Principal’s Message

A couple of years ago, the Pope had a question and answer session with a group of First Communion children. When the Pope was asked about his memories of his First Communion, his response contained the following: “I understood that Jesus had entered my heart, he had actually visited me. And with Jesus, God himself was with me. And I realised that this is a gift of love that is truly worth more than all other things that life can give.”

Holy Communion is an incredible gift and the amazing thing about the gift is that it can be unwrapped time and time again in our lives, and every time we do this, the gift will be brand new. Each new unwrapping gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the gift actually is.

The people who lived and associated with Jesus, had the comfort and support of his actual presence. Jesus foresaw the need for his presence to remain with them so they could carry on with his mission and so, the events of the Last Supper. For us, who have so many distractions in life, we might sometimes forget about God, forget about the Eucharist, forget to pray each day, forget to read the New Testament. First Communion day for a family member, can be a time of renewal for all family members, perhaps a time to unwrap the gift again and discover an understanding that is truly relevant to where we are in life. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of God’s love and love is something that all of us can use plenty of.

“Jesus, we ask you to bless the children who received you in Communion for the first time on Saturday. We ask you to bless each one of us, so that we might have a renewed understanding of your gift of love. Amen.”

Warmest regards,

John Hinton

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Festival of Cultures Car Park
The P&F will again be coordinating the car park during the Festival of Cultures in Childers on Sunday, 27th July. Funds raised will go back into the school to further promote learning and teaching. We are calling for parents to assist on the day. There will be two shifts to choose from: 7.30am – 9.30am or 9.30am – 11.30am. Please make contact with Tania Tarda (P&F President) or register your interest at the office.

St Mary’s College Parent Information Evening

_UPCOMING WHOLE SCHOOL MASSES:_

_Friday, 8th August, 9.00am_ celebrating Feast of Mary Mackillop and _Friday, 15th August_, Assumption of Mary. All parents/families are welcome to join us.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Congratulations to Bill Banting, Kyle Blake, Wesley Hinton, Thomas Nunn-Rutledge, Mitchell Tarda, Gabrielle Bonanno, Theresa Bretherton, Jodie Fitz-Gibbon, Ava Karpowski and Grace Whelan who received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation on Saturday night. Special thanks to all parents and parishioners for their assistance on the night and to Ken Smith for taking photos to capture this special occasion.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Reconciliation

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH CHILDERS

The first parent meeting for the Sacred Heart Parish Sacramental Program for First Reconciliation will be held on **Tuesday, 19th August, 2014 at 4.30pm** in the St. Joseph’s meeting room. This meeting is the enrolment meeting and first session for parents and children.

The program is a pre-requisite for Catholic children who wish to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The program is for Catholic children who have already received the Sacrament of Baptism, and in are year 2 or older.

Dates for Reconciliation Sessions to be held at 4.30pm in the St Joseph’s School meeting room are as follows: **Tuesday, 26th August** and **Tuesday, 2nd September**. The First Reconciliation Ceremony will be held at the Sacred Heart Church on **Tuesday, 9th September at 4.30pm**.

If your child will be participating in the Reconciliation program, or if you have any questions, please contact:
Fr. Sunny at the Parish Office on 4126 1256 or Lauren Robba at St. Joseph’s School on 4126 1866 by **Tuesday 12th August**.

Upcoming Whole School Masses:

_Friday, 8th August, 9.00am_ celebrating Feast of Mary Mackillop and _Friday, 15th August_, Assumption of Mary. All parents/families are welcome to join us.
Term 3 Lunch Clubs
Throughout term 3, lunch clubs will provide semi-structured play opportunities.

In term 3, the lunch clubs will be:
- Monday – Technology
- Tuesday – Board games
- Wednesday - Photography
- Thursday - Art and Craft
- Friday - Books

Cool Connections
Throughout term 3, students will engage in Play-is-the-Way on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 – 2.50pm. During this time students will be in small vertically streamed groups (each group will have students from prep to year 7). We believe this will encourage some Cool Connections between students across the school.

Courtyard Prayer
Courtyard Prayer is a new religious experience in the life of our Catholic school. It will involve a whole school prayer experience on Monday mornings.

The routine will be as follows.
- Students will sit down around a prayer space (students will not sit in class groups and may mix with students in other grades).
- A scripture passage will be read in line with the church reading for the week.
- A brief reflection and song will follow.

Courtyard Prayer will involve all students, parents (if they wish) and staff. This will mean the office will be closed from 8.35 – 8.45am. It may also have other unknown impacts as Courtyard Prayer will be the priority for our whole school for these 10 minutes.

Anxiety Workshop
Anxiety is more than just feeling stressed or worried. While stress and anxious feelings are a common response to a situation where a person feels under pressure, it usually passes once the stressful situation has passed, or ‘stressor’ is removed.

Anxiety is when these anxious feelings don’t subside. Anxiety is when they are ongoing and exist without any particular reason or cause. It’s a serious condition that makes it hard for a person to cope with daily life. We all feel anxious from time to time, but for a person experiencing anxiety; these feelings cannot be easily controlled.

On Wednesday, 13th August, Clinton Davis will be running a parent workshop aimed at helping children to manage anxiety. The workshop will run from 5.30 – 7.00pm in St Joseph’s meeting room. St Joseph’s School will be meeting all related costs for this workshop. RSVP to jhinton@bne.catholic.edu.au or through the school office by Friday, 1st August.

School Photos
Many people have been very impressed with the new school photos, in particularly the photo book. Within the photo book, space is provided to share picture and special messages with friends. An opportunity for students to fill-in their photo book will be provided later in term 3 – please keep reading newsletters for the identified date.

Tuckshop
Tuckshop will reopen this week.
Happy Birthday

Hailei Breznikar 27/07

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**Student Banking Competition**

Thanks to the Commonwealth Bank we have 3 prizes to give away. In Term 3 we will be running a Super Savers Banking Competition. For every deposit you make through school banking during term 3, you will receive an entry into the draw. It will be drawn on Tuesday, 16th Sept.

**TENNIS**

Vacancies exist for children to learn and have fun every Thursday afternoon after school at the Isis Tennis Club, by Bundaberg Tennis Academy Coach, Kevin Banner. Inquiries and to register please phone: 0409 520753

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**St Joseph's going Paperless with Newsletters and Billing**

I would like to go paperless:-

Family Name: ........................................... Email: ...........................................................

I don't have access and will still require a hardcopy:-

Family Name: ...........................................

Signature: ..................................................