**Principal’s Report**

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

It was wonderful to see so many St Brendan’s families last Thursday evening at our Tabloid Sports. Our children enjoyed the opportunity to participate in some co-operative team games while their parents mixed and mingled in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. I personally enjoyed the opportunity to mix with parents and students on what was a very successful evening. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the St Brendan’s staff for their participation in the event and to those wonderful dads who helped Wendy and Michael Sullivan and Andy Carr cook the barbecue.

**Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday**

Today the children at St Brendan’s had pancakes to mark ‘Shrove Tuesday’; the day before the season of Lent begins. Thank you to Jeanette Mounsey and her team of parent helpers who offered their time to cook for 234 hungry students.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. It marks the start of the Lenten season where Catholic people focus on penance, reflection, and fasting that prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Father Michael is celebrating Mass at St Joseph’s on this day so we will hold a prayer ceremony on Wednesday morning at 8:45 am where we will distribute ashes to the children and anyone else who wishes to attend. All parents are most welcome.

**Godstart**

Godstart is a program where members of the parish community maintain contact with the families of those newly baptized into the Catholic Church. The program involves visiting these families when their children celebrate their birthday in the years before they attend school. If you are interested in assisting with this program, please contact Sue Carr. Thank you.

**Parent Feedback**

Thank you to the parents who were able to stay after assembly last Thursday or visit the school on Friday morning or afternoon and provide staff with some feedback around the 5 spheres of schooling. This feedback will be examined and collated on our school closure day on Friday March 7. We will use the information to assist us in writing our Self-Reflection Report for the school review that will be conducted on June 23rd this year. We value your opinions, suggestions and feedback. Thank you.

**Gardening Club**

I would like to thank Carina Spencer, Hayley Wallace and Tracey Sidwell who are the founding members of St Brendan’s Gardening Club for their excellent efforts in trying to establish a viable school garden and a sustainability program at St Brendan’s. These ladies have been highly successful in obtaining several grants that are being used to establish our school garden. Several weeks ago, together with a willing band of parent helpers and some wonderful members of the Bunnings’ staff, they relocated four garden beds and completed a significant amount of clearing. We look forward to a trench being dug in the near future to run water to the new beds. There are exciting times ahead for gardening and sustainability at St Brendan’s.
**Principal’s Award**

This week’s Principal’s Award is for ‘Making others feel comfortable and safe’. We hope to see many parents at assembly this week where Year 3/4 R will present some of their work.

Aaliyah Clifford  Bryce Spencer  Carly Scott  Emily Bagnall
Georgia Dent  Ivy-Rose Baschiera  Kalani Le-Pou  Mitchell Barber
Sarah Clarke  Tiana Marshall

**Welcome Back**

We are delighted to welcome Catherine Hare back to school after her surgery. The Year 1/2 children were all excited to have her back. My sincere thanks go to Elly Murphy for the wonderful job she did with the children in Catherine’s absence.

**Thank You**

My sincere thanks go to Davin Cross the father of Hayley who very kindly repaired a broken glass panel in a classroom door last Friday evening. The generosity of parents at St Brendan’s is what makes my job even more enjoyable. Thank you Davin for your generosity.

Have a great week.

Sue Carr  Principal

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**NEWS FROM YOUR DEPUTY!**

I really enjoy going around the classrooms and looking at the work the children are completing. This week I went into the Year 3/4 area and the children are focusing on setting school goals for the term. From reading their goals you can see that they are really thinking about what they would like to improve on. Well done 3/4’s.

Their Inquiry unit is "What does it mean to be Australian." It is great to see such fantastic work displayed.
TIME TO GET INVOLVED!!!

Hey Dads and Mums, can you spare a little bit of time to help our school look as good as it can? The school has decided to hold a working bee on Sunday-30th March, from 9am - 12.00 to freshen the school grounds up. If we all lend a hand we can achieve a lot in one day. Our duties may include tidying gardens, spreading mulch, topping up sand pit and general grounds maintenance. Yes we do pay a levy in our fees, but much of this goes in labour costs to have somebody do the work. This way our levy money is still being used, but it all goes to the materials required for the day allowing our school and children to benefit the most from our contributions. Please come along on the day with wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, brooms or anything else you can think we may need. Please register your interest in attending by filling in the following slip and returning it to the school by Thursday, 27th March, 2014. Pizzas will be provided at the end of the day to reward all of our hard work. So please get involved in our school community and be a proud contributor on the day. By parents working together, we will improve our grounds and help build an even stronger St Brendan’s community.

Hope to see you all on the day.

Hayden Marsh

Yes I am able to participate in the Working Bee ☐

Name:____________________________
Class:____________________________
Dear Parents and Friends,

This Wednesday 5th March we celebrate Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the season of Lent.Ashes are what remain after a fire has gone out. They are a symbol for us—of death and of grief. Many Christians today receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. This cross of ashes signifies that we are blemished; we are not perfect; that a fire has gone out in us too and needs to be rekindled. This cross of ashes signifies that we are ready to change, and to make efforts to set out lives firmly on the way of Christ.

**The Season of Lent Understanding the Tradition**
The forty-day Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday evening with the Celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Lent is primarily the Church’s time of preparation for the Easter mystery. We remember and celebrate the crucified and risen Christ who sends the Holy Spirit. Along with fasting and almsgiving, prayer is one of the key foundation stones of Lent. During Lent it is important to allow time for daily prayer. Our lives are very busy at this time of the year, yet we can always take a few moments for personal prayer. The season of Lent invites us into a time of reflection in our relationship with God, with others and indeed all creation.

We live in a world of contrasts and conflicts. Please put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting **Project Compassion 2014**.

This week the season of Lent also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. This year’s Project Compassion stories are about our desire for a full and beautiful life within the surroundings of home. Not just a house to live in, but a life filled with certainty, free from the burden of poverty with access to food, water, education, healthcare and shelter. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work towards this creation of a more just and fair world for whole communities.

Project Compassion 2014 carries Jesus’ commitment for all for a life of abundance: “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.”

When reflecting on this verse, Pope Francis said: “Men and women of all times and all places desire a full and beautiful life... a life that is not threatened by death but that can mature and grow to its fullness.”

Yours in Faith, Kay Donovan (REC)

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**Baptism Program**

A baptism program for school aged children will begin in March. If you are interested or have any queries, please see Maree Strong or contact her on 0424 249 601.
**SPORTS NEWS**

**Swimming**
Congratulations to Logan Marshall who came first in his four events last Wednesday at the District Swimming Trials. Logan will be representing the district in the Northern Peninsula Division Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 12 March. Good luck.

**Track Athletics**
We will have around fifty of our 10-13 year olds participating in the District Field Athletics, at Ballam Park on Friday March 28. In preparation for the Field Athletics and the Cross Country (Gr 3-Gr 6), that will be held in week 5 of term 2, we have started our before school Running Club. Children are asked to run 3-4 laps of the running track at least four days a week. Please ensure that your child wears their runners to school. It is important that the children undertake the training to build up their stamina to run up to 2.5 km for the cross country.

**Field Athletics**
The Gr 4 - Gr 6’s are developing their skills in high jump, long jump, triple jump, discus and shotput this term in preparation for the Field Athletics that will be held at Ballam Park Friday 2 May (Week 2, Term 2).

**Cross Country**
The Cross Country will be held on Friday 23 May (Week 5, Term 2). The distance for 9 year olds is 1.2 km (4 laps of our running track). The distance for the 10 – 13 year olds is 2.5 km (8 laps of our running track). To avoid undue physical distress, only those children who can complete the required distance will be selected.

Michael Smythe (Sports Coordinator)

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We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated items to our Uniform Exchange to get it up and running. We had a very successful three days with lots of second hand uniforms being purchased or exchanged by families. We are in need of more uniforms to fulfil requests from many families. So if you have any uniforms at home that you no longer require please consider donating them to our shop. There are two labelled black tubs located in the front office and multi purpose room for donations. Thanks again for your support and we look forward to opening again soon.

Cristy and Liz

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Thank you to:
Heather Caruana, Carmel Corry, Michelle Colvin, Vicky Ainscow, Juliette Drew, Karen Tilley and Elizabeth Conlin, who came and cooked our lovely pancakes. They were yummy!!
Happy Birthday to...

Harrison Rhodes
Bryce Spencer
Kiera Donald
Layla Mantel
Emily Bagnall

Wishing you a fabulous time with your family and friends!

IT NEWS

Dear Parents,

Have you ever wanted to be more computer literate? Would you like to have an understanding of what your children can do on the computer? Do you have some free time to invest in your own education? The Institute of Victoria is currently offering 20 FULLY FUNDED scholarships for a Certificate III in computing.

Last week each family received an expression of interest letter. If you meet the requirements as outlined on this letter and would like to be considered for this amazing opportunity please fill in the form and return to the office no later than this Friday 7th March.

As a bonus the Institute is providing notebook computers to each participant to use for the duration of the course. At the end of the course the notebook computers can be kept for a nominal fee of $100.

Please consider this excellent opportunity!

Yours sincerely,
Michelle Bruitzman

Along with the newsletter today, the order form for Hot Cross Buns was put in your child’s reading wallets.
Please have them back to the school by Wednesday, 26th March for delivery on the last day of school term. This is our first fundraiser for the year, so please all get involved!
**Shrove Tuesday** is sometimes called Pancake Day. During Lent there are many foods that some Christians – historically and today - would not eat: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs and milk products. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the ‘shriving Tuesday’, and eat up all the foods that wouldn’t last the forty days of Lent without going off. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.
**AWARDS**

**Airlee Sheehan**
For working to the best of her abilities in all areas.

**Amelia Congreve**
For working extremely hard during numeracy! Well done Amelia.

**Brianna Oakley**
For trying so hard with her reading.

**Bryce Spencer**
For wearing his uniform with pride.

**Caleb Whateley**
For trying hard to finish his work to the best of his ability.

**Georgina Wiebrecht**
For your excellent attention and constant responding to questions in Italiano!

**Hannah Smyth**
For always being very polite and having beautiful manners in the classroom.

**Hayden Zintschenko**
For your fantastic letter writing as a convict!

**Hayley Cross**
For working independently during Numeracy and writing numbers to 10,000.

**Hayley Gilmore**
For wonderful persuasive writing.

**Isabelle Bertram**
For excellent focus and positive start in Italiano!

**Jack Neeson**
For being an amazing helper in the room.

**Jake Sanders**
For fantastic persuasive writing titled 'My Chocolate'.

**Jasmine Ainscow**
For wonderful persuasive writing.

**Jed Godfrey**
For excellent focus on tasks in Italiano. Ottimo!

**Kiera Donald**
For using magnificent manners in using the telephone.

**Kyhani Norris**
For always being a helpful class member!

**Liam De Bruyn**
For his clever convict letter writing.

**Logan Marshall**
For making a great start on his Inquiry project!

**Lucas Ray**
For persisting with his work.

**Lucy Barrow**
For being a fantastic worker and making sure that she has completed all her tasks!

**Matheus Pinzan**
For always giving his work 100% effort.

**Olivia Bagnall**
For your great start and excellent focus in Italiano!

**Thomas Bruitzman**
For helping in the classroom without being asked.

**Wil Sheehan**
For always trying to do his very best work.