Dear Parents

We have been talking a lot at school about the Year of Mercy. Last weekend’s Gospel highlights just why Mercy is so essential to our faith,

We can all relate to the story of the Prodigal Son. The son who leaves the father and squanders his inheritance is welcomed back to the family and forgiven by his loving father (God). We also relate to the jealous elder son who does the right thing but does not experience the extravagant display of love and affection that his younger brother does. We may have times in our own lives when we have been like one or other of these sons. We may not however have experienced the love and forgiveness that the two sons did.

The story shows that God’s mercy is open to all and is strongest when it is most needed. A powerful message indeed! We are all equal to God no matter what our failings are. Pope Francis recognizes that this is a very important message to get across. The guidelines to living a good and holy life that our religion gives us should not to be used for judging. Our human failings mean that we can be judgmental. God our loving father never judges or condemns. The story of the Prodigal Son is therefore really the story of the Loving Father, infinitely merciful.

We are now more than halfway through the term and much exciting learning has happened so far this year. As well as the great work happening in reading, writing and mathematics Stage 2 have been building sculptures with an artist and Year 1 supported by their teachers have been making amazing discoveries about sound.
GOLD AWARDS
Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:
Kindergarten Isley
Year 1 Ashley-Louise
Year 2 Obama
Year 3 Makayla
Year 4 Adalina
Year 5 Caidyn Joel
Year 6 Darshleen

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
This week is Catholic Schools Week. To mark this special week we will be celebrating a special Mass this Friday, March 11th. Prior to the Mass we will be holding open classrooms whereby parents are invited to visit their child’s classroom to view and be involved in the learning that is happening. Following the Mass parents are invited to share morning tea with their children on the playground. This year we are also combining our Kindergarten Open Morning with Catholic Schools Week. Parents with children commencing Kindergarten are warmly invited to attend the open morning which will feature a talk by Mrs Studans, a visit to the Kindergarten classrooms and an opportunity to ask questions of the Kindergarten teachers. If you have friends who you think may be interested in sending their child to OLOL in 2017 please encourage them to attend.

WINTER UNIFORM
Appointments are available Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Students will commence wearing winter uniform in early May. www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the code GGWPQ.

DATES FOR FAMILY MASSES 2016

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>22nd May</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Easter</td>
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<td>26th June</td>
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<td>Ordinary time</td>
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<td>24th July</td>
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<td>28th August</td>
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<td>23rd October</td>
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<td>27th November</td>
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<td>Advent</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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First Australian Evangeline is an Artworker at the Djilpin Arts Ghanumarn Culture Centre where she is flourishing with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture. So far Our Lady of Lourdes Primary has raised $310.40.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians to gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

CAR PARK
Once again we have a few parents who seem to think they are the exception to the expectation regarding the dropping off of their children safely each morning. We request that under no circumstances do any parents enter the bottom car park after 8:10am each morning. There are clear drop off procedures outside the hall that ensure a smooth and quick flow of traffic. There are no exceptions to this request!

URGENT REMINDER
All WYD raffle ticket stubs, money and any unsold books must be returned to our school office by tomorrow 10th March. Thank you for your support.
MARK TAYLOR SHIELD

Our boys showed great sportsmanship. Harley was “man of the match” with an all-round performance and for showing great leadership to our team. Cameron scored 28 of our 62 runs. Well done to:

Jackson  Neil
Jaylen  Noah
Aryan  Thomas
James  Ruben
Rustom  Nathan

for playing with pride for our school. Once again thank you to parents that assisted on the day with transport, scoring and umpiring. A big thanks to Paul Thompson for being the Coach on the day.

PARENT GROUP NEWS...

PARENT GROUP MEETING

Please note that the Parent Group meeting scheduled for this week has been rescheduled to Wednesday March 23rd due to the clash with the Parish sacramental program. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

ST ANDREWS COLLEGE

YEAR 7 2017

PRE-ENROLMENT MEETING

Where: St Andrews College, Junior Campus
Holy Family Hall
When: Wednesday 16 March 2016
Time: 6:00pm

Parents are invited to attend the Pre-Enrolment Meeting on Wednesday 16 March. The meeting will be in the Holy Family Hall on the Junior Campus. Parents of Year 6 students, who wish to enrol their child for Year 7 at St Andrews College must submit an application form before Friday 6th May, otherwise their child may miss out on a place. Parents can download an Enrolment Application from the College website, or phone 9626 4000 for a Prospectus.

Applications close:
3:00pm Friday 6 May 2016

HOW TO HELP YOUNG CHILDREN BECOME CONFIDENT IN MATHS – PART ONE

Have a positive attitude towards maths
Many parents are scared of maths or think they just can't do it, but it's the worst thing you can tell your child. Parents are just so crucial as role models. When parents tell their children that they themselves can't do it, it means they're communicating messages that it's OK not to be good at maths, which can carry all the way through high school.

Play games to show you're interested in maths
Playing games that involve cards or dice provides valuable opportunities to show that maths matters and helps them to become better mathematicians.

Ask your child to tell you the number of dots on a die each time they throw one during a board game. Eventually they will be able to do this without having to count them. These kinds of activities form the basis of working out number problems in their head. Research shows that kids who can do these things mentally have a deeper understanding of the maths involved.

When your child is adding the dots of two dice together ask them to start counting from the biggest number, eg if the dice rolled were five and two, start with the number five and then count on two more. This helps your child learn to be efficient in their number strategies.

Ask your child to explain how they work things out
When your child works out a maths problem, such as adding the total when two dice have been rolled, ask them how they did it.

What we’ve found through years of research is that even young children have quite sophisticated thinking strategies for solving maths problems.

"When you ask your child, ‘How did you get that?’ they may at first say, 'I don't know', but if they realise there is an expectation that they will need to explain the way they do maths, they will start thinking about it. The more they think about how they did something, the more it might make sense to them – it really contributes to that meaning-making process."

Karin Schrader - Maths Coordinator
YEAR 1 INVESTIGATIONS

The children in Year 1 have been making some interesting discoveries during their Science Investigation time. The children are exploring ‘sound’ and have been able to make their own generalisations.

When I hold the tube up to my ear, it’s really loud and I can hear it rumbling and feel it vibrating. I think it’s got a picture of the beach because the rumble sounds like waves crashing!

When I hold the triangle up to my ear, I can hear the music and I feel the vibrations for a long time.

When I sing I can feel my throat jiggling. It’s called vibrations!

When I swing the bull roarer around quickly, it makes a high sound because lots of air gets in and passes through the other side.

When we hit the thick and heavy clapsticks, we hear a LOW sound. When we hit the thin and light clapsticks, we can hear a high sound.

When I hit the triangle I can feel the musical notes travelling up the string into my fingers.