FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

Last Friday night we held our annual ‘Meet and Greet’ night which offered parents and teachers the opportunity to make contact in a setting that was informal and informative. The night was well attended with an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher in their classroom, a learning space they are helping to create. Many thanks to our SCC chair, Richard and the team for hosting the evening’s sausage sizzle and snow cone. All parents received an information pack for the term from their child’s class teacher. If you were unable to attend, the pack was sent home. Please take the time to read the information provided. We are committed to ensuring that parents are fully informed about learning initiatives at St Vincent’s this year and the pack contained a number of invitation fliers to which I hope you give some serious consideration of attending.

Partnerships with parents are highly valued at St Vincent’s. In Week 5, teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and your child. This is a good opportunity to share information about your child’s background, family context, interests, goals and plans for the year. All of this will assist us to guide their successful learning at school. Please read on for further details about booking in a time with your child’s teacher.

Thank you to Father Thomas who led our Opening Mass on Tuesday to celebrate the start of the school year. This is a very significant event in our school calendar and we loved seeing our families and parish friends at this very special school event. Teachers, staff and parishioners were individually invited to make a pledge of support which they did with much enthusiasm. 2017 is going to be a great year!

Each Friday students are nominated by their teachers to receive one of two awards. Of the two awards one is selected for student academic effort and the other for attributes shown against the value of the week. Next time you walk through our office you might like to take a longer look at our values that are so beautifully portrayed in mosaic form.

On Monday our Year 5 students are attending a 3 day, 2 night camp. Camp COOBA provides a wonderful opportunity for both students and staff to forge strong relationships, challenge themselves, work cooperatively and most importantly, have an incredible amount of fun. We look forward to hearing all the camp news upon their return.

Please feel free to join us at tomorrow’s swimming carnival at CISAC Belconnen, even if it is for a short time. Swimming starts at 10am and will finish at 2pm, Our Kinder and Year 1 students will be treated to a ‘Land Fun Day’ at school.

Wishing everyone a great week and thanking you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Lina Vigliotta

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 17 February
School Swimming
Carnival Yr 2-6

Mon-Wed 20-22 Feb
Year 5 Camp

Wednesday 22 Feb
Kinder rest day

Thursday 23 Feb
Year 6 Leadership
Breakfast 8.15am

Friday 24 Feb
Year 5 Mass

Mon 27-Tues 28 Feb
Teacher/Parent/Student Conversations

Wed 1 March
Ash Wednesday, whole School Mass 9.30am

Tuesday 7 March
Parent Reading Workshop 9-10am

ST VINCENT’S PARISH WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil-6pm
Sunday-10am
Parish: 6251 1525

“An inclusive, Christ-centred community providing educational excellence and opportunities.”
Last year the school was treated to a number of outstanding performances from our very own school band. Under the expert guidance of Kim Hughes we are very keen to continue to offer students the opportunity to join the school band. Please note, students do need to already play an instrument with a good level of proficiency.

SCHOOL BAND OPPORTUNITY

Don’t miss the opportunity to participate in this informative session about reading and writing with Associate Professor Kaye Lowe from the University of Canberra. Please RSVP to Lisa Harris lisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au or fill in the slip at the bottom of the flyer.

LITERACY INQUIRY AT ST VINCENT’S

The online booking system will go live to parents next Wednesday 22 February at 9am. Morning, afternoon and evening timeslots will be made available to families. It is important that all families in Years 1 – 6, make a booking with their child/ren’s class teacher. Kindergarten parents do not need to book a time, as they have already participated in the Kindergarten Interviews on Wednesdays. This year, students will be part of the interview process. If you would like to speak with the classroom teacher without your child present you may need to make an additional appointment.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS
The class coordinator is a vital part of the school’s community and was set up to enhance and build communication links between the school, the parents and individual classes. If you are interested in taking on the role as your child’s class rep, please fill in the slip below and return to your class.

I would like to be a Parent Contact representative for my child’s class in 2017

Parent Name:_____________________________________________________

Child’s Name: ________________________ Child’s Class: ________________________

Contact Phone (H) ___________ (W) ___________________ (M) ___________

Email Address:_____________________________________________________

Yesterday we welcomed Club4Kids back to St Vincent’s. It was great morning with opportunities for children to Rumble Tumble and Roll with Gym Fun in our school hall. Are you looking for an activity to do with your 0 – 4 years old on a Wednesday morning? Why not give Club4Kids a go. Next week we are digging with Dinosaurs.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see, meet and catch up with so many of you at the Meet and Greet evening last Friday. I feel so blessed to be part of the St Vincent’s community as a staff member and now as a Kindergarten parent!

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

An important part of being a successful school, is the partnership that is developed between home and school. With this in mind, here are some ways parents can help their children become great learners.

Read books! Read on your own, in front of your children. Read to your kids, to get them hooked on books. Have lots of books in the house to show how much you value books.

Allow your child to have free time. Children need plenty of free time to discover and explore. Don’t jam pack your schedule with errands and activities. Give your child time for free play, day dreaming and roaming around in the back yard!

Encourage good eating habits, sleep patterns and exercise routines. Children aged five to 12 need around 10-11 hours of sleep, try and limit the amount of packaged food your child consumes, encourage 2-5 servings of fruit and vegetables daily, go for a bike ride or a walk with your child, register them for a weekend sport they may be interested in.

Encourage your child to take risks as a learner. Mistakes are valuable, tell your child that it is good to make mistakes and that when we make mistakes our brains are learning new things! Persistence to keep going when things get hard or tough and not to give in. Celebrate the times your child was persistent!

Send your child to school ready to learn and on time each day. The school day begins at 8.50am, where we gather for assembly to share news, birthdays and events as a whole school. When students are late, they miss these important details. Encourage your child to be responsible for packing and emptying their bags each day. Put a visual reminder up at home about when it is Library, Sports or Canteen day!

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY – Tuesday, 21 February

Next Tuesday is International Mother Language day. The day provides a wonderful opportunity to discover and celebrate the rich diversity of languages spoken in our own communities. Languages are important as they do much more than simply help people communicate. A language helps define a culture, history and ancestry of a group of people. At St Vincent’s, we recognise and celebrate the many different cultures and backgrounds of our families. Therefore, we are encouraging any parents or students who speak an additional language or dialect to english to share this at the morning assembly next Tuesday.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

• Don’t forget to RSVP your interest for the Kaye Lowe Parent Workshop next Tuesday evening, 21 February at 7pm!
• Good luck to all students in Year 2 – 6 at our annual Swimming Carnival tomorrow!

With best wishes,
Lisa
lisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au

AWARDS

We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

KINDER YELLOW: Jimmy G, Emily H, Isabella T
YEAR 1 BLUE: Kalari B, Christopher N
YEAR 2 YELLOW: Jacob D, Sienna R
YEAR 3/4 BLUE: Hilmi K, Farrah B
YEAR 3/4 YELLOW: Lual C, Mia K, Gabriella S
YEAR 5 BLUE: Queenie P, Sasha S
YEAR 5 YELLOW: Lara D, Elijah S
YEAR 6 BLUE: Anika P, Samuel V

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following students celebrating their birthday over the coming week:

Matthew C, Emily H
RELIigious EDUCATION NEWS

‘You are Called…’

Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people.” At once they left their nets and went with him.

(Matthew 4:19-20)

On Tuesday our wonderful community celebrated our Opening School Mass for 2017. Thank you to all family members and friends of St Vincent’s that were able to join us for this special celebration. We look forward to the year ahead as we share the life and love of Jesus as true disciples.

A thought from Pope Francis on the discipleship

“Take action! Live life to the full! And when others see the witness you give, they may ask: why do you live this way?” @Pontifex 4.2.17

Whole School Focus

Our next Prayer Celebration will be held in Week 6 (Friday 10 March).

Mr Beattie and 6 Blue will be leading our prayer – ‘Jesus Calls the First Disciples’ from Matthew’s Gospel. This Prayer Celebration will hold extra significance for Year 6 and their families as it will also include their leadership induction ceremony. We hope you can mark this date in your diaries and join us for this special event.

Please note that these two events have been joined and therefore the 6 Blue Prayer Celebration will not be in Week 8 as listed on the Term Calendar.

Important dates for Term 1

| Week 5 – 1 Mar | Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass |
| Week 6 – 10 Mar | Prayer Celebration and Leadership Induction – 6 Blue |
| Week 10 – 7 Apr | Holy Week Prayer Celebration |

Peace and best wishes,
Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH

Children’s Liturgy will be held during 10am Mass, this Sunday 19 February in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

Canteen

Order your children’s lunches online – www.flexischools.com.au

NO LUNCH ORDERS ON FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY DUE TO THE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The canteen will only be open at recess for Kinder and Year 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 February 2017</td>
<td>Canteen-RECESS ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 February 2017</td>
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FOUND
A phone and set of keys (car and house) were found in St Vincent’s Church after our Opening School Mass on Tuesday, 14 February.
If you lost these items, please contact the Front Office.
Thanks

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Being successful and happy
Our classes have been discussing the word ‘success’ (accomplishing something we set out to do). The children have been identifying examples of their own successes, discussing how they and others around them feel when they are successful and understanding that everyone can be successful - success counts in all areas of life (not just in school life).

Students will begin to develop an awareness that doing their ‘personal best’ helps them to be successful and that it feels great when you have done your best and succeeded at something you set out to do. Everyone needs to feel satisfied when they have done their best. We shouldn’t deprive ourselves the good feelings that come with success by comparing our achievements with others or because we did not win a competition.

Students have also been identifying things that contribute to their being happy and unhappy and identifying things they can say and do when others are unhappy or when they are unhappy (ask someone if they would like to play, talk to someone who will listen, think of something more positive, do something fun). We appreciate that school is not only a place where we learn to read and write but a special place where everyone helps others to be happy and not to do things that make others feel unhappy.

Something to try at home:
• Help your child to identify examples of their own success and discuss how it felt.
• Pay attention to times when they are unhappy and have taken positive steps to become happier.
• Communicate enthusiasm for all types of successes you observe.

Don’t forget to check out the Parent/Family Library.
The library doors are open from 3pm each day for you to browse or borrow a book.