Dear Families,

Last week I was fortunate to attend the biennial Conference of Victorian Association Catholic Primary School Principals where the focus was ‘Courage is the Key’. At the conference we heard from a number of motivational speakers including Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett who built a free mobile laundry in their old van to help the homeless. Orange Sky Laundry now visits over 36 locations each week and washes over 360 loads of washing for the homeless all over Australia. We heard from Fr Kevin Dillon who continues to personally support over 120 survivors of abuse. While we heard from many other inspirational leaders in the community, the person who stood out for me was Hugh van Cuylenburg. Hugh was a primary school teacher before he was inspired by his experiences in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka where he witnessed the most vulnerable people living relatively resilient and grateful lives. Hugh’s presentation emphasised the value of gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. In this very busy world where the World Health Organisation has predicted that the largest health problem by 2030 will be depression and the greatest cause of death will be suicide, it is important we teach our children the skills they will need today to ensure they have prosperous and happy lives in the future. Hugh said that children these days learn in one week, what we learnt in one year. It is therefore vital that we teach our children how to slow down and appreciate their wonderful life. This ideal supports the work we are already conducting here at St. Peter’s with our Pastoral Care program, our Restorative Practices approach, our work with OnPsych and our continuous focus on Wellbeing.

Over the holidays if you would like to find the time to begin this process. Simply ask your child at the end of each day to write down 3 things they are grateful for. Provide them with opportunities where they can play with others to learn how to empathise through real life experiences. Finally find time just to be mindful. The app we use at school to lead mindfulness is called Smiling Minds (great for children) and the app Hugh recommended for adults is called buddhify.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for yet another wonderful term of learning at St. Peter’s. Congratulations to the children for all they have achieved during the swimming program. A number of members of the public commented on how well behaved our children were at the pool. As I always say to the children, “this is the St. Peter’s way to behave”. I pray that you all have a safe and peaceful holiday, but in particular find some time for your own spiritual growth during the Easter period.

Stay safe and I will see you all on the 2nd of May after I return from my Long Service Leave. School for children will resume on Tuesday, April 18th.

God Bless,

Karen Bergin
PRINCIPAL
As you are aware the road work in Killeen Street has now moved closer to outside the school. From the beginning of Term 2 for the first 2 to 4 weeks there will be no access to St. Peter’s from Killeen Street. You will only be able to park in Fairbairn Road and walk to and from school with your children. Please ensure you respect the road signs at all times.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TEAM MEETING DATES

TERM 2: Tuesday May 16th 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

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 next term before school begins. Badges range from $1-$5.

Happy Easter St. Peter’s Families.

Wishing you safe and happy holidays.

Thank you to everybody for buying raffle tickets and donating Easter gifts for our hampers. More than $700 was raised!