Occasionally, we have to deal with people whose default setting is argumentative. They weigh into a conversation taking a contrary position and seem to delight in one-up-manship, or one-up-womanship, whatever the sex may be. Sometimes we react by mollifying them, sometimes by reasoning with them, but more often than not, we don’t succeed and we keep finding ourselves side swiped. Their contentions constantly change for their aim is not to convince others of their argument, but rather of their superiority. They put themselves up by putting others down. We leave such encounters feeling bruised and confused…and when we think back, we are often angry. The sharp witty retort is imagined too late...but don’t worry, it wouldn't have been of any use. Trying to hit back gets nowhere, for such people delight in confrontation and feed on our discomfort. Still, we don’t want them to get away with such bad behaviour. So what can we do?

Firstly, we must affirm our dignity, and the firmest basis for this is that we are beloved by God. When we are in pain or anger, we need to sit with God and affirm ourselves as blessed and loved. This gives us a deeper sense of our own personhood that is not dependent on the approval or disapproval of others. There is no surer grounding than God’s love.

Secondly, when we feel grounded in God, we need to think (notice think, not emote) about the person who is causing us such distress. From God’s point of view, we can see that their behaviour doesn’t show superiority at all, but rather neediness. While this is no excuse for bad behaviour, recognising it helps free us from having to react to it. We can resolve to hold our own views in future while not entering into an argument with them: we deny them the delight of the fight. This is not easy but the challenge can be seen as an opportunity to turn to God. Drawing on God’s wisdom, we see ourselves as treasured and loved, and we expect better of these people than they do of themselves. Now that is true love.

Loving God, when I have to deal with argumentative people, give me the wisdom of your Spirit, to affirm my dignity and theirs. With courage and humour, let me deflect their anger and grow in wisdom and love. I ask this in Jesus’ name confident that you will hear me.

Sr Kym Harris osb

HOW LEARNING HAS CHANGED

Educators and teachers are often reflecting on their own teaching and the extent to which we are preparing students to thrive in a rapidly changing, technologically driven world. About 200 years after ‘the three Rs’ was coined, apparently by Sir William Curtis around 1825, Dr Idit Harel Caperton coined ‘the three Xs’.
Just as Curtis played fast and loose with the letter r in reading, writing and arithmetic, Caperton played fast and loose with the letter x in proposing that the most important skills we can foster in our students are their ability to **explore, express and exchange**. Many of our classroom lessons and IT learning experiences are fostering many of the skills required under ‘the three xs’.

When the three X’s are nurtured and developed, students will leave our schools equipped for a lifetime of learning. When students are now asked to research something, they are now taught to be able to **explore** large volumes of information critically. If our students are not taught these skills, they can submit work that is little more than a copy and paste. Comparisons between accounts of information can be matched and analysed and students are taught to look for more than one possible solution or answer.

We are aiming at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School to nurture our students’ ability to **express** creative ideas creatively. Both the nature of our students’ ideas and the way they communicate these ideas need to be marked by creativity. Not only is creativity vital to economic productivity and personal employability, the world needs a new generation of people with the creative capacity to find solutions to some of the complex global problems we face. When our students have a creative idea to express, a host of tools now await them as they seek to communicate their idea creatively through a number of mediums including podcasts, comic life, garageband and i-movie just to name a few.

Our students will need to be encouraged and equipped in the future to **exchange** ideas using a variety of media. Not only is the exchange of ideas beneficial for student learning, it’s also of benefit to the world in which they live. The complex problems the world is facing are unlikely to be solved without teams of people exchanging ideas with each other. An exchange involves giving and receiving and while most students are very happy to receive creative ideas from others, fewer students are willing to share their best ideas. It can often be the most able students who are most resistant to an exchange as they fear that by doing so they will lose the edge they have over other students in the class. Some students can view learning as a solo rather than a community activity. This can mean what is learnt is only of benefit to themselves instead of others.

In a time of drastic change it is our students who inherit the future. The danger can be that our learners and students have perhaps in the past found themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists. I read recently in an article that 80% of jobs for Grade 2 students in the world have not been invented yet! Helping students develop their abilities to **explore**, **express and exchange** will ensure that we are equipping them for a lifetime of learning in a rapidly changing world.

**DANCEFEVER PROGRAM**

During Term 4 our students will be involved in the Dancefever program. Immaculate Heart was previously a participant in the program in 2011. Dancefever has been supporting curriculum school initiatives since 1999 and promotes self-expression, communication, etiquette, respect, teamwork, school spirit and social skills. Already our students from Kinder to Grade 6 are enthusiastically participating in the lessons which are held every Wednesday in the school hall. Some further details relating to Dancefever are included in the upcoming/dates and events section in the newsletter – more information to follow.
**BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Last weekend Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School was involved in a Southern School Basketball tournament at the Kingborough Sports Centre. The tournament was run over 3 days (Fri-Sun) and involved significant commitment from players, coaches and families at prior training sessions. I was able to see all our teams (Grade 6 Boys), (Grade 4/5/6 Girls) and (Grade 2/3/4 boys) play over the weekend. What a fantastic sight it was to see our students promoting our own school identity in spectacular new Immaculate Heart basketball outfits!

I was also extremely proud of their sense of participation and support for one another that made our involvement such a success and I would like to congratulate all the students for the positive spirit in which they competed. A considerable amount of time, organisation and planning for our teams was required and I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Jacqui Onn on behalf of our school community. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding support of our coaches - Mrs Kellie Vinen who coached the girls team, Mr Jason Vinen and Mr Arop Majak who coached the boys G6 team and to Mr Julian Gill who coached the G2/3/4 boys. Also, a big thanks must go to Mrs Vanessa Gill and Mr Richard Onn who covered the score bench for all three teams – 15 games!

Our G6 Boys finished 3rd in Division 1, our G4/5/6 Girls were runners up in Division 2 and our G2/3/4 Boys finished 3rd in Division 1. An outstanding result for our teams and for the school!

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Parents/Carers and students, please note we will finish school at the earlier time of 12.00pm on the last day of the school year, after the completion of our end of year assembly (Thursday, 19th December). The afternoon on this day will be spent undertaking a number of logistical requirements and movements as part of our 2013/2014 building program.

The end of year assembly signifies the end of formal schooling as such for 2013, and as is the custom of many of our Catholic Primary schools, we are asking if families can make arrangements to pick up their children at the conclusion of our final assembly. We appreciate your support in accommodating this request.

Please note that we understand that this may not be possible for some families and the remaining students at school will be fully supervised for the afternoon if arrangements cannot be made to pick up children at the earlier time.

**2014 ENROLMENTS**

As we are in the process of finalising class numbers for next year, we would greatly appreciate if you could contact us if your child/ren are not going to be attending Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in 2013. We have a number of classes with waiting lists and we would like to make contact with these families shortly to confirm if we have any potential vacancies.
SCHOOL CAMP PROGRAM
At our next fortnightly newsletter I would like to spend some time on our school camps program which has recently involved our Grade 4 students attending Gumleaves and will also see our Grade 6 students travel next week to Camp Clayton in Ulverstone.

Cameron Brown
Principal

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION UPDATE
Don’t forget to come along to the P & F meeting on Monday 28th October at 7pm in the Grade 6 classroom. It would be great to see you and let you know what is happening in Term 4.

SAVE THE DATE - November 7th. Fashion Night at BellaMac, Augusta Road, Lenah Valley. Platter, champers, lucky door prize, new women’s and children’s stock in. BellaMac is kindly donating 10% of their sales on the night to the school. More information to follow.

Also, we would like to ask for donations for our Christmas Hamper, please drop donations to the office if you would have anything that would be able to go into the hamper e.g chocolates, biscuits, champagne, Xmas items, etc.

Thank you
Parents & Friends Association

TERM 4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 October</td>
<td>Show Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30 Oct-Fri 1 Nov</td>
<td>Grade 6 Camp – Camp Clayton Ulverstone</td>
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<td>Every Wednesday Oct 30-December 18</td>
<td>Dance Fever</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5 November</td>
<td>Assembly (12.15pm – Items from Prep, Grade 2, 4 and 6)</td>
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<td>Friday 15 November</td>
<td>Catholic Athletics Carnival –Domain Athletics Centre</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19 November</td>
<td>Art Exhibition (School Hall 6.00pm-8.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 November</td>
<td>Assembly (1.45pm – Items from Kinder, Grade 1, 3 and 5)</td>
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<td>Monday 2 December</td>
<td>Dance Fever Challenge (Derwent Entertainment Centre 5.00pm-8.00pm)</td>
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<td>Friday 6 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Leavers Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 December</td>
<td>Kinder-Grade 2 Dance Event in the school hall</td>
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<td>Thursday 12 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 End of Year Liturgy (TBC)</td>
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<td>Friday 13 December</td>
<td>Reports Issues to Parents/Guardians</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation/Final Assembly 11.00am-12.00pm</td>
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Help us raise money for Catholic Mission by wearing socks in a crazy way! We will “Pass the Sock Around” for gold coin donations to help the homeless in places like Mongolia.

Visit [http://cm.org.au/WMM2013/home.html](http://cm.org.au/WMM2013/home.html) and click on the movie to see what your money can do.

**Tuesday, 29th Socktober (October)**
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

Parents And Friends Meeting

Monday 28th October
7:00 pm – Dillon Building

Agenda –
Welcome & Apologies
Minutes & Business Arising
Correspondence

Reports -
   Principal
   Presidents
   Treasurer

Fundraising -
   Christmas raffle

General Business -
   Calendar of Events:
   Christmas Disco
   Welcome BBQ 2014
   Miscellaneous

Next Meeting

Close