LEADERSHIP TEAM REFLECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION

Student Security: We are fortunate that our Australian schools do not have to contend with the metal detectors and armed guards to ensure student safety as is evidenced in America. However, we still wish to ensure a safe environment for our students and the following structures are designed to eliminate any safety threat to our children and to promote quality learning time:

Morning Volunteers: If you wish to assist with learning activities in your child’s classroom in the morning you are asked to use the sign in sheet (Teachers will direct you to this clipboard in their classroom) and wear a ‘Volunteer’s’ lanyard. Thus, in the event of an emergency, our volunteers will be accounted for by emergency services. There is an expectation that you will have a current Police Clearance and have undertaken the ‘Responding To Abuse & Neglect’ online training.

Medication: We remind families that student medication must be clearly labelled with directions for use on the package. Please pass any student medication to Jasmine, Andrea or Jayne in the Front Office. Parents ARE NOT PERMITTED to place student medication in the First Aid Room. It is imperative that our staff are aware of new or upgraded medications.

Afternoon Collection of Students: We are concerned about the following matters –

Early arrival: We are alarmed at the increasing number of family members arriving on our school site between 2.20pm and 2.50pm. With children moving between learning spaces, toilets etc. it is difficult to monitor who should be legitimately on our school grounds. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE NOT TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL GROUNDS UNTIL 2.50PM. Gates will be opened at this time. We seek your cooperation with this initiative and ask that you do not enter via our Front Office unless you are collecting your children early.

Early collection of students: As a courtesy, we ask that you use the student diary or Edmodo to inform your child’s teacher of an early dismissal. Your son or daughter will be sent to the Front Office by your child’s teacher. Once again, this protects our students from contending with unfamiliar adults as family members are not permitted to collect their child from their classroom. Adults MUST wait in the Front Office.

Please note: A case of Shingles, School Sores and Head Lice have been reported to the office.

Messages to children re pick up arrangements: Whilst we understand the emergencies which arise in people’s lives, our Front Office Staff are struggling to notify ‘regular’ students about ‘pick up’ arrangements which are phoned through by ‘regular’ families. If students are on the oval, in the SAMMAT, in the Chapel etc it is difficult to get messages through via phone and as such our staff are required to move around the school to ensure the message is delivered. As of next week, the Office Staff will place messages in the Class Office Boxes which are delivered to Classrooms at 3pm.

We trust that you appreciate our commitment to ensure your child’s safety and will abide by these new structures. We must continue to work together to sustain our focus as a “Safe, Happy and Successful” school.
Leadership Team Reflections cont.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION cont.

Uniforms: Last week we undertook a Uniform Audit across the school. It is pleasing that over 97% of students are wearing the correct uniform. The main issue we are confronting surrounds sports shoes. We reinforce that fluro shoes/coloured shoelaces are unacceptable. Also, there are still some students who do not have the correct school bag. We seek your ongoing support so that together we can ensure a consistent approach to uniform matters. Please feel welcome to contact Leadership should you require support to ensure your son or daughter’s compliance.

COMMUNITY DIMENSION

Parent Teams: Just a reminder to place your Kyton orders in by March 12. This is a great opportunity to stock up on yummy Hot Cross Buns, Lamingtons, Rocky Road and many other delightful sweet sensations and raise funds to help purchase message boards to be placed on the outskirts of the school boundary.

Please look out for information regarding Parent Teams and how you may become involved.

LEARNING DIMENSION

Edmodo: Thank you to Mr Brett Wood and Mr David Taylor for running an Edmodo workshop last Wednesday afternoon which was well attended by almost 30 parents. We look forward to offering future activities so that more parents feel confident using this learning tool to assist their involvement in their child’s education. Edmodo provides a safe and easy way for your class to connect and collaborate, share content, and access homework, grades and school notices. It is our intention to increase the skills of our families to maximise the benefits of this tool.

Circle Time: Your child/children have hopefully told you about Circle Time which began in week 2. Circle Time has been implemented to give the students an opportunity to develop relationships with other students, staff and use the time to voice concerns and opinions and celebrate any achievements (It is replacing SRC). Circle Time Groups were established using current Sports Team colours. Groups have approximately 20 students from Reception to Year 7. The aim of vertically grouping the students is to give students the opportunity to build relationships with students and staff who they may not necessarily know. All staff are involved in Circle Time except for the Office Staff. We gather each Wednesday at 1.40 for 40mins. If you would like more information about Circle Time please do not hesitate to talk to your child/children or their class teacher.

Positive Psychology: Last week Paul attended an evening presentation by Dr Martin Seligman. Martin has been used by the SA State Government as our Resident Thinker for the past twelve months. His focus has been on establishing structures which will assist the Government in nurturing the Wellbeing of the community, particularly children.

He has developed tools which measure Wellbeing. In particular, his aim is to promote the following aspects of Wellbeing:

1. Positive Emotion (P)
   
   For us to experience well-being, we need positive emotion in our lives. Any positive emotion like peace, gratitude, satisfaction, pleasure, inspiration, hope, curiosity, or love falls into this category – and the message is that it's really important to enjoy yourself in the here and now, just as long as the other elements of PERMA are in place.

2. Engagement (E)
   
   When we're truly engaged in a situation, task, or project, we experience a state of flow: time seems to stop, we lose our sense of self, and we concentrate intensely on the present. This feels really good! The more we experience this type of engagement, the more likely we are to experience well-being.

3. Positive Relationships (R)
   
   As humans, we are “social beings,” and good relationships are core to our well-being. Time-and-again, we see that people who have meaningful, positive relationships with others are happier than those who do not. Relationships really do matter!

4. Meaning (M)

   Meaning comes from serving a cause bigger than ourselves. Whether this is a specific deity or religion, or a cause that helps humanity in some way, we all need meaning in our lives to have a sense of well-being.

5. Accomplishment/Achievement (A)

   Many of us strive to better ourselves in some way, whether we're seeking to master a skill, achieve a valuable goal, or win in some competitive event. As such, accomplishment is another important thing that contributes to our ability to flourish.

Our Social Skills programs are focussed on these 5 attributes. We look forward to the opportunity to access the Wellbeing Measuring Tools to determine the wellness of our students.

Behaviour Education: As we move into the middle of the first term most children have settled into their class routines and school expectations of behaviour. We refer you to the Behaviour Framework booklet of Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for the Environment for more specific details about expectations and consequences we implement here at school. Should you require a copy of this document please let your child’s teacher know so we can provide you with a copy. So far this term our behaviour focus has been on ‘Respect and Manners’. Simple things like following instructions, completing tasks set, using please and thank you are just some of the ways children can reinforce their use of manners and show respect. Underlying the need for good behaviour is a child’s need to learn and the right of others to learn. So when we discuss behaviour issues with children, we are always putting it into this context. We thank and appreciate parents for their ongoing support of our behaviour education process.
REMINISCING DIMENSION

Lent: We have begun the liturgical season of Lent by gathering to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for reflecting and preparing for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Archbishop Wilson addressed each faith community through a letter he wrote Sunday week ago. In his letter he shared the following:

There are times when we might feel that we can't really exercise much influence in our communities, because we are so humiliated by the expression of human weakness in the life of the Church. Given these circumstances, people rightfully criticise us and we wonder if we have the right to speak about anything.

But we are reminded at Lent that as a Church we are the wounded people of God, affected by sinfulness and by the limitations of our humanity. It is only when we understand that we are not perfect that we are in a position to make a positive contribution. The big challenge for us is to acknowledge our shortcomings and be renewed in the commitment we make to the Lord, by doing all that we can to live by the values of the Gospel and by allowing these values to be the very centre of our life as a church.

May this time during Lent enable us to reflect on how we can help others and renew our commitment to our faith.

Family Mass: Our next Family Mass is on Sunday March 3 at Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church. Mass begins at 10am and you are all invited to attend. The staff will also be commissioned at this Mass. It would be great to see many of our students and families celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Parent Workshops: Last week two flyers were sent home in regard to Parent Workshops which we are offering free to our school community.

Supporting Your Child’s Learning (Wednesday 6 March)

Building Your Child’s Resilience (Tuesday 4 June) facilitated by Terri Judd from the Federation of Parents & Friends CESA.

What’s the Buzz (Wednesday 13 March, Wednesday 15 May & Wednesday 14 August) facilitated by Mark LeMessurier.

A crèche will be available at the workshops.

For more information about any of the Parent Workshops please refer to the flyers sent home or contact the Front Office. Please mark these dates in your diary.

Dear St Brigid’s Families,

New Price Lists/menu:

You should by now have received these, which were sent home with your eldest child on Friday. We are pleased that prices have not increased from 2012. Please note that we are offering two new food items - Vegetarian Spring Rolls, and Chicken kebabs (Tandoori or Sweet Chilli), as well as a new carbonated Fruit Juice called "L.O.L." which has the approval of the Canteen Association.

If you need any information on items sold please contact us and we will be happy to answer any questions. Likewise, if your child has any health issues related to food please advise us.

Canteen Volunteers urgently needed - If you are able to volunteer any time in assisting us to provide recess snacks and lunches to our students, please contact either Reception or Canteen staff. A current C.E.O. Police check is required and forms may be obtained from the office. Coffee/tea and a lunch of your choice is free for all volunteers. Help on Thursdays and Fridays is particularly needed.

Thank you

Kathy O’Reilly
Canteen Manager

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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
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<td>Monday 4th March - Lani Childs</td>
<td>Monday 11th March - Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 18th March - Lani Childs</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5th March - Volunteer Required</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th March - Tina Ridenti</td>
<td>Tuesday 19th March - Volunteer Required</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6th March - Canteen Closed</td>
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<td>Thursday 7th March - Jess O'Sullivan</td>
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<td>Friday 8th March - Student Free Day</td>
<td>Friday 15th March - Kathy Warhurst</td>
<td>Friday 22nd March - Volunteer Required</td>
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READ, READ, READ

So many books, so little time ………………However, in order to improve knowledge, increase understanding, transport one to far-off lands, experience various cultures and develop children’s appreciation of the written word, everyone needs to read.

And here are two great ways to get your child into the Realm of Reading:

1. **Premier’s Reading Challenge**

   This is the tenth year of the Premier’s Reading Challenge and we want St Brigid’s to have the largest number of challengers in the history of the challenge.

   Between now and 6th September 2013 your child needs to read 12 books from the list. Entry forms will be handed out soon, by classroom teachers, plus forms can be found in the school library, in a clearly marked box on the counter by the ‘exit’ door.

   Books in the library are clearly marked with PRC stickers. If you have any difficulties please do not hesitate to ask your friendly library staff.

   Contacts for the PRC are Anna White (librarian) &/or Donna Reithmuller (literacy coach).

2. **Parent/Student Reading Challenge**:

   This can be completed in conjunction with the Premier’s Reading Challenge all that’s needed =

   come to library during non-class open hours (Monday - Thursday 8.30-8.50am, lunch + 3.00-3.40pm & Fridays 8.30-8.50am)

   read for 15 minutes with your child

   sign next to your child’s name in the Reading Challenge book, found on top of the PRC box on the counter complete this for twenty times during the year

   Each child receives a Reading Challenge Certificate, at the End of School Assembly, with the chance to win a $50.00 book voucher.

   **So let’s get started NOW.**

**Quiz Question:** First student to come and tell Mrs White the answer to the Quiz Question for that ‘newsletter’ will have his/her name written in the Quiz Question book – names will be drawn for a prize during Book Week.

Who wrote the book ..’Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day’.. ?

Anna CTM White – Teacher/Librarian and Mandy Kennedy – Library Assistant

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**SAPSASA Netball trials**

Gawler and Districts netball trials are being held on Thursday the 14th of March, Monday the 18th of March and Monday the 25th of March at the Gawler Central Courts at 3:45pm - 5:30pm. Girls who would like to trial need to play competitively, be in Year 6 or 7 and have a nomination form filled in and signed by parents/guardians and Miss Jenkins.

Spare nomination forms are available in the front office.

Questions can be forwarded to Jo Jenkins

jjenkins@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au

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**Xavier Saints Netball Club Registration Night**

Thursday, March 7th 2013, 4pm to 7pm

at Gawler & Districts Netball Courts

Registration Fees to be paid on the night

(can be negotiated if in writing)

Uniforms can be purchased with full payment required

Fees for Winter 2013 TBA

President: Daniel Roe - 0412155435

Vice-President: Brooke Chammen - 0431143051