FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

Easter has fallen perfectly for us this year – in school time. We have been able to focus on Holy Week this week and next week celebrate Easter and the events just after Easter. I thank the teachers for preparing the children so well and for the many parents who have been able to join us or may join us next week.

Christians attempt to comfort sufferers by touting the benefits of suffering. “Suffering builds character,” we say. “I don’t want character,” says the sufferer. “I want relief.” Then come the inevitable questions: “Why does God let bad things happen?” and “Where is God when it hurts?”

The care that parents give their children suggests answers to both questions. For example, suppose a seven-year-old girl is taking her first ride on a bicycle. Her father, running alongside her, sees that she is about to hit a rough spot on the road but restrains his impulse to reach out and steady the bike. The dad wants his little girl to learn how to ride with confidence, so he does not prevent her fall. When the bike bounces off the bump, the girl panics, tumbles to the pavement, and scrapes her elbow and knee. The dad scoops her up into his arms and comforts her. Then he carries her into the house, cleans and dresses her scratches, holds her on his lap, and tells her a favourite story.

God is like that dad. He lets us navigate our way, but he stays alongside us. He does not prevent bad things from happening because he wants us to learn to deal confidently with hardship. But when we suffer, God scoops us up and stays with us. He shares our pain, sustains us, and consoles us.

That’s the message of the cross, and signing ourselves opens us to hearing it. God’s only Son became a man in Christ. In his human nature, God himself suffered rejection, humiliation, ridicule, abandonment, buffettings, scourging, crucifixion, and death. He embraced suffering as a man so that he could comfort us in our suffering.

When we make the sign of the cross we invite the Lord to join us in our suffering. We touch our forehead and move down to our breast, telling the Lord with this gesture that we want him to bend down to us. Then we cross our shoulders in a movement that asks him to support us—to shoulder us—in our suffering. From The Sign of the Cross by Bert Ghezzi.

I hope your Easter will be a time of rest and reflection. Easter blessings for you and your families.

Lina Vigliotta
lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 30 March
Good Friday Holiday

Monday 2 April
Easter Monday Holiday

Tuesday 3 April
School Photos

Wednesday 4 April
Athletics Carnival

Friday 6 April
Year 6 Leadership Induction and Morning Tea

Sunday 8 April
Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival

Friday 13 April
Last Day Term 1

Monday 30 April
First Day Term 2
Student to return in winter uniform

PARISH OF ST MATTHEW’S AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil-6pm
Sunday-10am
Parish: 6251 1525
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear families and friends,

Even if you haven’t been able to make it to our Holy Week reflections, I hope you’ve had some personal time to reflect on the Holy Week story. I wish you all a peaceful Easter Break, travel safely and enjoy the family time.

Tiredness

As we draw close to the end of term, we are noticing the children can be a little unsettled at times. This is mainly due to genuine tiredness, from being at school each day for a term brings, especially in younger students.

Please be aware that your child may be feeling the effects of tiredness. This can manifest itself in not eating all that you pack each day for their lunch and periods of restlessness and impatience. Encouraging them to eat nutritious snacks and meals as well as having a good night’s sleep is essential. This goes for adults too!!

I think that the mini break for Easter this weekend and the school holidays around the corner have come at the right time for everyone. I hope many families are able to use these times to rest and relax.

Parent Reading Workshop

Rita Evans and myself will be holding a Parent Reading Workshop next term, Thursday May 3. Depending on numbers we would like to offer two sessions. One in the morning 9am – 10am and one in the evening 6pm – 7pm. We would like to trial a video link, so parents can view the session from home. We would appreciate an RSVP for your interest and preferred time to either Rita or myself.

Showcase and celebration of student work

Next Thursday April 5, students from St Vincent’s will be showcasing their hard work from Term 1 to parents and families! We welcome you all to come and visit classrooms. See the timetable below of when each class will have their doors open to you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Showcase Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Super Star Learners</td>
<td>8:30am to 9:30am</td>
<td>Kinder Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Yummy, yummy in my tummy &amp; Author’s Celebration</td>
<td>2:30 - 3:10pm</td>
<td>Year 1 Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Y</td>
<td>Magnificent Mini-beasts</td>
<td>2:15 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Year 2 Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Y</td>
<td>Snapshots of our Learning.</td>
<td>10:15 - 11am &amp; 2:15 – 3:00pm</td>
<td>Year 4 Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>The STEM spaceship challenge</td>
<td>10:15 - 11am &amp; 2.15 – 3:00pm</td>
<td>Year 5 Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y6</td>
<td>Awesome Asia Business Expo and Images of God Art Expo</td>
<td>2:15 – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Classrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With Easter blessings
Lisa
lisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au

AWARDS

Due to Easter, there will be no awards this week.

BIRTHDAYS

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

Amelia R, Grace L, Isabella T, Sheran M
‘Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.’ (Psalm 46:10)

Holy Week Reflections

Palm Sunday
Lord Jesus,
We welcome you into our hearts today, just as you were welcomed into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. As we journey with you this week, may we be welcoming to everyone we meet. We make this prayer in your name
Amen

The Last Supper
Lord Jesus,
As we gather here with our friends, Just as you gathered with your friends at the Last Supper, May we remember to share the peace and love of your life With everyone we meet. We make this prayer in your name
Amen

The Agony in the Garden
Lord Jesus,
May we, who love you, remember your incredible pain and strength in the Garden, and may we follow your example, learn to pray, trust in God and overcome the things that scare and challenge us. We make this prayer in your name
Amen

The Stations of the Cross
Lord Jesus,
Each time we think of you on the cross, Help us remember how you love us and how much you gave up for us. We make this prayer in your name
Amen

Project Compassion
A reminder to please return all Project Compassion boxes to school. If you do not have a box but would still like to contribute, all classes have a large box on their prayer table and any coins will be greatly accepted. We will be announcing a school total before the end of term and would like to have all donations back for counting. Thank you in advance for your generous and considerate donations in 2018. The Year 6 Faith and Justice Leadership team appreciate all the support that has been given.


CANTEEN
Order your children’s lunches online – www.flexischools.com.au
Next week’s (6 April) Special is: Chicken and Rice Salad (GF)-$4.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 March 2018</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED-Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 April 2018</td>
<td>Year 1 Blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ST VINCENT’S SPORT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School Athletics Carnival - Wednesday, 4th April 2018

Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival - Sunday, 8th April 2018 - If you are interested in being the parent coordinator on the day, Ms Luchetti would love to hear from you. Teams will be announced this week. Further information will be sent home early next week.

ACT SCHOOL SPORT

During the year various sports will be conducting trials, I will advertise these as they come up. The ACT School Sport web address is https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/ if you would like to register your child for trials.

Trials (please check school sports website for more details and registration)

ACT 12&U Boys basketball
Belconnen Zone U/12 Rugby League Trials - 5th and 9th April

BELCONNEN ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the 23 St Vincent’s students who participated in the Belconnen Zone Swimming Carnival on Tuesday. Many of our students swam huge personal bests against very competitive competition. It was particularly pleasing to see the amazing support and encouragement our students had for each other. Indiana P and Mia K had exceptional swims to make it on to the ACT Schools Swimming Championships. A huge thanks to Sally Lamont, Amanda and Davin Phillips and Kim Hughes for assisting with time keeping and result recording.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Ella! She placed 3rd in National Level 7 State titles for Gymnastics. This means she has qualified for the ACT team to compete at Nationals in Melbourne. She won silver on bars & vault and her team won gold overall, so it was a great weekend of competition. Ella and her team mates train 22 hours a week which means she has to give up much of her leisure time. From the smile on her face we can see that Ella has a real passion for what she does.

Angela Luchetti
Health and Wellbeing Lead Teacher
FROM THE PARISH OF ST MATTHEW AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL
EASTER MASS TIMES

The Easter Triduum will be celebrated at St Matthew’s Church:

Holy Thursday - 29 March  Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday - 30 March  Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm

Holy Saturday - 31 March  Easter Vigil at 7.00pm

Easter Sunday Masses - St Matthew’s Church at 8.30am and St Vincent de Paul’s Church at 10.00am

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday - St Vincent de Paul’s Church at 11.00am

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

ST VINCENT’S SCHOOL PHOTOS

THIS YEAR’S SCHOOL PHOTOS ARE NEXT TUESDAY, 3 APRIL.

All children will need to wear their summer school uniform on the day (NOT PE uniform)

The photo envelopes are due on Tuesday and all children must return them either before the photo day or on the day, whether or not they are buying any photos. Please have a look in your child’s bag if you haven’t received it.

Again this year, families have the option of having a family sibling photo. Forms for these photos are available from the Front Office. Please note that these need to be paid to the school separately and cash or credit card are the only forms of payment accepted.

If you are a split family and require an extra envelope, please contact the Front Office.

Thank you

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS VOUCHERS
due back by 4 April

Please place all your hard earned vouchers in the box in the Front Office by Wednesday, 4 April.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you
Circles of Support

It is not a service or program but rather a group of people who are intentionally invited to come together in friendship and support of a person with disability, for the purpose of protecting their interests into the future and achieving their goals.

Some things that circles have enabled:
- More people in the life of each individual who are not paid to be there
- An increase in the number of new and positive roles that people hold
- Reconnection with family members
- Expanded social and economic opportunities
- An important safeguard for the future and a better life

What you will learn:
- Intentions and possible purposes of a Circle of Support
- The key dimensions for a successful Circle of Support
- The practicalities
- How to recruit, invite and support Circle members
- The possible limitations and troubleshoot the common areas of challenge
- How to take the steps to start or strengthen a Circle of Support, and
- How to engage a vision for an inclusive life

You will also hear some “real life” stories from people who have a Circle of Support. We’ll use interactive exercises and discussion!

Who should attend?
People with a disability, families, circle members, friends/allies, and others interested in developing Circles of Support with people who have a disability or other people who may be at risk of marginalisation, loneliness and exclusion.

Date: Friday 13th April
Time: 9:30am - 4pm
Cost: Free!

Venue: ACT Youth Coalition, 46 Clianthus Street, O'Connor ACT 2602
Free to register at: http://imaginemore.org.au/upcoming-events/

Imagine More events have been funded by the NDIS through the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) – ILC National Readiness Grants
Imagine More

National Inclusion Conference

We know the NDIS alone is not enough to create full and meaningful lives for people with disability

Come and find out about Information, Community Linkages and Capacity Building

Ideas and Inspiration on How to Participate and Contribute in the Community for Someone with a Disability!

The conference will offer opportunities to hear from local, national and international speakers sharing stories and approaches of how a clear vision and self direction can lead to meaningful and inclusive lives for people with disabilities.

This is a conference with a difference, where there will be time for questions, opportunity to workshop/test ideas and gain tips and strategies to enable you to leave knowing what your next step will be.

**Dates: Friday 4th & Saturday 5th May**

**Time:** 9:00 - 5pm each day

**Venue:** The Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Ave, Canberra


**Themes/Topics:** Work, home, relationships, behaviour and school

- The Grass is Greener Where you Water It: Investing in Relationships and Everyday Wonders
- Getting a part time job while in high school
- Connecting with community
- How to develop an Individual learning plan
- Getting off the fence - finding my way to be fully included
- Uni 2 Beyond - Uni life for people with Intellectual disability
- Small business owner - Cam Can, building on the strength of 'waiting'
- Riding the rapids - being included from Kindy to year 12
- Using a lesson design framework to implement effective differentiation
- Understanding how behaviour is communication........

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**Apply for conference free registration**

We don't want registration costs to be a barrier for you to attend the Imagine More conference. Therefore, if you need financial assistance please complete the application form by April 6th.