WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

We were very proud of our Kinder class who began school yesterday. Thank you to the parents, carers and grandparents who played a special role in having these students prepared for their BIG day.

We also welcomed 7 other students who have taken their place in many of the other classes within St Brigid’s. We congratulate them on their positive start and wish them all the best on their new educational journey.
Dear Parents,

On behalf of the whole school community of St Brigid’s at Kyogle, I would like to welcome all new and existing families to the 2016 school year in this our first official newsletter! We are looking forward to a fantastic year! With the Kindergarten students arriving yesterday, the year has now begun and what a wonderful start. I always look forward to the first days of school – there are always plenty of smiles as students talk about their holidays with their friends and teachers, staff create an enthusiastic atmosphere and parents breathe a collective sigh of relief as the holidays end and their children begin a new year.

Congratulations to our School Captains and House Captains from Year 6 for 2016:-

**School Captains:** Jessica Farragher, Chelbie Pickering, Cooper Mulcahy and Henry McErlane

**House Captains:**
- **Gold** - Larni Ingram and Hannah Moore
- **Red** - James Taylor and Leeroy Delaney
- **Blue** - Zac Denton and Oliver McCormick

All our Year 6 leaders will be inducted at our Opening School Mass to be held on Wednesday, 11th February at 9.30a.m. in the Church. Parents are reminded to mark this important date in their calendars. We would like to see many parents present at this mass. I would like to encourage as many parents as possible to attend our monthly Masses. Come and join the children and watch them as they join in the liturgy.

Please feel free to pop in to say hello at any time, and know that my door is always open to families. Our parents’ support is valued and appreciated. Join in where you can! Communication is the key. If you have any concerns about school life, it is important to deal with them as soon as possible so that your concern does not become a big problem. You can email me at: ahunter@ism.catholic.edu.au if that is easier. Make an appointment to discuss any issue or concern with myself or our Assistant Principal, Mrs Condon. Always approach the class teacher first if it is a concern relating to a class issue or academic progress. Teachers can often correct relatively quickly what might appear at first to be a big issue. We have a tremendous staff here at St Brigid’s and with a wonderful parent body working with the school we can accomplish much. Our Parent Forum committees will be meeting in the near future with dates and times to be advised. These meetings are a great way to support your school and to get to know other parents.

Every blessing for the week ahead.

*Tony Hunter*

**PRINCIPAL**

**MEET THE STAFF:** Below is a full list of teaching and support staff at St Brigid’s for 2016. We form a team of people, working collaboratively in partnership with parents for your child’s growth:-

- **Parish Administrator:** Fr Erick Quinteros
- **Principal:** Mr Tony Hunter
- **Assistant Principal:** Mrs Jan Condon
- **Leader of Catechesis:** Mrs Jan Condon
- **Leader of Evangelisation:** Mrs Vicki Jansen
- **Leader of Pedagogy:** Mrs Vanessa Walters
- **Secretary:** Mrs Di Welsh
- **Additional Needs:** Mrs Vicki Jansen
- **RFF / Pastoral Care:** Mrs Loretta Morabito
- **Sport Co-Ordinator:** Mr Brendan Tickle
- **School Counsellor:** Mrs Wendy Saini
- **Executive Relief:** Mrs Kristie Irvine, Mrs Vanessa Walters
- **Kindergarten:** Mrs Vicki Jansen
- **Stage 1:** Mrs Jan Condon, Mrs Kristie Irvine (1/2CI), Miss Laura Hughes (1/2H)
- **Stage 2:** Miss Laura Macdonald (3/4M), Mr Dino Parente (3/4P)
- **Stage 3:** Miss Kelli-Ann Bugden (5B), Mr Brendan Tickle (6T)
- **Library/Quicksmart:** Mrs Jean Newton
- **Teacher Assistants:** Mrs Cinnamon Burrows, Mrs Jean Newton, Stephanie Barsby, Krystal-Lee Hyde, Mrs Paula O’Reilly
- **Groundsman:** Mr Denis Newton
PARENT INFORMATION EVENING: Please join us on Monday 15th February, for this important event where your child’s teachers will outline key learning goals, expectations and class procedures for 2015. Your attendance at this meeting is a very positive step towards building a strong working relationship with your child’s teacher this year.

Times are as follows:-

- 5:30pm - Kindergarten and Stage 3 (Year 5B and 6T)
- 6:15pm – Stage 1 (1/2C1 and 1/2H)
- 7:00pm – Stage 2 (3/4M and 3/4P)

Please do not use these times for a parent/teacher interview about your child. If you need to discuss any matters, then you should organise another time to meet with your child’s teacher. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at these gatherings.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL: Supervision begins in the morning at 8:30a.m. Parents are asked not to allow children to arrive at school before then. On the very odd occasion when there is a need to drop off a few minutes early, children must sit and wait in the undercovered area. This should not be before 8:15a.m. Staff arrive at school early in order to prepare for the day and unless a teacher is on morning duty, staff are not required to supervise children until 8.30am. There will be a teacher on duty from 8:30am.

CONTACT DETAILS: If any of your details (address, phone numbers etc…) have changed over the Christmas break could you please contact Di in the office to update these details. It is essential that we have all current details on our school administration system. This is particularly important with our SMS messaging for attendance commencing next Monday.

ATTENDANCE: All children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age of 17 years are legally required to attend school. Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance

• helps your child develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
• helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
• ensures your child can make and keep friendships.

Holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. Leave of 10 or more consecutive school days will require the completion of an Application for Leave Form. Parents and carers will need to see myself for this form. Failure to do this will result in your child(ren) being marked as an “Unapproved Attendance”. A small number of absences may be accepted. For example, if your child

• has to go to a special religious ceremony
• is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
• is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.
• Is participating in a non-school special event
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Warm wishes to the following members of our community who have celebrated a recent birthday:


<table>
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<th>Curriculum:</th>
<th>Community:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS</strong></td>
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<td>Last year the teachers were inserviced on the new History Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. This year the history syllabus will be implemented in all classes from K-6 during terms 1 &amp; 2. The study of History from Kindergarten to Year 10 investigates the actions, motives and lifestyles of people over time, from individuals and family members, to local communities, expanding to national and world history contexts. It introduces the idea that History contains many stories and that there is never only one uncontested version. There are many differing perspectives within a nation’s history, and historians may interpret events differently depending on their point of view and the sources they have used. The study of History strengthens an appreciation for and an understanding of civics and citizenship. History encourages students to develop an understanding of significant historical concepts such as cause and effect, change and continuity, significance, empathy and contestability. (from History Syllabus Rationale)</td>
<td>You can make an appointment to see your child’s teacher by writing a note to them or by contacting Mrs Welsh in the school office. Please note that it is very important that an appointment is made at a mutually convenient time. Interviews “on the run” are not possible or practical. We aim for quality communication and this can’t happen unless we take quality time.</td>
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<td><strong>LEADER of PEDAGOGY</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR KINDY</strong></td>
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<td>In 2013, the Catholic Schools Office undertook a 3 year project to employ a Leader of Pedagogy (LOP) into every primary and secondary school right through the diocese. The success of this project has led to the position becoming a permanent fixture in all schools in our diocese. Previous people to hold this role at St Brigid’s were Mrs Bratti and Mrs Rose. As the new LOP my role is to continue the work established by the previous LOPs in supporting the Principal with the educational leadership of the school community. I am responsible for maintaining and developing the school as a centre of quality teaching and learning. This will involve modelling high quality teaching for colleagues across the school and lead them in the development and refinement of their teaching practice to improve student learning outcomes. As Leader of Pedagogy I also have the responsibility of working collaboratively as a member of the leadership team. I am excited about my new role and look forward to the year ahead. Vanessa Walters</td>
<td>Would you please ensure your Kindy child has a change of clothes (underwear, shorts, skort, socks etc) in case of an accident at school. It avoids embarrassment for your child if they have their own clothes.</td>
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<td><strong>SCHOOL FEES 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEDICATION</strong></td>
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<td>Fee statements will be sent home as soon as possible with your eldest child at school. Term 1 fees are due by the end of March unless you have made arrangements with Mr Hunter to pay by instalments etc. If you wish to speak with Mr Hunter regarding fees please phone Mrs Welsh in the school office to make an appointment.</td>
<td>Parents please note we can give Panadol to students if the First Aide Officer (Di Welsh) deems it necessary. If your child cannot tolerate Children’s Panadol (either tablet, soluble tablet or syrup) please inform Mrs Welsh in the office asap. If your child requires medication you need to provide written authority. Prescribed medication needs to be handed to Mrs Welsh in its original container, with the appropriate details, including the child’s name.</td>
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<td><strong>SICK CHILDREN</strong></td>
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<td>If your child is sick you are obliged to keep him/her at home. Do not tell them to ‘go to school and see how you go’. It is not fair to the staff or the other students. If your child becomes sick or injured at school they will be sent to the Sick Bay. If necessary you will be contacted to collect your child. It is most important that your contact details are up to date.</td>
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Catholic Identity

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
On 19th February at 12 noon we will hold the opening school mass. The Year 6 children will receive their badges of office.
All parents/carers are invited to the Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY
You are most welcome to join us in the church for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 12 noon.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like our heavenly Father, and have told us, that whoever sees us, sees him. Show us your face and we will be saved.
(Pope Francis - Year of Mercy)

BOOK CLUB
Book Club is once a term. Today you will receive Scholastic Book Club pamphlets and information for ordering online. Orders are due Friday, 12th February. Families are encouraged to order online at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

CANTEEN INFORMATION
When ordering lunch for your child at Mondays’ Canteen, please print their name & class (eg Year 1/2H or 1/2Cl) on the lunch bag.

ELECTRONIC GAMES/PHONE
Just a reminder if children bring any of these devices to school they must take them to the office before school. They will be stored in the school office until the end of the school day.
No responsibility will be taken by the school if children do not hand in these items.

SMS MESSAGES
Our school has moved to a new electronic attendance software which includes the ability to send and receive an SMS directly to the system. From tomorrow if your child is absent from school an SMS will be sent to one of the mobile phone numbers we currently have in our database. We will send the SMS at approximately 9.30 am each day. Usually we will only send one SMS per child.

If we are in doubt as to the custody arrangements of a student (on the day absent) an SMS will not be sent.

You are able to respond directly to this SMS with a reason for your child’s absence and it will be recorded as sent. We request that this is done by 3pm on that day. You are able to store this number and text a message prior to one being sent on any day if you prefer.

If more than one family member is absent from school on a particular day you will receive more than one SMS however only one SMS response is required from parents, provided it adequately explains the absence of all children.

SMS messages are now considered legitimate forms of communication and as such a follow up phone call or note is not required. However, if you are unable to respond to the SMS then the school does require some form of communication such as a phone call or note to explain absences.

The text of the message will be as follows:
<name> is absent from school today. Please confirm, with reason for absence, by return

VISITOR SIGN IN BOOK
It is very important that anyone helping in the classrooms or visiting inside the school grounds signs the register in the foyer and collects a visitors badge prior to entering the premises. You are required to wear the badge while at school.
It is equally important that on leaving the school grounds you return your badge and sign off on the register. This allows us

Can I ask that if you have recently changed your mobile phone or other contact details that you inform the office staff immediately.
COMMUNITY NEWS

KYOGLE PONY CLUB
Sign on day this Sunday 7th February from 8am at the showgrounds. Please bring your horse and you must be a financial member to ride. There will be a BBQ lunch available. Any further info from Jodie on 6632 3400 or 0415 857 690.

Kyogle Soccer Season 2016
Calling all soccer players young and old our season is about to start
Senior training commences on Tuesday the 2nd February at 6pm
Junior training will start on Thursday the 17th March
Players should register online using the “My Football Club” Website
Any questions can be directed to kyoglefc@ffnc.net.au or to Glenn Rose on 0418 264 968

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Please sign in at the office before going to Canteen.
If for any reason you cannot attend on your rostered day, please swap days with someone on the roster.

THANK YOU

+ Our Lady of Sorrows +
Catholic Church Kyogle
6pm: Saturday Vigil Mass
9am: Sunday Mass

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

HALL HIRE
Please contact the Parish office on 66321074 regarding hiring of the hall.

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Quality Meats
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