Religious Education Matters
Lent: A time for Reconciliation

This week, Year 6 have began their Lenten unit which discusses the many temptations we have as humans and ways we can continue to trust and follow God’s pathway. We have reflected on what trust means to us in our everyday life. We began our unit by using an activity where we place absolute trust in another class member to catch us before we fall. When we engaged in this lesson, we discovered that trust includes a range of other attributes such as having courage, being honest with others and upholding our faith in God. Here are our reflections about trust…

What Is Trust?
Trust means you have belief and reliability on someone in a time of need. For example, if you want a friend to keep a secret so you have faith and or trust in them not to tell anyone.
Trust needs to include in a strong relationship with confidence and having respect for another person. As Catholics we place all our faith and trust in God and always respect our relationship with Him as well as family and friends.
Through prayer we can continue to communicate with God and carry out our beliefs.
By Samson, Mariah and Mikaylla

What is Trust?
Trust is to have the ability to have faith in one another as much as you have in God. Trust is also to have a firm belief in the reliability of a friend or family member. It is also important to be honest and truthful to the person who trusts you. This is important; as it will affect the way your friends and family trust you. Jesus has an equal amount of trust in everyone and he believes that everyone can try their best to achieve greatness.
By Sam, Jocelyn and Nelwin

What is Trust?
Trust is when you rely on someone. You have faith in them and you feel comfortable around them. It is the firm belief in reliability, truth or ability of someone, or something. It is also when you have a strong relationship with someone. For example, a parent trusts their teenage children to borrow their car. We trust in God as we live our lives.
By Jasmine, Joey & John
We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:
Kindy Mimsa Limbu-Walung & Joel Lum
Year 1 Tiana Nakhoul & Evana El Katrib
Year 2 Kayleen Davis & Rylan Roebeck
Year 3 Rachael Maatouk & Yorgo Nassif
Year 4 Sindy Fasita & Michael Grace
Year 5 Larissa El Hayek & Mathiang Mathiang
Year 6 Aisha Seasay & Charlotte Edwards

Principal’s Message

Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival
On Tuesday our swimming squad competed at the Cumberland Zone swimming carnival. I wish to thank the many parents who attended the carnival to cheer on our great swimmers. Special thanks to Mrs Pozar and Mrs Ardus who supervised the children at the carnival. Well done to our great swimmers!!

Year 6 Student Leaders Commissioning Ceremony
Year 6 will be commissioned as Student Leaders on Friday at 2.15pm in our Parish Hall. Our parents and friends are very welcome to join us for this very special ceremony.

MAI analysis
Our teachers have begun to analyse our MAI data for each student. The data has indicated that there has been improvement across most class groups. The teachers will be working closely with our Teacher Educator to continue to unpack individual student data and plan learning pathways for our students to continue the great learning that is evident at Holy Family.

Parent Representative Group Meeting
Please join us for our Parent Representative Group meeting on Thursday the 10th of March at 9.15 in the Parish Hall.
As usual we will have our Parent Learning walk to begin the meeting. For parents who have not experienced a Learning walk it is a great way for parents to witness the great learning happening in each class. Parents walk around the room and talk with the students asking them about what they are learning. Following the walk, parents gather to ask clarifying questions about what they saw and they also have an opportunity to discuss the learning agenda for 2016.
At 9.45am the Parent Representative Group Meeting will commence and conclude at 10.30am. If you would like to raise an issue at this meeting, please contact the office and speak with Mrs Zammit to register your issue. Only issues placed on the agenda prior to the meeting will be discussed at the meeting.

A date for your Diary Catholic Schools week
Liturgy, Open Classrooms and Whole School Picnic
On Monday the 7th of March we will be celebrating the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. On Monday morning we will begin the day with a Liturgy in the playground followed by open classrooms and a picnic on the school grounds with your children. The morning activities will conclude at 12.00. Normal lessons will begin for the children at 12 noon.

School Photos
School Photos will take place on Tuesday the 8th of March
Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform by this day.
Do you know a child who likes telling stories? Can spin a good yarn?

The 2016 NSW Storytelling Competition for students in Years 5 & 6 is now open!

This is the 7th year the competition is being hosted by the Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc www.storytellersnsw.org.au

FREE ENTRY

What to submit.
A video storytelling performance of a well crafted original story that takes between 2 and 6 minutes to tell.

Students are encouraged to tell the story in their own words to capture the essence of the story rather than learn the story word for word. For this competition we are not accepting poetry or rhymed stories.

Conditions of entry
- Storytellers may be filmed performing either in front of a live audience or directly to the camera
- Filming should show the performer in a full body or half body shot so that the arms and hands are visible
- Stories are to be told, not read
- The story is to be no longer than 6 minutes
- Consideration should be given to pace and tone of voice, expression and gesture

Deadline
- All entries must be postmarked by Friday 6th May 2016 or earlier

Judging
- The quality of the performance will be judged, not the quality of the video or filming technique
- Finalists will be notified by 20th May 2016
- Finalists will be invited to present their story at the Weaving Stories Together - Sydney International Storytelling Conference, Sunday afternoon family concert May 29th 2016
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation via email.

Prizes for the competition:
1st place $150, 2nd place $100, 3rd place - $50
Any interested students should submit their entries to me on a USB drive by the end of Week 1 of Term 2. I will organise submission of all entries.

**The impact of dads reading to children**

The following is an extract from an interview with Dr Elisabeth Duursma, Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Literacy at The University of Wollongong.

*They [fathers] have very different ways of interacting around the book. Mums are what I call kind of 'teachers' - they ask a lot of questions about the book, objects in the book, labelling ... How many apples are there? What are the colours of this animal? What sound does he make?*

*Dads use far more abstract language, which we know is really good for children's vocabulary development. For example, in one of the books they talked about a ladder and lots of the dads said: 'Oh, remember that time that I used a ladder to paint the house (or for work)?' Or even little things, in one of the books they talked about a spider and one of the dads said: 'Remember that spider we had in the bathroom? Daddy was a little afraid and had to call mummy to get the spider'. Mums didn't do any of that.*

*I think one of the reasons is, probably, dads are not used to reading very often, so they use a lot of different techniques to engage the child and one of them is probably relating things to the child's own life. But, on the other hand, they used a lot of very different language, more abstract, more challenging to children - so I think that might be one of the reasons why it had such a big impact on children's language and cognitive development. It was really challenging for them [the children] to read with their fathers.*

*I strongly recommend that dads read. A lot of dads don't realise how important it is, what they are doing. They often say 'Oh, the mum is doing all the work, what I do doesn't really matter.' I actually found that's not the case, they each have their unique contributions. I think mums may be doing kind of the 'groundwork' on the book but what dads do ... even when you observe them, you can see they do totally different things.*


**Maths Minds!**

In the newsletter each week, you will find a warm up activity or brain teaser that you could do with your child.

**Grab Guess and Count**

Ask your child to grab a handful of objects (pasta, pegs, smarties etc). They estimate (guess) how many they have grabbed. Your child can then arrange them in the most efficient way to count them.

If they count by 1s, (1, 2, 3, 4 etc) ask them is there another way you can count (by 2s, 5s, 10s for younger children, 3s, 4s, 7s, for the older children).
Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the students that represented the school for 2016.

School Fees

Please note that ALL statements have now been mailed. 

*Any school fee payment arrangement made in 2015 does not automatically continue.*

This also includes those families that have automatic payments deducted from Centrelink. Please contact the office to make an appointment as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in paying school fees an appointment will need to be made.

*Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.*

Thank you.
Calendar

February

Friday 19th Feb  
2:15pm Student Leaders Ceremony

Thursday 25th Feb  
Diocesan Swimming Blacktown Pools

Friday 26th Feb  
2:15pm Assembly Yr 2 4 6

Birthday Wishes!
Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week
Salesi Niulala, Michael Grace, Marie-Jo Yaacoub, Alvin Lee & Alvin Khanal,

Diocesan and Community News

Delany College
Grimwood Street, Granville 9637 7788
Primary boys & girls and their parents are warmly invited to our
OPEN DAY
Tuesday, 8 March 2016
3:00pm - 5:30pm

catholic  contemporary  connected

Penrith Observatory
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

ASTRONOMY NIGHT — Saturday 27 February 2016 (8.00 pm – 10.00 pm) IS ANY-ONE OUT THERE?
Come along and listen to Dr Ain De Horta’s talk on the hunt for ET. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: $18 adult, $12 child/concession and $50 family
Bookings are essential: To book and pay for tickets visit westernsydney.edu.au/observatory

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services’ Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not. **Next gathering:** 16th March. **Please note change of Venue:** Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, 1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** $5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services “Stepping Beyond” Support Group is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering:** 23rd February **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. **Cost:** $5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

PLAY GROUP

Every Tuesday Between 9-11:30am play group is run at Holy Family Primary

All welcome!

Please bring your toddlers & preschool children along for some great fun, play & learning.