From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents,
It has been a hectic start to my stint as Acting Principal at St. Brigid’s, so thank you to the children, staff and parents for helping this to be a smooth transition.

Ken Gale has sent an email and photos from his first weekend in Toronto and has shared his experience of a Major League Baseball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and Seattle Mariners and also a Mass in St. Michael’s Cathedral. We look forward to more emails from Ken as he starts visiting schools over there as part of his study tour.

This week is Catholic Education Week in our Diocese. Your children will be doing activities in class to acknowledge and celebrate our school. We also had four school leaders (Chloe, Kaila, Riley and Dylan) attend a special Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral in Sale. My thanks go to Mrs. Waters for escorting them with other student leaders from local Catholic primary schools. We had our first official ‘Open Morning’ yesterday with many prospective parents visiting our great school. I was extremely proud of our Grade 6 students who showed parents around and answered many of their questions. Several parents commented on how fantastic their ‘tour guides’ were and I have passed this great feedback onto Ken. Julie McKenna was also a star in the office helping me assist so many families in 90 minutes. We do have another Open Morning on Wednesday the 9th May from 9.30am to 11.00am.

Please make sure you are keeping your diaries up to date with the many things happening in our school. There is a list in this newsletter.

Finally, we currently send home 95 paper newsletters each week and 35 families read an on-line version. Within the next 3 weeks I will be pushing for most of our families to be using the on-line version. At one of our Parish schools, St. Michael’s, they have gradually worked down to a point where the paper version is no longer available. Eventually we will get to that point too, so please contact Julie in the office if you receive a paper copy to help us reduce our paper and printing costs and environmental impact.

Have a fantastic week,

Simon Greely – Acting Principal

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Around the School

ICT News
- Mrs Karen Inguanzo

How do you know when a class has updated their blog?
It can become frustrating not knowing when to check our blogs for updates. Each blog has a widget on the side column that gives you the option to subscribe by email. If you enter your email address in this box, you will receive an email each time the blog is updated. By doing this you will be first to know when our blogs have updated.

WELLBEING and INTERVENTION
- Mrs Lisa Piasente

Playground Raffle Tickets
Congratulations to the winners of the Playground Awards. Many children had their name in the draw, given tickets by teachers when they noticed outstanding playground behaviour. The winners this week are Taylah from Grade 1/2M, Ben O from Prep I and Lucy from Prep H. Well done to you all.

Teaching and Learning:
- Mrs Dianne Ahern

Teachers have been enthusiastically discussing and reassessing their Literacy Block activities. We all aim to have a two hour dedicated Literacy Block. We include in that time a focus lesson on reading and writing followed by independent activities. While independent activities are taking place the teacher works with a small group on a specific understanding, directed at the point of need for those children involved in the group. During the rest of this Term we will be participating in Reading and Writing Modules after school, led by a member of the Catholic Education Office team. We aim to continually assess our teaching to ensure the best of learning takes place in our classes.

Head Lice

Notification
We have had further notification of head Lice within the school. Please check your child’s hair regularly and treat if necessary. The following tips may help with detection and management:

Suggestions

Step 1 Comb conditioner on to dry hair. This makes it difficult for the lice to grip or run around.
Step 2 Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto paper towel or tissue
Step 3 Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice or eggs
Step 4 Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times
Step 5 If eggs or lice are found the hair should be treated. No treatment kills 100 per cent of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart.
If you choose not to use an insecticide, the comb and conditioner treatment method described above can be used every second day until no live lice have been found for 10 days.
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO OPENING DAYS AND TIMES.

From Monday 7th May the uniform shop will be open every Monday and Friday from 8:45am – 9:15am.

Volunteers
Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted with uniform fittings last term. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Due to work commitments Nathalia Elsegood has resigned from the Uniform Shop Committee. We thank Nat for the many hours that her and Joanne Scully have put into successfully setting up and running the St Brigid's Uniform Shop for the past two years, often receiving orders at their own homes during the holidays and spending countless days ordering, sorting and packing orders.

Committee
A new Uniform Shop Committee is in the process of being formed. Caroline Ryan and Monica Deayton will co-ordinate the team and are grateful for the offers of help so far.

Fundraising

Twilight Meeting
Thank you to all the parents who braved the cold to attend our very first Twilight meeting on Monday night. We had 26 willing parents attend and the enthusiasm was wonderful to see.
We took a majority vote to decide our theme which is “Country & Western” so the fun & organising begins!
Thank you to Simon for setting up and attending last night's meeting.

Fundraising Dinner
Dinner at Slippery Jacks this Friday night. Please note the restaurant will be offering a vegetarian option. Places are still available but payment will need to be made prior to the night.

Tickets are being sent home today for families who have already ordered.

Next Meeting
Mon 28th May @ 7:30pm in the multi purpose room.
All Welcome

Please check our Fundraising Newsletter on the school website
School Closure Day – Monday, June 25th 2012

Staff of St. Brigid’s will be undertaking professional development with staff from the Catholic Education Office on Monday, June 25th. There will be NO SCHOOL for students on this day. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Parish Masses

St. Michael’s Parish
125-129 High Street, Berwick 3806
Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Slater
(03) 97071355

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 6.00 p.m.
Sunday: 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.