Principal’s Report

Dear Parents and Friends of St Brendan’s,

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing long weekend with your children in the beautiful autumn sunshine. I believe that the Labour Day long weekend is perfectly timed to provide tired students and parents with a ‘mini-break’ in the middle of what has been a busy term.

Last Friday, the St Brendan’s staff gathered at school and worked to examine a wide variety of collected data. This work will enable us to complete our self-reflection report that will form the basis of the review of our school that will take place in June this year. I congratulate our dedicated staff on their commitment to continuous improvement and to the provision of excellent learning outcomes for all our students.

Resilience

A key part of a child’s social emotional learning is the ability to calm themselves and use resilience to ‘bounce back’ from setbacks and disappointments. When children can articulate and manage the range of emotions they experience in a day, the better equipped they are to tune into their learning and achieve growth and success.

Much has been written and spoken about in the media over the past few weeks regarding the need for parents to be models of resilience and to teach their children about resilience as a key life skill. I have included an article by Michael Grose for your consideration.

Resilience is a 21st Century parenting concept that every parent needs to understand. Some kids are resilient by nature – their temperament helps them to be mentally and psychologically tough. You know those kids. They get straight back up after a setback or disappointment. Rejection in the playground doesn’t faze them. Unfortunately, not every child has such natural resilience. The good news is that most of the research shows that resilience can be nurtured and developed, particularly when parents themselves are resilient and they actively foster it in their kids. Resilient kids share four basic skill sets - independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection.

Building Resilience  From a resilience perspective, parents need to coach kids through some of their more challenging moments and reviewing what they may have learned for next time. Avoid solving all their problems for them. You can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your kids by:

- Having a positive attitude yourself. Your attitude as a parent impacts on their ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a ‘you can do it’ attitude for your child when he/she meets some of life’s curve balls.

- Look for teachable moments. Many kids’ learning opportunities are disguised as problems. Make the most of these opportunities so that kids can grow and learn from some of the challenges they face.
• Make kids active participants in the family. Active participation in a family develops the self-help, problem-solving and independence skills of kids that are necessary for resilience.

• Build kids coping skills. There are plenty of strategies you can pass on to kids to help them cope when life doesn’t go their way, including acceptance, getting away for awhile, and normalisation.

Promoting resilience in kids is a not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic when things don’t go their way. It also requires you as a parent to have an understanding of resilience, so you have faith in yourself, and your child’s ability to cope.

Assembly
All parents are warmly invited to attend our weekly assembly. Last week we were treated to a wonderful presentation from Year 3/4R, these children and their teacher; Anne-Maree Robb are to be congratulated on the manner in which they presented their learning.

There will be no assembly this week due to the short week. We look forward to Year 1/2H presenting at assembly on Thursday, 20th March at 8.45am.

Principal’s Award
This week the children are working towards demonstrating that they can approach their learning with focus. Therefore the Principal’s award is for this week ‘Being a focused worker’.

Last week the Principal’s award was ‘Making everybody feel comfortable and safe’. These children were the recipients.

Alesha Mounsey  Amy Clark  Bethany Gilmore  Breanna Kilkenny
Charlotte Mitchell  Evie Rumler  Fin Scott  Jett Wiebrecht
Saskia Jennings  Zander Downie

Year 3/4 Mass
This Thursday at 11:30am, Father Michael will be at St Brendan’s to celebrate mass with the school community. Our Year 3/4s have prepared the celebration with their teachers. We hope to see as many parents as possible at this mass.

Have a great week.

Sue Carr  Principal

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.
Dear Parents and Friends

I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend. It was nice to have a break mid term.

Last week I went to an Ipad PD with Michelle and they showed us some great sites to use and they gave us some hints and tips on how to utilise the Ipad in the classroom.

One site that I particularly liked was "Book Creator" - it is not free ($5.49) but I thought it well worth the money. Using this app the children can write a book, insert photos from the camera roll, type in the text and also narrate the story as well - I certainly had fun writing my Christmas 2013 book over the weekend.

I also went to a Teaching and Learning PD day and it was a really interesting day as well. The day was all about where we are heading in relation to curriculum and it was great to see that we are on the right track, but we still have more to learn. Teaching and Learning is never at a standstill - it is constantly evolving and we all need to continually grow.

POWERFUL TEACHING

For this to be achieved we have to support the learner, enable the learner and engage the learner in the contemporary world. From the work in the Grade 1/2's we can see the terrific work they are doing

Have a great week,

Wendy

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Hot Cross Buns

Please remember your Hot Cross Buns order, we require them back to the school by Wednesday, 26th March for delivery on the last day of school term.

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NOW OPEN

"Your affordable personal gym"
Group sessions and casual gym use.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL before attending by direct debit or cash payment. Call Lisa for terms, conditions and class descriptions.

Tuesday
9.30am Step 2 boxing.
7.30pm Step 1 boxing

Wednesday
9am & 7.30pm. Circuit

Thursday
9.30am Step 1 boxing
7.30pm Step 2 boxing

$10 per group class. Find out how you can save by contacting Lisa on 0438002410.
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

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Yes I am able to participate in the Working Bee

Name:_____________________________________

Class:_____________________________________

Working Bee
Happy Birthday to...

Alexander Scott
Ethan Hill
Simone Hobley
Millie Luczak
Holly Simmonds
Ty Godfrey

Wishing you a fabulous time with your family and friends!

R.E. NEWS

Dear Parents and Friends,

It was wonderful to see many family members at our Ash Wednesday Prayer Service. The children love to celebrate these special occasions with their family and as always an open invitation is extended to the whole community to celebrate our whole School Mass on Thursday 13th March held at 11.30 am in the Multi Purpose Room. [This has been organised by students in the 3/4 classes.]
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. The theme for Project Compassion 2014 is ‘Have life and have it to the full’. This encompasses not only the physical conditions, but all the circumstances that surround us as we strive to live life to the full. We encourage you as a family to assist some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the world by contributing to Project Compassion in any way you can, perhaps the children may give their icy pole money to the missions as an act of kindness. Each class has a Project Compassion box in their classroom and the teachers will talk more about these issues in class.

Yours in Faith, Kay Donovan (REC)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 9 March

Maristely’s story

Maristely, 18, lives in a favela (slum) in São Paulo, Brazil with her family.

Dark and cramped, favelas are groups of irregular, self-constructed houses often built on land that no one wants to live on due to threats of floods, landslides, or their proximity to roads and train lines. Many locals face daily discrimination from the wider community.

When Maristely was growing up, her family’s house, like many others, was made of cardboard and had no electricity, water or connected sewerage.

Caritas Australia’s partner, the Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents (MDF), is changing lives across 40 favelas in São Paulo. MDF understands the difficulties of favela life such as dense population, limited space, a lack of available jobs, constant threat of eviction and widespread poverty.

Through MDF, Maristely’s family, along with thousands of others, now has access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage. They also have a certificate of home ownership which provides greater security and means they can no longer be evicted.

Across the favelas, up to 70 percent of families experience violence in the home, and there is a dominant gang culture. This culture of violence is closely linked to a lack of self-esteem. MDF attendees participate in sessions which address their identity, favela history, and issues around drugs, gangs, violence and unemployment.

The program promotes peace so young people can attain education and employment, rather than joining local gangs.

‘Being a part of MDF has given me awareness of my dignity ... I know that to live in a favela is nothing to be ashamed of ... Because of my perseverance, I live in a better place and we are recognised for that,” said Maristely.

Your donation to Project Compassion is helping Caritas Australia end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.
AWARDS

Alexander Scott
For always finishing work to a high standard.

Amy Clark
For excellent manners and constant focus in Italiano.

Anni O’Brien
For trying really hard at writing the letters a, m, p, f & s.

Ben Gilmore
For a beautiful effort with his handwriting.

Eliza Bloom
For completing fantastic work, multiplying 2 by 2 digit numbers.

Jada Taylor
For always being respectful at school.

Jessica Sidwell
For working hard during writing to form paragraphs.

Joel Vincent
For a great start on your First Fleet research!

Joshua Jones
For his enthusiasm during guided reading. Well done Josh!

Kasey Lowns
For her fabulous and creative homework pieces! Great work Kasey.

Layla Mantel
For working hard during Literacy times.

Leela Monterosso
For always finishing her work to a high standard.

Luke Taranto
For working to the best of his ability in all areas of school.

Murray Griffiths
For fantastic work in maths. Murray always does his best!

Nikola Varga
For being always eager to learn.

Reece Debattista
For great letter and sound work in Literacy.

Sarah Clarke
For your excellent focus in remembering Italian words!

Summer Carne
For her fantastic work on place value using iPAD's!

Tate Wakenshaw
For a good start to St. Brendan’s. We hope you are happy here.

Thomas Malone
For working quietly in class at all times and being the first to begin silent reading.

William Roberts
For his clever use of place value to add numbers.