Dear Community

Our school community celebrated a wonderful End of Year Liturgy on Tuesday with Fr Peter, students, family, staff and parish members present. Our St Bede’s Church was almost full as we acknowledged another school year, recognised the efforts of the current Year 6 leaders and formally welcomed current Year 5 students to their leadership roles at St Bede’s for 2016. This ceremony is always a special occasion however the personal reflections by the current leaders on their personal Beatitudes was a wonderful inclusion this year.

We have been blessed by the qualities displayed by our senior students this year and as always, I know our current Year 5 will rise to the occasion in 2016. It is just one of the many special qualities that St Bede’s School has that I will greatly miss. Thank you to Mrs Hannaford and Mrs Monkhouse for all the efforts and preparation at such a busy time of year. I would also like to thank all those who may not have a senior student yet attended the liturgy to celebrate another school year. This is a simple yet powerful way to show you support the school and everything we try to do for your child.

Following the liturgy each year we hold the world famous ‘Mini Fete’ coordinated by Mrs Hannaford and the Year 5/6 class. This year money raised will be donated to Home in Queanbeyan. Year 6 students Declan, Jorja and Miah, Br. Brian and I visited Home and shared a meal last Thursday with Fr Peter and those who call Home home. Home is a community initiative providing a loving place for nineteen men and women with enduring mental illness who cannot live independently, or may be at risk of homelessness. Please visit the website http://www.homeinqueanbeyan.org/ to know more about this wonderful place. The students thought…..

“Fr. Peter wants it to be like a home. There is no sign outside saying ‘Home’ so it looks just like any other block of units. It is not a facility, it is home.” Jorja

“Father Peter has a picture of Jesus washing St Peter’s feet. It shows that Jesus was happy to serve others.” Declan

“The residents of Home have a cooked meal prepared each day for them. On five days each week, Home is opened to the community for lunch. This is when the homeless or people in need are able to come and share a meal.” Miah
This Sunday is the start of Advent. We often miss Advent’s power because December is full of Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, with all its true meaning. The first and most important thing we can do to prepare our children for Advent is to prepare ourselves first. After all, if we are impatient and crabby - pressured by all the busyness of this season - we won’t be very good at teaching our children anything about quiet, expectant waiting. I am sure many of you have spoken about putting up your Christmas decorations, purchasing gifts for family and friends, planning gatherings at your house or someone else’s at Christmas time or perhaps holidays away? You may have asked your children to write Santa a letter asking for presents? I wonder........Have you spoken to your children at all about the birth of Jesus on Christmas day and the wonderful story of the Nativity? Wouldn’t it be nice if when we speak of Christmas that the birth of Jesus is mentioned before the glitter and madness of ‘the silly season’? I hope that over the coming weeks, some time at home can be dedicated to the real meaning of Christmas. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Last week I announced the class structures and teachers for 2016. I would also like to include all staff and their various roles. We have gained extra funding to support curriculum development and teaching and learning at St Bede’s. This is in the form of an extra day staffing each fortnight. Mr Laffan will be released from class with Ms Hillsdon teaching Year 2 every second Thursday. This will allow consistency for the class in having the same two teachers.

Mrs Danielle Clarke has decided to take 12 months away from teaching to travel ‘around the block’ with Paul, Annebel and Ellie. I am very envious of this trip and wish Danielle and family a wonderful family holiday around this beautiful country. Thank you for your efforts in Year 2 and 5/6 this year.

The new Principal will be required to teach one day per week and at this stage we are unsure if the successful applicant will teach PE. Sport Uniform days will be announced as soon as possible for the 2016 year. Applications for the role of Principal at St Bede’s closed yesterday. I would estimate we should know more in the next two weeks

The Year 3/4 and Year 4/5 class lists have not been finalised however decisions will be based on a number of factors. Parents are welcome to write a letter addressed to me if they have any concerns or questions regarding these groupings however the final decision will ultimately be mine. Parent input however will certainly be considered. Parents are not able to nominate teachers. Please ensure all letters regarding the Yr 3/4 and 4/5 classes reach me by tomorrow, Friday 27 November.

Yours in Christ
Gerard

| Office Manager | Mrs Lara Hewitt | 8:30 am – 4:00pm [9 days per f/n] |
| Learning Support Assistant | Ms Michelle Bartley | 9:00am – 3:00pm |
| Assistant Principal | Mr Julian Laffan | Wednesday release from class |
| Religious Education Coordinator | Mrs Ann Monkhouse | Thursday release from class |
| Teacher Librarian | Mrs Victoria McGrath | Monday/Tuesday |
| Drama & Numeracy Intervention | Ms Emma Hillsdon | Monday/Tuesday |
| Learning Support Teacher | Mrs Katie Tooth | Tuesday/Wednesday |

Kindergarten | Mrs Ann Monkhouse and Mrs Katie Tooth [1 day-Thursday] |
Year One | Mrs Kym Godwin |
Year Two | Mr Julian Laffan and Ms Emma Hillsdon [1 day-Wed] |
Year Three/Four | Ms Rebecca Edwards |
Year Four/Five | Miss Alicia Ernst |
Year Six | Mrs Germaine Hannaford [5 days] |

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| Kinder | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5/6 |
| Charlie Yeudall | Patrick Clarke | Madeleine Goode | Regan Hindmarsh | Noah Hilhorst | Alice Tooth |
| Hero Bonin | Jeremy Guinane | Cooper Griggs | William Mortimer | Etienne Bonin | Darcy Lyons |
| Carter Khouzame | | | | Tara Norris |
Hatred won’t stop me patting the dog

By Fr. Peter Day

New York, London, Bali, Madrid, Israel, Beirut, Egypt, Nigeria, Sydney, Paris:
on and on it goes, the list of nations and cities left bereft
after yet another act of terror.
It puts one’s inner-being out of whack; could even threaten
to derail one’s sense of humanity.
Where to from here in the face of such deep seated hatred and barbarity?
Where to from here as the canopy of powerlessness descends?
The dog’s snoring in the sun next to my courtyard flyscreen …
Must remember to keep patting him.
Must remember to keep hugging those I love.
Must remember to keep washing the dishes.
Must remember to keep my head down at golf.
Must remember to keep in mind that people are worth it.
Must remember to sit quietly with the Beloved.
Must remember not to let daily acts of terror undermine simple daily acts – simple daily acts of love.

Dear Children and Parents,

The teachers have been investigating the ACER School Improvement Tool which is a great resource to strategically direct our school improvement. We are working hard as a team to deliver the best quality teaching and learning for your children. This tool informs our school reflection and review process and enables us to analyse how we can work together as a staff and inform parents to continue to develop our school.

This combined with the Principles of Pedagogy (in last weeks newsletter) provide scaffolds for staff to implement the curriculum in meaningful and engaging ways.

Look out for parent information sessions in Term 1 to assist you in the learning journey with your child. There will be a literacy session, a cyber safety workshop and the parent information night.

Your involvement in your child’s learning is a key to their success. We look forward to working with you in 2016.

Mr Galvin's farewell event is attached as a separate note and we hope you can all attend. All welcome.

All the best for a peaceful time as we begin the season of Advent.

Julian
Assistant Principal
K-3 Water Awareness

K-3 Water Awareness starts next Monday!!!  How will you ensure you remember to pack your child’s swim gear and $4 pool entry [or season pass]?  Why not put a reminder in your smart phone or child’s iPad for Sunday afternoon?  Due to the number of students who will forget, we are unable to make calls to parents on Monday morning sadly.

Single Entry with a school group is $4.00 and must be paid on the day unless you have a season pass. You are asked to pay daily to your class teacher or provide Season Pool Pass Number to your child’s teacher if you have not already done so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Monday 30/11</th>
<th>Wednesday 2/12</th>
<th>Thursday 3/12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Monday 7/12</td>
<td>Wednesday 9/12</td>
<td>Extra clothes required for water safety lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Monday 14/12</td>
<td>Water Fun Day K-6</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

11:30 Kindergarten change into swimmers and walk to pool  
12:00 Kinder lesson  
12:30 Year 1 lesson  
Lunch  
2:00 Year 2 and 3 lessons

Will your child have a sibling attending an archdiocesan secondary College in 2016?
If so you may be eligible for a discount on the CE Tuition fee, please speak with Lara. Application forms are available at the office.

Dear Parents and Children,

Please mark Tuesday the 15th of December to attend the Thank You Morning Tea followed by a ‘Big Bonza Barbeque’ to farewell Mr Galvin in true Braidwood style.
There will be a sausage sandwich provided for all the children and a BBQ and salad for the grown ups.
We are asking families to provide something to share. **K-2 families are asked to bring a slice/cake and classes 3-6 a salad if attending.** Steak, bread and sausages will be provided.
The BBQ will follow on from the Morning Tea with proceedings beginning at 11.30 am and an early lunch from 12pm.
We look forward to seeing you there,

Julian

NOTES HOME THIS WEEK

**Year 2—6 Tennis Group**  
Santa hats can be worn weeks 10 and 11 (From December 7—16).
Normal school hats will also be needed as well.

**Bus Note**
CatholicCare Canberra Goulburn are pleased to announce the expansion of services to their CHOICES program. They have launched Counselling & Therapy Services can be provided to children and adults.

For more information contact 1800 068 698
Or email choices@catholiccare.cg.org.au

Happy Birthday: Jonah, Cooper & Fergus

“The Fabric of Braidwood” Photo Competition
The Braidwood Times and the Braidwood community Bank will be holding “The Fabric of Braidwood” photo competition in conjunction with the Festival of Braidwood and the 21st Airing of the Quilts. The competition will be held on Saturday November 28, with three categories:

1. 14 and under photo—illustration “The Fabric of Braidwood”
2. 15 and over photo—illustrating “The Fabric of Braidwood”
3. Airing of the Quilts Photo

1st prize in each category is a $200 Braidwood Community Bank account. For more information or for an entry form please see Lara in the office the Bendigo Bank.

You’re invited to the launch of Robyn Goodwin’s new book—Bella Blue Heeler’s Wacky Dream.
All library books are due back by week 9 please. The first class to have all their library books back will have the library to themselves at lunchtime on Wednesday in Week 10.

Don’t forget to read in the holidays!!!!

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015

Congratulations to the 61 students at St Bede’s for completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge this year. Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two students completed the challenge in Library lessons or at home. All students receive a certificate and four of these students will receive a special certificate for participating in the challenge for four years. Wonderful effort!!!

Congratulations to all these students. Great to see so many students engaging in and enjoying the love of literature.

Happy reading!!!

Mrs McGrath

**Gundillion Community Hall Christmas Party**

When: Saturday December 19
Time: Starts 1.30pm with Santa arriving @4:00 pm & BBQ from 5:00 pm—Please bring a plate (cakes, Slices Etc…)
Cost: $6.00 per person
Contact: Di Izzard on 48475095 with name of children 10 years and under by Monday 30 November.
Enquiries: Jason & Janine Hindmarsh 0428 471 160
Chauntelle Hindmarsh 0427 637 492
Games for the children—raffle and competitions for young and old.

**Library News**

**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015**

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Mrs McGrath

**Canteen Roster—Term 4—2015**

Please consider placing your name on the roster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Nov. 15</td>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Mira</td>
<td>Sarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Dec. 15</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Dec 15</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
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<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
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