**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**St John the Baptist**

This week, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. He was Jesus’ cousin – the one who prepared the way for him. Well you may ask why Jesus, the greater one of the two, needed his cousin to prepare the people for his coming. There is something profoundly human about being helped by other people before beginning to serve. Stop and think how many people helped you in so many different ways become the person you are by supporting, challenging, comforting, yes, and even disciplining. So Jesus, when he entered fully into our humanity, was helped before he began his life of public service.

John confirmed Jesus in his call from God and directed the people to Him. He also challenged Jesus when he did not meet his expectations...and when Jesus stood His ground and told John, gently, that his way, his calling was different, he accepted and respected Jesus’ own call. John also gave us those great words which every parent and carer needs to learn, “He must increase, I must decrease.”

As parents and carers of children, we are constantly being challenged to go out from our comfort zone in the way we care. Our children are not subservient to us, nor we to them. We are called into the great mystery of helping another human being grow into a good, meaningful life. And this is a challenge, and often a messy one. We need to confirm, comfort and discipline and, as we seek to do this, we will be confirmed, comforted and disciplined but hopefully we too will grow as people.

*Loving Father, you sent your Son to live in the midst of a human family, giving and receiving from all, especially His cousin John. May we appreciate what others have done for us and show it by giving freely from our love. We ask this in Jesus’ name, confident that you will hear us.*

Sr Kym Harris osb

**REPORTS**

The 2013 mid-year report will see all Catholic schools in Tasmania begin reporting on the Australian Curriculum standards in English, Mathematics, History and Science. During 2013 and 2014 all schools will be in a transition period as they implement both a new curriculum and a new reporting format. Students in all grades will receive a full learning report including comments for all the core learning areas.

The mid-year report will be sent home in the first week of Term 3 and teachers have spent considerable time over the last few weeks in preparation. There will be an opportunity for parents and students to meet with the teachers in early Term 3 for parent/teacher consultations. The dates and times of these will be forwarded to families shortly.
COMPUTER USAGE TIPS

I am often asked by families/carers about how they can limit their child’s computer time at home and also educate them about the dangers of the internet. Although your child may appear to be more computer literate than you, it does not mean that they are always able to make wise choices online. Parents and Carers can and should play an important role in educating their children how to use the internet safely and appropriately.

I have listed some suggestions below to assist families:

* Only allow the internet to be used where you can regularly view what is on the screen. Show an interest and discuss the content.
* Presenting hypotheticals to your child framed as ‘What would you do if…?’ questions, eg, ‘What would you do if someone you did not know sent you a request to be their online friend?’ Discuss their responses with them.
* Talk about your online activity with your children and include information about virus protection, how you cope with email scams and how you prevent strangers from accessing your personal details.

As well as keeping your children safe, parents/carers can also keep children healthy by ensuring that ‘screen time’ does not take up the majority of their free time. Limiting the time they are allowed to use computers, video game gadgets and consoles and the television can assist with this. In order to maintain a balance, it is recommended children should exercise, help with household chores including meal preparation and play and chat with families and friends offline to ensure healthy growth and development.

PRIMARY CONNECTIONS SCIENCE PROGRAM

During my visits to classes I am able to witness some wonderful learning taking place across a range of curriculum areas. An area of the school curriculum which is heavily promoted through learning opportunities and experiences at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is Science. In conjunction with the Australian Curriculum, our school has adopted the Primary Connections program for a number of years in the school. Primary Connections is an innovative and exciting approach to teaching and learning which links the teaching of science with the teaching of literacy in Australian primary schools. A partnership between the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) have designed Primary Connections and the program promotes linking the teaching of science with that of literacy to enrich the learning experience for students. Primary Connections supports teachers to improve students’ scientific literacy, as well as their learning outcomes in both science and literacy. Linking science with literacy enriches the learning experience for students.

The Primary Connections 5Es teaching and learning model is based on the theory that students learn best when they are allowed to work out explanations for themselves over time through a variety of learning experiences structured by the teacher. Students use their prior knowledge to make sense of these experiences and then make connections between new information and their prior knowledge. To help students make the connections between what they already know and new information, each Primary Connections unit uses five phases: Engage, Explore, Explain Elaborate and Evaluate.
STAFFING

As mentioned in previous newsletter correspondence, Mrs Jane Davies will be taking some long service leave for the duration of Term 3. Miss Claire Dwyer has been successful in her application for the Grade 6 0.7 replacement teaching position for Term 3. Miss Dwyer is currently teaching in an international school in Sharjah where she has been for a number of years and has also taught at Marist College in Burnie prior to that. She has had considerable experience in upper primary teaching. Mrs Therese Kelly will continue to teach 0.3 in Grade 6 and share teaching responsibilities with Mrs Dwyer for Term 3.

Mr Eric Monaghan has also extended his leave until Friday August 16. Mr Veitch has been replacing Mr Monaghan this year and will be returning to St Paul's Catholic School in Bridgewater at the end of this term. I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution Mr Veitch has made to our school in such a short time, where he has developed a wonderful rapport with all students, staff and families.

Mrs Ange Andriopoulos has been successful in the position to teach Grade 4, 0.8 for the first 4 weeks of Term 3 until Mr Monaghan returns. Mrs Andriopoulos has experience teaching in both Catholic and government schools and has spent considerable time working in our school across a range of classes in a relief capacity and is well known to our students.

Both Miss Dwyer and Mrs Andriopoulos are very excited to be joining our school community.

Cameron Brown
Principal

DON’T FORGET THE
SHORT STORY COMPETITION!
Open to all students
Theme: Door to the River (where might it lead you?)
Max Length: 2 ½ A4 pages. Submit to: The Office
Entries close Mon June 25th
GREAT PRIZES FOR 1ST 2ND 3RD

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM
Thank you so much to all the families who have supported this program! We are in the process of finalising the collection so if you have any stickers or sheets please send them in to the school office as soon as possible.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
ISSUE 4 orders need to be returned to school by tomorrow (21st June).
SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SW-PBS)

"If a child doesn’t know how to read, we teach.”
"If a child doesn’t know how to swim, we teach.”
"If a child doesn’t know how to multiply, we teach.”
"If a child doesn’t know how to drive, we teach.”
"If a child doesn’t know how to behave, we …..punish? No!
"If a child doesn’t know how to behave we teach, re-teach when necessary, and reward.”

Last Wednesday, the staff Positive Behaviour Support team travelled to Campbell Town for a follow up session on implementing SW-PBS in our school. It was very beneficial to meet with other schools around the state that are also in their first year of adopting the SW-PBS approach. It was rewarding to hear that while implementing the program is a long process, the time taken now ensures that it will be successful.

The school wide expectations of Respect, Relationships (how we relate to others) and Responsibility have been finalised and will be officially launched early next term. Staff and students have been developing a teaching matrix of how these expectations look in all areas of our school. The matrix is in its final consultation stage and will be used to teach, remind, re-teach and reward positive behaviours.

Stephanie King
PBS Co-ordinator

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

*FINAL CALL FOR ORDERS*

This fundraiser is almost over. We have a limited number of books left so if you would like to purchase one please drop in to the school office.

You can view the book before you purchase by using the following link:

Please contact the school office for more information.

TERM 2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>Prep &amp; G1 Health Checks</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 July</td>
<td>End of Term Music Assembly 1.50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5 July</td>
<td>End of Term 2</td>
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Dear Parents and Caregivers

This is the second update in preparation for the midyear reports, which will be sent home at the end of Term 2 or, the beginning of Term 3. The 2013 midyear report will see all Catholic schools in Tasmania begin reporting to the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards in English, Mathematics, History and Science. The information included in this update explains the changes you can expect to see in your child’s report.

Dr Trish Hindmarsh
Director of Catholic Education

For the first time Catholic schools across Tasmania will use a common report format to describe student achievement for the different stages of schooling. The development of this report has been a two-year process. Translating the agreed format to a range of digital templates has been a significant challenge.

During 2013-2014 all schools will be in a transition period as they implement both a new curriculum and a new report format. While primary schools have moved to use the new format for all subjects, secondary colleges will be at different stages in the implementation process. It is likely that unforeseen difficulties will arise and patience and understanding will be required. Feedback from parents/caregivers will be an important and highly valued part of the transition process.

The previous parent update included information about the Australian Curriculum, Achievement Standards, Government requirements for reporting and the A-E ratings. This update provides specific information about the new report format for Catholic schools.

Components of the midyear report

1. Learning and Assessment Opportunities
2. Learning Area Assessment
3. Application and Attitude to Learning
4. Teacher Comment (Core subjects in primary years)

Each of these components is explained more fully on the next page. Please don’t hesitate to talk to your child’s teacher(s) if there is anything in your child’s report that needs further explanation.

A-E Ratings

A  Outstanding Achievement
B  High Achievement
C  Sound Achievement
D  Partial Achievement
E  Minimal Achievement

Australian Curriculum

Where students are being assessed against the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards, the A-E rating will include the phrase ‘of the Standard expected for this year level.’

Prep-Grade 2

Only the wording associated with the A-E grade will be used for reporting achievement for students in Prep-Grade 2.

Kindergarten

Achievement in Kindergarten is not described using the above ratings. A flyer explaining processes for reporting achievement in Kindergarten is available from your school.
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