



St Cecilia's Catholic School

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22nd June, 2021

Dear Parents,

Just like that, we approach the conclusion of the first half of the school year. Another term down and the school has managed to undertake several events which, earlier in the year, seemed not to be possible. We have been able to welcome back families to assemblies; had our belated Mother's Day breakfast and liturgy; we hosted our Open Day; years 3&5 sat NAPLAN; year six attended the St Peter's Taster Day and had their Canberra excursion; we celebrated our 200 years of Catholic Education; gathered as a whole school in the hall for the first time during Reconciliation Week to listen to an Indigenous elder talk to the children; we went to Gala Days; enrolment interviews and screeners have been had; we launched our St Cecilia's Bright Beginnings playgroup; had face to face parent/teacher interviews, and most recently hosted our first Parents in Partnership meeting which had a great turnout.

It always amazes me at the number of events and activities we manage to squeeze into a school term. It has been a busy and productive term, and it is indeed a privilege to be involved in an environment such as this.

Last week most families attended their child's parent/teacher interviews. Whilst the teachers have already completed many meetings, they still have some finishing up with some postponed meetings this week. I want to acknowledge all the hard work that our amazing teachers have done in preparing for these meetings and the professional way they have conducted them. At St Cecilia's we value our connection to community and the strength it brings to our supportive and successful learning environment. Strong communication between parents and teachers is fundamental to this partnership and to building a sense of community between home and school.



Staff Development Days

A reminder that the last day of this term and the first day of next term are staff development days. This coming Friday 25th June, our staff will join with the other 44 Catholic Schools of Broken Bay, in the second of our System Development Days. Friday will see schools join to further the development of our system wide strategy as we move toward our vision for school and system improvement, 'Towards 2025'.

Topics on the agenda include keynote speaker Mark McCrindle discussing his recent research (link attached), ['The Future of Education 2020'](#) which helps educators and parents further understand the students of today. Our Director of Schools, Danny Casey will attempt to align 'the Towards 2025' system strategy with some of the key points of Marks work.

First Day Back of Term Three

The first day back of term three will be another Staff Development Day which will be dedicated to a staff Spirituality Day. The school will be closed on that day and no staff on the school grounds as the day will be taking place off the premises.

Parents in Partnership

Thank you to all the parents who attended our first Parents in Partnership session on Wednesday in the library, last week. As previously mentioned, we had a great turnout with some informative and robust discussion. There were some families who registered their attendance for the encore 5pm Zoom, however I had lost my voice last week and the Zoom meeting was postponed to tomorrow at 2pm. Anyone who registered for the 5pm Zoom was notified of the rescheduled date and time. There are a few parents attending the postponed meeting tomorrow, which will just be a repeat of last Wednesday's meeting. If you were unable to attend last week and wish to attend tomorrow, please just email the office at scw@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Final Thanks

I wanted to say a big thank you to all the families for your many contributions to the school this term, ensuring that we remain a school of choice in the area. This is evident in the calibre and number of new applicants I have interviewed recently, who wish to join our St Cecilia's family just based on word of mouth.

I would also like to thank our staff for consistently going above and beyond in their work to support our children and families. Last, but not least, a huge thank you to our children who inspire us daily with their resilience, commitment, and general awesomeness.

I wish all members of the St. Cecilia's community a restful, safe, and peaceful break with your families.

Happy holidays everyone!

Marta Chylewska
(Principal)

From the FLO

Dear Parents,

Last Tuesday I had the privilege of accompanying some of our year five students to Bundilla Preschool for International Buddy Day where they became a buddy for the morning with a pre-schooler. I cannot commend them highly enough. They were all just beautiful with the children. The teachers commented that some littlies were very shy or had only just started at the preschool and our children were so respectful and caring. They also enjoyed having a lovely morning tea with the children.

We had our second playgroup last Thursday and fun was had by all. Our year five students again proved what wonderful buddies they are going to be next year.

Do you agree with Michael Grose from Parenting Ideas about first-born children?
<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog/why-first-borns-rule-the-roost/>

I sincerely hope that you all have a wonderful holiday and a good break. Fingers crossed for any of us who plan to travel interstate.

Bernadette Daniel
Family Liaison Officer

From the REC

Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus Liturgy

On Friday, 11th June, Year 3 led a beautiful Sacred Heart of Jesus liturgy where we reflected on how the heart of Jesus' is a symbol of "*God's boundless and passionate love for mankind*". Thank you to the students and teachers for preparing this liturgy. It was lovely to see the students set up the sacred space independently and organise themselves on the day. Well done Year 3!



NAIDOC Mass



NAIDOC MASS

*Parents and Carers are invited to
join us in prayer to celebrate
NAIDOC Week on
Wednesday, 23rd of June, at 10:00am,
School Hall*

Term 3 Celebrations

- **Friday, 30th July**, Grandparents Liturgy at 8:45am, Assembly Area
- **Monday, 9th August**, Mary MacKillop Liturgy at 8:45am, Assembly Area
- **Friday, 13th August**, Feast of the Assumption Mass at 10am, School Hall
- **Thursday, 2nd September**, Father's Day Breakfast & Liturgy at 8am, Assembly Area



Term 4 Celebrations

- **Tuesday, 7th December**, Christmas Concert, time to be confirmed
- **Wednesday, 8th December**, Year 6 Graduation Mass at 5pm
- **Monday, 13th December**, End of Year Mass at 10am

God Bless

Jamie Dowling
Religious Education Coordinator

Canteen News

Dear Parents,

Final Canteen Day for this term is Wednesday 23 June

Year 5 and 6 children with outstanding lunch orders from last Friday (Soccer Gala Day) will receive their lunch orders this Wednesday.

Canteen resumes Wednesday 14 July next term

Happy Holidays!

Catherine Berry
Canteen Manager

