Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week I have had the opportunity to attend the WA Catholic Primary Principals’ Conference. While the annual conference is usually held in Perth, this year’s is in sunny (and humid!) Broome. The keynote speaker has been Mr Noel Pearson. Noel is an Indigenous Australian lawyer, land rights activist and Director of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, an organisation promoting the economic and social development of Cape York in far north Queensland. Noel has discussed how he is part of a committee who have introduced the program of Direct Instruction into three Queensland schools attended predominantly by Aboriginal students. The program has made a significant difference to the achievement levels of the students in literacy and numeracy and has given great hope for the future. We have also heard stories from Catholic Principals in the Kimberley and some of the immense challenges that they face on a daily basis.

God Bless
Mr Cronin

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**Prayer Corner**

**Blessed are the Children**

Blessed are the children who have someone who believes in them and has high hopes for them.
Blessed are those children who have someone to whom they can carry their problems without fear.
Blessed are those children whose homes are a haven of happiness.
Blessed are the children whose love of the true, the beautiful and the good has been nourished through the years.
Blessed are the children whose efforts to achieve have found encouragement.
Blessed are the children who have learned freedom from selfishness through responsibility and cooperation.
Blessed is the home, or community, or nation that sees in children the hope of the future and dedicates itself to the realisation of that hope.
Blessed are the people who make that happen.
Amen.

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**Term 1 Important Dates 2014**

- Mar 07 - Yr 6 Assembly
- Mar 08 - Yr 7 & Yr 3 Family Mass
- Mar 10 - A Swag of Tales Incursion 9.10 Hall
- Mar 13 - Board Meeting 7.30pm
- Mar 21 - Yr 4 Assembly
- Mar 26 - Yr 3 Reconciliation
- Mar 27 - P & F Meeting 7.30pm
- Mar 28 - Swimming Carnival
  - Youth Group 6.30-9pm
- Apr 04 - Yr 1 Assembly
- Apr 05 - Car Boot Sale
  - Yr 2 & Yr 4 Parish Mass
- Apr 10 - End of Term Mass
- Apr 11 - Easter Egg Raffle Draw

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**Hunga Busta Roster**

- Mar 07 Friday - Kristie Magill
- Mar 10 Monday - Leanne Prince
- Mar 12 Wednesday - Fiona Shepherd
- Mar 14 Friday - Karena Rankin
- Mar 17 Monday - Camille Mummene
- Mar 19 Wednesday - Nicole Tate
- Mar 21 Friday - Karyn Cronin
**Family BBQ**

School families and staff are invited to come along to a barbeque at school on Friday 21 March, starting at 5pm. The evening is an opportunity to welcome new families and staff. You are asked to bring your own: cutlery, plates, meat, drinks and chairs, as well as either a salad or dessert to share. Families with a surname starting with the letters A-L are asked to bring a dessert to share and M-Z a salad.

Mr C.

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**Car Boot Sale**

After last year’s very successful Car Boot sale which raised over $1000 for the St Brigid’s Church, it has been decided to hold another on Saturday 5 April. Sellers can set up from 7.30 am and buyers from 8-11am. It will be a great chance to get some cash for those items around the house that you no longer need and a great opportunity to pick up a bargain. There will be face painting, bouncy castle, cake stall, donuts and a sausage sizzle. If you would like to be part of the organising committee or have an idea that we can try on the day please speak to myself or Sam Cheng, our P&F President. Bays need to be booked through the school at $10 a bay. A Parish stall will be set up and donations can be left in the school hall on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 April.

Mr C.

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**Swimming Lessons**

Congratulations to all of our students for their fantastic effort during swimming lessons. We were blessed with wonderful weather for the two weeks. Thank you to the many parents who came and watched and helped with our younger students. Special thanks again to Ray Bertolini who drove the bus on many of the days.

Mr C.

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**Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting for members will be held on Thursday 13 March starting at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

Mr C.

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**Second Hand Books for Sale**

The Library has recently had a clean out of books which will be on display in the hall for parents and students to browse at. Books can be purchased for a gold coin donation with the money being donated towards Project Compassion.

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**Book Sale**

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**P & F Easter Raffle**

Parents are asked to send in Easter Eggs for the annual P&F Easter Egg raffle. For those new to St Brigid’s, families are asked to send in a rabbit or egg per child. Closer to Easter, students will be asked to sell raffle tickets. The P&F wrap the eggs and rabbits into bundles and the raffle will be drawn on Friday 11 April.

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**P & F Meeting**

It was terrific to see several new faces at our first P&F meeting held recently. Congratulations to Tania Grau for taking on the role of Vice President. One of the ideas being planned with the help of Mrs Ilamby, is an art evening for parents with class items to be auctioned in Term 3. The next meeting will be on Thursday 27 March at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Come along and see how you can get involved.

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**Year 6 Assembly**

Some of the Year 6 students’ many talents will be on display on Friday 7 March in the hall. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Mr C.

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**Bunbury Catholic College Scholarships**

Application forms to apply for the Scholarships offered in 2015 by BCC are in the front office for any Yr 6 & Yr 7 student attending BCC next year. Applications close 4 April.

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**A Swag of Tales Incursion**

On Monday 10 March at 9.10am in the hall, the students will be taken back in time with a look at what life was like back in the days of swingmen and the gold rush. We will have visitors showing a history lesson with a difference and parents are welcome to join us for this memorable experience.

Mr C.
School Surveys
The Catholic Education Office introduced School Surveys two years ago to provide feedback to schools on a wide range of areas to assist with school planning and improvement. The surveys are completed by staff, students in Years 6 and 7 and 60 families chosen at random. If you receive an envelope next week, you are asked to complete it and return it by 28 March. If you choose not to fill it in, please return it to school so it can be given to another family.
Mr C.

Youth Group
The first Youth Group session will be held on Friday 28 March from 6.30pm-9pm. Students from Years 6 and 7 are invited to come along. The cost is $5 and supper will be provided. We will need several parents to help or the night so please let me know if you are available.
Mr C.

Parish News
*World Day of Prayer*
On March 7, St Brigid's Parish is hosting the World Day of Prayer. This is a worldwide movement of Christian women, from a range of denominations, who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. It takes place in more than 170 countries and regions.
Every year, there is a different prayer focus relating to a different country. This year’s focus is on the difficulties faced by people living in Egypt. The prayer service will be held in St Brigid’s Church at 9.30am and everyone is invited along. Members of other Christian Churches in Collie will also be participating, as well our Year 5 students. The service will go for about 45 minutes.

Year 4 Assembly
Year 4 students will be presenting an item at their assembly on Friday 21 March.
Mr C.

Are you Interested in learning about the Catholic Faith?
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which interested adults are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. If you are interested in finding out more about this process, please contact Anna Papalia on 9734 3801 (hm) or 0407473119 (mob). Classes for RCIA take place on Tuesday evenings and will begin in March.
Thanks
Mrs Cronin.

Uniform Roster
Mar 07 Nicole Tate
Mar 14 Karyn Cronin
Mar 21 Nicole Martin
Mar 28 Swimming Carnival
Apr 04 Sheree & Fiona

Farewelling Mr Loftus
After eight years of outstanding service to St Brigid’s, Mr Wayne Loftus will be retiring at the end of Term 1. Wayne has done a superb job of maintaining the school grounds and has carried out maintenance of the buildings. This means that we will need someone to take over from Wayne. The hours are currently 7am-1pm Monday to Friday. The position will be formally advertised in the Collie Mail over the coming weeks, but if you know anyone who you feel would be suitable, please encourage them to apply.
Mr C.

RE News
Ash Wednesday’s Mass
We celebrated our first whole school mass on Ash Wednesday this week. Thank-you to the many parents and family members who came in support. Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of Lent, which is a time of preparation for Easter.

Project Compassion
Ash Wednesday Mass also signifies the beginning of Project Compassion. This is a fundraising and education programme organised by Caritas Australia, a Catholic aid agency. During Lent, students will be learning about children in need in other countries as well as here in Australia. If you would like to make a donation, boxes can be found in all the classrooms and the front office.

Just Leadership
Last week our Year 6 and 7 students attended the "Just Leadership" programme at St Mary’s Primary School in Bunbury. The presenter was Mrs Janeen Murphy from Caritas and students discussed what makes a good school leader. They were also encouraged to think of ways they could help lead the school towards caring for people less fortunate than ourselves. The enthusiasm of our student leaders was a credit to our school. Keep an eye out for activities around St Brigid’s.

Year 3/7 Parish Mass
This Saturday night, March 8, our Year 3 and 7 students will be coordinating the Parish Mass. It is also the Commitment Mass for our students preparing for the Sacrament of Penance. Everyone is welcome to come along in support of these two classes and the parish. Mass begins at 6pm.

Staff Commissioning Mass
Every year, staff working in Catholic schools in the Bunbury Diocese are expected to attend a Commissioning Mass within the Parish. At the Mass, staff make a commitment to provide our students with the best Catholic education they can. It would be lovely to see our families acknowledging the dedication of our staff by attending the 6pm Mass to be held on Saturday March 16.

Lunches for the Swimming Carnival
The P & F are offering children and family’s a meal deal which consists of a hot dog and juice box for $4.00 at the swimming carnival. An order form is attached which needs to be returned to the office with the money by no later than 21 March.
A note from the Community Health Nurse...

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Kerry Armstrong and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school.

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.

If you have a concern about your child’s health or development, please contact me on 97351456

School Entry Health Assessment

All children in Western Australia are offered a health assessment during their first year of primary school. This usually occurs in kindergarten.

Your Community Health Nurse will check your child’s vision, hearing and general development. The Forms have been given out recently,

Parents please complete and sign the forms. Please return the form to the school office or class teacher, as soon as possible.

Immunisation - is your child attending kindergarten for the first time?

Australia’s peak medical organisation - the National Health and Medical Research Council - recommends that children who have turned 4 years of age should have the following booster immunisations;

- DTPa-IPV vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio;
- MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella, and;
- All other WA schedule vaccinations recommended.

Your child can have these immunisations from 3 ½ years of age.

If your child has missed out on vaccinations, a doctor or immunisation nurse can provide ‘catch-up’ vaccinations.

Did you know that as parents you can ring the National registry or go to the web site to check out your child’s immunisation status? All you need is your Medicare number. Phone 1800 653 809 or access the web site: www.humanservices.gov.au or email acir@humanservices.gov.au

Immunisation programs in our community are designed to keep everyone well and safe, especially those people who are most at risk, such as babies.

Parents or legal guardians who do not immunise their child should note the following:

- In the case of a Measles or Pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak, Western Australian schools are required by the Department of Health, to exclude students who have not received the appropriate vaccination.

Please make sure your school-aged child is fully immunised and that you have provided a copy of the ACIR immunisation record to the school.