School Improvement

This week Miss Robson and I attended a workshop on a school improvement measurement tool used by the Diocese and developed by a company called Insight SRC. Last year we participated in a trial of the survey tool and though we collected some valuable data and a baseline for improvement in some areas, we largely viewed the trial as administrative, testing the collection and reporting capabilities of the software and getting a feel for how it might be used. Some strategies were put in place to address specific areas of improvement, but overall we were trialling the product to see if it would be a good strategic fit for our lovely school. Now all Diocesan schools will be using the survey tool annually and we have the opportunity to find out what staff, parents and students are thinking and feeling about specific aspects of the school, put strategies in place to address any areas of concern or affirm strengths, and measure our progress from year to year towards our identified improvement goals. A randomly selected representation from the parent body will complete the survey, as well as our senior students and all staff. I want to make it very clear that this is about school improvement, and we should be looking with optimism and enthusiasm at making St Peters an even better school!

Parents and Friends

What a great start to the year for the Parents and Friends team. The first meeting was very well attended, sprinkled with mature and new membership, and lots of ideas and “positivity” - I think that’s a word. Unlike the Principal meetings I attend, willing volunteers were easy to find, and we filled several important roles quite quickly. I look forward to working with these enthusiastic parents, and any new faces who may still like to become involved in the life of the school.

Busy Start

The start of the school year has been very busy for staff and children (and parents are always busy!). Quite a few staff development opportunities or requirements have fallen in the first few weeks, as well as unforeseen sickness and family matters, taking teachers away from their classrooms and leaders away from the school. I don’t think it’s going to slow down anytime soon, it seems to have become the norm in education these days. We are aware of it though, and try to keep things calm and familiar for the students when a member of the teaching team is away. If we can do more to assist in reducing any anxiety for your particular little one(s) please let the school know.

Habits of Mind

You may be hearing from your children that they are “persisting” with a task, or “managing their impulsivity”, or even “thinking about their thinking”. These are learning habits, or Habits of Mind, which help all of us to do the things we need to do just that little bit better. Some people think you either have these habits, or you don’t. Someone might say that “everyone in my class, (or in my workplace), can ‘Persist’, but that’s just not me!” These habits can be learned, and they can be developed or improved. We can learn to be better at ‘sticking at a task’, or ‘using past knowledge to help in new situations’, or ‘finding humour’ in all things (laughing at your mistakes is a great habit to have!). So parents, how are your Habits of Mind going?

Tony Watts - Principal

Congratulations to Tess and Shane Koning on the safe arrival of their gorgeous baby girl "Sarah Bella" ..... A beautiful gift for you both ...
FIRST WEEK OF LENT ....

Did you light a candle?
Did you say a prayer?

Children participated in Ash Wednesday Services in their classrooms this week and were very prayerful receiving the ashes as a symbol of the beginning of the Lenten Journey.

Prayer... Creator Spirit, we thank you for the beautiful world with its amazing variety of animals and plants. May we never forget that we are stewards of Your Creation and that we hold it in trust for future generations. Help us to respect the earth’s rich diversity and to share with each other and all living creatures in responsible ways.

Maree Bennie – Leader of School Evangelisation

Opening School Mass
Tuesday 24th February 2015  9.30am  St Peter's Hall
Our whole school will celebrate this Opening School Mass
This is an important occasion in our school and an opportunity to formally
induct our 2015 school leaders
All welcome ...

Please keep the Burris family in your prayers after the loss of Luke’s (Year 6) grandfather.
Our thoughts and prayers are with family at this sad time.

Calling all Lego fans

Canberra comes to Port Macquarie in Lego format. Don’t miss the Lego exhibition at the Port Macquarie Library from 21st February to 8th April 2015. 11 major buildings from our nation’s capital will be on display, all constructed from Lego pieces. Entry is free.

Beginner Band Rehearsals
Beginner Band Rehearsals begin on Thursday 26th February at 8.00am in the School Hall

SAV E THE DATE
Maytime Markets 2015
Sunday 17th May
“Do you have a great idea” notes went home this week ....

School Banking

The Commonwealth Bank provides a school banking service which the office process. Applications were handed out to Kindergarten this week. If anyone is wishing to open an account please see the office for an application form.

Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day - Monday 2nd March - Child Care available
JUMBOS OOSH
6.30am – 6.00pm
$57.00 per day
CCB Registered
Phone Jules Hender: 0408 024 327
www.jumbosplayland.com.au

Free Worldwide Autism Course – Parents/Carers
Swinburne University of Technology is offering a free six week online course to assist parents, families and carers who live with individuals with Autism. The course is scenario based and aimed at providing a range of solutions. The course starts on Thursday 2nd April – World Autism Day

For more information and to register go to:

Canteen

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>HELP NEEDED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Michelle McIvteen</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Bec Eakin, Sarah Dahlenburg</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Julianne Weatherley, Emily Duffy</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Shannon Wereta, Kirsten Wickham, Joan Mutton</td>
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Everyone should have received their new St Peter’s Canteen Menu. Please take the time to read through the new menu and keep it somewhere handy !!! and place an order ....

Debbie Robins – Canteen Manager
Monday 23rd February
- Zone Winter Sport Trials
- Leadership Meeting
- Library: 1 Red reading group
  3 Red, 4 Red, 4 Blue

Tuesday 24th February
- Beginning School Mass - 9.30am
- AFL – Sydney Swans Visit
- Maytime Market Meeting – 6pm
- Clothing Pool – 8.20-8.45am
- Library: 1 Green reading group
  6 Green, K Green, 2 Green, 3 Blue
- Staff Meeting

Wednesday 25th February
- Kindergarten – Do Not attend
- School Banking
- Library: 1 Blue reading group
  6 Red, K Red, 2 Blue, 5 Red, 5 Green

Thursday 26th February
- Senior Band – 8.00am
- Beginner Band – 8.00am
- Caritas Visit – 2.00pm
- School Sport – Years 3 and 4
- Clothing Pool – 8.20am-8.45am
- Library: K Blue, 2 Red, 3 Green

Friday 27th February
- Assembly and Class Awards – 8.45am
- School Sport – Kinder, Yrs 1, 2, 5 & 6

I'm so fortunate to teach at the mighty St Peter's and secondly, honored to be the Leader of Sport and PE. Reason being, every carnival I attend, it always brings back some wonderful memories of being a primary school student myself at Corpus Christi Primary School. The essence of sport is the opportunity to play and this is always evident in all sport that I am fortunate to witness at St Peter's. It's the students courage, persistence, determination, it's their smiles, their high fives to their peers and it's the parents cheering and encouraging all students who wear the St Peter's uniform who continue to remind me of why I love sport.

>>> Zone Swimming Carnival
Well, what a day at the Zone Swimming Carnival in Macksville on Tuesday. This was one of my greatest sports memories ever while being at St Peter's. We took 32 wonderful students who were not only fantastic swimmers but also who display our St Peter's Rights and Responsibilities in the classroom and on the playground/ sporting fields all day, everyday.

The day kicked off at 7am and the great bus ride commenced. As always, 8 Year olds sit at the back of the bus on the way up to Macksville. The day started very well with our 8 Year old's Joseph Post and Molly Mckee making the Zone Team. From there, Kitty Duffy also swam well in the 50m freestyle and secured her spot on the team. The day just got better and better as the St Peter's swimming juggernaut kept doing their best and took out race after race. Others to make the Zone team included Hayley Kable, Kyle Smith, Jonah Hamer, Taye Power O'Toole, Logan Myers, Tahnee Rich, Jabyn Beddoes and our new swimming sensation Jacinta Mooney.

Our relay teams hit the water as well and our junior girls (Hayley Kable, Hannah Lee, Yasmin Huxley and Jacinta Mooney) finished 2nd. Our junior boys (Ben Hamel, Danny Kable, Noah Thick, Noah Post) led from start to finish. Our senior boys (Luke Mapstone, Jonah Hamer, Jesse Hiatt, Kyle Smith) also led from start to finish.

To cap the day off, Luke Mapstone (Senior Boys Champion), Ben Hamel (Junior Boys Champion) and Kyle Smith (11 Yr Boys Runner Up) swam sensationally and St Peter's finished 2nd overall in the school championship, missing out on first place by just 12 points.

Thank you again to Mr Rich, Mrs McKee, Mrs Beddoes, Mrs Hamer, Mrs Duffy, Mr Hamel for volunteering today and to the many family members who cheered on the mighty St Peter's, thank you.

>>> Winter Zone Trials
Winter Zone Trials are on Monday February 23 at Regional School. The bus will be leaving at 8:30am sharp. A reminder note was given to your child on Thursday as to what to bring on Monday, all students are to wear their full school sports uniform including their school hat. Children will need to stay at school if they're not in this full uniform. A reminder for the following sports that the following items are also required and your child will stay at school if they don't have:
- Rugby- headgear and mouth guard
- League- mouth guard
- Hockey- Shin pads and mouth guard (students can also wear long sport socks to cover the shin guards)
- Soccer- shin pads (students can also wear long sport socks to cover the shin guards)

>>> Go the Swans
Members of the Sydney Swans Football Club will be visiting St Peter's on Tuesday afternoon as part of the AFL Community Engagement Programme.

>>> Up coming sport events:
- Winter Zone Trials- February 23rd
- Winter Dio Trials- March 13
- Diocesan Swimming- March 4th
- Netball All Schools- March 25th
- School Cross Country Carnival- March 6th
- Zone Cross Country- April 1st

Jeff Arkinstall - Leader of Sport
Awards Week 4 – Term 1

Kinder: Olivia Gridley, Jaxon Waser, Keegan Pope, Diarmuid Bartrop, Zoe Mizzi, Blaze Colthorpe, Max Choi, Elijah Geddes, Macey Hender, Charley McGuigan, Maici O’Keefe, Layley Lewis

Year 1: Jackson Barrow, Madeline Poulton, Aaron Walsh, Kalani Hassett, Audrey Blake, Sam Ramke, Zara Lawrence, Jesse Andrews

Year 2: Georgie Healey, Grace Hartley, Ben Goldie, Cooper Long, Ella Ross, Emily Butt, Tobey Pol, Macey Arkinstall, Jasmin Cooper

Year 3: Jessica Harrison-Park, Belinda Ready, Timothy Broderick, Nic Eakin, Kobi Hale, Evie Conway, Alexandra Beattie, Jayden Ramsey, Alira Neale

Year 4: Bohdi Seears, Hannah Jennings, Marney Noonan, Jesse Blain, Angele Field, Tahnee Galvin

Year 5: Jayde Washington, Ryan Binskin, Harry Abell, Jabyn Beddoe, Juliana Soto, Koddy Aitken

Year 6: Callum McElroy, Jessica Hamel, Hugh Penson, Molly Fisher, Thomas Johnson, Isabella Proud

Kyle Smith – 11 Yr Boys Runner Up
Ben Hamel - Junior Boys Champion
Luke Mapstone – Senior Boys Champion

Kai Morgan, Ben Hamel, Noah Thick, Noah Post

St Peter’s Zone Swimming Team

Hayley Kable, Yasmin Huxley

The St Peter’s “TEAM”

Ready Set Go …..Yasmin Huxley

Noah Post, Danny Kable, Ben Hamel, Noah Thick
DAD AND MUM
HAVE YOU GOT A GREAT IDEA?

On Sunday 17th May, there is going to be a fantastic event called
“Maytime Markets” at our school.

A day full of fun activities and stalls to raise money for our school, to provide extra stuff for us, the kids, who are so lucky to learn at St Peter’s.

We would love to hear all about your great NEW ideas and anyone wishing to be a Coordinator of a stall will be greatly appreciated.

🤔 Can you come to a meeting to share your bright ideas:
Tuesday 24th February in the staffroom at 6.00pm.

OR

🤔 Can you email or phone Kim Goldie with your cool ideas for stalls and activities that we would love:

Email: kim.goldie@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0417 407 014

Any help no matter how big or small will make a difference!

2015 – St Peter’s
BEST Maytime Markets!
CHOOSE FROM EITHER DATE AND VENUE:

**Southern Retreat** - SDA Convention Centre, 250 Grassy Head Rd Stuarts Point - March 28/29

**Northern Retreat** - Tyalgum Ridge Retreat, 783 Tyalgum Creek Rd - October 24/25

**Join us for the 2015 Family Retreat**

**Registration for Southern Retreat due by 13th March**
on line at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vlQ6nNMy77T405hHkxq7tHMQb5Niscml1u3jTxg/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vlQ6nNMy77T405hHkxq7tHMQb5Niscml1u3jTxg/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link)
or email: parents@ism.catholic.edu.au

- **Evening activities**
- **Games for kids**
- **Relax and enjoy quality family time and activities**
- **Meet and connect with other families**
- Fr Gerald O'Collins as Spiritual Director
- Meeting you where you are at on your faith journey
- Mass, reconciliation, prayer

**All costs covered by:**

**DIocese of Lismore**
Catholic Schools
Parent Assembly
Parents in Partnership

**For more information please contact your**
Parish School Parent Representative or your Parent Assembly Cluster Organisers:

- **Peta Rourke:** Hastings Macleay (m) 0400420614
- **Paul Edgar:** Clarence (m) 0427118122
- **Jo Kelly:** Richmond (m) 0407706454
- **Leanne Robbins:** Tweed (m) 0407143975