

St Therese's Catholic School

NEWSLETTER

6 June 2017
Term 2
Week 6

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From the Principal...

Dear Parents/Carers

THE BENEFITS OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION

When families are involved in their children's education in positive ways, children can achieve higher grades and test scores, have better attendance at school, complete more homework, demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviour, graduate at higher rates and have greater enrolment in higher education. (Henderson and Berler, 1994)

I am often asked by parents/carers how they can become more connected and involved with their child's learning.

On one level parents/carers can improve their children's academic performance by:

- Reading to younger children on a regular basis and listening to them read and providing a variety of reading material at home. The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children (Andersen 1985)
- Supervising homework
- Monitoring absenteeism
- Monitoring television and playing of video and computer games
- Having high but realistic expectations of achievement
- Encourage participation in extracurricular activities

On another level parents/carers can

- Be involved in the classroom
- Be an active participant in parent-teacher relations
- Keep in touch with the school

Generally, parents can help their child's attitude to school by showing that the school is an important part of their lives as well. If children see that parents value education and the community so will they.

This can be displayed by:

- Spending time at school in a voluntary capacity
- Being involved in parent associations
- Setting limits and exercising discipline at home and out in the community

- Encouraging an attitude of respect to teachers and staff, and to others in general
- Talking! Studies show that frequent family discussions are associated with higher student achievement.

A study in the early 1990's by the National Assessment of Educational Progress in the USA found that 90 percent of differences in achievement could be attributed to home practices and parent input. Teachers and schools also benefit from the positive involvement of parents. They are encouraged to raise their expectations for both children and parents. Once teachers are comfortable working with parents, the benefits, particularly at primary levels, are substantial. Parents can be trained to work with literacy and numeracy programs we have at the school as well as being general helpers in the classroom.

Children who are connected with their school have much happier and more successful experiences in school life.

FEDERAL FUNDING

Below is some information from Mr John Mula, the Director of Catholic Education in Tasmania pertaining to the proposed funding changes to Catholic School.

Earlier this week the Federal Government's school funding plan passed the Lower House. It now heads to the Senate where an inquiry will be held into the changes before a vote in the Senate is expected late next month. The National Catholic Education Commission has made a submission to the Senate inquiry and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission is also considering making a submission that is focused purely on Tasmanian issues.

Our issues continue to be:

1. Our ability to operate, to be funded, and to distribute schools funding on the basis of *need* as proposed by the Gonski Review and our Catholic principles of *co-responsibility and the common good*.
2. To challenge the view that a 10-year funding deal being promoted as providing funding 'certainty' is far from certainty. The reality is they are assuming that the costs associated with education will not change over the ten year period and in fact that the very nature of schooling won't change over the next ten years. Reflections on how education has changed in the last ten years would suggest that this is an ill-informed assumption.
3. The proposal to change the way in which Students with a Disability are assessed and therefore receive additional funding. If the Government's change was applied to this year's funding of Students with a Disability it would mean in 2018 a \$1.8million decrease across our 38 schools for support of students requiring additional support.

Despite these concerns we will continue to be operate as a 'system' that is welcoming and accessible to all families seeking a Catholic education. We remain committed to ensuring that our schools remain a low fee, inclusive option for parents.

MANAGEMENT OF FOOD AT STS

A few years ago, a review of the school policies and protocols around the management of food was conducted at the school. We are like most schools with a number of students with allergies to different foods and other materials. Some of these allergies are mild and others are quite severe. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. The school has changed some of the procedures around food with the students in recent times. For the safety of all students certain foods should not be in lunch boxes (applies to staff as well), these include eggs, nuts and fish products. Students are not permitted to swap or share food.

Our policies and procedures have to be 'water tight' so we can ensure all students and staff are safe at STS and potentially won't come across foods that may cause a severe reaction.

In particular I would like to highlight the change in procedure implemented a few years ago regarding student birthday cakes, which as previously mentioned is no longer a practice at this school. This is consistent with a number of other schools, which have a similar policy. It is a school requirement that if food is to be brought to school for example, an event such as the school fair and other fundraising events, parents must give the school at least two days written notice and the food needs to be home cooked and with a full list of ingredients.

We appreciate your support and commitment to ensuring that this process is followed at all times.

Reflection

The Example of the Mancunians.

I had a disagreement with someone last week. No, we did not have a fight. I withdrew because I knew I would lose. Yes, my cause was right and so was hers, though I'll be honest, I believe my cause was more right than hers! But I withdrew and then what? I sulked and thought bad thoughts of her. Yes, over a relatively minor issue, I allowed a barrier to go up in my heart and thoughts towards this person. When I stopped and thought and prayed about it, I recognised that we have far more in common than what we disagreed about: our common faith, the people we love, the community in which we live, our humanity. Still part of me wants to be against her.

In the past few weeks in the Gospel readings, we have heard Jesus offering 'Peace!' This peace is not an absence of conflict but rather something alive and active that allows a person to celebrate all we have in common with others, rather than give into negativity or even revenge. Those who chose to go ahead with the charity concert in Manchester show us the courage and bigheartedness that living a peaceful life needs. The Mancunians did not close down within themselves, they did not attack. Doubtless necessary precautions were taken but they went ahead with the concert, knowing they were still vulnerable to attack. They stood up to hatred with far better weapons than any guns.

So what about my little situation? Right as I may have been about my position, my withdrawal was wrong. For peace to flourish, I need to stay in touch, think kind thoughts, do positive actions towards this person. In other words, do what makes for peace. Not easy, but we have been given the Holy Spirit for just this.

Loving Father, send me your wise Spirit that I may do what makes for peace in the hard and easy situations of my life. I ask this in Jesus' name, confident that you will hear me.

Sr Kym Harris OSB

Outside School Hours Care Absentees

A reminder that if you have a permanent booking for OSHC, you must inform the program if your child will be absent, as this will allow us to know how many spaces we have available for any casual bookings that parents require unexpectedly.

There is now an OSHC Absentee Notification available on the Skoolbag App under 'OSHC'.



Wednesday 7 June

Kinder Excursion to Hobart International Airport

Friday 9 June

Catholic Cross Country – Police Academy Rokeby

Monday 12 June

Queens Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 14 June

Kinder Excursion to Vet Clinic

Thursday 15 June

Gymnastics, Kinder – Grade 2
North Melbourne Footy School Program – Grades 3-6

Premier's Reading Challenge

Read ten books in ten weeks!

The PRC begins next Tuesday the 13th of June for all those budding readers out there. Reading logs and resources will arrive at the school this Friday and we encourage each child from Prep to Grade 6 to participate.

There are prizes for the best and most enthusiastic readers - both here at school and on the PRC website - simply write a book review for a chance to win!

On Wednesday June 14th we will have a special dress-up day to celebrate the Premier's Reading Challenge. Each child will come dressed as their favourite book character. There will be a special assembly to explain the challenge to students.

For any questions please do not hesitate to see Ms La Pietra in the library.

Walk With Christ

Walk with Christ will take place this year on Sunday 18th June & students & parents are warmly invited to participate.

We will gather at St. Joseph's Church in Macquarie Street at 1.15pm, then process the Blessed Sacrament from St. Joseph's Church along Harrington Street to St. Mary's Cathedral for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemn Benediction at approximately 2pm with a 3pm finish.

We hope you can join us for this special event.

P&F Update

Disco

Our Winter Wonderland disco was a HUGE success. We had easily our biggest turn out ever for a disco and we extend a big thank you to all school families for supporting the event. Thank you also to all parents who volunteered their time to help on the night.

Entertainment Books

Entertainment books forms are available in the school office and there is a link on the P&F Facebook page to the Electronic version if you prefer.

Lego Donations

The P&F have had a request from a staff member to purchase Lego to assist with hands on maths tasks and also for the children to play with. The P&F are happy to support this but would welcome any lego donations to lessen the amount needed to purchase.

Fair

17th September is the date which means there's only 14.5 weeks to go! It's time to start locking in our stall holders and we ask that you make contact by emailing pandf@sttherese.tas.edu.au or contact me on 0417 330 855. We welcome new stall ideas as well as people wishing to assist by running old favourites. Thank you to those people who have already offered their assistance and locked in stalls.

Next Meeting

The next P&F meeting is tonight at 6.00pm in the school office.

Laura Benson
P&F president

GET CREATIVE



SCHOLARSHIPS CLOSE SOON

Applications for Dominic College Year 7 2018 Creative Arts Scholarships close 11 July. Call Michele on 6274 6010 or go to www.dominic.tas.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships



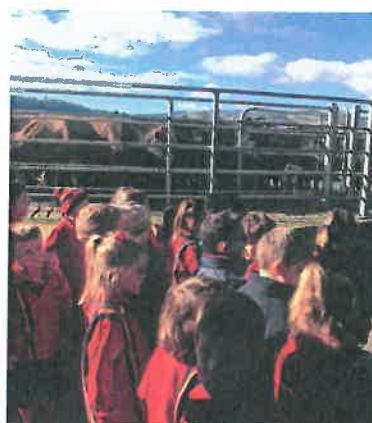
Kinder Dairy Farm

Excursion



Clearview Dairies Kinder Excursion

On Tuesday the 16th of May Kinder students went to Gretna in the Derwent Valley, to learn about how milk is produced at a dairy farm. We were greeted by Mr. Hart who showed us around the rotary dairy shed. We watched cows walk onto a dairy platform to be milked. We were able to observe the milking cups being placed on the cows' udders and the milk being pumped into the vat. We then had a go at sitting on the 4 wheeler ATV, walked up the lane way to observe the cows grazing on the fresh grass, and looked inside a tractor. There was lots of valuable learning happening that day. We also enjoyed our stop overs at Tynwald Park in New Norfolk for morning tea and lunch. It was a great outing.



Silage wagon is used to feed out hay and silage to the cows.



Dairy farmer Aaron beginning the milking operation and starting up the rotary dairy platform.



Mr. Hart explaining the process involved in milking cows and milk

Operation Bounce Back

"Kids & Keys"



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council



Engaging primary schools and their students in the creation of TV style commercials to generate awareness about car security.

To share and promote the message that:
Car security begins at home.

A fun school based competition to promote car-key security based on TV commercials created for the *Car Safe* campaign.

Who will be invited to be involved?

13 primary schools in the City of Glenorchy

What are the prizes?

\$2000

For the school that contributes the most TV style commercials.

Students with the best entry

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place \$200

3rd Place: \$100

To celebrate the project: contributing students will be invited to attend a red carpet event at Village Cinema Glenorchy.



For inspiration view these CAR SAFE commercials:

Raiders of the Lost Ark: <https://vimeo.com/105730705>

Mission Impossible: <https://vimeo.com/105729872>

Entrapment: <https://vimeo.com/105729871>

Guidelines for the competition

All students from the 13 invited schools are eligible.

Commercials must be no longer than 30 seconds in length.

Films should promote the message: *Keeping your car-keys safe helps to keep your car safe.*

Films can be created at school or at home.

Parents/guardians, families, friends and teachers are welcome to be involved and support the students.

Films can be created using cameras or phones.

All films must be collated at the school and provided on a USB.

Consent forms and subject release forms will be required.

Entries must be submitted by Friday 30th of June 2017.

Context

Like most people, your car is essential to daily life. You may rely on it for shopping, taking the kids to school, social activities, attending medical appointments or going to work. Last year almost 60,000 Australian victims of car theft found out the hard way, just how difficult life can be without a vehicle.

The myths and realities of vehicle theft

Myth: "It won't happen to me."

Reality: One out of every 120 Australian households had a vehicle stolen in the last 12 months. Yes, it could happen to you.

Myth: "No one would want to steal my old bomb."

Reality: The majority of stolen vehicles are more than 10 years old. Your old bomb is at greater risk than many other cars.

For More information please contact Safer Communities Officer
Lisa Rudd: Phone: 6216 6317 Email: lrudd@gcc.tas.gov.au

'People: Each person is equal and has a positive contribution to make. The rights and opinions of all are heard, valued and respected'.

'Progress: We value innovation, flexibility and imagination in building a better and sustainable community'.

Positive: 'We value the positive contributions everyone can make in improving the quality of community life'.

'Prosperity: We commit ourselves to achieving social and economic prosperity for all'.



