Dear Families,

St. Peter’s achieves high gains in NAPLAN

It is with much pride and excitement that I would like to inform you that St. Peter’s has been contacted by Robert Randall the CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to congratulate us on having demonstrated substantially above average gains in our 2016 NAPLAN data, specifically in Maths. We are one of only 17 Catholic schools in the Melbourne Archdiocese to achieve this result and we are so proud to share the news with you all. These results are due to four years of dedicated work by our staff, students and families. I must also acknowledge our involvement in the School Improving Schools project, where we worked collaboratively with three other schools to understand and analyse our data from which we determined a professional learning focus on the teaching of mathematics.

While NAPLAN results reflect just one moment in time, it is also a reflection of our commitment to;

- using student data to drive our teaching
- teachers working as a professional learning team
- high expectations for our students
- involving our families in our learning eg. family maths nights
- students taking responsibility and ownership of their learning

A special thanks to Ms Sandy Skehan for her work as our Learning and Teaching leader, as well as Ms McIntosh as our Maths leader and not to mention our wonderful teaching staff. I’m sure you will all agree, this is a very proud day for our St. Peter’s school community.

So if you have any family friends who are looking for a school that is making a difference to student learning, be sure to mention that St. Peter’s is the place to be!! Keep an eye out for this good news story in this week’s Brimbank Star Weekly.

Transforming Religious Education

St. Peter’s has also been featured in a media release by the Australian Catholic University for the work our Scripture program is having on transforming Religious Education. This has been picked up by the Cath News website in the Media Release section (I have placed a copy of this story on the community message board).

As I have already mentioned on many occasions this year, we are breaking new ground in our approach to Religious Education here at St. Peter’s and for our work to be acknowledged in such a way is yet another example of how student voice and teacher empowerment can drive student learning.

Family Engagement

Finally I would like to thank those people who attended the Family Engagement meeting last week. Congratulations to our newly appointed executives;

- President - Ana Babic
- Secretary - Manilyn Theobald (Day Meetings). We still require someone for night meetings
- Treasurer - Jo Holland

Photos of all members of the group will be added to our community notice board soon.

Parent Liaison Positions

It has been suggested to me and I agree that it would be great to have some parent liaison members in our community. We were hoping to have a broad range of cultural groups represented. If you would like to volunteer, please see myself or Ms Grace. There is no time commitment involved, just the chance to listen to families and let me know if there are ways we can improve our community. After all, a school is only as good as it’s families. So far we have Martin Le (Joshua’s dad) and Joanne Holland (Ezra and Gabrielle’s mum).

Please note I will be away from next Tuesday representing our community at the Victorian Association Catholic Primary School Principal's conference. The conference will focus on courageous leadership. As always, while I’m away, Ms Maree McIntosh is here to support you.

Enjoy your week,

Karen Bergin
PRINCIPAL
Congratulations to Anna, Anthony, Blen, Jaymie, Joshua and Nate who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last night.

ANZAC APPEAL

ANZAC badges are available to buy from the school office. Also keep an eye out for our School Leaders who will be selling these some days before school begins. Badges range from $1-$5.

EASTER RAFFLE

Please donate Easter items with an Easter theme such as chocolates, Easter cards, soft toys etc. Tickets are $1.00 each, please return all money to the office by Monday 27/3/17. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 31/3/17.

Thank you

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TEAM MEETING DATES

TERM 2: Tuesday May 19th 7:00-8:00pm
Tuesday June 6th 2:15-3:15pm
TERM 3: Tuesday August 8th 7:00-8:00pm
Tuesday August 29th 2:15-3:15pm
TERM 4: Tuesday October 10th 7:00-8:00pm
Tuesday November 11th 2:15-3:15pm

CHILD HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

This project explores families, food and health messages that come from school. We are interested in meeting with families who have at least one child of primary school age. We are offering 3 x one $50 Coles vouchers [$150 in total for each family] for participation.

Contact Dr Sian Supski if you are interested. (email sian.supski@monash.edu or 0421514000)

There are two stages.
1. Family meet and greet. Parent interview and discussion of short food video
Our research team will meet the family, brief you about the research at your home. We will come at a time that suits you. We will give your child an iPad mini for a loan and they will be invited to make a film whatever family food interactions interest them in this period.
2. Interview with child and family
In the following week, the researcher will return, view the family video and conduct an interview with the primary school-aged child and the family. We will be asking about food messages at school for both the children and the family.

This project has Monash Ethics approval.