FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Vincent’s,

Last Friday evening and Saturday morning, all staff from St Vincent’s took the opportunity to attend a spirituality retreat. A moving part of our time together was the walk of the cross accompanied by scripture interpretation from Pope Francis. I continue to be impressed by the way Pope Francis continues to demonstrate a great sense of humility, compassion, humour and joy wherever he goes. One of Pope Francis’ undoubted gifts is his ability to move people to think and act in new ways. Our time at retreat taught us about the powerful impact that one person can have simply by doing small things in a gospel way. It would do us all good to consciously ‘declutter’ our lives and ‘unbusy’ ourselves for a short time each day. In the spirit of sharing here are a few simple ways in which we can take a leaf out of Pope Francis’ teachings and live the joy of the Gospel in our daily lives, nourishing our own and others’ wellbeing and spirituality.

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. Extend a hand of friendship to a little known neighbour.
4. Take a walk in the park and allow God to speak to you through nature, sunshine, the sound of children playing.
5. Who is the most joyful person you know? Tell them. Catch their joy and spread it!

Children attending Catholic schools need a fair deal!

It is no secret that as a Catholic school in the ACT we have been deeply concerned that our students could be seriously disadvantaged by the Federal Governments proposed school funding model changes. In particular, our ability to work as a system of Catholic schools that supports and assists each other is under risk. As a system of schools, we take very seriously the financial stewardship of the resources we are provided to fund the diverse needs of our students irrespective of their family background, where they live or their financial circumstances.

The funding distribution model we currently use allows funds to be allocated across all our 56 Catholic schools. It also provides for a reasonably consistent low fee cost structure and
opportunities for every school community. The new proposed government model will significantly alter this, with the very real probability of increased school fees. **PEOPLE POWER** can help to highlight the importance of this issue. To achieve a fairer and equitable outcome for our schools and our children, I encourage every parent to write or contact the following political leaders and call on them to reverse these funding cuts and provide fair funding for your child.

Senator the Honourable Simon Birmingham  
Minister for Education  
Ph: (02) 6277 7350  
Email: minister@education.gov.au

Senator the Honourable Zed Seselja  
Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs  
Senator for the ACT  
Ph: (02) 6277 3187  
Email: senator.sesija@aph.gov.au

Ms Yvette Berry  
ACT Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development  
Ph: (02) 6205 0233  
Email: berry@act.gov.au

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

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

### BUSH DANCE SOCIAL EVENT

Don’t leave it too late. Tickets to the greatest social event of the year are on sale now. Polish your boots, saddle up the horses and come on down to Strip the Willow! Only $10 for the whole family. Tickets available from Mrs Watson at the Front Office.

### SCHOOL BAND

Our School Band is meeting every week and it has 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.

### FUN FOOD DAY

Keep a look out for the new Fun Food Day flyer coming home tomorrow. Orders need to be in by Friday, 2\(^{nd}\) June.

### A MESSAGE FROM CANCER COUNCIL ACT

End of May is Hats Off Day for Canberra Schools  

(Students continue to be welcome to wear a navy blue beanie if they would prefer)
NEW SANDPIT TOYS...Kinder had a ball on Wednesday!
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK AND SORRY DAY

Each year, National Reconciliation Week celebrates achievements in our journey towards reconciliation. This year we remember significant anniversaries. It is 50 years since the 1967 referendum and 25 years since the Mabo decision. This week reminds us that big changes take persistence and courage, so let’s celebrate together in taking the next steps towards reconciliation. National Sorry Day is a commemorative day that focuses on apologising to and bridging the gap between Australians and the Indigenous peoples. Held on May 26 each year, it gives people the chance to express regret for the way Aborigines were treated in the past, mostly as a result of the White Australia Policy. We thank Mrs Currie, who has put together a Sorry Day Reflection for our assembly tomorrow.

INTER-SCHOOL SNOW SPORTS COMPETITION

Registrations are now open for any student who would like to participate in the ACT/Southern NSW Inter-schools snow sports competition. If you are interested in participating in this event, please come and see me for an information note.

READING TIPS AND TRICKS

One of the most common questions I receive from parents, is “How can I help my child when they come to an unfamiliar word in their reading?” The following strategies may help here:

- **Wait** - wait longer than you would have waited before. It takes readers time to figure words out.
- **Avoid eye contact** – You cannot will a word into someone’s head by looking at them! Keep your eyes fixed on the page and the reader will return to the page.
- **Say with encouragement** – “How about you read on to collect more information”, “Keep reading to see what would make sense”, “What word would make sense?”, “Is there a word you can think of that would fit here?”, “Skip that word”, “Go back to the beginning of the sentence”, “look for some word parts that you already know”
- **Avoid unnecessary interruptions** – Interruptions interfere with the flow and get in the way of comprehension. Even saying “that’s good reading” is an interruption.

With best wishes always,
Lisa

*The book I am reading at the moment is... “The boy who fell to Earth” by Kathy Lette*

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AWARDS

We congratulate the following recipients of this weeks awards

**KINDER YELLOW:** Rohan H, Pearl P

**YEAR 1 BLUE:** Jayla M, Petra F

**YEAR 2 YELLOW:** Darcy E, Dakota C

**YEAR 3/4 BLUE:** Chloe D, Grace O, Charlie H

**YEAR 3/4 YELLOW:** Lual C, Ayen A

**YEAR 5 BLUE:** Shubnoor K, Ella R, Claudia L

**YEAR 5 YELLOW:** Emma L, Nell H, Linh T

**YEAR 6 BLUE:** Jordan F, Riley B

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BIRTHDAYS

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

Charlie H
‘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)

A very big thank you to the children of Year 2 and Mr Meagher for their prayerful and powerful Prayer Celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to lead the school in prayer and make connections with the study they have been undertaking of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was very clear that the students are developing their understanding of the sacrament and what Jesus taught about mercy and forgiveness.

During our time away for the Staff Retreat we had an opportunity to explore and pray on the practice of Christian Meditation. I have included some information below and the invitation to hear some more about Christian Meditation later in the term.

### Christian Meditation

Meditation is a universal spiritual wisdom and a practice found at the core of all the great religious traditions, leading from the mind to the heart. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness. It can be practised by anyone, wherever you are on your life’s journey. It is only necessary to be clear about the practice and then to begin – and to keep on beginning.

In Christianity this tradition of contemplation, the prayer of the heart or ‘apophatic prayer’, became marginalised and often even sometimes suspect. But in recent times a major recovery of the contemplative dimension of Christian faith -and prayer - has been happening. This is transforming the different faces of the Church and revealing the way the Gospel integrates the mystical and the social. Central to this process now is the rediscovery of how to pray in this dimension and at this depth: finding a practice of meditation in the Christian tradition. The World Community teaches a practice derived from the Gospel teaching of Jesus and the advice of early Christian monks.

Information from The World Community for Christian Meditation website at - [http://wccm.org/](http://wccm.org/)

If you are interested in hearing more about meditation in the Christian tradition, there will be a parent workshop held at school on Tuesday, 27 June at 9am.

### Important Dates

- **Prayer Celebration – A Worker Approved by God – 5 Yellow – Friday 2 June at 9:00am**
- Peace and best wishes,
  Luke Maher
  Religious Education Coordinator

### FROM THE PARISH

Children’s Liturgy will be held during 10am Mass, next Sunday, 4 June in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

### CANTEEN


**This Week’s Specials are:**
- Spicy Pumpkin Soup $1.00
- Pastitsio ‘Greek Lasagne’ and Salad $4.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS 9.30am-2.00pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 May 2017</td>
<td>Year 5 Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June 2017</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3/4 YELLOW

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS TERM?

In Science we have been studying the life cycle of a seed.

In Religion we wonder at God’s Creation.

In Health we have found out about the Traffic Light system of healthy eating and worked out what we should be eating.

In Maths we have been learning about tessellations, symmetry, angles and building 3D shapes.

We are also passionate about our environment and sustainability and we look after the school’s bins! We are awesome!
**SPORTS NEWS**

**Touch Football**
Representing Belconnen, Flynn R and Harry M’s team played 4 games and great results meant they made the Grandfinal against Tuggeranong. The final was a close game ending in a tie - extra time had to be played. Tuggeranong won 4-3 with the boys thoroughly enjoying their day.

Our 7 St Vincent’s girls were spread over 3 teams. Team coaches obviously had to spread the talent! Sean Hope, Ella R and Charlotte in Pool A and Ella K, Lara D in Pool B and Ruby and Josie A in another team in Pool B. Results were varied with smatterings of wins, draws and some losses. Our girls showed great skills and determination.

We can be very proud of our 9 students. Feedback to the school was that they played very fairly, gave every game their best effort and showed exceptional sports personship. We can’t ask for more than that!

**Belconnen Zone Cross-Country**
The following students will be representing St Vincent’s at Mt Stromlo next Tuesday. Good luck!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phoebe G</td>
<td>Jacob D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna R</td>
<td>Jack D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayen A</td>
<td>Hunter H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca H</td>
<td>Tobias M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evie W</td>
<td>Sebastian S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia K</td>
<td>Josh N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy C</td>
<td>Bob S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace O</td>
<td>Edward H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice H</td>
<td>Indy P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow C</td>
<td>Lachlan G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte N</td>
<td>Deng A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloé D</td>
<td>Bronson M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara T</td>
<td>Jonathon R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ava E</td>
<td>Vincent H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemma M</td>
<td>Rueben W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara D</td>
<td>Harry M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella K</td>
<td>Riley B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella R</td>
<td>Flynn R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Hope C</td>
<td>James H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah D</td>
<td>Will H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vienna G</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaney C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harini B</td>
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Lynne Hellyer  
Sports Coordinator
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Yellow</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Yellow</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 Yellow</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Yellow</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Blue</td>
<td>Savoury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 Blue</td>
<td>Savoury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Blue</td>
<td>Savoury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Blue</td>
<td>Savoury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Raffle tickets will be sold on the night for the major prize of a $500 Travel Voucher from Jamison Travel. Be there to win!
Learning to read, write, spell, multiply and divide numbers is a bit like a team sport. That is, students will be more successful when everyone helps each other learn and everyone works well together as a group. As the saying goes “Two heads are better than one”. Classroom success can be increased by gaining and giving support to other classmates. While a student may need support in one area, it is likely that he or she can provide support to other students in another area.

Teamwork

Good team players work together to complete set tasks. To be a good team player students need to:

1. listen to others without interrupting
2. take turns fairly
3. help others with what they have to do
4. be respectful of different opinions
5. Participate
6. do their fair share

Volunteers

A volunteer is someone who does things to help other people in need and to make his/her school and home a better place to live and learn. Volunteers do things for others not because some-one tells them to do so but out of their own free will. They decide on their own to do it. Volunteering to do something for others helps students to develop a sense of social responsibility (e.g., doing good things for other people in need and for the good of the community).

35th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of Our Church

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.
- 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.”
The Journey THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

The Program is called The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP – P). This program is suitable for parents and carers of children attending primary school years 5 & 6 and secondary school students attending years 7—12.

RAP – P will help you:

- Help your teenager to develop a healthy self-esteem
- Help your teenager to gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family
- Manage your stress so you can do your best job as a parent
- Prevent and manage conflict with you teenager
- Promote harmony in your family

The course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3 week period.

DATES: Mondays 5th, 19th & 26th June 2017
TIME: 6pm—9pm
VENUE: 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill
FEE: $80 (Concessions available)
Fee includes light supper & course materials

Bookings Essential
Contact 1800 068 698