Catholic Schools Week and Mothers’ Day celebration
A wonderful day was experienced last Friday by the whole school community. We had the opportunity to celebrate both Catholic Schools Week and Mothers’ Day with breakfast, Open Classrooms and a liturgy. Many, many thanks to all staff and parents who helped to make the celebration possible. Particular thanks to the Kindergarten and Year 1 teachers and students for leading the Liturgy, and the Parents and Friends Association who contributed significantly to the breakfast and Mothers’ Day stall.

Peer Support
Today we will begin ‘Peer Support’. This is a program run by the Year 6 students across the school. All children in the school are placed in multi age groups for half an hour on Monday afternoon and led through a series of structured activities by the Year 6 students. The activities are based around developing co-operative skills and communication skills. The program will be held every Monday till the end of the term and will be supervised by the teachers at all times.

NAPLAN
The children in Year 3 and 5 will be undertaking the NAPLAN assessment tasks this week. This is part of the national testing of all children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Literacy and Numeracy. The results from these assessments are available to parents and the school in September and help to inform teaching programs for individual students and school trends. Our children in Year 3 and 5 have been preparing for these assessments and we wish them well for the tests that they will undertake.

Staff Development Day – Term 2
We are able to confirm that the final day of Term 2 (Friday 1st July) will be a Staff Development Day. The staff will have the opportunity to reflect on spiritual development during this day. We are also able to announce that the first day of both Terms 3 and 4 will be Staff Development Days. The focus of these days will be Literacy. With the timetabling of Staff Development Days, the school is always mindful of minimizing the inconvenience to parents and as a result we tend to claim a Monday or Friday for this purpose. Thank you for your understanding.

Car Park
Parents are reminded that safety needs to be maintained at all times in the car park. This includes only parking in designated car spaces and driving slowly. Parents are also reminded to enter and exit the car cark via the correct gates. It is very unsafe to drive in the exit or drive out the entrance.

Can you help???
One of our families, Nina in Year 6, Malakai in Year 2 and Salote in Kindergarten suffered a house fire last week and lost all their possessions. They are in need of support from our school community. The family have 7 children and we are making an appeal on their behalf for clothes for the children. Our school has provided a set of uniforms but they are in need of everyday clothes (T shirts, shorts, tracksuits jumpers, jeans etc). If you are in the position to assist please send the clothes to the school office and we will arrange delivery. If we receive a surplus of donations we will pass on the clothes to the St Vincent de Paul Society. The sizes of the children are: Girls size 6, 8 and 16 to 18, the Boys sizes are 2, 4, 8 and 16. Thank you for your assistance.
Uniform Update
Today you will receive a letter explaining the current situation of the uniform development. The changes to the uniform are not major and simply involve a refreshing of the image portrayed by the uniform.

Join us for the annual Mary Immaculate Children’s Parish Mass
A note was sent home to all families today regarding the upcoming Annual Parish Mass that the children of Mary Immaculate will be involved in preparing and leading. The Mass will be at 9am on Sunday 29th May. Please put this date on your family calendar and join us for this community celebration. The attendance reply slip needs to be returned to school by next Wednesday.

Confirmation
Let us keep in our prayers and intentions all of our children at Mary Immaculate who are currently preparing in their home groups for the sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation will be celebrated on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd June at 7.30pm in the Church. All welcome.

Caritas Project Compassion
A big thank you to all children and families who contributed so generously to the Caritas Project Compassion Appeal during Lent. Our combined efforts as a school community raised a total of $749.60 which will go towards supporting those in need in our world.

ICAS Competitions
A reminder to all children in Years 3-6 who have entered the Computer Skills test that it will be conducted on Tuesday 24th May (Week 5). If you are interested in familiarizing your child with the test and question format you can access practise questions on the website at: http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/prepare/practice_questions
Yr 3 Paper A, Yr 4 Paper B, Yr 5 Paper C, Yr 6 Paper D.

The Parent Programme—Reminder!
“Developing Literacy Partnerships” Week 1 Thursday 12th May.
This course will help you to assist your child in their Literacy development. The course is held in the afternoon at 1.30pm until 3pm or in the evening from 7pm until 8.30pm.
If you are interested please register with your child’s teacher and then arrive on the 12th May for the first session of the four week course.

Congratulations to Hannah Grech 6M who received an A on her recent piano exam!
Well done Hannah!!

Diocesan Cross Country
Congratulations to all the competitors who participated in the Diocesan Cross Country held on Tuesday 3rd May at Eastern Creek Raceway. It was an overcast day and the weather was perfect for running. The children were well behaved, displayed determination and sportsmanship and ran to the best of their ability. Some children were running for the first time, many ran better than they did last year and some achieved outstanding results.

The following students will now be competing at the Inter-Diocesan Cross Country to be held on Friday 3rd June at Eastern Creek. We wish them happy training and good luck on the day.

Corey Smith 7th 8/9 Years Boys
Symbria Hales 4th 8 / 9 Years Girls
Ryan Attard 1st 10 Years Boys
Penny Tahiri 1st 11 Years Girls
Georgia Holtsbaum 3rd 11 Years Girls
Mitchell Deeholts 2nd SWD 11 Years Boys
Sam Kearns 3rd SWD 13 Years Boys

A very BIG thank you to Mrs Sammut my co-team manager for the day and Miss Pickering, who went in place of Mr Devlin. A BIG thank you also to Mrs Vogt for going to the track very early and assisting in the setting up of the event- you are a legend!!! A BIG thank you also to the parents who assisted on the day out on the course for without your help and generosity, we would not be able to have these events- Mrs Morales, Mrs Holtsbaum, Mrs Kalogjera, Mrs Henson and Mrs Turner-Seymour.


Glynnis Smith (Team Manager)