PRINCIPALS ADDRESS.

**My School Website Launch**

Last Friday, the My School 2.0 website (www.myschool.edu.au) was launched. The website provides profiles on each school, including ours, and includes information about the school such as numbers of students and staff, attendance rates and results from the national literacy and numeracy tests. For the first time, the website now also includes information about school finances and student gain in NAPLAN.

The website shows comparisons between our school’s NAPLAN results and those from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia – we can see how our school is performing against other schools with statistically similar students. From this, we can see in what areas our school is doing well and where we need to look to make improvements. The website also now shows student gain information, so that we can acknowledge how our students have progressed over time. Financial information for our school is also shown, with 2009 recurrent income and capital expenditure displayed broken down by source of funding.

There is a lot of information contained on the website, and we encourage parents, carers and other interested members of the school community to view the website. If you have any questions you can go directly to the ACARA information desk (at 1300 895 563), or please contact the school.

The information My School provides is just one source of information about our school. For further information on our school’s performance, parents and community members are encouraged to look at our website, read our annual report, and talk to Mr Devlin as well as your child’s teacher.

Our school already uses a range of data to inform us about the performance of our students. The information My School 2.0 provides will be additional information that will support us in providing quality programs and achieving positive learning outcomes for all students.

Paul Devlin
Principal

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tue 8th Mar**
♦ Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday

**Wed 9th Mar**
♦ Ash Wednesday
Yrs 4-6—9.15am Mass in the Church
Yrs K-3—10.30am Liturgy in the MPA

**Thur 10th Mar**
♦ 7.00pm Parish Schools 2012 Information Night in the Church

Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill Church Sunday Masses:
6.00pm Saturday, 9.00am Sun
10.30am Sunday, 6.00pm Sun
St. Joseph’s Schofields - 7.30am
Reconciliation: Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm
Weekday Masses:
Monday No Mass
Tuesday 8.30am, Wednesday 9.15am, Thursday 9.15am, Friday 7.00pm
Parish Priest: Fr Ian McGinnity
Phone: 9626.3326, Fax: 9626.1613
Email: parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au
Website: www.maryimmac.org.au
RE NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY

All parents and families are invited to join us this Wednesday 9th March.

Years 4-6— 9.15am Mass in the Church

Years K-3—10.30am Liturgy in the MPA

At our liturgy and also in their classrooms, the children will be invited to reflect on how they can ‘Walk with Jesus’ during the season of Lent. The cross of ashes we receive on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the start of this journey.

During Lent we are asked to make that extra effort to find the time for prayer, self-denial, fasting and service to others.

Perhaps this theme of walking with Jesus is also something you can reflect on as a family as the children make choices about how and where they will pray, what they may sacrifice or go without and ways they will serve others this Lent.

Please note: There is also an Ash Wednesday Mass at Mary Immaculate Church at 7.30pm.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
The Women of Chile—2011

Last Friday 4th March, the Minnie Vinnies team attended a World Day of Prayer service along with 5 students who read on behalf of the women of Chile. Usually at liturgies or Masses we go to, there are mostly Catholic people gathered together in our Church. This was different and special because it was an ecumenical prayer service including local Catholic, Baptist, Anglican and Uniting church communities who had come together in prayer, we had never been to anything like that before.

The focus of the prayer service was “How many loaves have you?” from the scripture passage Mark 6:30-44. We were asked to think deeply about this question.

From the things we heard, we think it means that we should think about what gifts, talents, resources and possessions do we have and how can we share these with others.

We also learnt a lot about the Chilean women and how they live. One thing that was very interesting was that sometimes in poorer parts of Chile mothers and fathers would have to leave their children while they went out to find some food. It was very nice afterwards when we were invited to join everybody for morning tea and got to talk to all the people.

By Stephanie Paterson 6M and Jessica Martin 6G - Minnie Vinnies Team

SCHOOL NEWS

COSHC

Last week, we were able to confirm arrangements have been made for families to access the COSHC for shorter periods of time for less fees. This is a very pleasing development so that families that need to enroll their child at the COSHC can do so for an affordable fee. Please contact the COSHC to enroll your child if applicable. A reminder that children cannot be dropped off at school to wait outside the gates before 8.25am. This is a duty of care issue. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

CAFFEINE NEWS

Pancake Day tomorrow
March 8th

NO OTHER HOT FOOD AVAILABLE FROM THE CAFÉ TÉNN TOMORROW

Sandwiches, salads and wraps are available.

HELP NEEDED

More helpers are needed for Fridays. Please contact Michelle in the canteen if you can help out. Thankyou!

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Term 1 Working Bee achieved a lot!

Saturday’s Working Bee was a great success due to the energetic efforts and time of the following families:

Johnson (Sophie 2P), Holtsbaum (Ethan 1P, Abbey 3G, Georgia 5P), Hutton (Kiera 1P), Marks (Lucas KM), Deshe (Tanaka KP, Yeukai 6G), Dias (Ashley KM), Monk (Aislinn KP), Nazha (Ziad 1G, Veronica 6P), McKenzie (William 6G), Feechy (Sarah 4M, Nicholas 5P), Pettit (Cooper 3M), Clouston (Rhiannon 1G)

Under the coordination and organization of George James (General Assistant) and Rowan Russell (P&F Working Bee Coordinator) the following projects were completed:

- Sweeping, disinfecting and washing down Kindergarten verandahs
- Trimming trees around covered walkways and Picnic Hill
- Trimming and removal of trees from top carpark
- Pruning of roses at front entry
- Weeding of gardens
- Cleaning playground benches
- Whipper snipping around top carpark, behind Demountables and Picnic Hill
- Cleaning drains
- Removing cobwebs from around the school
- Blowing paths and paved areas
- Mulching gardens around paved area
- Cleaning gutters and retrieving balls
- Smoothing Bubbler handles
- Cleaning air conditioner filters
- Replenishing sand in K – 1 play area
- Organising P&F demountable
- Collecting rubbish from around the school ‘Clean up Australia’ weekend

Thank you to Stephen Pettit from ‘Active Tree Services’ who worked at this Working Bee and provided his equipment and mulching truck.

This is a large school and the support and assistance of families in completing projects like these invaluable. A flyer is going out today with the Newsletter outlining the planned Working Bees for 2011. I encourage all families to commit to supporting the school in some way over the year.

The Term 2 Working Bee will be on Saturday 4th June from 8:00 – 12:00pm. Hopefully many families will be available to assist again in completing special projects around the school that help improve Mary Immaculate and make it a wonderful and beautiful place.

It is in partnership that we can achieve great things together!

Matthew Troy

Learning Letterbox

On the Year 4 excursion I learnt in Blacktown City Council there are seven labour, five liberal and two independent members that are Councillors.

Sarah, 4P

We learnt that Mr Troy takes us on awesome adventures.

Jake, Tiana, Ben and Claudia

I learnt in the first week that we need to look after our school.

Miguel, KP

I learnt that the rubbish on the ground gets up in our water ways which goes in the ocean and kills our marine life.

Adrian, 2G

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1st to 14th March

Joshua Jeroncic, Michael Abnous, Tanaka Deshe, Kierra Hutton, Zoe Cooper, Thomas Conciatore, Marcus Magnaye, Thomas Hunt, Josh McGinley, Jordan Domingo, McJinRay Claro, Joy Decelis, Blake Collins, Joshua Armistead, Christopher Sultana, Nichelle Noronho, Ellya Jones
Hello Parents & Friends of MIPS,

Hi Parents and Friends,

It has been a fantastic start to the year for the P & F Committee. Our first social event for the year, the Bingo night was a huge success with many families within the community joining in all the fun of the evening. The night was also very well supported by local businesses through their donation of prizes on the night, and I would like to thank the following for their support:

1. Integrated OH & S Solutions - Mr Rowan Russell
2. Beecroft Butcher Meats - Mr Gary Wolfe
3. K Mart Stanhope Gardens - Mr Wayne Wheer
4. Pancakes on the Rocks - Mr Nelson Tromp
5. McDonald's Emu Plains
6. MBF Blacktown

Without the support of these businesses, the night would not have been the success that it was, so a big thank you from the P & F Association.

The P & F last week also held our first meeting for 2011, and it was great to see some new faces in the group providing some fantastic ideas and showing support for other events to be held in the year. We welcome any new parents, caregivers, or friends to join us at our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday April 5 at 7:30pm in the school staff room. With many events for the year being discussed, fresh ideas and additional support are always welcome.

Finally, last Saturday saw our first P & F Working Bee for the year. With 12 families supporting on the day, it was one of the best working bees we have held for some time. Thank you to the families who gave up some of their Saturday morning. ‘Many hands certainly made light work’, and we were able to complete many of the planned jobs. I would like to thank the families who attended and encourage other families to commit to supporting future Working Bees this year.

Watch this space for more information on upcoming P & F Events.

Take care and God Bless,

Ryan Hutton
President - P & F Association
Mary Immaculate Primary School

Thanks to all the parents who were able to attend the meeting last week. Particular thanks to the Parents and Friends Executive who have prepared many initiatives for the year. It was a very productive meeting with many items discussed. Once the minutes are finalised, they will be available on the school website for the community to view. A letter regarding the Easter Raffle has been sent home today with your child/ren. Please support your P & F in every way possible—our school will benefit!!!!

Advertising Policy

The Advertising Policy relating to the newsletter has been changed. From this point forward, we will no longer agree to advertise companies or organisations that “operate for profit” in the newsletter. We will honour all existing agreements with sponsors / companies until our obligations have been met. The new Advertising Policy for the Newsletter will only allow the school to advertise “not for profit” organisations. These include: sporting groups, community groups, child activity groups etc. All advertisements through the newsletter will be guided by the policy and be at the discretion of the Principal.

Parish Based Sacramental Program - CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Registration Forms are now available online at www.maryimmac.org.au, after every Mass and the Parish Office ONLY, for those children who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. (Please note children need to have made their First Reconciliation to participate in this program.) These forms must be returned via email or to the Parish Office or in the Parish Locked Box by Friday 18 March. The first Parent Evening for the families involved in the program will take place on Wednesday 30 March at 7.30pm in the Church. Please refer to the information sheet accompanying the Registration form for any queries or contact the Parish Office on 9626 3326.