<td>Eliza Bloom</td>
<td>Hayley Cox</td>
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<td>Jacob Rigby-Smith</td>
<td>Murray Griffiths</td>
<td>Daniel Limanis</td>
<td>Peter Varga</td>
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These leaders join our School House Captains, Emily Wilson and Zac Lilley and School Vice Captains, Grace Hussey and Michael Roberts in leading the school. The staff looks forward to working with them this year.

**Principal’s Award Recipients**

Our Principal’s Award for last week was awarded for;

*A positive and focused start to my learning*

The recipients for last week were:

- Marlee Black (Prep D)  Jesse Cremen (Prep K)
- Lailah Gould (Year 1/2H) Eleanor Watt (Year 1/2S)
- Sebastian Luczak (Year 1/2T) Kai Marshall (Year 3/4B)
- Sienna Longmuir (Year 3/4F) Madison Barnsley (Year 3/4R)
- Georgia Powell (Year 5/6M) Connor McMahon (Year 5/6T)

Class awards were also awarded to two students per class for a variety of class achievements.

We also congratulate Bernie Turner and 5/6T for their beautiful assembly presentation. Thank you 5/6T!

Our Principal’s Award for this week is for ‘Starting my work quickly and trying my best’

**Dismissal of Students and Car Parking**

As you are aware, we are in the midst of trying to refine and make safer our end of the day dismissal procedures. I mentioned at the Parent Information Evening last week, this is a work in progress! Thank you to those parents who have thoughtfully and respectfully offered me suggestions and feedback on how to ease the traffic and people congestion after school. Please note the following additions and changes to the arrangements announced in last week’s newsletter:

- Most staff are parking their cars on the grass near the prayer garden in order to free up parking spaces for parents
- Siblings of current Prep students are to go to the Prep classrooms at 3:10 pm for collection by their parents
- Parents who wish to collect their children direct from any of the classrooms at 3:10 pm may do, as long as they make every effort to leave the school promptly in order to ease congestion after school. Please gather near the external door to your child’s classroom and then leave the playground quickly. School children and younger...
siblings are not to play on equipment after 3:10 pm as it is not supervised by a teacher. If you wish your younger children to play on the equipment, please do so before the school children are dismissed at 3:10 pm.

- By 3:15pm all remaining students will be assembled with their teachers for collection under the verandah at the front of the school
- Children who are awaiting collection by their parents who do not park their cars will be supervised by their teachers and dismissed from the ‘Drop Zone’.
- We ask that the maroon metal bench seats under the verandah are clear by 3:10pm so that the children may use them while they await collection.
- We recognize and value that the end of the day is an important time for parents to network and catch up. We encourage you to do this in the play ground prior to the end of day dismissal as this means all students are supervised by their teachers until collected by parents and then, all students and younger siblings are supervised by their parents until they leave the grounds.
- I have a meeting this Friday with an adviser from the Diocesan Building Service who will look at the logistics of our parking situation and advise me on how to work towards a satisfactory solution.

The safety of all children is paramount to us and I thank you for your support in this matter.

Commissioning and Blessing of St Brendan’s Staff
I would like to extend a warm thank you to Father Michael and the members of the wider parish community who welcomed and acknowledged the staff of St Brendan’s at the 6:00pm Mass on Saturday night. Father Michael blessed the staff and prayed that they be encouraged and supported in their work this year. It was a beautiful occasion where we stood proudly together as a staff and focused on our very special work in 2014.

S.A.C. Meeting
The first S.A.C (School Advisory Committee) meeting will be held in the staff room next Monday 17th February at 7:00pm. We invite all interested parents to attend. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Prep parents who may like to come along.

Whole School Mass – Thursday 13th February 11:30am
Father Michael will celebrate Mass with the school community to celebrate the beginning of the school year. Mass will be held on Thursday at 11:30 am in the Multi-Purpose Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

School Closure – Friday 7th March 2014
Please note that St Brendan’s will be closed for our Term One Curriculum Day on Friday 7th March. This day will immediately precede the Labour Day Long Weekend and has been approved by Fr. Michael Miles. On this day, the staff will begin preparation for our School Review. Every four years, schools assess their progress against the goals and targets outlined in their School Improvement Plan. As part of this process, the school will prepare a Review document that will be examined by an external Reviewer. There will be more information about the Review in coming weeks and we look forward to the involvement of the parent and student bodies in this process.

Parent / Teacher Information Exchange—26th February
At St Brendan’s, we believe that the successful education of children relies on a partnership between parents and teachers. This partnership works in the best interest of the child when the communication between the two parties is respectful, open, honest and regular. In order to facilitate this communication, we are holding a Parent/Teacher Information Exchange day on Wednesday 26th February from 2:00pm – 8:00pm. This is your opportunity to book a 10 minute session with your child’s classroom teacher so that you can share information that you think the teacher should know. Children are not required at these sessions. You are not required to pick your child up early, as they will be supervised until 3.15pm. At this ‘conversation’, you may wish to discuss:

- Personal information about your child’s personal interests
- The challenges you face at home (anxiety, behaviour, sleeping patterns, work habits)
- Any personal information that you wish to share about your family
- Your hopes for your child in 2014

This is your opportunity to share information rather than the teachers share a great deal of academic information.

We will be advising of the link and further information to book your times in a separate flyer. Please look out for this.

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday March 2nd
This important national event will take place on Sunday March 2nd. If you and your family would like to be involved, please check the website for community events near you.

www.cleanup.org.au

Have a great week.

Sue Carr
Principal
Dear Parents,

TABLOID SPORTS are here again.

THURSDAY 27th FEBRUARY 5PM – 7PM

It is a great opportunity for our St Brendan’s School Community to get together to socialise and to meet the new parents at our school.

While the children are involved in team building sport activities, the parents can socialise, watch and support their children. Once again, we will be putting on a BBQ with sausages, hamburgers and coleslaw.

We need parent helpers to explain and run the activities on the night, so could you please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter to let us know if you can help us.

We also need help to man the BBQ so if you can volunteer half an hour of your time that would be terrific and there is a slip at the end of the newsletter.

Regards

Wendy Sullivan

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to a new year at St Brendan’s School Community. We will celebrate the opening of the school year with a whole school mass at St Brendan’s on the 13th February at 11:30 am in our multipurpose room. We hope many people will be able to support the children and staff by attending the celebration.

The Old Weaver

When I go up to the house of the old weaver, I watch in admiration at what comes forth from her mind and fingers.

A thousand designs being created – and not a single model from which to copy the marvellous cloth.

All the weavings are originals. There are no repeated patterns. Her mind is beyond foresight. Her weaving comes from life itself. Her able hands do not accept patterns or models. Whatever comes forth – comes forth; out of the joy and pain of her life.

The colours of her threads are firm. Blood, sweat, perseverance, patience, tears, life, love and hope. Colours that do not fade with time.

The children of the children of our children will recognise the ‘seal’ of the Old Weaver. Maybe it will never receive a name, but as a model, it can never be repeated.

It is unique!

Prayer

Lord God, you are like a weaver in our lives. Out of the energy and life of the universe you have spun each one of us into a unique and colourful strand with our own special hue and texture. Then you wove us together into your human family

Yours sincerely,

Kay Donovan REC
Student Levies (Due Now) School Fees
The Student Levy of $330 per student was 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.

EMA PAYMENTS
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.

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.

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

LITERACY HELPER

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.

Conveyance Allowance

EMA PAYMENTS

Medication
The Uniform Exchange

The Uniform Exchange is opening its doors for the first time for parents to EXCHANGE, PURCHASE or DONATE uniform items. We will be trading from the Uniform shop (located at the back of the multipurpose room), on the following days for Term One:

   Monday  17th February - 3.15 to 3.45pm
   Tuesday  18th February - 3.15 to 3.45pm
   Wednesday 19th February - 3.15 to 3.45pm

Please note the Uniform Shop will not be open for you to purchase NEW uniforms on these days. If you are wanting to exchange an item they MUST be in saleable condition, this is at the discretion of The Uniform Exchange to ensure a respectable uniform standard is maintained. All sales are STRICTLY cash only.

Jumpers   $15.00
Summer Dress $10.00
Winter tunic/skirt $15.00
Girls blouse   $5.00
Polo shirts   $5.00
Navy trousers $10.00
Sports short/skort $5.00
Trackpant/jacket $10.00
Rugby top $10.00
Coat $5.00
School bag $10.00

If you have any items you wish to donate throughout the term please drop them into our labelled boxes at the office and in the multipurpose room.

Thank-you

Cristy and Liz

Happy Birthday to...

Christopher Cranch
Jarrod Smyth
Samuel Rhodes

Wishing you a fabulous time with your family and friends!
Books 4 Cambodia.
Kathy Cunningham, our Librarian recently received a letter from Sarah Berry who is the organiser of Books 4 Cambodia. Below is a quote from the letter.

“Thank you very much for your school’s extremely generous donation of books to the 'Books 4 Cambodia’ project. I really appreciate this. It has been so helpful. The children in Cambodia will love them. Thank you’.

To the Community of St. Brendan’s Primary School.
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your donation of $443.05 to the typhoon Haiyan recently suffered by the Phillippines. This will go a long way into helping rebuild schools that have been devastated by the typhoon.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Downie.

ICY POLE HELPERS

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You will be required from 1.30pm to 2.00pm. Toddlers welcome.
Please call Jeanette on 0408 378 968 for more information.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Welcome to all our Somerville Rise and St. Brendan’s students from Libby and Gianna at Camp Australia’s Before & After school care (OSHC) program.
We’re pleased to be beginning a new year, seeing all our children happily coming back, a little taller, older and a little newer. These wonderful new faces are already joining in with the games and activities.
There is a full program planned for first term with many activities. There will be cooking, art, games and sport. We are privileged at this centre to have an Active After School Program which gives us 1hr coaching sessions in a range of sports. Netball is on Tuesday nights. A second session is yet to be announced. Will keep you posted.
If you want to know more about our program and what we do, please come to our Open Day on Wednesday, 26th February, 3pm—6pm. If you are unable to come on the day, we welcome visitors at any time.
Feel free to drop in meet the team, see our room and ask questions.

Congratulations

To Ella Parkinson in Prep D on the arrival of her new baby sister Ebony. Mum, Dad and sister Miela welcomed her into the world on Wednesday, 5th February.

AMAZING TOYS

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
Aaliyah Clifford
For staying on task in all curriculum areas.

Annabel Milton
For a fantastic start to your school life at St. Brendans.

Breanna Ellesley
For listening to instructions carefully.

Charleez Zerha-Doherty
For welcoming and helping our new student in 1/2S.

Coco McKinley
For a wonderful start to St. Brendans.

Cristian Piovillico
For a productive start to the school year.

Emily Bagnall
For a fabulous start to St. Brendans.

Gabrielle Conlin
For making our new student in 1/2S feel welcome.

Hendrix Charles
For a wonderful start to the school year.

Hollie Bertram
For her positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning.

Isabel Dodemaide
For being on task and making wonderful choices all the time.

Isabelle Bertram
For having a positive attitude towards her learning. A great start Izzy.

Jack O’Brien
For excellent effort in ART work.

Lachlan Williams
For your positive and enthusiastic start in Italian!

Lachlan Williams
For settling in so well as a student in 1/2H.

Maddisyn O’Shea
For settling in well into school life. Well done Maddy.

Marissa Marsh
For positive and focused start in Italian this year.

Olivia Bagnall
For a wonderful start to your school life at St. Brendans.

Olivia Bagnall
For a wonderful start to your school life at St. Brendans.

Peter Varga
For a great, positive and enthusiastic start to 2014.

Samuel Rhodes
For his positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning.

Samuel Wallace
For a wonderful start to his Prep year. Well done Sam.

Simone Hobley
For a wonderful start to the school year.

William Sidwell
For writing a fantastic recount about his holidays.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

It is without doubt that we live in a technological age. Our children seem to know how to navigate the web and swipe a screen from birth! So it is up to parents and teachers, to help guide our children, so that they grow up safe and well adjusted in this ever changing global world and us.

This year I would like to provide you with articles that may assist with dealing with issues or concerns that may arise. Hopefully they are interesting, thought provoking and give parents and children something to discuss around the dinner table!

This week I would like to bring your attention to Digital Reputation. This article comes from the website cybersmart.gov.au

Digital reputation

All internet users have a digital or online reputation. This is the opinion or view that others have about the user, based on what they say and do online.

For their privacy and safety, it’s important for children and young people to be aware of where their personal information is available on the internet, who can access it, what others are doing with their information, and the impression they are leaving for others to find.

What are the risks?

When information is posted online it can be difficult to remove and can be easily and quickly passed beyond a child’s immediate circle of friends. It can also be misused by friends they consider trustworthy.

In addition, images and words can be misinterpreted when removed from their original context.

Where do I go for help?

Counselling

If you have concerns about your child’s negative digital reputation or online behaviours, discuss your concerns with them, or seek professional support for your child through the Online Helpline, provided by Kids Helpline. The service provides free, confidential online counselling for children and young people.


Michelle Bruitzman
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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>Parent Teacher Exchange</td>
<td>Assembly at 8.45am</td>
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<td>2nd Clean Up Australia</td>
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<td>SCHOOL PHOTOS</td>
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HOSPITALITY REPRESENTATIVE REPLY SLIP

NAME: _____________________________________
CLASS: __________________
DATE: __________________

DISPLAN NETWORK 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:_______________

ACTIVITY HELPER
I can help to run an activity on the night of our Tabloid Sports Carnival.
Name: _____________________

BBQ HELPER
I can help out on the BBQ
4.30 – 5.00 ________________________________
5.00 – 5.30 ________________________________
6.00- 6.30 ________________________________