Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Send your Spirit to consecrate us so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;
You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen

Staff Matters
This term the teachers attended the Early Years Conference in Perth. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, particularly the networking opportunities with their peers.

Joan, Mel and Caitlyn have all completed their Accreditation to work in a Catholic School. The Accreditation is based around a deeper understanding of our Catholic traditions. We congratulate them for their commitment to undertake the study which is not compulsory. Lea completed her accreditation while she was a staff member at St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School. Well done Lea!

This week Jenni Brown and I attended the NCEC (National Catholic Education Commission Conference) “Faith to Lead, Lead to Faith”, held in Perth at the Perth Convention Centre. We experienced well renowned International Guest Speakers speaking on Catholic Leadership. Staff and Student Well Being, Educational Reform and School Improvement. There were also well known educators conducting concurrent sessions with a plethora of topics. The three days were inspiring. Archbishop Costelloe, the Bishops from all diocese in WA as well as visiting priests also attended the conference. We celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral on Tuesday night which was concelebrated by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga SBD, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SBD and the Bishops of the WA dioceses.

This term has been busy, in terms of Professional Development as well as the two Conferences mentioned above;

- The teachers have completed the SEQTA Administrator’s Reporting Day.
- Caitlyn and myself – The 3-year-old Program.
- Meetings with Regional and Cluster Principals.
- Principals as Numeracy Leaders – the last two modules.
- Mel – using the TIPT phone system to its full potential.
- All staff through CEWA Consultants – Philosophy of Early Childhood – working towards marrying our words and actions.
Student Matters

Pre Primary Assembly
Last Thursday, the Pre Primary students showcased their learning experiences using the genre “Fairytales”. They performed “Little Red Riding Hood”, “The Three Little Pigs”, “The Gingerbread Man” and “Goldilocks and The Three Bears”. Their recall and dramatic performance was outstanding and very enjoyable. Congratulations to our students, Kate and Joan for your commitment to the task.

Mater Dei College
On Tuesday, the Mater Dei College Choir and Band visited our school to perform for the students. The staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The feedback from the parents has been very positive with the children saying they had a ‘concert’. The Choir performed songs which included; “Rhythm of Life” and “Sing, Sing, Sing” whilst the band interacted with the children asking them to ‘guess’ which song they are playing, the children were able to identify most of the songs. They included; “Play School”, “Bananas in Pyjamas”, “SpongeBob Square Pants” and Katy Perry’s “Roar”. Thank you Mater Dei College for thinking of our school and students. You were amazing!

Community News

Play Group
Yesterday, Wednesday we commenced our St Elizabeth’s CPS Community Play Group with Belinda Stewart as the Coordinator. Belinda emailed me to say that it was a wonderful start. My understanding is that they had a cut-off point of seventeen children and five families are on the waiting list. Well done to Belinda.

Three Year Old Program
We have advertised the Three Year Old Program to commence next term. Whilst we had more than twenty families interested, we have only received five applications. To be fair there are several families whose child has not yet turned three. Time will tell!

School Oval
Currently our school oval is out of bounds because it requires work to be completed to ensure it is safe for both staff and students. It has been noted over the last couple of days our kindy children have been running around on the oval in the afternoons after school. Please note information was sent out in term one informing all parents playing in all outside areas before or after school is not permitted for the safety of the children.

Parent/Teacher Meetings
We are more than half way through the Teacher/Parent Meetings for Semester One 2016. I encourage parents to provide feedback on how we are meeting your needs regarding your understanding of your child’s progress. Please email me at admin@stelizabethhocking.wa.edu.au if you would like to make a comment. Thank you!

Whole School Behaviour Management
The staff are currently collaborating on the way forward using a Positive Behaviour Management, therefore the “Peg Charts” have been removed from the classrooms. Our new policy of course, will not be one size fits all, there will be students who will require an adjusted plan to suit their needs. Our focus will be on catching the children being focused and trying. We will keep you informed with our progress.

Great News
Mark Antulou, the Principal of Prendiville College has supported my request for their Performing Arts Department to create a school song for St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School. Ellen Broderick, Head of Performing Arts has made contact and is delighted with the challenge. We look forward to seeing and hearing the production.

School Hours - Curriculum
Thank you to the parents who have asked about sport times and other curriculum matters. I want to briefly give you an overview of the mandatory learning areas and the contact time we have to complete them.
**School Contact Time and Mandated Curriculum**

Contact time is face to face teaching this does not include recess and lunch time. Therefore, our contact time is 5 hours 10 minutes a day in line with other schools. The WA Curriculum mandates that we teach;

- English
- Humanities and Social Science
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts
- Technologies
- History
- Languages

Given the number of Learning Areas you will appreciate how busy the Teaching and Learning experiences are for your children and the staff.

**Physical Education**

In terms of Physical Education, in lay terms “Sport”. Naomi Clarkson teaches the skills and when the children have practised these skills, Naomi moves into games. We are mandated to provide two hours of physical education for the children. The second hour the children play organised games.

**Sports Carnival**

Kindy classes are usually not involved in School Carnivals and Pre Primary children are involved for a few events for 30-45 minutes. We involved both classes last year because they were the only children we had enrolled.

**Cross Country**

Children in year four and year six are usually the only year levels participating in Cross Country. Schools generally do not have large grounds, in fact there are schools who need to use a shared shire council oval. For the safety of all children games such as Tee ball are usually not played at recess and lunch time.

I hope this information assists our parents with some understanding of the day to day life of a school.

**Up Coming Events**

9:00am Sunday, 26 June (this Sunday) we will be celebrating the St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School Community Mass
2:15pm Wednesday, 29 June - Kindy Liturgy
8:30am Thursday, 30 June - Year One Assembly
4:00pm Friday, 1 July - School Disco
Friday, 1 July last day of school

**Term Three**

Monday, 18 July Professional Development – No Students

**Tuesday, 19 July All students commence School**

**Happy Holidays**

We have noted the children are starting to wilt and are ready for their break. On behalf of the staff, I wish you all a safe and happy July holidays. Thank you to the many parents who have been able to spend some time in the classrooms, the children love having you there and the staff appreciate the helping hand. Thank you also for the large amount of tops, containers etc you collected for Naomi, she could not believe the fantastic response she received. At some point the bits and bobs will return to you in some form of created artwork. No matter how small or large your connection to the school is, we firmly believe your active participation is to the benefit of your child’s total growth. God bless you!

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

*Carmel O’Shaughnessy*

Carmel O’Shaughnessy
Principal
Mater Dei College Choir and Band