Issue 4 Term 4
27th November 2015

World of Maths Day

Christmas Fair

2016 School Captains
Cory Brown and Georgina Serafin
COMING EVENTS......

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Year 6 Transition Day @ St Stephens Catholic College</td>
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<td>End of year Liturgy 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Year 6 Day out</td>
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<td>Report Cards Go Home</td>
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<td>Wed 27th Jan 2016</td>
<td>School Starts</td>
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Student of the Week

Prep One Two Class
Emma Palmeri for making interesting and relevant contributions.
Ricki Sivyer for being respectful, mature and considerate in class.
Riley O’Shea for being a mature and considerate class member.
Caitlyn Parsons for assisting others on stage. Thank you.
Azali Mitchell for being an excellent role model on stage. Well done!
Cayde Miller for fairness and kindness when working with others.
Georgia Cumming for following instructions and being a role model.

Year Three Four Class
Bronson for an excellent result on his maths test.
Alice Harrigan for always using beautiful manners.
Amber Jerome for exhibiting leadership and participation during Christmas Fair song practice.
Eric Tosoni for demonstrating effort and independence during RE assessments.
Year 3/4 for perfect behaviour and participation during Mass.

Year Five Six Class
Cara Dryden for presenting brilliant leadership skills and work in maths and providing thoughtful responses during class discussions.
Kaitlyn Everingham for displaying a positive and mature attitude towards all her learning and displaying awesome leadership skills.
Georgina Serafin for excellent work in maths and writing fantastic paragraphs—what a star!
Kaitlyn Scapin for working diligently on all class tasks and always willing to help out when needed.
From our Principal

Principal’s Report

The 2015 Christmas Fair was a resounding success. Many people attended the event and enjoyed the wide variety of entertainment and stalls available on the night. We are still in the process of finalising expenses but it looks as though over $11,000 profit was made which is a massive achievement.

We would sincerely like to thank the P&F Committee, Christmas Fair Committee, parents, staff, sponsors and contributors. We were very blessed to have such wonderful support and assistance from such a large number of people.

Money raised from the Fair has been earmarked for resourcing a Playgroup, which will be up and running in Term 1, purchasing additional iPad’s for Early Childhood, purchasing new laptops to replace some of our outdated ones and purchasing the Pre-Lit Program.

End of Year Liturgy

A reminder that next Wednesday is our End of Year Liturgy to be held at the St Anthony’s Church at 6pm. This night will see us farewell our Year 6 students who will be taking the next step in the education journey. It is also a chance to farewell the St Anthony’s staff members moving on and those families who will no longer have students at our great school. Those families attending the evening are asked to return forms and money ASAP so that catering can be finalised.

Last Day of School

Next Friday is the last day of school for 2015 for students. All staff and children will be swimming at the pool from 9:30-11:00am and will then return to school for the last hour. School finishes at 12pm and parents are asked to collect their children.

Student Reports

Student reports will be sent home next Thursday 3rd December. Booklists for 2016 will also be included and were sent via email earlier in the week.

School Captains 2016

We would like to congratulate Corey and Georgina for being elected as St Anthony’s School Captains for 2016. We are very confident that they will acquit themselves well in their role and will serve the school and students to the best of their ability. All of the candidates (Corey, Georgina, Neve and Kaiden) spoke exceptionally well and are to be congratulated for the thought and consideration that they put into their speeches.

2016 Start Date

A reminder that school starts on 27th January next year.
Farewells

The end of the school year is a time of joy and celebration mixed with some sadness, apprehension, uncertainty and relief. Next Friday will see the end of primary school education for our 13 Year 6 students. We farewell Julius, Cody, Toby, John, Lauren, Danae, Kaitlyn E, Kaitlyn S, Desarae, Joseph, Cara, Amber and Kellie. These students will be moving on to high school where a new set of friends will be made, new experiences will be had and new routines and structures will be learnt. We congratulate them all on their achievements and wish them all the best for the future. Good Luck!

Sadly, with our Year 6 students moving on, we lose a number of families who have been pillars of the school community. St Anthony’s is most certainly a better place for having each of these families involved in the school and we thank them from the bottom of our heart for their contributions over the years. To the Schincarioi, Grace, Everingham, Land, O’Shae, Scapin, Brown, Lamont, Montagner and Srhoj families, we say thank you!

At the end of the year we also farewell staff members, Ms Kerryn Cameron, Mrs Terri Higgins and Mrs Trudy Pretorius and thank them for the wonderful contributions they have made to the lives of the students here at St Anthony’s. We wish them all the best in the new journeys they pursue.

Personal Reflection

As time draws near on the end of my first year as Principal of St Anthony’s, I would like to take this small opportunity to extend my thanks to the school community for assisting me in my transition to the role. I would like to thank the many parents who have offered support, who have volunteered their time to assist with school functions or activities and who have contributed to the school in so many different ways. I would like to thank all of the staff for their patience, dedication, commitment and absolute resolve to make sure that the students of St Anthony’s are receiving a quality education. Your support and counsel has been invaluable and I very much look forward to working with you again in 2016. I would like to thank the students for your enthusiasm, willingness to listen and learn and for your spirit of community.

I am very much looking forward to 2016 and all that it will bring.

We would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. For those travelling, be safe on the roads and we look forward to seeing you again in 2016.

Next Assembly: Monday 30th November (School Captains)

God Bless,

Yours in Catholic Education,
Brad Williams

Principal,
St Anthony’s Catholic School
From our Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor News - Supporting SEL at St. Anthony’s.

The Sensory Child.

The following information on Sensory Processing Issues and how this affects children in schools has been adapted from an article by the Child Mind Institute (April 28, 2014) which is a very useful website to obtain information about a whole range of topics related to children’s wellbeing.

What are Sensory Processing Issues?

Some children have trouble handling the information their senses take in (through sound, sight, touch, taste and smell) ..... **There are 2 other lesser known senses that can be affected, the first is a sense of body awareness and the second involves movement, balance and coordination.** In addition, children can be over-sensitive or under-sensitive to input or indeed both. Even as adults, we all can relate to having some kind of issue related to sensory input, whether it be bright lights, loud noises, crowded places or uncomfortable clothing and so on and, so for children, these issues would be very confusing and in some cases very scary.

While sensory processing issues are not a learning disorder, or official diagnosis, they can make it difficult for children to succeed at school. For example, **over-sensitive** children respond easily to sensory stimulation and can find it overwhelming. They may:

- May be unable to tolerate bright lights and loud noises like school bells and sirens.
- Refuse to wear clothing because it feels prickly or irritating or shoes because they feel too tight.
- Be distracted by background noises that others don’t seem to hear.
- Be fearful of surprise touch, and avoid hugs and cuddling even with familiar adults.
- Be overly fearful of swings and other playground equipment.
- Often have trouble knowing where their body is in relation to other objects or people.
- Bump into people and things and appear clumsy.
- Have trouble sensing the amount of force they apply (rip paper when using an eraser, pinch too hard or slam things down).
- Run off or bolt when they are overwhelmed to get away from whatever is distressing them.
- Have extreme meltdowns when overwhelmed.

On the other hand, **under-sensitive** children need to seek out more sensory stimulation. They may:

- Have a constant need to touch people or textures, even when it is not socially acceptable.
- Not understand personal space even when children the same age are old enough to understand it.
- Have an extremely high tolerance for pain.
- Not understanding their own strength.
- Be very fidgety and not be able to sit still.
- Love jumping, bumping and crashing activities.
- Enjoy deep pressure like tight bear hugs.
- Crave fast, spinning and/or intense movement.
- Loved being tossed in the air and jumping on furniture and trampolines.
It can be seen that these behaviours could be confused with children who are under-sensitive as those who may be displaying “negative behaviours” including what appears to look like hyperactivity, when in fact they are seeking sensory input. In addition, many of the behaviours of kids with sensory problems overlap with symptoms of ADHD, from trouble sitting still or concentrating, to melting down, when they are expected to transition from one activity (especially one they like) to another perhaps less attractive activity.

A 2009 American study showed that 1 in every 6 children has sensory issues that make it hard to learn and function in school. Sensory processing issues can be found in children who have no diagnosis at all .... it is common for ASD children to have sensory issues as well as children with ADHD and OCD, however.

**How can you help your Child who may have Sensory Processing Issues?**

Occupational therapists (OT’s) are the specialists who work with kids who have sensory issues. Catholic Education Services, Cairns has OT’s who support children in schools within the diocese and children can be referred to an OT through the school if required. They engage kids in physical activities that are designed to regulate their sensory input.

In discussion with your child’s teacher you can discuss changes you can make to help them become more comfortable, secure and able to focus more in the classroom. Such changes may include:

- Making sure their chair is a good fit (feet flat on floor and elbows can rest on the desk).
- Inflated seated cushions for those who may need to move around, so they can squirm and stay seated.
- For children who are easily distracted by noise they may be seated in the last row (they tend to turn around to see where the noise is coming from).
- Eliminate buzzing and flickering fluorescent lights.
- Personal space activities (use of hula hoop to represent a person’s boundary).
- Allow for fidgets and chewable items (available from OT resources) to provide input.
- Have the OT work on both gross and fine motor skills to make them feel more confident doing PE activities.
- Provide breaks for children who have meltdowns due to a sensory overload.
- Have a clear visual schedule with plenty of preparation for transitions.

With support and adjustments from an accommodating teacher and support staff, and perhaps working with an OT your child with sensory processing issues can be comfortable and successful at school in the classroom, in the playground and socially.

I do hope you find this article of interest and the tips useful in helping your child manage their sensory issues. If you have any concerns in relation to the emotional well being of your child please contact me or the Principal, Mr. Brad Williams on 4093 5319 or by email bschofield@cns.catholic.edu.au.

Have a safe and happy week.

Bryan Schofield - Guidance Counsellor.
Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week sees the end to another amazing year and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in making Saint Anthony’s what it is—a welcoming community for all. Over the holidays enjoy your time with your family and friends and please stay safe. Have a happy and holy Christmas and I wish everyone a prosperous New Year.

May God’s Spirit be with you always

Rachelle De Iacovo

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“Never see a need without doing something about it”

Mary MacKillop

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Parish Weekend Mass Times

- St Anthony’s – Dimbulah – Sunday 8.00am
- St Thomas of Villanova – Mareeba – Saturday 6.00pm & Sunday 10.00am
- St Christopher’s – Kuranda – Sunday 6.00pm

Did you know?
Next week, Advent starts (December 1st) and the Church year begins. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the celebration of God’s amazing revelation in the birth of Jesus. Just as the Jews waited for the Messiah to come, so do we wait for the Second Coming of Christ. We don’t know when and where it will happen, each Advent we renew our faith in this promise.

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REFLECTION:

The Golden Christmas Slippers by Terry Hudson

It was only five days before Christmas. The spirit of the season hadn’t caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our Houston area Target Shopping Centre. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last minute shoppers jammed the aisles. Why did I come today? I wondered. My feet ached almost as much as my head.

My list contained names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn’t buy them anything. Buying for someone who had everything and exploring the high cost of items, I considered gift-buying anything but fun. Hurdled, I filled my shopping cart with last minute items and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest but it looked as if it would mean at least a 20 minute wait.

In front of me were two small children—a boy of about 10 and a younger girl about 5. The boy wore a ragged coat. Enormously large, tattered tennis shoes jutted far out in front of his much too short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands. The girl’s clothing resembled her brother’s. Her head was a matted mass of curly hair. Reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny, gold house slippers. As the Christmas music sounded in the store’s stereo system, the girl hummed along off-key but happily.

When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the counter. She treated them as though they were a treasure. The clerk rang up the bill, “That will be $6.09,” she said. The boy laid his crumpled dollars atop the stand while he searched his pockets. He finally came up with $3.12. “I guess we will have to put them back,” He bravely said. “Well, we will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow.” With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl, “But Jesus would have loved these shoes,” she cried. “Well, we’ll go home and work some more. Don’t cry. We’ll come back,” he said.

Quickly I handed $3.00 to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around me and a small voice said, “Thank you Sir.” “What did you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?” I asked. The small boy answered, “Our mummy is sick and going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus.” The girl spoke, “My Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won’t mummy be beautiful walking on those streets to match these shoes?” My eyes flooded as I looked into her tear streaked face. “Yes”, I answered, “I am sure she will.” Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving.

Christmas is not about the amount of money paid, nor the amount of gifts purchased, nor trying to impress friends and relatives. Christmas is about the love in your heart to share with those as Jesus Christ has shared with each of us. Christmas is about the Birth of Jesus whom God sent to show the world how much he really loves us. Please show this love as we think of the upcoming season. This is one of my personal testimonies. Please share!!!
Swimming

Last lesson for this year will be Tuesday 1st December. Students have been enjoying the warm weather and water and the older students have been mastering the skills of water polo. All students will be bussed to and from the pool on the last day of school (Friday 4 December) for the traditional end of year break up swim between 9:30am - 11:00am. Please don’t forget your swimmers. A special thanks to Elizabeth Rosenberg and Kim Johnson who have been assisting Brigitte Campbell and myself with lessons at the pool - it is much appreciated! We will again be swimming in Term 1 of 2016 and I will be looking for helpers especially in the Prep—Year 4 classes and would like to hear from anyone who is in a position to and would like to assist.

Tennis

Yesterday was the last day of the tennis program being run by Mareeba Tennis Coach Libor Konicek through a Federal Government grant called Sporting Schools Australia. I would like to thank the Mareeba Shire Council for arranging to have the local tennis courts cleaned up and made available to us and the general public.

School Christmas Fair

Thank you to all who had a go at or helped at the ‘knock ‘em down’ stall last Saturday evening. A few people had a win and took money from us including Cody Harrigan and a pre-schooler who knocked all sets of skittles twice in a row. However, as usual, most of you thought it was easy and we took all of your money! Be assured it will go to good causes around the school.

School Leaders

Congratulations to Georgina and Corey who were elected School Captains yesterday. Sports Captains will be elected early next year.
Thank-you!

The P&F Association would like to sincerely thank all supporters and sponsors of the 2016 Christmas Fair. We would like to acknowledge the support of St Anthony’s staff, students and parents.

You will be pleased to know we have made a commitment that some Fair proceeds will purchase new IT equipment and classroom resources.

The organisation, preparation and facilitation of the fair have ensured that St Anthony’s students will have access to cutting-edge technology and assets to begin 2016.

Congratulations and thank-you!
Saint Anthony’s Christmas Fair – Feedback

26/11/2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

You would all agree that this year’s Christmas Fair – “Christmas around the World” was a huge success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for all their efforts in preparing for this major fundraising event for the school. If the school Christmas Fair were to be organised again next year, we thought it absolutely critical to obtain your feedback on how we could continue to grow and enhance the Fair. Should you have a spare moment or two between now and the end of the school year we would ask that you complete the following survey and return to school.

Thanking you,

St Anthony’s School Community

What are your thoughts on the following?

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<th>The Stalls:</th>
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<th>Entertainment provided:</th>
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<th>Auction:</th>
<th>Amusement for the children:</th>
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<th>What worked well/Areas for growth:</th>
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<th>Any other comments:</th>
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Blocks of Chocolates for sale at school  $2.50 each
Our Mini Excursion

On Thursday, 19th November, the year 3/4 class went on a mini excursion to some interesting local places. Our first stop was the dump! “OOOh yuck,” we all said when we found out we were going there but, in fact, it turned out to be pretty interesting. Nipper explained to us that the site is no longer a landfill site but a transfer station. This means that most rubbish is collected in Dimbulah but moved on to Mareeba and Cairns to be sorted and dealt with. This is a good thing because toxic waste will not leach into the soil in our community. He also showed us how some of the rubbish is collected so that it can be recycled – things like batteries, poison drums, scrap metal, green waste (plant waste), motor oil and glass.

After that, we were happy to have a break and a bite to eat at “Camp 64” where we chatted with Owen and Elsa. Owen told us about his amazing 1000km trek with his goats. He showed us lots of interesting historical items and how he used lots of recycled materials in his café.

Lastly we moved on to visit Helen at the community library. Helen sat us in the cool air conditioning and explained how the local library is really so much bigger than it looks. She said that not only are there books there, but also magazines and DVDs and that she can look for a book for us from any public library in Australia and it’s all free! We also made some yummy snowman biscuits and we received special Christmas bags filled with Christmas craft, a lollipop and lots of stickers.

It was fun to visit these local places that we pass by every day. We are very lucky that we have these services in our community but we are really lucky to have people like Nipper, Owen, Elsa and Helen to manage them!
Christmas Fair 2015
Lynda’s
End of Year Student Concert

My my end of year student concert
is being held
on
Tuesday the 1st of December
in the
Library at St Anthony’s
at
9 am

First Break Jam
are also performing

Family members are welcome to come
and enjoy the performance

After School Music Lessons
Lynda will be teaching piano, guitar etc. lessons after school in Dimbulah next year. She will be in Dimbulah on Wednesday afternoons at St Anthony’s. If you are interested in booking a spot for yourself or your children or just want more information please call or email her. There are limited spaces available. 0439894025 music_4all@bigpond.com
INVITATION
TO ALL TRAINING RHEE TAE KWON DO
DIMBULAH STUDENTS

END OF YEAR ACTIVITY

COME & TRY TARGET SHOOTING
(AIR & .22 RIFLE)

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2015
8.00am to 12.00 noon

• STUDENTS MUST BE 11 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE
• ONE ON ONE ADULT/MINOR SUPERVISION
• ADULTS HAVE BLUE CARD ACCREDIATION
• STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11 AND 18 YEARS MUST HAVE A MINORS DECLARATION SIGNED BY A PARENT TO PARTICIPATE
• MINORS DECLARATION FORM AVAILABLE FROM INSTRUCTORS
• WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING: ENCLOSED FOOTWEAR, SAFETY GLASSES, EAR PLUGS AND A CAP
• BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND SNACKS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: CONTACT INSTRUCTORS PHIL & GAYE
Ph: 40933577 Mobile: 042833537

Instructors: Phil Queyle & Gaye Taylor
Training: Monday & Tuesday Nights 7.15pm – 9.15pm
Dimbulah Memorial Hall
Ph# 40933577