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27 May 2019

Principals Report



What a busy few weeks we have had!!! It has certainly been a mammoth task ensuring everything went smoothly for the Wheelbarrow Race and Lions Festival events. Congratulations and thank you for all your time and effort. Each year with fewer people to assist, these events become more and more difficult on those who put

their hand up to be chief organiser. We appreciate the time given up by parents and grandparents, staff and students to assist but at times these events are bigger than we are as a school and it takes a toll on those trying to do all the organising. The Wheelbarrow Race is our major fundraising event while the Lions Festival is our chance to support community spirit. Both are important, it's just a shame they fall so closely together.

Now that life is hopefully back to normal, I need to remind parents of the importance of attendance especially in the next few weeks. Every day away from school means your child misses out on learning something new. Your teachers are teaching and assessing to see what students have maintained in their learning and it is important that your child is at school. Research shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels
- increased alcohol, tobacco, and substance use in adolescents.

Please make sure they get to school. If your child is unwell then keep them at home but regularly missed days due to other things such as family schedules need to be looked at. Try and schedule appointments during the holidays to minimise days away and maintain consistent attendance.

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. A Fact Sheet outlining the reasons why and the processes we follow is attached to this newsletter for parents requiring more information.

NAPLAN is once again over with for the year. Our students are sometimes anxious but we endeavor to make the process as stress free as we can. Next year at St Anthony's it will be compulsory for our students to sit NAPLAN online as all schools will be required to do so. We make sure our students are never disadvantaged so we have already begun planning for this process over the last few years. Our plan is to purchase new Chromebooks at the end of this year to replace the older versions as well as teaching typing to our students. Typing Tournament is a program that all our students have individual access and it is timetabled into our program each week to ensure our students are familiar and competent around accessing a keyboard.

I had the pleasure of accompanying our District Sport competitors last week for two days in Mareeba at St Stephen's. Each of our students who competed did so with heart and spirit and gave their very best. Well done to you all, you make us super proud just by competing! At this stage we have some of those students going to the next level so please keep an eye out for communication regarding this. We will let you know who is selected once we know for sure who they are. Things are a little different this year so we will wait for confirmation and let you know as soon as we know the new process.



Upcoming Events

| 29 May | Yr 5/6 Class Excursion to Mareeba Rotary Field Day All day |
|-----------|---|
| 30 May | Ducklings All day Recurring event |
| 13 Jun | Ducklings All day Recurring event |
| 16 Jun | Peninsula Track & Field Days Barlow Park 16 Jun 2019 - 17 Jun 2019 |
| 24 Jun | School Photos All day |
| 27 Jun | Ducklings All day Recurring event |

Students of the Week



God Bless.

Kath Porter Principal

APRE Report



Dear Parents/Carers.

The month of May has seen us extremely busy with Community and District Sporting events and we thank you for your support during this time. The children have continued to work diligently with their learning during this time and should be commended for their resilience and dedication towards their schooling.

The Great Wheelbarrow Race

Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you to our parents and friends for their hard work and dedication in preparing the dinner for the wheelbarrow race. It is with your continued support towards these major fundraisers, that our amazing children benefit greatly. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to Vibeke Gargan, who has for the past three years volunteered her valuable time in coordinating this massive event. The year 5/6 class would also like to say another massive thank you to all the parents who supported them in their dessert stall for the night - your extremely kind contributions have helped them raise funds towards their Canberra trip at the end of the year and they are immensely grateful.

Dimbulah Lions Festival

Well, what can I say? Look out "Dancing with the Stars" -St Anthony's students rocked centre stage, with yet another brilliant performance with "Footloose" - so thank you to all the students who volunteered their awesome talents for the night.

A Massive thank you also to our parent volunteers who throughout the term put our float together with the assistance of the children. Again, as always, it looked fantastic. Thank you to the Hobden family who kindly let the school use their truck for the event and for Stan who drove us around the parade, it was greatly appreciated.



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday the 9th of June marks the end of the Easter season in the Christian calendar. Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday. It is called the birthday of the Church as it was from this event that the disciples went forth to spread the good news and establish the Church. The Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 2 explains, "And when the day of Pentecost had come, the first followers of Jesus were all together in one place". All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered. Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak."

"Come Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts with your gifts and rekindle in them the fire of your love"



Saint Anthony of Padua

On Thursday 13th June we celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint-Saint Anthony of Padua. Saint Anthony is considered to be one of the most popular saints in the Catholic Church and is patron saint of lost items. He was a strong and powerful Franciscan teacher and preacher. You will generally see Saint Anthony depicted in many pictures and statues holding the child Jesus, a lily, a book or all three in his arms. Many people also associate bread with Anthony. People would give a loaf of bread to those who needed it, as a sign of respect and thanksgiving to God for blessings received through their prayers to Anthony. The life Saint Anthony of Padua led was one that all Christians should endeavour to live by. Have courage to face life's ups and downs, love all and forgive all, be compassionate to the needs of others, deal with situations no matter how big or small and have total trust in God's love for us. There are numerous of prayers to Saint Anthony for you to use in times of need and I have chosen the following for you when you require his support:

On Tuesday, 11th May the school community will be celebrating the Feast of St Anthony, with a whole school Mass commencing at 9am. Everyone is more than welcome to attend this celebration.

On Sunday, 16th June the Parish is holding their annual Feast of St Anthony, with Mass commencing at 2pm and then followed at the school grounds for a BBQ dinner and entertainment. The school community is warmly invited to attend and enjoy the celebrations.



Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints

St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I ask you to obtain for me the favours that I seek (mention your request here).

The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles.

O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was full of sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Infant Jesus, who loved to be held in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Have a wonderful week and in words of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop...

"Truly wonderful are the ways of God"



May God's Spirit be with you always Rachelle De Iacovo



The Daily Mile

The students have done an amazing job of walking daily. The average lap count per week is up to 13 laps which equates to 1300m. The combined distance for the whole school is 541 km which translates on the map from DImbulah to appx. 100 km north of Mackay.

The student's effort and attitudes has been amazing and we are all hoping to get to Gladstone by the end of this term.

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Year 3/4 Class

The year 3 and 4 class have been learning about plastic in our environment and the cause of disposable single use-plastic adding to landfill. A scary fact is that we make enough plastic film to wrap the state of Queensland. They year 3 & 4 class have come up with a project to help reduce this plastic.

On the 12th of June we propose a "nude lunch" where no plastic film or wrapping is used in our lunches. The 3 & 4 class will be collecting containers and donating to people who do not have any containers at home. We are hoping that the day will be a success and make it a weekly event. The class will be making posters and will display around the school next week.

Community News



St Michael's Centenary in 2023

St Michael's school, Gordonvale will be 100 years old in 2023; just under 5 years' time! The school is interested in hearing from you if you would like to share your knowledge about your connection with the school and the roots in which it was founded. The school will begin meetings at St Michael's School hall on the third week of each month, starting on 18 June, from 9.50 to 10.50m. Snacks and drinks will be provided and all are welcome. For further information, contact Justine at St Michael's on secretary acromyne@ems.cholic.edu.au