Dear Parents & Friends,

I wish you all a warm welcome back to term 3. As I say a warm welcome ironically winter has finally come and as we move closer to EKKA season with our winter winds it will certainly get cooler.

Our school supplies a number of items to keep you warm including jumpers, jackets and tracksuit pants which are all available from the office uniform shop every day of the week.

Our school focuses strongly on providing a high quality education to all children. With our small class numbers and high staff ratio we are able to personalise learning and focus on the core literacy and numeracy which is so important for all learners to develop a love of learning and become successful members of society in the future. Our school size also allows us to be flexible in opportunities we offer our children which are just as important in developing the whole child.

Writing a recount about some of your experiences in the holidays is always engaging for students as they see the purpose in writing and have excitement in sharing some of their holiday, or talking about a sleepover or a movie or a trip away. Part of the positive benefit of these experiences is giving real life purpose and context for learning and providing inspiration for our students at our school.

One of these experiences was hosting a Brisbane Lion’s press conference yesterday. It was our absolute pleasure hosting the Brisbane Lions press conference at school yesterday. It was a wonderful learning experience for both students and staff as we saw how journalists and professional AFL footballers work together. We thank the Brisbane Lions and especially Reuben William, Dayne Zorko and Tayla Harris (the first female marquee signing by the Brisbane Lions ladies team who commence in 2017 in a national AFL competition) who came and spoke to the students and staff. We thank you for your time, patience and wish you all the best for the rest of the year. Dayne, Reuben and Tayla all spoke about hard work, enjoyment of sport, support of family and being part of a team which made their passion for AFL so fun and were all an inspiration for our children. I hope to see some of you at the game at the Gabba on the weekend behind the goals at the Brisbane Lions shop entrance. The tickets do allow you to catch public transport and from 3.00pm there is face painting, obstacle courses and other activities weather permitting. I would encourage you to dress warm as the weather does look cold on Sunday.

Below are just some of the many experiences the students have every week in our wonderful school.

- This week our students during art time painted boots which will be used in a Ronald McDonald Charity Ball as a centre piece.
- On Wednesday a number of students attended choir practice at St Lawrence’s in preparation for the mass choir at the Cathedral on August 8th celebrating 150 years of Mary Mackillop.
- Next week the experiences don’t stop, with Mrs Patmore’s class attending Caboolture Historical Village to make their learning from history very real for them. We look forward to hearing the students share their learning next week.

Bus Driver Appointment

As many of you are aware Mrs Gay Clements has retired from driving our school bus after many years of outstanding service to the school and community. We will honour and celebrate Gay’s achievements and dedication formally later in the year but we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We thank Maud and Scott for their driving of the bus last term and can now announce that from Monday Mr Scott Webber will be our new bus driver. Scott, (father of Jack year 1 and Joanne year 5) will commence driving Monday next week. On behalf of the school we welcome Scott.

Have a good week,
Matthew Beacroft—Principal
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to school for term 3. I hope that we have all had a chance to spend time with family and friends over the break. We have a busy and exciting term full of opportunities for learning and growth.

This week we remember in our prayers all those who are rejected because of their colour or their beliefs. In this Year of Mercy, we strive through our actions and words to make a difference in our school community. Sometimes it can be most difficult to demonstrate that Mercy towards yourself, but as the term progresses and we face challenges both individually and together, don’t forget to take time to be gentle with yourself and others. Hopefully by us all being able to show that Mercy towards ourselves, and then in turn we will be able to show it to others.

Tomorrow we celebrate NAIDOC week at St Mary of the Cross. We will welcome Aunty Ruth Hegarty to share this time with us. We look forward to listening and sharing Aunty Ruth. Thank you to Mrs Bev Hickey for her hard work in organising people and resources for our NAIDOC celebrations. Bev’s hard work behind the scenes is valued and is truly working towards building better relationships and understanding and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and especially for our school. We thank the staff especially Aunty Maud, Aunty Robyn, Michael and Jack for their support and work within our school and for their sharing with so that we can better understand the connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through knowledge and sharing of song, story, dance, art, food, customs and traditions. We also thank our students and their families for their support, care and love as we learn, live and grow here at St Mary of the Cross. NAIDOC week is a special occasion for us to continue to make strong connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through rich learning and sharing as we look forward to the future.

Have a peaceful week,

Dean Estreich
Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE)
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Second Semester. I hope the holidays were a good time for your family. The best resolution we can all make to ensure a successful term is to be happy. I know that’s a cliché but it’s true. Andrew Fuller, respected child psychologist, offers these tips for being happy most of the time. He begins by reminding us that no-one can be happy all of the time. That’s not reality.

1. Decide in advance that whatever you are going to do is going to be fun or at least have a fun element.
2. Go outside and play – no matter how old you are! Go for a walk, throw the dog a stick, pretend you are in enemy territory...
3. Develop deep friendships. Your friends are your true wealth.
4. Increase the closeness of extended family. Feeling you belong is a powerful way of being happy. If there are not many or they are far away, don’t let that stop you.
5. Play to your strengths. Make a commitment to develop your skills, talents and abilities. The world needs you.
6. Seek out groups that share your values.
7. Stay away from people and groups who don’t share your values and don’t value you.
8. Live in the dreamtime. Find and follow your passions.
9. Laugh a lot more. Find people that make you laugh, read a comic, ...
10. Believe in something bigger than yourself. Contribute to something beyond yourself and make the world a better place.
11. Love as much as you can – and then love some more.

Mary MacKillop would say: “Find your happiness in making others happy.”

Have a happy week,
God bless
Sr Anne

HEALTHY LUNCHES

Make your family happy by making this easy and very nutritious soup. It’s a variation on the split-pea recipe. If you prefer the old-fashioned recipe, you will find it on the packet of split peas. Either way, it’s a meal in itself.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Ingredients

- 500g pack of frozen peas
- 1 onion, chopped finely
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 carrot, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and chopped into chunks
- 3 sticks celery, chopped in 1/2cm slices
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup (250 ml) vegetable stock
- Ground black pepper
- 100g lean ham or smoked pork (off the bone, cut into small chunks)

Method

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan and gently fry the onion and garlic until softened.
2. Add the stock, all the vegetables EXCEPT the peas and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer over a low heat for 15-20 minutes or until potatoes and carrots are soft.
3. Add the peas, and then cook gently for 3-4 minutes.
4. Transfer to a blender or use a stick blender and blend all ingredients until smooth.
5. Return to saucepan, add the ham and heat until hot.
6. Serve hot or freeze in portions, ready to heat when required.
7. ENJOY!

CIRCUS SKILLS

What child wouldn’t like to be a circus performer! What adult wouldn’t get some fun out of just watching, let alone doing!! There is a free CIRCUS SKILLS workshop at Kalinga Park on Saturday, 23 July from 10:00am to 11:00am for children. Further details are on the City Council website.

SENIORS’ MORNING TEA

To celebrate Seniors’ Week and also recognize the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St Joseph, we are having a special morning tea on Wednesday, 17 August. Seniors – grandparents, neighbours, those who know the sisters who worked here, our friends from Windsor Aged Care – are all welcome. Start asking them to keep the date. An invitation will go out soon.
SAVE THE DATE

31.08.16

FASHION + STYLE + SOCIAL

Hosted by four of Brisbane’s leading fashion stylists and bloggers at Brisbane’s premium venue, VICTORIA PARK.

Sarah @MUMMAAIMTUMS
Cate @INDIVIDUALSTYLE101
Alex @WHATTHETEACHERWEARS
Sally @STEELEMYSTYLE

Are joining forces with St Mary of the Cross to raise funds for an undercover multi-court facility for our school. Full details announced Term 3.