Our School Prayer

Dear Jesus

Saint Elizabeth brought care to the sick, food to the hungry and hope to those in need.
Grant us the blessing that we may follow in her footsteps with love and joy in our hearts,
to always be faithful and to serve with humility and compassion.

Amen

Thank you to our Parents
Although we were in the middle of a heat wave, we had several families who braved the hot weather to share a picnic with the staff. It was fantastic to see so many parents attend the Teacher and Parent Information Night. These sessions assist you to understand the routines your children are exposed to in the classroom, as well as hearing about the actual teaching and learning opportunities. Thank you Kim and Kate!

Babysitting
Thank you Naomi for your array of songs which kept the children amused and exhausted the staff. A job well done Naomi, Caitlyn and Joan.

Year One Liturgy – Ash Wednesday
Lovely to see grandparents and parents join us for the Liturgy of the Word celebrated by Father John. We all received the ashes – a reminder that as adults we need to take time to reflect on our relationship with God and prepare ourselves for Jesus’ Resurrection on Easter Sunday. When the ashes in the form of the cross were placed on the children’s forehead they were reminded that Jesus loves them.

Commissioning Mass
Our staff attended the Regional Mass for Catholic staff at St Luke’s Church in Woodvale. Archbishop Barry Hickey concelebrated Mass with three other priests. The Archbishop thanked us for the important role we do in assisting parents in developing their children’s understanding of our Catholic faith.

Annual General Meeting
Rick Goodfield, our Board Chair spoke about the busyness of the 2015 school year and congratulated the school community on their hard work in developing a sense of community. Belinda Stewart, P & F Association Treasurer thanked the committee members for their enthusiastic approach to all activities undertaken in 2015. A mighty financial achievement with so few staff and families with a bank balance of $5037.28 of which $4029.00 will be donated to the school. An amazing feat! The monies donated to the school will see a variety of home readers and library books purchased for the children.

The Principal’s Report recalled the major events throughout 2015, small doesn’t equate to ‘it is all too hard’. We celebrated Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Book Week, Sports Day, Pirate Day, our Official School Opening and Nativity Play at the end of the year, just to name a few!
Our Foci for 2016

- Focus on simple gospel readings during Religious Education lessons to develop the children’s understanding of the person we call Jesus. Staff will also read the Sunday Gospel and reflect on Jesus’ life and how we can become more like him.
- Inspire students to know, understand and live out the gospel values of our Catholic Christianity as an expression of our faith in our modern world.
- To provide the best possible learning context for the optimum development of oral language and literacy skills such as phonological awareness.
- Provide ongoing support using differentiated curriculum for students who are not at target.
- Ongoing collaboration with the staff to encourage self-improvement and support of colleagues in our quest for excellence.
- Nurture a social environment where students, staff and parents are safe, respected and supported to ensure their social and emotional wellbeing.

Blessings

Last Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Lent Father John celebrated the Commissioning Mass for staff and students who attend St Anthony’s and St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School. Thank you to our parents who were there to celebrate this wonderful occasion, the Kindy children were so well behaved for such a ‘long time’. The social committee from the parish provided us with an amazing bacon and egg roll. It was so yummy!

St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School P & F Association

Last night our P & F Association held their first meeting for 2016. Wow! Kindy parents you are an amazing positive group. The minutes will be sent out in early March. However in the meantime motions and votes were taken to elect

1. Chairperson – unanimously passed and accepted – Joan Martino
2. President
3. PFFWA Representative
4. P&F Representative to the School Board

I have attached the forms for these positions which include a summary of the role. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions please complete the form and return it to the office by Friday, 11 March 2016. You can nominate another person however you must seek their permission.

Easter Buns

The P & F Committee has organised their first fundraiser. Attached to this newsletter is an Easter Buns order form. If you would like to purchase hot cross buns for Easter please complete the form and return it with the correct money prior to Tuesday, 8 March. $2.00 from every bag of buns is donated to the school. Please do not feel pressed into buying the buns, we understand there are many folk on a tight budget.

Update – School Uniforms

Due to safety concerns the staff have requested we include the only items of jewellery to be worn with the school uniform;

- Religious symbol on a gold or silver chain or leather around the neck and tucked into the front of the polo shirt.
- Medic bracelet

Necklaces, bracelets, watches and rings are not considered part of our school uniform. Thank you for your support.
**Size 4 Polo Shirts**
For the parents who are waiting for Size 4 Polo Shirts they will be in the office next week, please come and see Mel on Thursday to purchase more uniforms.

**Spare Clothes**
The spare clothes you pop in the bag in case of an accident do not have to be the school uniform. Play clothes will be fine!

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, 1 March 2016 - School Photographs**
Please return your forms with your payment by tomorrow Friday, 26 February.

**Wednesday, 2 March 2016**
2:00pm Kindy Liturgy in the Kindy classroom.

**Thursday, 3 March 2016**
8:30am Pre Primary Assembly in the Year One classroom.

**Sunday, 13 March 2016**
9:00am St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School’s Community Mass at St Anthony’s Church.

In this year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn. Let us make this our aim to search how we, as a community can better understand who Jesus is, so that we will convey this wonderful example to each other and be the positive role models for our children in our words and actions.

‘May God keep us safe in the palm of his hand’

*Carmel O’Shaughnessy*

Carmel O’Shaughnessy
Principal