NEWSLETTER NO: 33 / TERM 4

November 8, 2016

Dear Parents, students and friends of St. Brigid’s,

There is a general feeling in the air regarding two things:

- We are all beginning to crave some regular warm weather - a day filled with sunshine!!! Perhaps this week will our lucky week!
- Watching the news on Sunday night, one story covered the opening of the Myer Christmas windows - a very salient reminder that the year is running away from us very quickly and signals that the end of the year with all its extra activity is almost upon us.

We were most fortunate however with the weather on Thursday for the annual running of the St. Brigid’s Cup and what a great event it was. In front of a small but enthusiastic crowd in the grandstand, it was Year 5/6 S who were the eventual winners of the event.

Congratulations to all entrants in the Fashions on the Field - once again everyone really got into the spirit of the day with lots of creativity and thought put into what was worn.

My award for the day would be Tom Connally's very clever outfit. Tom came as a bookmaker with the name M. T. Pockets!

Congratulations to the following children who were chosen as the Fashions on the Field winners for the day:

- Prep/1M: Ava Conroy, Joel Card.
- Prep/1A: Olivia Meehan, Henry Freemantle.
- Year 2: Leo Card, Emmy Fidler.
- Year 3/4 RM: Reagan Sheehan, Jim Gorman
- Year 5/6L: Ethan McKercher, Lilly- Cate Mullane.
- Year 5/6S: Shannon Cragill, Rudie Ford.

There was much excitement and anticipation around the Year 2, 3 and 4 classrooms this morning as the children and many parent helpers prepared for their excursion to the Footscray Market today. One of the challenges for the children will be to buy and bring home a food item they would not be able to buy in Ballan - it will be interesting to see what the results are.

St. Brigid’s Christmas Party - attached is a flyer for our St Brigid’s Christmas Party which will be held on Thursday December 1st. A box has been placed in the foyer for donations for our Christmas raffle. All families are asked to donate a gift/item/ for the raffle. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale shortly, so we need your donations as soon as possible. Thank so much

PLANNING FOR 2017

The staff is presently working on the class groupings and combinations for next year. As I say every year, teachers are like your family - you cannot expressly choose who your family or your child’s teacher will be. However if there are any particular requests in regard to children who may or may not work well together in the classroom, we ask you to put that in writing to me by Monday November 14th.
SLEEP OVER
A reminder that next Friday evening November 18th, we have our Pep and Year 1 stayback as well as our Year 2 Sleepover. Hopefully all of the children involved have returned the required permission slip. If you do not have your form please see your child’s class teacher.

A reminder that the following week from Wednesday November 23rd to Friday November 25th our Year 5 and 6 children will heading off to Melbourne for their Urban camp - again a reminder that all forms need to be returned to your child’s class teacher.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY.
On Friday, as a nation we will celebrate Remembrance Day. In the lead up to this day we have been selling a number of items in our office, each bearing the ‘poppy symbol’. The Flanders poppy has long been a part of Remembrance Day, the ritual that marks the Armistice of 11 November 1918, and is also increasingly being used as part of Anzac Day observances. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium.

All of the children from St. Brigid’s will head down the street on Friday at 10.35 a.m. to be a part of this ceremony. You are invited to join us.

Prayer of Remembrance
Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God –
May God give peace, God give peace

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss –
May God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
May God give peace, God give peace

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity
May God give peace.

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free –
May God give peace, God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace –
May God give peace.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

CALENDAR FOR REMAINDER OF TERM
Wednesday 16th November: Gabe at Diocesan Principal’s meeting
Thursday 17th November: Gabe at Diocesan Principal’s meeting
Friday 18th November: Year Prep/1/2 Sleep over/Stayback at school.
Wednesday 23rd November: Year 5 and 6 camp to Melbourne
Friday 25th November: Year 5 and 6 camp to Melbourne.
Tuesday 29th November: Prep Transition Day.
Thursday, 1st December: Twilight Christmas Picnic – 6pm – 8pm
Friday 2nd December: Gabe at Principal’s meeting.
Saturday 3rd December: Mass and farewell for St. Michael’s Springbank.
Tuesday 6th December: Step up and Transition Day.
Thursday 8th December: Parish Dinner at Donegan’s Farm.
Tuesday 13th December: Graduation Dinner
Thursday 15th December: Graduation and End of Year mass.
Friday 16th December: Numeracy Interviews.
Monday 19th December: Numeracy interviews
Tuesday 20th December: Last day of school for staff.

KISS AND DROP CARPARK:
For safety reasons, please make sure that you follow the rules when dropping off your child/ren in the morning from the carpark east of the Church. It is important that you drive into the carpark, keeping to the left, turning an arc and exiting left into Inglis Street. Please do not stop for any longer than is necessary for your child to safely leave the car (after giving you a farewell kiss!!). It can become a little congested, but if we all obey the safety rules, then all will be well.

MAINTENANCE ROSTER:
Thank you to the family who mowed the oval and nature strips over the weekend. It is hoped that from now on, since the grass is at a manageable condition, those listed on the roster will be able to keep it under control. Thank you to the wonderful gardening efforts of Michelle Blake (Honey’s mum) for tidying up the garden at the main entrance to the school. Thank you also to Jacob, Elizabeth, Ryan and Tarykyn for their ongoing weeding and mulching of the bank on the east side of the Church.

Oct 31 – Nov 13 Porter / Hillyer / Metevelis / Brooke Leonard
Nov 14 – Nov 27 Smith / McIlwaine / Janine Buttigieg / Fenwick

LOST JUMPER:
Lonnie Forde has lost his school jumper. It is a size 10 and has his name on the tag. Please check to make sure that your child has their own jumper – thank you for your assistance.

LUNCH ORDERS:
Mums rostered on for this week are as follows:

Friday, November 11: Anna Connally & Hayley Plageman

MASS TIMES: 33rd Sunday of the Year
Saturday November 12 Springbank 6.30pm
Sunday November 13 Pootilla Cemetery 9.30am
                    Ballan          10.30am