**Principal**

*Dear Families*

This week new (and existing) families arrived at the school for the Kindergarten Transition where I addressed parents on the nature of early learners and the implementation of the Early Learning Framework in Kindergarten. I spoke of the Australian Early Developmental Index that measures five areas of early childhood development which are linked to the predictors of good adult health, education and social outcomes: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; communication and general knowledge.

At St Kieran’s we are striving to develop students that are confident and happy learners. In partnership, the school is working with parents to ensure that our children leave the school knowing their strengths; academic, physical, social and emotional as well as feel confident in their ability to learn. In order for this to occur, our children need to be confident in taking risks, that is, ‘having a go’ and developing an open mindset to all they encounter within the primary school setting.

A blind man had been waiting a while at a busy road for someone to offer to guide him across, when he felt a tap on his shoulder. “Excuse me,” said the tapper, “I’m blind; would you mind guiding me across the road. The first blind man took the arm of the second blind man and they both crossed the road. After the event the first blind man, who was George Shearing, the famous Jazz pianist, commented: "What could I do? I took him across and it was the biggest thrill of my life!"

This incident illustrates that sometimes taking a risk can help reduce our dependency on others and lead to the discovery of new capabilities and personal satisfaction. When it comes to our children and risk taking, we would not want them to step out 'blindly' when someone taps them on the shoulder and offer them a "dare". Part of raising our children is to help them to define boundaries. It's a balancing act that requires knowing when to let children take risks in safe environments, as against taking risks in situations where they would endanger themselves or others.

Taking risks allows children to understand the concept of trial and error. Success will certainly build self-confidence within our children and, inevitably, failure will not only make them acknowledge their boundaries, but will provide them with opportunities to cope with the negative emotions that accompany failure. Self-confident children have the inner fortitude to try new things, even if there is a possibility of failure. So, if we can control our urge to step in and provide solutions we may witness our children engage in creative thinking; also, we might witness our children explore their own abilities and rejoice in their own accomplishments.

It’s possible, that we parents might guide our children away from challenging situations, so we won’t be inconvenienced in some way. “However, children’s development involves taking risks and operating outside of their comfort zone. If we constantly prevent our children from taking risks, they may stagnate within their own comfort zone and impede their own development”  - David Eager, University of Technology, Sydney
Positive risk-taking behaviour can be most beneficial to our children and the more practice they have with identifying risks and acting accordingly, the better prepared they will be to handle potentially dangerous situations and to solve problems in the future. Of course, our children need to know how to differentiate between good healthy risks, such as bush walking and bad destructive risks, such as sitting endlessly with computer games and being a possible candidate for childhood obesity.

Risk-taking allows our children to try new physical activities, test the limits or their physical, intellectual and emotional development and gain mastery over their bodies. Risk-taking prepares our children for interaction with the real world beyond what might be our overprotective homes. If our children are not exposed to risk-taking, they could become fearful and timid children who lack confidence and decision-making skills.

God bless,

Terri Paterson
Principal

Assistant Principal

This term I will be working with the Kindergarten teachers and children over the coming weeks as part of the Co Teaching Program. Co Teaching is really a form of Professional Learning that is structured in such a way that it comprises support, leadership and mentoring.

Our direction for this year has been to work on problem solving strategies with a focus on the skills of Working Mathematically (which are found in our Maths Syllabus). This is an area we have identified as being crucial to the needs of our students as they move through their schooling years and eventually towards employment in the 21st Century.

Our NAPLAN results interestingly highlight the need for a greater ability to solve multi layered, complex problems. This requires creative thinking and the ability to make connections between concepts or ideas. It requires thinking “outside the box” and being able to view a situation from a variety of perspectives. It is all about the development of an open mindset and ability to effectively communicate thought processes or solutions. This has been and continues to be promoted by leading educationalists and theorists. The ideas Terri and I heard at the ACEL Conference, which were put forward by Yong Zhao (as outlined in last week’s newsletter…) confirm this thinking.

On Tuesday night I presented a summary of our NAPLAN results to the School Board. What ensued was interesting, vibrant discussion reflecting on the type of learner today’s student is as well as discussion around defining their needs.

Cutting edge thinking tells us we must be redefining schools and identifying new ways of developing our students. Teaching and learning in today’s world is so much more than transferring of facts or even of processes. It is about using and developing inherent talents in our students and developing (as Yong Zhao points out) their ability to be “entrepreneurs” of their ideas and thinking. When this is looked at from the viewpoint of problem solving in Maths and the skills of Working Mathematically e.g. proving, working systematically, justifying etc, it makes sense that our focus on investigations/problem solving tasks is providing strong developmental support for our 21st century learners.

The Co Teaching program works well because it opens professional dialogue between teachers and provides a forum for sharing knowledge and expertise.

Have a lovely weekend!

Marisa

Religious Education Coordinator

Altar Serving: A great way to participate in the Celebration of the Eucharist!
We offer our sincere thanks to Senior Servers Mr Michael Mc Mahon and Mr Ian Woodbury for leading the children through the duties of an Altar Server. The children who attended training will be placed on a school roster in order to serve on the altar at mid-week school events. Those children who are interested in serving on weekends will receive a letter from the school with parish information and contacts so they organise to serve on a monthly parish roster. Thank you to our new altar servers for their enthusiasm and participation.

Dates for your Diary
- Sunday 18 October: Yr.4. Family Mass - Church
- Monday 19 October: Open Classrooms Religion 9 – 9.30am
- Thursday 22 October: Mission Mass Yr 6 Mission Team at Waitara
- Sunday 29 November: Yr 5 and Kindy 2016 Mass - Church
● Friday 11 December: Carols Evening - Playground
● Monday 14 December: Yr 6 Celebration Liturgy Evening - Church
● Wednesday 16 December: End of Year Thanksgiving Mass - 11.30 Church

Yours in Religious Education,
Mrs Kerrie Wetzlar

★★★ Awards

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School News

School Fees
Please ensure you are up to date with your school fees. If you are paying by 3 standard instalments the third and final payment was due 24 July. Unless arrangements have been made with the office, outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the Catholic Schools Office for collection.

For those families paying by weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments, all accounts will need to be paid in full by mid-November unless alternative arrangements have been made with the office. If you are behind in your instalments please bring your account up to date.

Book Club
The current issue of Book Club has closed. No late orders accepted.

Italian Day
Italian Day will be on Wednesday 11 November this year. Students should come dressed in multi wearing a combination of some or all of the Italian colours of red, white and green. The canteen will be serving a special lunch of pizza and gelato which must be ordered through a separate note that will go home shortly.

We will also be having an Italian/ Creative Arts Assembly commencing at 1:50pm where we will showcase what we have been studying in both in Italian and Creative Arts this term. Our theme this year is the Seasons and we will be incorporating some classical music through mime and performance. We hope you can join us!

Signora Morehouse and Mr Waller

Library News
While participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, S and J Perry also raised funds for the books they read. They got sponsors and raised money for the Dymocks Children’s Charities Book Bonus. Not only did St Kieran’s receive these wonderful new books but another school less fortunate than us did too.

Book Bonus has successfully raised thousands of dollars this year to help resource schools around NSW. We hope that more students will participate next year! We would like to congratulate them for all their efforts.

School Choir
The School Choir is singing at 9.30am Mass this Sunday morning. Please be there at 9am to have a run through of the songs. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kathryn and Maria

Information from NSW Health - Whooping Cough Alert
There has recently been a reported case of Whooping Cough (pertussis) at St Kieran’s

What are the symptoms?
Whooping cough usually starts with a runny nose, followed by persistent cough --often worse at night --that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by gagging, vomiting or gasping for air. Whooping cough can cause a very severe illness in young children particularly those aged under 6 months.
How is it spread?
Whooping cough is usually spread by direct contact with the droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person produced whilst coughing. People at greatest risk of getting the illness are those who have had a considerable amount of face-to-face contact with a person with the disease. Whooping cough can occur in people previously vaccinated.

What should parents do?
Anyone developing symptoms should consult their local doctor and mention that there are cases of Whooping cough in the school. Children who are diagnosed with Whooping cough need to stay away from school until they have taken 5 days of a special antibiotic.

For further information please refer to NSW Health at the Northern Sydney Public Health Unit on 9477 9187. http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/Information-for-childcare-and-schools.aspx or contact Sincerely,

Mental Health Month

Parent Community  st.kierans.pf@gmail.com

Uniform Shop
- **Opening hours**: every second Tuesday from 8.30am - 9.30am – next open Tuesday 27 October. 
- Orders will be filled alternate Tuesdays. Order forms available at reception or on the website.
- Stock held at office: ties (girls & boys), hats, excursion bags, & scarves. Please have the correct money as only small change is held.
- EFTPOS and credit card facilities are available at the Uniform Shop.
- If you have any uniform queries please email: lizensell72@gmail.com

Canteen
Thank you to all the Volunteers, without you our Canteen could not operate.

NEXT WEEK's ROSTER (Term 4 - Week 3):
**Wednesday 21 October**: J Funtanilla, J Quarrell
**Thursday 22 October**: A Perry, J Ruddock, K Sui (M)
**Friday 23 October**: E Griffiths, A Osbon, K/P McCahey (M), J Townsend (L)
- Full day Volunteers are required from 9.00am to 1.45pm.
Morning Volunteers are required from 9.00am to 11.30am (M).
Lunch Volunteers are required from 11.30am to 1.45pm (L).

https://www.flexischools.com.au
Any changes to the canteen roster, please contact: Jo Nesbitt - joanne.nesbitt@dbb.catholic.edu.au or 0410 629 135.

School Banking

BE AN ‘OUTER SPACE SAVER’ WITH SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking is back again on Friday mornings from 8:20 in the playground. This year you can earn tokens with every deposit you make. Get 10 tokens and select one of the super rewards. You also earn St Kieran’s commission with every deposit you make – that’s a WIN WIN!
If you would like to join, go to your nearest Commonwealth Bank branch and open a YOUTHSAVER account then come along and start saving.

Parish News

Stella Maris College, Manly Enrolments Year 7 2018: If you wish to enrol your daughter at Stella Maris College, Manly for Year 7 2018, we need to receive the Registration for Waiting List no later than Friday 30 October, 2015. The Registration for Waiting List can be downloaded from our website www.stellamaris.nsw.edu.au. For more information on enrolment or if you would like to visit our College, tours can be booked by contacting the College Registrar, Mrs Kerrie Dudley on 9976 1802.

Brookie Show – Saturday 17 October 10am – 4pm at Brookvale Oval. Free entry Rides, puppets markets motorbike stunts, circus fun

Pinkball starts this Saturday 17th so get your forms in asap or ring MWBA 99133622 to phone book. Pinkball girls only training with our female Rep players as coaches. October 17th 2.30-3.30pm. Great program for girls

Stepping Stones Triple P: part of the world-acclaimed Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, gives parents skills and proven strategies to address parenting concerns and make parenting easier and more enjoyable. It aims to improve the health and wellbeing of children with disabilities and their families by increasing access to evidence-based parenting support in the community. Where: Cerebral Palsy Alliance, 187 Allambi Rd, Allambi Heights RSVP: As these programs are being funded as part of a research project please contact the research team to register your interest. Phone: 02 9114 4060 Email: fhs.Steppingstones@sydney.edu.au Limited childcare places available – please Register via email dlawler@cerebralpalsy.org.au
Cunningham's, our Major Sponsor of the Family Fun Day invites you to join them at the Pink Tractor Trek this Sunday, 18 October from 8.00am at Queenscliff Beach.

It should be lots of fun! We hope to see you there.

YOU ARE INVITED PINK TRACTOR TREK
QUEENSLIFF SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB BBQ FUNDRAISING EVENT
SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER FROM 8.00AM

Come along and support Hugh Bateman on his 2,400km trek across NSW! Raising money for the McGrath Foundation BREAST CANCER CARE.
See the PINK TRACTOR arrive at 9.30am
With special guests Premier Mike Baird, Glenn McGrath & Mayor Jean Hay at 9.45am.

www.pinktractor.com.au
2 WEEKS to go!

It will be spooky!

There will be some spooky goings on at the Family Fun Day.....

- You can get in the mood for Halloween at the Family Fun Day by trying your luck at our very own Trick or Treat Door!
- Have your face painted or your hair sprayed
- Get your spookiest costume on to take part in the scary fancy dress dance off competition in the afternoon with the fantastic New Tricks band!

Thankyou to our Silver and Gold sponsors ....

Silver Sponsors
Kennards Self Storage
PCB digital
Mortgage Choice
Cleaver's

Gold Sponsor
Partytime Hire
Who will be the ....

Master Jammer?

Cooking Competition

“If you can boil an egg you can make jam”

At the 2015 St Kieran’s Catholic Primary School Family Fun Day we’re bringing back the old school art of jam making, with the

INAUGURAL JAM, SAUCE AND CHUTNEY COMPETITION.

So mums, dads, grandparents, friends, neighbours and kids...
Get out your aprons, your secret recipe, saucepans and empty jars and start cooking!
All entries will be judged on Family Fun Day with prizes in various categories!

Saturday 31st October 2015
All proceeds from the sale of jams, sauces and chutneys will go straight back to the school

Enter for your chance to win one of the following in each category.
$50 Alfresco Emporium Gift Voucher | $50 Quattro Fromaggio Gift Voucher
$50 Roseberry Street Roasters Gift Voucher | $50 Blossoms in bloom Gift Voucher
and the illustrious title of MASTER JAMMER!

Visit our facebook page to keep up to date on what’s happening at our Family Funday. http://tinyurl.com/SKMV-funday