FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

Welcome to Week 7 – Sabbath Week. Having this week back onto a long weekend is indeed a real treat for families. Sabbath Week at St Vincent’s gives us all a little break from the school routine of homework. This extra time hopefully allows for more quality time spent at the dinner table sharing events in our lives.

In this newsletter is the full list of Class Coordinator contacts for 2017. The strengths of St Vincent’s school include its friendliness, community spirit, nurturing environment and parent involvement, all of which enhance the educational opportunities of our children. We have a great school and the Class Coordinators make a valuable contribution to our school. Class coordinators work hard to build a sense of community and establish productive networks within the parent community. I thank them for their efforts to liaise regularly with the Class teacher. I hope you will be able to attend at least one social gathering with other families from your class this year. I feel very confident in knowing that every class at St Vincent’s will be well cared for.

I hope you find the LATE model helpful in your role as teachers of your children. It is sourced from work by Professor Donna Cross prominent researcher and is a model to help us all – as parent or other family member, teacher, coach... to better engage with our children when they seek our help.

Listen to your children without interrupting (hold back the urge of jumping in to provide solutions for them!); give them the most precious gift of your time as you sit with them or walk with them ‘shoulder to shoulder.’

Acknowledge and take your children’s concerns seriously; show them that you believe them.

Talk with them and explore options with them, using open-ended questions – “What is it that you would like help with?”

End with an encouraging message – “You can do this and I’m here always to help you – give it a go!”

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

Lina Vigliotta

lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au
Another successful day on Wednesday with the whole school getting into the spirit of the Best of British Fun Food day. The pictures show just a little of the joy that we all had. Over 140 orders were taken and over 12 kilos of bacon cooked! A huge thankyou to Bronwyn and her helpers. I also want to share with the community how very proud I am of the Year 6 students who in their Leadership roles served students on the day. Hospitality students helped serve bacon butty's, while Health and Wellbeing students led a whole school disco. They truly showed off their DJ prowess by selecting some great British dance music and even added a Beatles track or two for their teachers! A Fun Day was had by all.

Last Friday we commissioned our Year 6 students into their leadership roles at a special liturgy. One of the most important qualities of a good leader is to lead by example. To be a role model. It is about inspiring others to be better than they can be. But one of the most important characteristics of leadership is action. This is the challenge I shared with our Year 6 leaders, to lead by example and to be able to look back and to be proud of how they acted and of all the things they did in their final year of primary school at St Vincent’s. It is up to all of us, staff, parents, families and students to support our Year 6 leaders during 2017 and to lead by example ourselves. I thank Sam Beattie and Year 6 for preparing and sharing with us last Friday’s leadership liturgy.

After the ceremony students and their parents were treated to a delicious morning tea. We thank Year 5 parents for catering.
Attached to 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.

Congratulations to the Josifovski family on the birth of their new baby Anelia! Sofia (KY) has a new baby sister born on Tuesday, 14 March. We wish Colleen, Goran, Sofia and Milla all the happiness now that Anelia has come into their world.

A MESSAGE FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

The published Term 2 dates for students in ACT Catholic schools shows Term 2 starting on Monday, 24 April. In response to a dispute concerning the different starting dates to ACT public schools, Catholic Education Canberra and Goulburn have decided to extend the vacation period to include Monday, 24 April.

Term 2 will now commence on Wednesday, 26 April.
Dear Parents and Carers,

A couple of weeks ago I conducted an attitudinal survey for reading and writing with all of our students. The results were very positive and it is so pleasing to see how much the students at St Vincent’s value reading and writing. The purpose of the survey was to identify the types of books your children are interested in reading, how much they like reading and whether they think they are a good reader or not and why! The writing part of the survey asked them to identify what they like best about writing, what parts of writing do they find hard and who is the best writer they know!! I’d like to share with you just some of the student responses to give you an insight about how our students see themselves as readers and writers. The data taken from this survey also gives our teachers a good idea about what texts and genres need to be available for their students to read as well as focus areas for the reading and writing components of the Australian Curriculum!

What do you think of yourself as a reader and why?

- I love reading because it takes you and your imagination on a roller coaster ride!
- I think I’m a good reader as I read a lot of books and sometimes I can’t put them down.
- I love reading if it’s a great book that I can read easily. Tricky books are sometimes hard for me.
- I struggle to put books down. I could read for a whole day without stopping if the book really grips me.
- I’m not really that good at reading. I wish I could read more often though because I like books.

What's the best thing about writing?

- I’m an okay writer but I don’t think I’ll pursue it as a career because it isn’t my favourite hobby.
- Sometimes when you write you can start with nothing at all. There’s no rules about what you have to do.
- I’m pretty good because in about 10 minutes I can write 20 sentences!
- You can unlock the door to your imagination and you can be creative and write about whatever you want.
- I can write everything I need to and the possibilities are endless
- It hurts my hand if I write too much.

BOOK CASTLE

Do you have any children’s books or series just sitting on your bookshelves at home? Why not donate these to our ‘Book Castle.’ Many thanks to Christopher N in 1B who was is the very first person to donate books to the school. Watch in the Green Area as our book castle gets built!!!

ICAS registrations

Don’t forget that ICAS registrations are still open and due in next Friday, 24 March. If your child is interested in sitting one or more of these tests, please fill in the registration form. If you can’t find yours, come and collect a note from the Front Office.

With best wishes, Lisa

AWARDS

We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

KINDER YELLOW: Leon G, Olivia S
YEAR 1 BLUE: Prawal S, Jennifer T
YEAR 2 YELLOW: Maggie M, Chris M
YEAR 3/4 BLUE: Deng A, Grace O
YEAR 3/4 YELLOW: Laroux C, Sofia G, Olive H
YEAR 5 BLUE: Amelia G, Vincent H
YEAR 5 YELLOW: Harry M, Emma L
YEAR 6 BLUE: Alizzandra T, Verity S

BIRTHDAYS

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

Maggie M, Jennifer T, Zoe W
Angela G, Leo K
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)

Pope Francis’ Message for Lent 2017

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share the full the joy of Easter.


Holy Week Prayer

On Friday, 7 April, we will be holding prayer for Holy Week using the story of ‘Christ’s Passion’. Some of our Year Five and Six students will be leading this prayer.

We are inviting all parents, family and community members to join us on Friday, 7 April at 9:15am.

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

FROM THE PARISH

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

How much do you know about the beer?

Back for its 3rd year is the St Vincent's Ale Appreciation Night. Parents and friends are invited to come along and be educated about the history and science behind a selection of ales.

The evening will be hosted by our local brewer extraordinaire Mr Charlie Newton.

(This is a not for profit event)

When: Friday 24 March at 7:00pm
Where: St Vincent's
Cost: $20 - Includes pizza and beer tastings
RSVP: hamish.meagher@cg.catholic.edu.au
PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

"THE CRITICAL ROLE OF PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S WELLBEING AND LEARNING"

THIS FORUM IS INTENDED FOR:
SCHOOL BOARDS/SCHOOL COUNCILS, PRINCIPALS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CEO STAFF.

GUEST SPEAKER
DR MICHAEL CARR-GREGG
adolescent and child psychologist

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES WILL INCLUDE:
Engaging with your child for Wellbeing, Engaging with your child with a disability, Engaging with your child to improve learning outcomes, Engaging with your child's school and Engaging with your parents – a child’s perspective.

The day will also include the launch of the Parent Charter for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

VENUE, DATE & TIME
MERICI COLLEGE
WISE STREET, BRADDOCK ACT 2612
SATURDAY 25 MARCH
9AM TO 3.30PM

"EVERY STUDENT – EVERY HOME – EVERY SCHOOL"
THIS IS A FREE EVENT, TO REGISTER PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW.

REGISTER NOW