FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

A great day was had by all at the annual Athletics sports at Dolamore oval last week. The children participated enthusiastically and with great sportsmanship. Special thanks to Marina Coletti for her great organisation and to all the staff and parents who helped out on the day. Our winners were for Junior School Champions - Brigidine, Middle School Champions - Brady, Senior school champions - Brigidine, Overall Champions - Brigidine and School Spirit Award - Fitzpatrick.

We need some Mother’s Day helpers to help distribute all of the gifts next Thursday 9th May from 9-11am. If you are able to help please let Angela or Robyn in the office know.

Today a flyer regarding our chocolate fundraising is coming home. Please read the form and return your preference for chocolates by 13th May.
A flyer regarding our Working Bee on Sat 11th May 8-10am is also coming home. Please read and let us know if you are coming.

**Family Week**
Next week is family week and a chance for us to reflect on how lucky we are as a family. I have attached a letter from Catholic Care with this year’s theme of “It takes a village to raise a child.” This letter is asking for donations to support the work Catholic Care does. On next Friday 10th May we are asking the children to wear casual clothes and bring a gold coin donation for Catholic Care. If you wish to make a further donation details are in the letter. In each class there is also a noodle box for children to make a donation to Catholic Care.

Don’t forget to let the office know if you are interested in doing the shopping tour. Details to the side. We need to know numbers please.

Peace and Best Wishes
Gavan O’Donnell
Principal.

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**GENERAL NEWS**

**Breakfast Club**
Once again breakfast club is up and running. We have lots of children coming in and having some breakfast and a chat. Thank you to our families and our parishioners who help out by bringing in donations or money/ Your generosity is very much appreciated.

We are also looking for new helpers to have run the breakfast club. It runs each morning from 8.20-8.40 and we have quite a few students each day. If anyone is available on any day, and has a current working with children check, please see the ladies at breakfast club. It really is a much needed part of the school program.

**Do you require some help?**
We have a lady who is happy to help out a few hours a week looking after a child either before or after school. She has a Working Care. If you wish to make a further donation details are in the letter. In each class there is also a noodle box for children to make a donation to Catholic Care.

**Its back!**
Woolworth’s Earn and Learn returns for 2013. Don’t forget to ask for your stickers when you shop.

Please collect your stickers and sticker pad until Sunday 9th June. Once your sticker pad is full please place in the office at school. We urge all families and friends to get on-board as last year were given educational resources to the value of $9,800.

Through your generosity our children have some wonderful equipment.

**We would appreciate it if children could stick the stickers on before they are returned to the school.**

**Teaching children better friendship skills**
Are you worried that your child is having trouble making friends? Perhaps he or she walks out of the school gate alone each day or talks of trouble finding other children to play with at lunchtime.

It’s important to remember that like so many aspects of your child’s development, friendship is a learned skill. Just like learning to play the piano or ride a bike, practice helps children learn how to interact with other children and make friends.

The long-term benefits of friendship are many. Through friendships, children learn to relate to others and foster a sense of belonging to a group – skills that will continue to serve them into adulthood. Plus, children with friends are more self-confident and perform better academically at school than those without friends.

But friendships are not always easy. Your child may find it difficult to share their favourite toy or listen to another child’s instructions during a game in the playground. Children who are bossy, aggressive or unable to say sorry can be difficult to get along with.

The good news is that there’s a lot parents and carers can do to help children make friends. You are one of the most powerful influences in your child’s life, so make the most of it, and remember that children are learning social skills through their relationship with you and from watching how you relate to other people.

You can also promote positive social skills:
- Teach your child to smile and say thank-you when another child lends them a toy.
- Plan a fun game for when your child invites a friend over for a play date.

Talk to your child about their friends and any problems they might be having – this helps children feel supported and encourages resilience.

**Free Parent and Child Information Night**
Bullying: Prevention and Coping skills for children and their parents

**Date:** Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm – 9.00pm

**Location:** Brighton Grammar Senior School: Roberts Sanderson Hall, entrance off St Andrews St  **Presenter:** Melissa Anderson - resilience educator, pharmacist, counsellor

**Cost:** Nil. A gold coin donation to a selected charity is warmly welcomed
Anzac Day
Anzac morning was very special and well attended by St Joseph’s families. Phoebe and Jake spoke very well at the Chelsea RSL.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Fri 3rd May Winter Sport 5/6 rd 1, 2.30 Assembly 5/6 performing
- Mon 6th May Family Week, 9.30 tour, 1pm CHCG 1/2R, running club from 3.20
- Tue 7th May 9.15am Mass Yr 5/6, 2.15 tour, 7pm PEB
- Wed 8th May 9.30 tour
- Thurs 9th May Eucharist Session 1 begins 7pm library
- Fri 10th May Casual Clothes gold coin donation day for Catholic Care, “Big Green” Schools Conference, enrolments Prep 2014 close, winter sport 5/6 rd 2, 2.30 Assembly 1/2 performing
- Sat 11th May Working Bee 8-10am, Eucharist Mass 6pm,
- Sun 12th May Eucharist Mass 9.30 & 11am, Mother’s Day
- Mon 13th May CHCG 1/2B, running club 3.20
- Tues 14th May NAPLAN
- Wed 15th May NAPLAN
- Thu 16th May NAPLAN, Yr 1/2 Parent Night 6.30-7.30pm
- Fri 17th May Winter sport Yr 5/6 rd 2, 2.30 Assembly Preps performing
- Sat 18th May Mass 6pm Yr 1/2
- Mon 20th May 1/2D Excursion worms, 1pm CHCG 1/2, running club 3.20
- Tues 21st May 9.15 Mass Yr 3/4
  Wed 22nd May Incursion worms
- Thurs 23rd May Eucharist session 2 7pm library

**FUNDRAISING**

Our Chocolate Drive is coming up. Watch out for a flyer coming home today.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sacramental Eucharist Program begins Thursday 9th May at 7pm in the library for our Year 4 children and their families. Session one is a parent only. Session 2 & 3 are with children.

**SPORTS**

**State Sport Trials**

On Tuesday the 16th several students from year 5 and 6 participated in the first stage of the selection process to make the state team in AFL, basketball and netball. CONGRATULATIONS to Rhys Hogan and Kyle Yorke -AFL, Alesina Toleafoa and Karla Da Cruz Leitao - Netball and Keely Hogan, Poppy Egan and Ebony Willis - basketball who were chosen to represent Chelsea District. They will now have to compete against student from the whole of Kingston in the second stage of the selection process. We wish them well.

**Cross Country**

Last Friday the 26th of April all the students in year 3-6 participated in the school Cross Country Trials held at Bicentennial Park. It was great to see everyone putting in their best effort. Congratulations to the top 10 in each age group who
Below is our Cross Country team:

Alex Michaelidis, Alex Matters Heath Mullen, Max Cronin, Oliver Carter-Watson, Will Dunne, Jye Chappl, Kyle Smith, Jake Kovacic, Anthony Parastatidis, Alex Armen, Noah Dick, James Degregorio, Jake Davis, Brayden Chapple, Patrick Kelly, Francis Watterson, John Sharp, Lelarni Mitchell, Kyra Finnigan, Keely Hogan, Clare Brown, Karla Da Cruz Leitao, Sarah Waldon, Chloe Davutovic, Natasha Robertson, Saejaan Tuhaka, Shannen Clement, Mia Canestra, Emma Ryan, Dior Larkins, Poppy Egan, Elena Tuomisto
Grace Turner, Katie Walker, Abbey Mcnamara, Kiaan Mclean Williams, Laura Tantuccio, Sienna Ak, Emily Brennan, Brianna Weller, Monique Banik, Jazilah Tuhaka, Anya Jansen Van Rensburg, Ebony Willis, Alexandra Comey & Charly Gleeson.

PRAYER

“God, our Father,
Make our family one with You.
May we be peace-loving
And peace-giving.
May we always have God at the
Centre of our hearts and our home.
Amen.”