Welcome to the first of many reports from your SCC.

At the Council’s second meeting for 2017 on 21 March, we were joined by members of the St Vincent’s Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Colleen Meadley, Chair of the PPC, updated us on parish activities and the process of amalgamation between the parishes of St Vincent’s and St Matthew’s at Page. We wish the PPC well with this complex undertaking. We also look forward to working closely with the PPC throughout 2017 and, especially, to the joint School/Parish Mass and BBQ on Sunday, 7 May – keep an eye out for details.

One of the pleasures of being on the SCC is hearing news of the school and the projects and activities in which the teachers and students are engaged. The school’s focus on consolidating our childrens’ literacy, numeracy and technology skills is impressive and exciting – and supported by teachers who are open to innovation and their own learning.

Another key activity of the SCC is promoting family engagement and wellbeing. To this end, we are supporting the class coordinator program, and thank Alison Smallwood Martyn for agreeing to take on the role of class coordinator liaison.

In the same way, the SCC provides opportunities for us all to gather as a community and we are making plans for several social activities throughout the year, including a Family Bush Dance on Friday 2 June, Wk 8, Term 2 (get out the gingham!). This will be a fundraising opportunity and, combined with funds raised from the upcoming Easter Raffle, Mothers’ Day Stall and Walkathon, will enable the SCC to continue to support diverse learning programs (school readers and Mathletics) within the school as well as making a contribution to the school’s amenities and environment.

Our focus at the moment is preparations for improvements to the green area and continuing plantings adjacent to the play areas. A working bee is scheduled for Sunday, 30 April. Your help weeding and planting in the garden beds would be greatly appreciated. Keep reading the newsletters for more information.

Finally, if you have any questions about the SCC, its activities and plans, please get in touch. As representatives of you and your children, all members of the Council are ready and happy to talk.

Justine Molony
SCC Secretary
justinemolony@bigpond.com
Catholic Schools Enrolment Period is from Monday, 1 May – Friday, 19 May 2017. If you know of anyone outside of our school community who has a child at pre-school, please notify them of the opportunity to enrol at St Vincent’s during the above period. Enrolment packs will be ready for the beginning of the new term. Our Open Day will be on Tuesday, 16 May 9.30am – 11am and from 4 – 6pm.

HARMONY DAY 2017

Last Friday, we celebrated the rich diverse cultures that make up St Vincent’s. Children came to school either wearing orange or clothing that is culturally representative of their nationality. The smiles on the faces of our children demonstrates the pride our children have in acknowledging their individuality and culture.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Many thanks to our wonderful library helpers who have offered to cover library books. Your efforts help bring the books to the children. These books build the library collection and extend the children’s interest in books, reading and literature, and also introduces them to new authors and titles.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Ashmore, Teacher Librarian
Friday 31 March, 2017

St Vincent’s Defence Appreciation Day

The St Vincent’s Defence parents are proud to provide the students with an opportunity to experience some unique Australian Defence Force activities. We would like to thank the school community for the support that they have provided to the past, current and future Navy, Army and Air Force families, and wish to provide the students with a small glimpse into Defence life.

In exchange for this half day of activities, we request all students bring a gold coin donation to Soldier On – a charity close to our hearts.

Soldier On supports men and women around Australia who have been physically or psychologically wounded in the service of their country. All fundraising dollars support these men and women, and their families, by providing them with opportunities to enhance their rehabilitation with inspiring activities; funding for high quality equipment and world’s best care; and security their future through education and employment support.

In exchange for your gold coin donation, all students will also enter the draw for an Army, Navy or Air Force piggy bank – one per class.

Thanks

The Defence families of St Vincent’s

A HUGE thankyou from all at St Vincent’s for sharing these opportunities with us. We are fortunate to have parents who are willing to take time to share with us their passion and expertise. We are looking forward to sharing every experience on offer and hope that our donation to SoldierOn goes a little way to support men and women who have served our country.

All Catholic schools have been notified by Catholic Education that Term 2 will commence on Wednesday 26th April.

GPN

Last Sunday 10 girls from Saint Vincent’s went to the girls programming day, run by the girls programming network. Here is what some of the girls thought.

Maria- I thought it was really fun and I really love working with python and I hope one day I will learn more.
Sofia- It was really fun and I loved the topic, tic tac toe and I want to learn more about python.
Angie- I enjoyed learning new things and learning about different programs I could use.
Harini- I enjoyed how we could learn how to make different commands and I like the idea tic tac toe being the topic.
Emma- I like the topic of tic tac toe and I enjoyed learning about python.
Dear Parents and Carers,

We are on the downhill stretch to Week 10 and what a fabulous term it has been for the community of St Vincent’s!

**ACU students**
Each year St Vincent’s is asked to assist with the development of student teachers from a number of Universities. We believe good teacher training and experiences in schools are important for the development of beginning teachers. We are pleased that we are able to assist these students in their journey in becoming effective teachers and learners. Currently, we welcome the following Pre-Service teachers from the Australian Catholic University into classrooms:

- Louise Osbourne-Goldsborough L4 ACU (Kindergarten)
- Mikaela Walsh L4 ACU (3/4 Yellow)
- Claire Williamson L2 ACU (6 Blue)
- Matthew Paton L2 ACU (5 Yellow)

Next term, we will welcome Pre-Service teachers from University of Canberra and Charles Darwin University.

**NAPOnline Parent Evening**
Students in Years 3 and 5 will complete the NAPLAN testing program in Week 3 of next term. This year the testing will be administered in an Online Platform. We would like to offer parents of students sitting NAPLAN this year an Information Evening about the new testing process. At this meeting we will be able to show parents what the testing platform will look like, how the students go about completing the tests and have a Q & A session. The date for this will be:

**Thursday, 6 April from 6.30pm – 7.00pm**

If you would like further information and to trial the testing platform, please visit the following webpage:


The demonstration tests are mini tests that contain example questions to allow everyone to become familiar with the various types of technology enhanced features NAPLAN online uses.

**Book Castle**
Our Book Castle continues to grow and we are incredibly thankful for your kind donations! Keep the books coming.

With best wishes,
Lisa

[llisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:llisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au)

---

**AWARDS**

We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

**KINDER YELLOW**: Matthew C, Connor M  
**YEAR 1 BLUE**: Harriet B, Daniel O, Jayla M  
**YEAR 2 YELLOW**: Finn M, Lily E  
**YEAR 3/4 BLUE**: Shanaya R, Sarah M  
**YEAR 3/4 YELLOW**: Tara S, Lachlan G  
**YEAR 5 BLUE**: Ruby A, Shubnoor K  
**YEAR 5 YELLOW**: Will H, Josie A  
**YEAR 6 BLUE**: Jordan F, Matilda H

---

**BIRTHDAYS**

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

Tobias M, Escha L, Isabella T, Sheran M, Sienna O
RELIGIOUS 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)

Sacramental News

This year children in Year 2 and Year 3 will have the opportunity to prepare for and celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist if they have been baptised in the Catholic Church. Reconciliation will be at the end of Term 2 and First Eucharist at the end of Term 3. Information will be distributed before the end of term with dates for Information Sessions and enrolment. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Project Compassion

Just a reminder that if you have a Project Compassion box and it has become full you can return those to school at any time. 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.

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

Prayer Celebrations for Term 1

| 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, 2 April in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

CANTEEN


Lenten Special until end of term: Battered Fish and Salad $4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 March 2017</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 April 2017</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ST VINCENT’S SPORT

Lots has been happening at the school with Sport over the past weeks.

BELCONNEN ZONE SWIMMING—Congratulations to our 20 swimmers who attended the Belconnen Zone swimming carnival last Wednesday. We were well represented in many events and it was pleasing to see so many swimmers swimming personal best times. The results with overall placings in their event/s hasn’t come to the school yet and I will let the students know when it does.

Well done to Escha L (Yr 6) who swam in multiple events and has placed 2\textsuperscript{nd} in 4 events. We know Escha will go onto the ACT carnival and we are waiting to hear if there are others.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SOCCER CARNIVAL—Last Sunday, 3 St Vincent’s teams had a wonderful day at Canberra University playing soccer. Our 3/4 team played with energy and enthusiasm and had some great results. Our 5/6 Kick and Cackle team were gallant all day, having fun and never giving up even though they came up against some very tough opposition. Our other 5/6 team challenged themselves in the World Cup category and all 4 games were close in score and huge in determination and ability. We can be proud of how all three teams represented our school.

A special thankyou to Andrew and Sarah Harmer, Rob and Anne Taylor and Corey Graham who coached and managed our teams. The 5/6 Kick and Cackle parents collectively helped with their team and thankyou to them. Your expertise and effort was greatly appreciated.

BELCONNEN ZONE AND ACT SPORT—If your child is keen on trialling for any sport for the Belconnen Zone or ACT (eg Hockey, Basketball) you might like to regularly check the School Sport ACT website. Details for each sport go up on this site and then get sent to us. If your child is interested, you need to register to trial and can do this on the same website.

CONGRATULATIONS—A big ‘well done’ to Riley B in Year 5 who has been picked for the Belconnen Zone Rugby League team. All the best for a successful tournament.

KEEP THE DATE—Our School Cross Country Carnival has been scheduled for Friday, 5 May (Week 2 Term 2).

Lynne Hellyer,
Sports Coordinator
Liz Gregory Irish Dance Academy
LGIDA Dance Studio (Aranda Scout Hall)
Beginner Dance Classes-Tuesday and Thursdays 4pm
BOYS AND GIRLS from age of 4 years Your first lesson is free!
Learn to Irish Dance like Emma from the Wiggles!
Children are dance for fun, fitness and public performances and competitions
You can start anytime during the term! Fees are allocated from starting date!
For further enquiries please contact Liz Gregory T.C.R.G., A.D.C.R.G –
Phone: 0419 225195 Email: lgida52@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS
BELCONNEN TENNIS CLUB
8.30AM-5.30PM
APRIL 10TH -13TH & 18TH -21ST Group tennis lessons, games, arts, crafts, quizzes, indoor games, table tennis, movie.
Cost $100 per day or $300 for 4 days. Limit 20 per day. Ages 8yr to 13yr.
Jamison -opposite Big Splash
Jeff Gray - Belconnen Head Coach
BOOK NOW Email:– tennis@btccoaching.com
or
Phone: 0411041470

Kippax Kids
Holiday Happenings
for Primary aged children
presented at
Kippax Uniting Community Centre

Hardwick Cres, Holt (opp Kippax Fair)
10 am - 2 pm
Thursday April 13th & 20th 2017

Different craft, games, stories and activities each day

Cost: $5 per child, $10 for two or more in a family (covers craft, morning tea and drinks).

BYO lunch and hot.

Bookings essential - 6254 1733

An activity of Kippax Uniting Church
BLOCKERS

Our classes have been discussing the five qualities that make it harder for them to feel successful and happy. These are known as “blockers”. When students are worried, sad, lazy, being a nuisance or when they are angry, they are less likely to experience success and happiness. In order for students to experience success and happiness, they need to be able to change these “blocker” behaviours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worried William</th>
<th>Students who worry may not sleep well. They may describe feeling shaky, have butterflies, a stomach ache or a headache. These student may worry about giving an incorrect answer or speaking in front of the class. When students worry, they may not demonstrate their potential.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sad Sally</td>
<td>When a student is sad, they may give themselves a hard time with negative messages such as “I can’t do this”, “I’m not smart enough”, and “I’m stupid.” Because they believe that they are hopeless, these students may not bother trying. Body language can be a good indicator of when a child is feeling sad such as scuffing their feet and walking with their head down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazy Larry</td>
<td>When students are lazy, they do not put the necessary time and effort into completing set tasks. Often they will make excuses for things they have failed to complete or have not completed to a satisfactory standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Nuisance</td>
<td>Students who do not pay attention and distract others may wander around the classroom, call out or behave inappropriately, trying to get a reaction from the teacher or from other students. These blockers not only impact on the individual but also impact on the other students in their class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angry Annie</td>
<td>When a student is angry they may put themselves first, treating others unkindly but at the same time expecting others to be their friend. They may act out and misbehave. These students may not have the necessary skills to calm themselves down.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to help students to develop strategies to overcome their blockers so that they are able to experience success and happiness. Such strategies may include relaxation techniques, additional practises so that they feel confident, thinking positive rather than negative thoughts, accepting responsibility for their actions and learning to calm themselves when they become angry.

Something to try at home:
- When children demonstrate blocker behaviour, discuss with them in the heat of the moment how their blocker is preventing them from being successful and happy.
- Acknowledge your child’s efforts when they are doing their best to eliminate one of their Blockers.

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.
St Vincent’s Easter Eggstravaganza

It’s time for our first fundraiser of the year and no better way to start than with the Easter Egg Raffle.

How does the raffle work? We ask for donations from the school community and then make up prizes using the donations received. Please send in your (nut-free) donations throughout Weeks 9 and 10.

Last week raffle tickets were sent home and each family is asked to try to sell a book of ten raffle tickets (50 cents each ticket). Please make sure that a name is on every ticket sold. In order to comply with ACT Gaming & Racing regulations tickets may only be sold to members of the school community (ie NOT the general public).

Tickets are due back Tuesday, 4 April 2017. The raffle will be drawn and presented on Wednesday, 5 April 2017 at School.