FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This week we begin the season of Lent heralded by the Feast of Ash Wednesday. During this season we could do no better than pray for a change of heart and a more compassionate response to the call of those in our community who are in need. Mercy and Forgiveness are at the core of what we are about as a Catholic school. As the foundational blocks upon which we construct quality relationships in the classroom, the playground and the staffroom these qualities are nurtured within our children from the earliest age. At St Vincent’s we seek to place a high priority on instilling these values into the fabric and culture of our school. In preparation for Easter I encourage you to consciously ‘declutter’ and ‘unbusy’ yourselves. I hope you may find some inspiration in one or more of the ‘Ten Ways To Live The Joy of the Gospel’:

1. Hold or touch a cross, take a deep breath and say ‘Yes’ to living this day with hope.
2. Start and end each day with a prayer of praise.
3. Be grateful for a difficult challenge. How is the Lord teaching you?
4. Extend a hand of friendship to a little known neighbour.
5. Take a walk in the park and allow God to speak with you through nature, sunshine, an evening breeze, the sounds of children playing.
6. Break the gossip cycle. Let the nasty rumour stop with me. Or if you must gossip, start a positive (and truthful) rumour! In other words spread joy not angst.
7. Look for an opportunity to genuinely affirm a family member’s appearance.
8. Who is the most joyful person you know? Tell them! Catch their joy and spread it!
9. Turn off the TV or radio, close down your computer, ipad, iphone......and be more present to your family.
10. Get in touch with your local neighbourhood. Walk to the shops instead of driving. It’s amazing what you notice when you stroll at street level.

There is a lesson here about the powerful impact that one person can have simply by doing small things in a gospel way.

This week the Archdiocesan Principals’ retreat is scheduled for Wednesday through to Friday. All 57 Archdiocesan Principals will meet with Catholic Education system leaders on Wednesday to discuss this year’s CEO strategic plan, procedures and policies. Thursday and Friday will be an opportunity for principals to be nourished spiritually while we are led in a spiritual retreat. I ask for your prayers during this time and I thank Lisa Harris and the Leadership Team for leading the school during my absence.

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

Lina Vigliotta
lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au
On your behalf I thank teachers for taking time to meet with you over the past two days. I trust the conversation led by your child in the presence of their teacher gave you an insight of how your child is progressing and an opportunity to set goals for the remainder of this term and beyond.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Shoes and socks reminder – timely for the beginning of a new school year

- **Girls** wear white ankle socks during summer with both the regular uniform and the sports uniform.
- **Boys** wear navy blue socks with the regular uniform and white socks with the sports uniform.
- **All children** wear black polishable school shoes (lace-up, buckle or velcro all acceptable) with the regular uniform and white/mostly white sports shoes with the sports uniform.

**BEFORE AND AFETR SCHOOL PICK UP**

With the commencement of a new school year and many new families joining our community ‘welcome’, it is timely to remind parents to take **extreme care** when dropping off children at school or when picking them up in the afternoon. Below are some simple St Vincent’s car park rules:

1. Travel no faster than 10 km/ph
2. If parking in the drop off/pick up zone you should not leave your car. It is a STOP, DROP, GO or PICK UP area only. (Preference is given to families with babies or young children in this area).
3. Children are to cross to their cars or from cars to the school, on the white pedestrian crossing (with witches hats). Please do not cross on the yellow hump.
4. If you are parked in the playground end of the car park, children should not walk behind the cars but use the scoria path in front of cars to the playground.
5. Parents are asked NOT to walk their children through the car park to their car but to go around the outside of the parking area. This may take a few extra minutes, however we are trying to teach the children to take the safest route even though they are with an adult.
6. In the afternoon children will not be allowed to cross at the car park crossing unless the teacher on duty (in the safety vest) puts them across.
7. No child is allowed to be on the play equipment after school unless under the direct supervision of a parent. Staff are not on duty there and the children must be supervised by their own parents.
8. We love parents to stand around and have a chat after school however, we do ask that parents keep an eye on their children while they are enjoying a chat. (e.g. keep them out of the gardens and trees or stop them running into each other.)
9. If it is raining parents are asked to come into the Green Area (near the hall) and collect their child/ren.

**WORLD PEACE BELL**

Thankyou to the many students and families who made a donation to our fundraiser yesterday. The World Peace Bell is a United Nations Peace Symbol. There are 22 peace bells around the world and the Canberra World Peace Bell, which is currently stored at the Australian War Memorial’s Treloar Centre, Mitchell, is number 23! The bell weighs 365kg. We will be making our donation to the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin. This donation will go towards the construction cost of the pavilion to house the bell at Nara Peace Park.
FUN FOOD DAY

The launch of this Term’s Fun Food Day is this Friday. Please keep a look out for the flyer coming home with the children. All orders need to be in by 10 March, so that Bronwyn is able to get her final numbers for the day.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Year 6 student Maria Georgiadis who won first prize with the entry of her novelty cake at the Canberra Show. The cake was delicious!

Congratulations Ngulla house (Green) overall winners of the 2017 swimming carnival. Ribbons for individual events will be presented at Friday’s assembly.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Sent home with this newsletter is information inviting parents to a forum with prominent guest speaker Michael Carr-Gregg. Workshop opportunities include: Engaging with your child for Wellbeing, Engaging with your child with a disability, Engaging with your child to improve learning outcomes and Engaging with your child’s school. It is recommended that you register early if you are interested in attending.
Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see so many of you around the school this week, as you visited classrooms and spoke with the teachers about your child. In my experience, it is the perfect time for parents to enlighten the teachers on the personalities of their children and the students are able to verbalise their successes and identify areas for improvement. A huge thank you goes out to teaching staff for their preparation, professionalism and time put towards these meetings. I think you will agree that this has been an ideal session to have at the beginning of the year!

**READING and WRITING WORKSHOP**

Next Tuesday 6 March, Rita Evans and myself will be presenting a Reading and Writing Workshop for parents and anyone willing to assist in classrooms during the Literacy Block. This workshop follows a visit from Kaye Lowe, Literacy Specialist, to the school last week.

Depending on numbers we would like to offer two sessions. One in the morning 9am – 10am and one in the evening 6pm – 7pm. For more information, please read the attached flyer which has been attached to this newsletter. We would appreciate an RSVP for your interest and preferred time to either Rita or myself.

**ICAS**

Once again, the school is offering students in Years 3 – 6 the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement for Science, Digital Technologies, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics and English.

ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments for primary and secondary school students. These competitions provide an excellent opportunity for students to experience external testing and any student that enters receives a certificate acknowledging their participation. There is a cost involved if your child wishes to participate, please see the letter which has been sent home today with students in years 3 – 6.

With best wishes always,
Lisa

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**AWARDS**

We congratulate the following recipients of this week’s awards

**KINDER YELLOW:** Julia L, Alex J

**YEAR 1 BLUE:** Hannah M, Harriet B

**YEAR 2 YELLOW:** Rebecca H, Jack D

**YEAR 3/4 BLUE:** Sari T, Patrick B

**YEAR 3/4 YELLOW:** Taneisha P, Max R

**YEAR 5 BLUE:** Ella R, Charlotte D

**YEAR 5 YELLOW:** Jemma M, Sabrina T

**YEAR 6 BLUE:** Vienna G, Riley B

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**BIRTHDAYS**

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

Bob S, Shanaya R, Evie S, Jemma M
‘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)

Yesterday our children attended Ash Wednesday Mass with the St Vincent’s parishioners. This was a wonderful opportunity to pray with the parish as we begin our Lenten journey. Throughout Lent we will be using the newsletter and app to provide some information for ways that families can reflect and pray together at home during this special time.

A Prayer for Lent
Lord, please guide me this Lent,
remind me to pray to You,
To thank You, to love You, to hear from You
each and every day.
Amen

Whole School Focus
Prayer Celebrations for Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6 – 10 Mar</th>
<th>Prayer Celebration and Leadership Induction – 6 Blue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 – 7 Apr</td>
<td>Holy Week Prayer Celebration</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Project Compassion 2017
St Vincent’s will be supporting Project Compassion in each and every classroom throughout Lent and we invite all families to join in. A resource that we will be using that you could get at home is the Lent Calendar. It is a free app for the IPad or IPhone and be found by searching for Project Compassion in your app store. It delivers a reflection for each day of Lent. If your family would like to have its own Project Compassion collection box for home, they can be picked up at the Front Office.

Peace and best wishes,
Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH
Children’s Liturgy will be held during 10am Mass, this 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 March 2017</td>
<td>Year 5 Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 March 2017</td>
<td>Year 5 Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wests Junior Hockey Register Now

Wests is your local Belconnen Hockey Club.

Registrations are open for Wests Junior Hockey. We are looking for players in the following age groups for the winter season starting on the last weekend in April:

- Saturday mornings 9-10am at Weetangera Primary School (Turf Pitch) starting April 29th
  Hook in2 Hockey is modified hockey with 40 minutes coaching followed by mini games. The cost is $85. Two carnivals are held during the season.

- U11 Boys and Girls – Saturday mornings at ANU (Willows). U11’s is also a modified half-field 9-a-side game.
- U13-U18 Girls – Saturday mornings at either Lyneham or Tuggeranong Hockey Centres
- U13-U18 Boys – Sunday mornings at either Lyneham or Tuggeranong Hockey Centres

Training for Juniors is held on Tuesdays 6-7 at Lyneham Hockey Centre

Please contact Lynne Whitehead lynne.whitehead@anu.edu.au (all juniors) or Steve Carter stevecarter8@me.com or call on 0423 844 071 (hookin2hockey).

We are also looking for players for our senior teams for men & women at all levels of experience and skills.

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**BELSOUTH SOCCER**

Registrations closing soon for Minis
- U6/7 and U8/9 (girls only),
- U7, U8, U9 (Mixed)
- U10 – U12s

For our Kindergarten and Yr 1 students why not try Peewees – a great introduction to playing soccer.

For more info or to register go to the Belsouth Website or ask Lynne Hellyer (3/4 Yellow)

---

**NO SCHOOL BANKING FRIDAY, 10 MARCH**

Unfortunately, the school banking will not be able to be processed on Friday, 10 March. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Nicole Watson
School Banking Coordinator

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL RIBBONS**

The ribbons for the swimming carnival will be handed out at tomorrow morning’s assembly. Hope to see you there!

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL RIBBONS**

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‘Talking, Reading and Writing’
A workshop for Parents, Grandparents and Carers

LITERACY INFORMATION SESSION
Presented by:
Rita Evans and Lisa Harris

Following on from Adjunct Associate Professor Kaye Lowe’s reading workshop; Rita and Lisa will present this practical information session to ANY parents and carers of St Vincent’s children who:

- are learning to read and write
- are developing their reading and writing skills or
- find reading and writing difficult

Find out how to:
- make reading and writing practice enjoyable
- conference with your child about their reading and writing
- take the stress out of homework and make learning a worthwhile experience

Date: Tuesday 7 March, 2017
Time/s: 9am – 10am & 6pm – 7pm
Where: St Vincent’s Library

If you know of anyone wanting to help out at the school, bring them along too!

For more information and to RSVP please email Rita Evans
rita.evans@cg.catholic.edu.au
In the classroom we have been looking at the five qualities that help us to be successful and happy. Students and teachers have been taking notice when they and others are being confident, persistent, organised, are getting along and are being resilient. The five qualities are associated with the certain ways of thinking (or Habits of the Mind) that we have previously encountered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meet Charlie Confidence</th>
<th>Charlie’s characteristics:</th>
<th>Ways of Thinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Believes he can do it</td>
<td>• Accepting Myself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t worry about mistakes</td>
<td>• Taking Risks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t worry too much about what others think of him</td>
<td>• Being Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Stands up tall</td>
<td>• I Can Do It</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Speaks in a clear voice</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meet Penny Persistence</th>
<th>Penny’s characteristics:</th>
<th>Ways of Thinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tries hard</td>
<td>• I Can Do It</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t give up when working on things that are boring or Hard</td>
<td>• Giving Effort</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Working Tough</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meet Olivia Organisation</th>
<th>Olivia’s characteristics:</th>
<th>Ways of Thinking:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Has the goal to be successful</td>
<td>• Setting Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Manages her time</td>
<td>• Planning My Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Puts things in proper places</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Meet Garry Get Along</th>
<th>Garry’s characteristics:</th>
<th>Ways of Thinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Makes friends</td>
<td>• Being Tolerant of Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Works well with others</td>
<td>• Thinking First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Solves conflicts without fighting</td>
<td>• Playing by the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Has strong values</td>
<td>• Social Responsibility</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meet Rosie Resilience</th>
<th>Rosie’s characteristics:</th>
<th>Ways of Thinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Stays calm</td>
<td>• Accepting Myself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t fight or withdraw when very upset</td>
<td>• Taking Risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Calms down quickly</td>
<td>• Being Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Bounces back</td>
<td>• I Can Do It</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Working Tough</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Being Tolerant of Others</td>
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