FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

This week I have had the pleasure of welcoming prospective families for the 2018 school year to St Vincent’s. With assistance from our Year 6 leaders, we have been able to showcase the best features of our school. It is gratifying to hear that visiting families comment on the quality of the tour experience and to hear over and over how passionate our senior students are about their school.

Thankyou also to parents: Louise Georgiadis, Amber Malcolm, Angela Cummings, Alison Smallwood, Jane Carmody, Jacinta Putt, Leanne Dann, Susie Morris, Jackie Males and Graeme Nielson who offered their hospitality and capably answered questions from prospective families about our school.

This week I have received a number of neatly typed, hand-delivered letters from a number of students who are interested in taking on roles of leadership in our Mini Vinnies. Isn’t student voice a great thing! I am touched by the persuasive nature of each of the letters. Each application reminded me of the mission of St Vincent de Paul to aspire to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society. No doubt our revamped Mini Vinnies will be of great benefit to our community and beyond.

I ask that you keep our staff in your prayers this weekend. Staff will be travelling to Warrambui to participate in a Faith formation retreat. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on relationships with each other and our God.

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

Lina Vigliotta

lina.vigliotta@cg.catholic.edu.au

ENROLMENT PERIOD – FINAL REMINDER

The Catholic Schools’ Enrolment Period finishes this Friday, 19 May. Enrolment Packs are still available from the Front Office. If you have a younger child who is commencing school in 2018 it is essential that you submit an application form for this child.
Many St Vincent’s mums and granny’s were spoilt on Sunday, courtesy of our exceptional Mothers’ Day stall. Walking into the hall on Friday brought back memories of recent Boxing Day sales, and our little shoppers were just as sharp as the crowds there. Many thanks to Helen Walker for coordinating the stall and her helpers for managing the discerning shoppers on the day.

Thankyou to all mums who joined us on Friday morning for the Mother’s Day breakfast and special blessing. A wonderful morning was had by all who attended, with mums and their children enjoying some precious time together and an opportunity to view the artwork decorating the hall walls.

Thankyou to Richard Milczarek (SCC Chairperson) who shopped for the food served at breakfast and to the dads who came early in the morning to set up and then stayed to pack up too. Much appreciated.

Well, it’s that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking! Not only is walking a wonderful way to get you where you want to be, but it also gets your health – and your child’s health on the right track too.

St Vincent’s school is participating in National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday, 19 May 2017. Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. Although walking all the way to school isn’t realistic for many of us, it’s quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family’s daily routine.

You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:
- Walking with them the whole way to school
- If you drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.
- Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, diabetes and is good for mental health.
- It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.
- Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids.

All children who ‘Walk Safely to School’ on Friday, 19 May will be presented with a sticker from our Mediation Mates.

For more information, visit www.walk.com.au
Our School Band had its first session last week and it became obvious that we are in need of a drum kit. You may have one sitting at home that is missing out on making some noise. Please contact the Front Office if you can help us out.

Congratulations to Ngulla (green) House, winners of the Marg Koenen Cross Country shield for 2017. With assistance from our pre-service teachers, Mrs Hellyer presented ribbons to students and the House trophy to a very excited Ngulla team.

We wish students who have qualified for the Belconnen Zone Cross Country carnival all the very best. Great sportsmanship everyone!

At St Vincent’s we support the End of May is Hats Off Day initiative from the ACT Cancer Council. Students continue to be welcome to wear a navy blue beanie if they would prefer.

Monday, 5 June is the 35th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of our Church. There will be a celebratory Mass at 9.30am. All Welcome!

Brief Parish History: from Kalori Oct 1993
- The early planning for Belconnen had identified an area in Aranda for a Catholic Parish centre, to consist of a church, a primary school, convent and presbytery. The first Catholics attended Mass at O’Connor where Fr Patrick Cusack was administrator.
- Fr Cusack was appointed PP (administrator) of our parish August 1968. Masses were celebrated at Macquarie Primary School. (Hall hire was $2.00 week).
- 1969 plans were approved for the building of the school. Weekday Masses and Baptisms were held at the presbytery in Bandjalong Crescent Aranda.
- 1970—Fr Cusack was appointed PP of Page parish and Fr Lloyd Reynolds came to Aranda as PP. Sisters and children move in for 2nd term. School had previously been held at the Jamison Community Centre for infants to third class. 72 boys and 59 girls were enrolled on 1 Aug 1970. Second stage of school, hall and Chapel completed. Sept - First Mass in the Hall celebrated by Archbishop Cahill and Fr Reynolds. School officially blessed and opened Oct 1970. The Archbishop also blessed and opened the convent.
- 1971 School year commenced with 420 pupils including children of the Page parish. There were 3 Sisters and nine lay teachers.
- 1972—Iarnuary, nearly 200 children move to Page School.
- 1973—April, Parish Council decides a parish church is required. After a poll—“Do we want a Church?” results were 3 to 1 yes.
- 1975—The Dutch Sisters find they cannot continue their service to the school and move to their Convent in Melbourne.
- 1976—Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart come to the school.
- 1976—students for St Monica’s Evatt, join St Vincents Primary until their school is ready.
- 1978—Housie was held weekly at Western Suburbs Rugby Club to raise funds for the building of a Church.
- 1981—April, tender was accepted to build the church for $325,805 to seat 400 people
- 1981—Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart leave the school and the Convent becomes the Presbytery.
- “The Official Opening and Consecration was performed by His Grace Archbishop Edward Clancy DD, LSS at the 6pm Mass on Saturday, 5 June 1982. A celebration dinner to mark this most important occasion for the Parish since its founding, was held at the Western Suburbs Rugby Club following the ceremony.”
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been out of the school for most of this week attending network meetings with colleagues from other Catholic schools. These meetings are a perfect opportunity for me to share the fabulous teaching and learning initiatives that are happening at St Vincent’s and, in return, I get to find out the wonderful things other schools are doing too.

Yesterday, I attended a Numeracy meeting, run by specialist Numeracy Consultant Leonie Anstey. Leonie is an ex Primary School Principal from Victoria who is passionate about Mathematics! Leonie is visiting all schools in the Diocese this year and will be working with St Vincent’s staff tomorrow.

Today I am attending a Literacy Network meeting, I am thrilled to be able to share with other schools the success of our Book Castle and implementation of the Literacy Block.

I also wanted to alert you to the shelves that have been installed just inside the afternoon exit doors. The purpose of these shelves are to initiate a Parent Book Swap, I invite you to take a book to read and, if you can, replace it with a book you think another parent might enjoy.

With warm wishes,
Lisa
lisa.harris@cg.catholic.edu.au

AWARDS

We congratulate the following recipients of this week’s awards

- **KINDER YELLOW**: Connor M, Amon K
- **YEAR 1 BLUE**: Oliver H, Daniel O
- **YEAR 2 YELLOW**: Rushil F, Jacob R
- **YEAR 3/4 BLUE**: Farrah B, Hilmi K
- **YEAR 3/4 YELLOW**: Laroux C, Phoebe G

Due to tomorrow’s Prayer Assembly, these awards will be given out at Monday morning’s assembly.

- **YEAR 5 BLUE**: Claudia L, Ruby A
- **YEAR 5 YELLOW**: Emma L, Annie W
- **YEAR 6 BLUE**: Vienna G, Harini B

BIRTHDAYS

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

Evie W, Lara D, Pearl P
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 )

Staff Retreat

Tomorrow evening, all 18 members of the school staff will attend a Spirituality Formation Retreat just outside of Canberra. The theme for the retreat is ‘Prayer – Contemplation and Action’.

Pope Francis describes prayer as opening the door to God, he reminds us that the Lord said that ‘the first task in life is this: prayer’. Pope Francis explains that it should not always be the prayer of words but prayer of the heart, gazing on the Lord, hearing the Lord, asking the Lord. We will be presented with opportunities on our retreat to engage in all these types of prayer – prayer of contemplation (rest) and prayer of action.

Our timetable will include reflection, meals together, a Cross Walk and Christian Meditation. We hope the staff will come back to the community invigorated and ready to continue to lead our prayer life within the school community.

We also hope that this may lead to an opportunity for some Spiritual Formation for our parent community for those who may be interested – watch this space.

Keep us in your prayers this weekend as we gather for this retreat.

Prayer Celebration

Tomorrow morning, 2 Yellow will lead us in our next Prayer Celebration for the year.

Year 2 have been working extremely hard planning and preparing this celebration. All members of our school and parish community are very welcome to attend our gathering in the Church at 9am.

Peace and best wishes,

Luke Maher
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH

Children’s Liturgy will be held during 10am Mass, this Sunday, 21 May in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

Canteen

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

The week’s soup will be Mexican Bean Soup-$1

This week’s special is Fish and Chips-$4

For this week only, spinach triangles will be bought and not home-made

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 May 2017</td>
<td>Year 2 Yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May 2017</td>
<td>Year 5 Blue</td>
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Kindergarten Yellow

We are busy bees in Kindergarten.

Numeracy groups

Mathletics

Friends of ten.

Gymnastics

Buddies

We love reading
Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm. Phone: 6287 3833

COMMONWEALTH BANK

‘PAT THE DOG’ VISIT

Yesterday, Pat the Dog came to St Vincent’s to promote the Commonwealth Bank’s School Banking program, along with Susan the School Banking Specialist.

Pat had a visit with the children before school started on the playground, which the children loved. They were then welcomed at our morning assembly, at which Susan spoke to remind our school community of our banking day (Friday) and that further information can be found on the Comm Bank website or brochures are available from the Front Office.

Nicole Watson

Nude Food Wednesday’s

On Wednesday’s, St Vincent’s students are encouraged to come to school with Nude Food lunch boxes. This means minimal wrappings and packets.

We are also encouraging foods that are considered GREEN LIGHT FOOD.

The children have been learning about Green Light food in their classrooms.

We will continue with Nude Food Wednesday for the rest of the term.

Hopefully we will also see a reduction in our landfill bins on these days.
St Vincent’s Primary School

Bush Dance

Friday, 2nd June at 6.30pm

Polish your boots, saddle the horses and come on down to Strip the Willow at the biggest social event of Term 2!

What better way to get to know our school community than while you’re stamping out the Heel and Toe Polka? Mums and Dads, it’s your time to shine! Let’s show the kids how to cut a rug!

Live music

**TICKETS** $10 per family purchased from Mrs Watson at the Front Office.

Dancing feet need fuel and families are asked to bring a plate or two of food to share, according to their child/ren’s class groups:

- Kinder Yellow: Sweet
- Year 2 Yellow: Sweet
- Year 3/4 Yellow: Sweet
- Year 5 Yellow: Sweet
- Year 1 Blue: Savoury
- Year 3/4 Blue: Savoury
- Year 5 Blue: Savoury
- Year 6 Blue: Savoury

Raffle tickets will be sold on the night for the major prize of a $500 Travel Voucher from Jamison Travel. Be there to win!