19 February 2015
Week 3

Principal's Welcome

School is well and truly back into full swing with lots of learning happening in all of the classrooms. It was terrific to see so many parents take advantage of the opportunity to attend the parent information afternoon held last week. Next week we have a Reading Workshop for parents and a meeting for parents interested in our ‘3 Year Old Program’. Read inside the newsletter for more details. I will be in Perth Monday and Tuesday of next week attending meetings and the following week I will be in Perth for the Principals’ Conference.

God Bless
Mr Cronin

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
May this season be a grace filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.

OUR VISION
We are a progressive learning community, which nurtures the holistic growth of all children within a supportive Catholic environment.
**School Notices**

**Board and P&F AGM**
At last week’s Board and P&F AGM we recognised the contributions made by outgoing committee members. We thanked Les Costa, Amanda Smith and Tracy Johnson for their work on the Board over the past several years and accepted nominations from Carina Roney, Shane Kenyon, Sarah Woodland and Christina Coman. Members who retired from the P&F Executive included Sam Cheng, Renae Mumme and Sam Brojanowski. We were unable to fill the P&F positions. There is a P&F meeting tonight at 7.30pm in the staffroom and it is hoped that we have some volunteers who are willing to join the P&F Executive.

**Test Books**
Students from Years 2-6 will be bringing their test books home on Friday 27 February. The purpose of the test books is to help keep parents informed about how their child is progressing. Parents are asked to sign and make a comment on the page inside the front cover each time it is sent home.

**Ash Wednesday Mass**
Thank you to Fr Jaybee and all of the school community who attended Ash Wednesday Mass to mark the beginning of Lent. The students are encouraged to donate loose change into the Project Compassion boxes in each classroom.

**New Look Newsletter**
Thanks to Lara Davidson for her work in changing the face of the school newsletter.

**SMS System Working Well**
Our SMS messaging system is now fully functioning and parents are encouraged to inform the school by 9am if your child is absent from school. We can also use the messaging to inform parents of upcoming events or important updates.

**Family Detail and Travel Approval Forms**
The Family Detail forms and Travel Approval forms that were sent out with the previous newsletter are due back to the front office. If you have not yet returned your forms can you please do so as soon as possible. It is important that we have your correct contact details in case of an emergency.

**World Record Attempt Still On**
The Collie schools are still working on the World Record attempt to make the longest 5c chain. Your donations of 5c coins are greatly appreciated and they can be left in the boxes in each classroom.

**PATHS Program**
At the end of January, staff were in-serviced on the PATHS program which is aimed at developing the social and emotional wellbeing of students by helping them to become more resilient and giving them the skills to deal with conflicting issues. You may have noticed some large painted traffic lights in the playground which are a tool in helping students to resolve their own conflict situations without relying entirely on the teacher to sort problems out.
UNIFORM ROSTER
20 February  Trish Stocks
27 February  Sarah Woodland
6 March  Fiona Shepherd

CANTEEN NEWS
Mrs Higgins is still looking for volunteers. Two hours of your time per term is all that is required. To add your name to the roster, please contact Mrs Higgins in the Canteen, or leave your name at the front office.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday 20 February  Joanne Remeika
Monday 23 February  David Harper
Wednesday 25 February  Fiona Shepherd
Friday 27 February  Brooke Burek
Monday 2 March  Public Holiday
Wednesday 4 March  Karri Dallywater

Upcoming Events at St Brigid's

Caritas Assembly
There will be an assembly in the hall tomorrow and the Year 6 student leaders will be sharing some of what they learnt from their recent Leaders’ Day in Bunbury. The students will be explaining the work that Caritas provides to help people around the world with the money raised from Project Compassion. Honour certificates will be handed out at the Assembly.

Reading Workshop for Parents on Helping Your Child
Mrs Viv Marwick will be holding an information session for parents on Wednesday 25 February at 9am in the hall. Viv previously was the Assistant Principal at St Brigid’s but over the last few years she has worked at the Catholic Education Office in Bunbury as a Literacy Consultant for South West Schools. Viv has expertise in the reading area and will give tips to parents on how best to help your child at home. We know that ‘kids who read succeed’, so we are keen to work with parents to give students the best start to their schooling. The session is aimed at Pre-Kindy to Year 3 parents.

Please RSVP by emailing Paul Cronin (cronin.paul@cathednet.wa.edu.au) by 23 February if you are interested in attending so we know how many to expect.

P&F Meeting Tonight
There is a P&F meeting tonight at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Come along and see how you can get involved in school life.

Board Meeting
The first Board meeting of the year will be Thursday 26 February at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

Sports Uniform
Thank you to all of the families who expressed an opinion on the survey topic that looked at the possibility of changing the sports uniform. Forty-four families returned the survey with thirty-seven (84%) asking for a change, four (9%) not wanting a change from the current style and three families ‘not stressed’ and will be happy either way. Due to having more than 75% in favour, Nicole Tate and her uniform shop team are investigating different options.
Upcoming Events at St Brigid’s

3 Year Old Program
We have had a great deal of interest for our 3 Year Old Program that we are looking at starting next term. A meeting will be held on Friday 27 February at 9am in the school library to discuss how the program will operate. It will run on Tuesdays from 8.45am—3pm. Come along and find out more.

Inflatable Squash Is Back
Nigel will be bringing his inflatable squash courts back to school on Monday 9 March.

Community News

Volunteers Wanted Urgently
Vinnies Collie is looking for energetic Volunteers who enjoy working with people and have a friendly, positive attitude.
Volunteering is a great opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and assist people in need.
To find out more about volunteering with Vinnies Collie visit us in store or call on 9734 5664.

Tennis Notes
Social tennis continues at the tennis club this week. With Club Championships just round the corner, it is a great time to blow out the cobwebs.
Seniors play Saturday from 2pm and on Wednesday from 9am.
All players are welcome.
Juniors coaching is held on Tuesday and Saturday, by Dennis True and his band of young assistants.
Last Saturday saw a number of juniors move from coaching to grass court play, well done!!
Grass court play for juniors is from 9am Saturdays.

Are you wondering whether or not to put up your hand to join the P&F Association/Parent Group? Wondering what the benefit to your child might be?

Significant research over the past 40 years shows clearly and consistently that if you are involved/engaged in your child’s education, that the benefits will include:

- Improved school readiness
- Higher academic achievement
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater ability for your child to self-regulate their behaviour
- Better social skills
- Enhanced student wellbeing
- More consistent completion of homework
- Better transitions to high school and beyond
- More realistic planning for the future
- Better attitude towards school
- Better attendance
- Higher retention rates

GET INVOLVED

Hopefully you will agree that even one of these outcomes is worthwhile attending a meeting for. Come along and help to build a positive, vibrant community at your school and watch your child reap the benefits!
Positive Parenting Programs
Seminars 2015

Wellington Community Health
Collie

For Parents with children ages 3 - 8yrs of age

These short Seminars’s will leave you feeling more confident in dealing positively and effectively with common child behavioural and emotional issues.

You will learn:
Effective parenting strategies
Ways to encourage positive behaviour
Practical, effective ways to prevent or manage common behavioural problems

Seminar 1: The Power of Positive Parenting
Seminar 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children
Seminar 3: Raising Resilient Children

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<td>Collie Hospital- Primary Health Act Room</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6.30 to 8.30pm</td>
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Presented by School & Child Health Nurses Anita Hoddell & Kerry Armstrong. To enquire and to book Please ring C/H 97341454 or 1800 457 949

Babies can attend with parents, unfortunately we do not have a Creche for older children

If it is possible, both parents can attend this evening program. Grand parents might like to come as well

Participants can attend one, two or all three seminars

COST: Free
Tea & Coffee available

Bookings essential for this FREE program
Phone Collie Child Health 97341454 or 1800 457 949 to confirm a booking. Numbers are limited so you are encouraged to register your attendance as soon as possible.