Dear Parents,

ROYAL COMMISSION

There has been extensive media coverage of the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in recent times given the focus of the Commission on a case study from a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Toowoomba. Brisbane Catholic Education does not have oversight of Catholic schools in that diocese, but the resurfacing of this case may again undermine the confidence of the broader community to the safety of students in Catholic schools generally.

The hearings uncovered further disturbing information about the way in which the Church has so poorly handled allegations of sexual abuse against children. We can only begin to imagine the suffering of those children and the impact on their families. We offer our most sincere apologies, again, for what occurred and reiterate our absolute determination to do all we can to ensure that children and young people are safe in our schools and that crimes like this do not happen again.

Please be assured that our school, along with all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, has in place clear policies and procedures for dealing with all allegations of sexual abuse, including those not related to a school setting. These policies and procedures are available to all parents and are published on the Brisbane Catholic Education website.

Parents will receive in the mail a letter from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, and Pam Betts, Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, to assure parents of our continued commitment to ensuring our Catholic schools are safe for your children. If you do not receive a copy of the letter, please contact the school office and we will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

LEADERSHIP CEREMONY AND DAY

Last Friday, we inducted our 2014 School Captains, House Captains and Leaders from Year 6 and Year 7 in a moving ceremony. The students were presented with their Leadership shirts, and badges. It was wonderful to see so many parents and family members present to support these young people. I hope this support from both school and home continues all year. I thank Mrs Christine Turner for being our guest speaker for this year where the theme is “Climb Every Mountain, Ford Every Stream, Follow Every Rainbow, Till You Find Your Dream”.

The ceremony was followed by a leadership day, full of leadership activities for the Yr 6 and Yr 7 students. Thank you to Mrs Hogan and Mr O’Connell for their preparation and input into this day. Have a Pancake Tuesday!

REFLECTION

I've learned that things change, People change, and it doesn't mean you forget the past Or try to cover it up. It simply means you move on and treasure the memories.
Alicia Boxer
APRE NEWS
This week our swimming timetable has been adjusted to accommodate the school attending Ash Wednesday mass at 9am. Please note that the lessons will only be 30 minutes to ensure we all have a lesson this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Time</th>
<th>Class to Pool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30am – 11am</td>
<td>Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am – 11.30am</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am – 12pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm – 12.30pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm – 1pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm – 1.30pm</td>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30pm – 2pm</td>
<td>Year 6/7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ash Wednesday – 5th March
This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. We will be participating in the parish mass which is being held at 9am and open this invitation to anyone who can join us. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

The ashes come from a previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burned, the ashes collected and then crushed into a fine, sooty powder and placed into bowls. Ashes are an ominous sign, and we use them on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come.

Supporting Caritas
This week, all students will receive a mission collection box to take home. Please talk to your child about what it means to help those less fortunate them themselves. We ask you to collect loose change as a family in these collection boxes to help support the great work Caritas does around the world.

These boxes are required to be returned to school to the office by Monday, 31st March, 2014. If you can, please help to make a difference in a life today!

Inter-School Sport
This year our school has only nominated for the sports of hockey and netball for Years 5 – 7. The reason for this is that we do not have an oval to offer for soccer and we were finding that our Year 4 students were at an unfair advantage when competing against other schools (as most school only nominate Years 5 – 7). All students will travel to and from the venue via bus and will be under the supervision of the teachers – Mr. Dale O’Connell (Hockey) and Mrs. Louise Steed (Netball).

The playing dates for hockey are:
14th, 21st & 28th March
2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th May
6th, 13th & 20th June

The playing dates for netball are (the season is shorter due to courts being resurfaced):
2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th May
6th, 13th & 20th June

If you have any questions regarding sport please see either Mr. O’Connell or Mrs. Steed.

Fassifern & Ipswich District Trial Information
As we have limited space in our newsletter each week we are unable to advertise every sporting trial that is offered to students. Please find all trial notices on the window of the administration building. If you require forms please see the office or Mrs. Hogan. Remember no forms = no trial.

Reflection
It is not only amidst our joys and hopes but also in our grief and anguish,

Lord, that you are with us. Sustain us today in your love.

Clare Hogan
APRE

TERM 1 FEES
DUE 28TH MARCH

Happy Birthday
Abby Canning
Lataya Sullivan
Lachlan New
Libby Turner

Malakai Bonner
James Trewick
Ryan Lenihan

Best wishes for your special day!
SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

Congratulations to our students who commenced the journey last Sunday morning towards the reception of First Communion and Confirmation and full membership in the Catholic Church. These children will be confirmed on 29th May at St Mary’s Church in Ipswich. They will make their First Communion during 8am Mass at St Brigid’s on 1st June. You are asked to include these children in your prayers during this preparation time:- Riley McGuire, Taylor Smith, Rachael McNamara, Semeel Webster, Mikayla Lenihan, Gretta Price and Bridie Purkis.

INCIDENT on WALK TO SWIMMING

Last Wednesday, there was an incident on the rail tracks whilst a class was walking to the swimming pool. A full complaint has been lodged with Qld Rail who have commenced an investigation. I will keep you informed of the report. I have been trying hard to get a mini bus to transport our students in Prep, Yr 1 and Yr 2 to the pool each week. Unfortunately, the children will still need to walk until this can be arranged.

ASSEMBLY on FRIDAY

There will be a school assembly on Friday at 8.30am in Mercy Hall as there is no First Friday Mass. All families are invited to attend.

P&F MEETING TONIGHT

I look forward to seeing many parents present at our P&F Meeting and our AGM tonight in the Staff Room at 7pm. New members always bring new ideas and help share the load so please consider becoming part of this vital committee for our school.

BOARD MEETING

The first Board Meeting for the year will be held next Monday, 10th March at 3.30pm. in the meeting room in the office. We would be happy to welcome new members. Please contact Mrs Olsen if you are interested.

WEB SITE

Over the next couple of months, we will be working on updating and improving our school web site. There may be documents/policies/forms that parents would like to see on this site. Could you please ring the office or email me at: solsen@bne.catholic.edu.au if you think something is worth including. We value your input and would like to include anything that parents could easily access.

VISIT BY FR NEV YUNN

Fr Nev from the Ipswich Parish (including Rosewood) will be visiting our school on Thursday to greet and meet the children. We look forward to hearing his story and to sharing ours with him. Welcome Fr Nev.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our individual and class photos will be taken on Friday, 28th March. Please mark this date in your calendar.

COMMUNITY DOLLARS

The P & F have joined the Drakes Supermarkets “Community Dollars Program”. For every dollar spent at a Qld Drakes Supermarket, one cent will be accredited to our P & F. Attached please find 2 key tags for each family, these need to be swiped each time you make a purchase at Drakes. (Tobacco & gift cards are excluded from this program). Additional tags can be collected at the office. If you do not want to participate please return tags for other families to use.

Drakes distribute monies biannually via cheque in May & November.

This is a great way to earn money for the school. For example, we have 107 families, if we all spent just $2,000 a year buying groceries that amounts to $2,140 in funds for St Brigid’s school. Thanks for supporting Drakes to enable them to support us.

Deborah Trewick

LOLLY DRIVE REMINDER

PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORMS BY THIS FRIDAY 7TH MARCH.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, 4th Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;F AGM Meeting at 7pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 5th Mar</td>
<td>Ash Wed, Mass 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 7th Mar</td>
<td>Assembly 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 14th Mar</td>
<td>Interschool sports Assembly at 8.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 17th Mar</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day liturgy Free dress Assembly Interschool sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 21st Mar</td>
<td>Parent/teacher interviews Parent/teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Mar - 4th Apr</td>
<td>Prep photos in QT Prep photos in QT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 29th Mar</td>
<td>School photos BUSH DANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 4th Apr</td>
<td>Term 1 ends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TUCKSHOP MENU

Pizzas; Ham, cheese & pineapple $2.50
Ham, cheese & tomato $2.50
Ham & cheese $2.30
Cheese $2

Cupcakes $1
Jelly cups 50c
Jelly & fruit cups $1
Ice blocks $1.30 - $2.50

Water $1
Juice popper $1
Milo & milk $1

Lunch ONLY Special $3.50

Pasta Bolognese

QT IPAD TOKENS

Don’t forget to bring in tokens from “The Queensland Times” to win a set of ten ipads for St Brigid’s. Tokens appear daily in the paper. Competition Closes 31st March.