FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

A number of events have occurred since the last newsletter was published that are worthy to note. Last Friday parents, students and staff worked together to make the swimming carnival a big success. Staff at CISAC pool commented about the wonderful behaviour of our students and commended them on their good sportsmanship. I thank our staff carnival coordinators: Lynne Hellyer, Angela Luchetti and Hamish Meagher for the organisation of this carnival and the many parents who came to support the day. At school our Kinder/Year 1 students did not miss out. They enjoyed a land fun day, with a range of activities that included water play.

Students and teachers arrived home safely yesterday afternoon after a 3 day/2 night camp at COOBA. I wish to extend my thanks on behalf of the school community to Luke Maher, Lynne Hellyer and Donna-Lea Collins for the 24/7 care they have given to our children whilst away from their families. It is never an easy ask but all 3 staff members reported that they had as much fun on camp as the children.

It was great to see a number of families represented at the Literacy workshop on Tuesday evening. This week, teachers have had an opportunity to view a literacy lesson, have professional conversations with our specialist Kaye Lowe and are excited to start planning inquiry literacy lessons. Improvement in literacy results is a major focus for us at St Vincent’s this year and I encourage you to read Lisa Harris’ notes on how you can help too.

Coming home today with your child is an information sheet that we ask you take the time to fill out. Bookings are now open for you to schedule a time with your child’s teacher for next week. The information sheet titled: “My child at his/her best” will need to be brought to this meeting. The children are very excited about introducing you to their teacher, so I ask that you make this a priority. From past experience as a parent and teacher, I have found these conversations proved a valuable forum for sharing information about the child to support their learning. Besides sharing good news stories, parent, student, teacher conversations also offer an opportunity to establish goals for the new school year. It is a time to establish strategies where parents and teachers work together to support aspects of students learning. A bonus for all is that working together with regular communication and monitoring of student progress is shown to have a positive effect on student achievement.

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

Lina Vigliotta
linavigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au
YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP

This morning Lisa Harris, Sam Beattie and I were pleased to host a special breakfast for Year 6 students, thanking them for putting their hand up to accept a leadership position at St Vincent’s. Breakfast chat gave us an opportunity to listen to our senior student’s perspective of life at St Vincent’s. Students were extremely grateful for the opportunity to design their leadership shirt and are looking forward to their leadership ceremony later this term. We look forward to seeing them all wearing their new shirts with pride from next week.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH & JUSTICE SCHOOL LEADERS

Fundraising for the Canberra Peace Bell

Last year our school community was invited to be part of a project being run by the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin. The Peace Bell is the United Nations symbol of peace. It will remind people to pray for peace. This new peace bell will be located on the peninsular in the Canberra Nara Peace Park, Lake Burley Griffin. We have been invited to raise funds to help with the construction of the Peace Bell as a symbol of peace. We are asking that every student at St Vincent’s bring to school next Tuesday some coins. We hope to get lots of coins to outline the Peace bell drawing on the asphalt next week.

Harry Nielson and Julius Majstorovic

SCHOOL BAND OPPORTUNITY

Last year the school were 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 be already playing an instrument with a goods level of proficiency. If your child is keen to join the band please send in an expression of interest addressed to Kim Hughes.
Dear Families and Friends,

What a fabulous first couple of weeks we have had here at school! Can you believe in 4 weeks we have settled in our Kindergarten class, held a meet and greet BBQ, an opening school Mass, Swimming Carnival, Year 5 camp and First Aid training, Cyber safety workshops, Parent Reading Workshop and a Yr 6 leadership breakfast? Next week we have our Parent/Teacher/Student conversations for all families of students in Years 1 – 6, we look forward to getting to know our families and students a bit more during these meetings.

Reading and Writing at St Vincent’s

This week, we welcomed Dr Kaye Lowe to St Vincent’s. Kaye brought with her significant knowledge and expertise in the area of Literacy, in particular how we can assist our students to become proficient readers and writers. All classes at St Vincent’s now have a daily, uninterrupted, 100-minute Literacy Block. The 100-minutes is broken down into the following:

- 10 minutes: Teacher reads aloud, Sip and Snack for the students.
- 10 minutes: Teacher-led Literacy Inquiry
- 20 minutes: Silent Sustained Writing (teachers conference with students during this time)
- 10 minutes: Students share what they have written with their class
- 20 minutes: Silent Sustained Reading (teachers conference with students during this time)
- 10 minutes: Students share what they have read with their class
- 20 minutes: Literacy Activities which will be centred around the class needs for genre, literature, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation or handwriting.
- 10 minutes: Students share their activity with their class

Kaye also presented a parent workshop about how to assist your child with reading and writing at home. Some of her practical tips include:

- **Have fun and read together** – Set aside 10 minutes a day of quality time with a book. It’s okay if your child wants to read their favourite book for the 55th time read it with pleasure and then say “I noticed this book on your shelf, I’d like to read that to you when we finish.”

- **When your child comes to a word that s/he doesn’t know** – WAIT. Avoid eye contact. Keep your eyes on the page count to 10 if you have to. Your child needs time to piece together the clues. When we read, our eyes look ahead, reread, skip along to the next line to pick up clues, or gather information from the illustrations — this takes time.

- **Echo reading** – Negotiate with the child whether you will read a sentence, paragraph or page. The adult then reads the sentence, paragraph or page first. The child rereads (echoes) the sentence, paragraph or page back. Continue in this way to complete the book. Echo reading eliminates the frustration and anxiety that is too often associated with reading aloud. By “echoing” your reading, the child has an opportunity to sound like a fluent reader. This is important in building a child’s sense of what it feels like and sounds like to be a good reader. Your child can feel confident, relaxed and will enjoy the experience.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT Interviews

Don’t forget to book in a time with your child’s class teacher. The online booking system is now open [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) Code: xbzjj

With best wishes,
Lisa

**AWARDS**

We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

KINDER YELLOW: Sofia J, Harriet M

YEAR 1 BLUE: Emily M, Lucas K

YEAR 2 YELLOW: Evie W, Sebastian S

YEAR 3/4 BLUE: Daisy C, Jonathan R

YEAR 3/4 YELLOW: Ava E, Edward H

YEAR 5 BLUE: Queenie P, Kiera B

YEAR 5 YELLOW: Lara S, Nate C

YEAR 6 BLUE: Angela G, Escha L

**BIRTHDAYS**

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

Ashni S, Tom T, Annie W, Jivin P
‘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)

Ash Wednesday - Lent 2017
Lent is a season for spiritual reflection and fasting that prepares us to celebrate our redemption through Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes of Ash Wednesday carry a sense of urgency. They remind us that we are not permanent residents here on earth. This makes Lent a valuable time for examining our direction, refocusing our priorities, and making sure that God is at the centre of our lives. During Lent we are called to give expression to the ‘greatest commandment of the law’, the love of God and the love of one’s neighbour which is at the heart of the Gospel message of love and mercy.

Reflection taken from Project Compassion App – (Caritas Australia, 2016)

Project Compassion 2017
In 2017, the St Vincent’s community will again be supporting Project Compassion. This initiative runs during the six weeks of the Church season of Lent. The theme this year is ‘Love Your Neighbour’. Each class will have a Project Compassion donation box in their classroom for Lent. The children will be involved in classroom discussions and learning about how we can support those ‘neighbours’ in need. If you would like a donation box for your family, please collect one from the Front Office. For more information, you can visit the Caritas Australia website or download the Lent 2017 Project Compassion App.

Important dates for Term 1

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 – 1 March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 – 10 March</td>
<td>Prayer Celebration and Leadership Induction – 6 Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 – 7 April</td>
<td>Holy Week Prayer Celebration</td>
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Peace and best wishes,
Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH
Children’s Liturgy will be held during 10am Mass, next Sunday 5 March in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 February 2017</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 March 2017</td>
<td>Year 5 Blue</td>
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SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

What a great day we had at our swimming carnival last Friday! Congratulations to all those students who entered events and to those who participated just as enthusiastically in the novelties showing the St Vincent’ spirit of ‘giving it a go’ and ‘trying our best.’ Our school leaders did a fabulous job of encouraging their house mates and leading each of their team’s cheers. We nearly cheered the CISAC roof off. And what a way to finish with some of our Yr 5 and 6 students completing the Iron person race across the pool – a true test of stamina and style. Kindergarten and Year 1 weren’t left out enjoying some water fun back at school.

Thankyou to all the parents who came and helped by being an official or sitting in the stands and cheering the kids in their events. It all adds to the atmosphere of the day. We will be awarding the shield to the winning house this Friday at assembly with individuals receiving their ribbons and information on those who made it to the Zone Carnival given out next week.

Lynne Hellyer