Dear Parents

Uniform
We seem to have a number of un-named items of uniform in the office. Please ensure that uniform items are named so as we can return these to students.

It is great to see many students wearing correct uniform, including wearing hats at playtimes. Just a reminder that we encourage student to wear school colored hair accessories. Thank you for your cooperation and support with ensuring students adhere to school uniform guidelines.

School Assembly
Our next school assembly will be held on Monday 21 March at 9:00am. We will gather together for a short Lenten Prayer, Class item (3/4BH) and the Easter Raffle. Parents and families are most welcome to join us.

Playgroup
Playgroup will again resume this year on Wednesdays from 9:00-12:00 in the school hall. This is a great opportunity for families to connect with other families in our school and parish. If you are interested please come along and you can contact Janette Mikhail on 0412 693 274 or 95550941 for further information.

Learning
As I walk around the school and spend time in classrooms I am so excited to see students actively engaging in their learning and constantly working on improvement and achieving learning goals. Being an effective learner requires building a number of skills, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills. Michael Grose, suggest the following ideas to support parents in building these skills with their children. These skills are also taught and developed in schools to support positive interactions with peers and teachers.

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
Help children ask for what they want. It means they don't throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what's on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners
Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing
Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be
with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. Holding a conversation

Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. Winning and losing well

Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. Approaching and joining a group

The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. Handling fights and disagreements

Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

Sarah Meyers, a provisionally registered psychologist, is currently working with a number of our students on these types of skills. Sarah will continue throughout the year working with various groups of students targeting specific needs and skills.

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**Religious Education**

Dear Parents,

**Caritas - Project Compassion**

Once again during Lent each classroom has a Project Compassion box. The money donated will help particular communities to develop sustainable programs and their improve quality of life. Download the Caritas Lenten App for more information.


**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

A reminder that Reconciliation candidates and their families are invited to attend the St Catherine’s Parish Communal Reconciliation service on Wednesday, 16 March.

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation is celebrated within a partnership of the Family, Parish & School. At St. Peter’s, St. Catherine’s and St. Paul’s the sacraments are Parent Initiated, Parish Based and School Supported.

An important focus in Religious Education for the children eligible in the Holy Trinity Parish will be on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The federated schools of the Holy Trinity Parish are very conscious of their responsibility to support parents in all areas of faith development, with a special program being taught during sacramental preparation time and continuing throughout the year.

In 2016 the students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on: Friday May 20th at 7:00pm On this date Archbishop Dennis Hart will be presiding over the Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral

Detailed information explaining the enrolment process will be sent home on Monday 7th March.

Carmel Donlon, Religious Education Leader
Don’t forget to update your Tiqbiz notifications for your child’s class this year. To do this, simply go into the Tiqbiz App on your phone. Tap on ‘find and click’, Tap on ‘Schools’, Select ‘St Catherine’s’ and tick the year levels that you need.

Student Representative Council

The students at St Catherine’s are very special and we value their input to help make our school have a happy and productive environment. Two students from each grade are elected by their classmates to discuss issues which the class suggests to make our school a positive place.

The following students are our SRC Representatives:

Year 5  Xavier Webb  Tomas Wrzesinski
Year 4  Chelsea Blitsas  Darren Cavalho
Year 3  Meredith Fisher  Ava Ronchi
Year 2  Cookie Anei  Nicholas Stamatakos
Year 1  Jessie O’Meara  Tiziana Perez

Congratulations to these students, you will be great representatives.

Pam Hunter
SRC Teacher

P & F Report

EASTER - The chocolate drive is going well. Don’t forget to sell the chocolate and hand in money to the office or you can arrange for an EFT. Please email me a remittance if you decide to make an EFT payment.


Easter raffle tickets will be going out this week. $1 per ticket and a book of 10 per family. If you would like more, please see the office. The raffle will be drawn at the last assembly for the term on Monday 21 March at 9am.

A hot cross bun drive will be underway in the next week or so through Bakers Delight at Southland. More details to follow soon.

GENERAL - Thank you to those who came to the first meeting on Monday afternoon. We have managed to secure class reps for all classes and you will find the class lists are being emailed now. Class reps will be organising an evening dinner / catchup by the end of the term or early in Term 2 … we are still looking for a secretary. Please email me if you’re interested.

I have one parent for canteen duty for Term 2 so far, so if you are keen to help please email me your preference of Tuesday or Thursday, and the date. I cannot promise any dates but it is first in to secure a date.

Moving forward it is the aim of the school board and the P & F to work closely together to ensure we support each other. If there is anything you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

Kylie Carapeto
P & F President

carapeto@optusnet.com.au
ISIC News

On Thursday 25th of February, the I sea I care (ISIC) Ambassadors, Eloise, Mollie, Elara and Marcus went to O.L.A Primary to learn about peer-teaching. Unfortunately Kate was ill on this day and unable to make it. It was a busy day of learning, note taking and presenting. The following is a snapshot of their day:

We started the day by learning about how to teach. Mandy, the I sea I care leader, taught us about the beautiful marine life in Port Phillip Bay and sadly about all the rubbish that is in our Bay. We had the opportunity to learn three lessons about the importance of caring for our marine life.

After we had taken a lot of notes, we were divided into two groups given roles that we had to practise so we could give a presentation about marine life. After a lot of practise we presented our work to one of the 1/2 classes from O.L.A. Everyone did really well and we were all looking forward to showing a similar presentation to our school.

We will use the information and skills that we learnt back at St.Catherine’s to teach our Year 1/2s about how important it is to put our rubbish in the bin. We will also share some facts about the amazing creatures at our local beach.

The message we are trying to teach is not to leave rubbish on the ground. Instead, we always need to put all our rubbish in the bin. It is important that ALL of us do this and we don’t expect another person will do it for us. We must all care for our planet!

Written by the ISIC team: Elara, Marcus, Eloise and Mollie

I would like to draw the St Catherine’s community to our 2015 ISIC Ambassadors who are featured on the CEM (Catholic Education Office Melbourne) website as joint winners of ISIC 2015 School of the Year!

Please click on the link to read the article:


Sandra Surace

ISIC Coordinator

Wellbeing and Sustainability Leader
Garden Program moves to the Kitchen!

As part of the garden program the Year 5/6 classes will be taking part in a two-part cooking session. The purpose of this lesson is to learn about the connection from the garden to the kitchen. There will be two lessons per class. The first class will explore kitchen safety, hygiene and food presentation to give students a basis to work from and the second lesson will involve hands-on food preparation, cooking, plating-up, presentation and serving. Angela Caltabiano will be leading the classes in this work, with the support of the classroom teacher.

Grade 5/6 parents will be invited to help in the kitchen to ensure all students are involved and well supervised. Kitchen Surace (Year 5/6S) will be at work and serving on Wednesday 16/03 and Kitchen Gestautas (Year 5/6G) will be at work and serving on Thursday 10/03. Year 5/6 parents will receive a personal invitation for taste testing at 3.15pm on the day their Kitchen is open. The students are looking forward to welcoming and serving their parents.

Remember:

Nude Food EVERY Wednesday this TERM

Canteen Roster
Term 1

8/3 Kristina Arnaoutis
10/3 Lisa Anstee
15/3 Kristina Arnoutis
17/3 Julie Griffin

Weetbix Slice & Coconut Macaroons