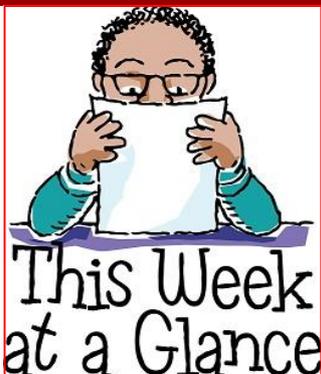


St Agnes' Primary School Highett

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NEWSLETTER No.2– 19th February 2019



Tuesday-School Finish at 1.25pm-2.00-7.00 pm-
Parent/Teacher Interviews School
Wednesday-Foundation Rest Day
Friday-P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime and after
school
6.00-7.30pm– Twilight Working Bee

Monday 25th

8.45am-Short Assembly
P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime

Wednesday 27th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 28th

SSV Swimming

March

Friday 1st

2.30pm-Assembly hosted by 3/4K-
All welcome
P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime and after
school

Monday 4th

8.45am-Short Assembly
P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime

Tuesday 5th

Shrove Tuesday-P&F making pancakes

Wednesday 6th

9.00am-Ash Wednesday Mass

Friday 7th

P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime and after
school

Monday 11th

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY-LABOUR DAY

Tuesday 12th

9.00am-Classroom Helper Meeting
7.00pm-Grade 3 Reconciliation Night

Friday 15th

2.30pm-Assembly hosted by 1/2G-
All welcome
P&F-Icypoles on sale at lunchtime and after
school

Dear Parents/Carers,

As principals we work alongside our staff to establish and drive a strong improvement agenda in our schools. We plan our goals around the following five interdependent spheres of schooling:

- Education in Faith,
- Learning and Teaching,
- Student Wellbeing,
- School Community and
- Leadership and Management.

Over this term I will give you a snapshot of the main focus in each of these spheres at St Agnes.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our goal is to explore ways to build a dynamic learning community with strong parent and community partnerships. Parents are the first educators of their child. Catholic schools partner with parents for their child's education, in collaboration with the parish community, Catholic Education Melbourne and the wider community. We also respect parents' fundamental human rights, including the right to know, understand and share in school decisions that affect the education of their child.

Some of the key areas developed in this sphere include; parent engagement, relationships, communication, involvement, learning, opportunities for reflection and supportive leadership. As you read through today's newsletter you will see many ways we promote school community partnerships from class newsletters, parent groups and school and parish events.

As you saw from the overviews that were sent home through the Skoolbag App it looks like an action packed term of learning for the children. The overviews give parents the opportunity to see what is happening in their child's learning this term and to be involved.

The Parish Family Masses are a special celebration for families at St Agnes'. The community gathered together last Sunday to welcome the new school year and acknowledge the leadership of students and staff. It was lovely to see so many in attendance supporting our community.

The Parent/Teacher Interviews and Parent Information nights held last night and this evening have been favourably attended. This was a fantastic opportunity for families and teachers to meet and for families to share a little about their child and their hopes and dreams for the year ahead.

The Education Board acts as a forum for discussion of matters concerning education in the school. The purpose of the Board is to:

- Act as an advisory body to the parish priest and principal, on matters concerning education in the parish**
- Act as a forum for discussion on matters concerning education in the parish primary school**
- Provide a link between the parish priest, principal, teachers and parishioners in relation to the provision of Catholic education in the parish community**
- Promote community development by fostering a strong interrelationship between parish and the parish primary school.**

During our first Boardmeeting last week Maree Holmes from Catholic Education Melbourne, presented to the board about the process for the appointment of the new Principal. Members were asked to think about and then share with each other the qualities they felt were important for the new Principal to possess. As one of our members commented at the end of the meeting *'they felt the school was in very good hands'* during this very thorough process.

This Friday 22nd February is our first twilight Working Bee of the year. This is a great opportunity to connect with other families while helping the school. One of the main jobs is to give the vegetable garden area a good tidy up so we can get the garden up and running again. This is a wonderful space and is not being used to its full potential. Many thanks in advance. Matt Cherry will be coordinating this Twilight Working Bee.

Our P&F have met for the first time already this year and are busy planning for the year ahead. A school is a much better place with so many involved whether it be by taking the time to sell icy poles to the children, making delicious butterfly cakes for shared morning teas, helping in the uniform shop, going on excursions, cooking the BBQ for special events, coordinating a fete or helping in the classroom.

The Welcome Night last Friday evening was a lovely gathering with everyone using this opportunity to get to know each other and especially our new families better.

There are a number of children in our school with life threatening allergies. These children require an EpiPen when experiencing an allergic reaction. We are not a nut/dairy/egg free school as endorsed by the Allergy Foundation but we ask if there is a student in your child's classroom that is an Anaphylactic then that food is not included in your child's lunchbox at any time. Teachers are able to offer suggestions for parents in the event you may want to bring something to celebrate a birthday so everyone is safe and well cared for.



Our leaders meeting with our Local Member from Sandringham Brad Roswell. Brad visited the school last week and was given a tour by our School Captains.

Our SRC reps wearing their badges after being presented with them at Friday's assembly



It is clearly evident each day that there is a strong community presence here at St Agnes'. Walking out into the playground in the morning and afternoon seeing mum's, dad's, grandparents and friends all chatting while dropping off or waiting for their children, is a wonderful sight. I look forward to the time ahead as we continue in our partnership together.

**Until next week
Therese**

CYBER SAFETY

St Agnes' Primary School places a great deal of importance on our 'Acceptable use of ICT agreement'. This document is very important in implementing and building responsible behaviours and habits in our students when using technology. It outlines expectations and also allows us to have consistency between the language we are using at school and the acceptable use of technology for families with their children when at home.

At St Agnes' we strive to teach our students to be respectful online by considering how they engage in communication and the impact their actions could have on the emotions and wellbeing of others. In today's changing world where technology and online communication are more and more a part of our everyday lives, it is a big responsibility we have as educators and parents to help our students act positively online.

Within our Digital Technologies curriculum, cyber safety and responsible online behaviours are a key part of our teaching, particularly as we begin our school year. Students explore specific situations through role play and discussion and reflect on how their choices could affect others. Our aim is to help students make positive and considered choices online and seek help or advice from the adults in their lives when they need it. It is very important that with certain situations that may occur, children understand they must let a teacher, parent, or family member know so they can help. All students are taught to ensure they keep private or personal information to themselves. Never sharing passwords, usernames or other personal information such as their phone number, address or full name with people they do not know.



We are very fortunate at St Agnes' to have access to so much fantastic technology to assist with student learning and growth. We hope families continue to support the expectations of our school when using technology. We have arranged a Parent Information night for Monday 20th May at 7.00 pm. Please mark this date in your diaries as we would like to see a representation from all families. It will be an opportunity for parents to listen to what is happening in the world of technology for their children and strategies that can be used at home. The children are growing up in a very different world and parents can never have too much knowledge in this area. The students in Grade 3 to 6 will also take part in a session around this vital area of the curriculum and life.



St Agnes' is very lucky to have access to onPsych, which provides mental health services for children at school.

Over the years they have “worked collaboratively with young people, their families and educational networks in an effort to assist young people to achieve their highest potential and grow exponentially.”

OnPsych work closely with our teachers to ensure the best possible outcome for your children.

OnPsych suggest that “a Healthcare Plan, with clear outcomes, will be tailored for each individual.

Through Medicare, individuals are eligible for 10 individual sessions and 10 group training sessions each year, at no cost to the student or the school.”

If you feel your child or children may benefit from having someone to talk to and find strategies to deal with personal issues, please arrange a time to meet with me, or send me an email.

I will then speak to OnPsych to arrange some sessions at school.
This year we will be working with a new Psychologist at St Agnes.

Thank you,

Anthea Georgiou
ageorgiou@sahighett.catholic.edu.au
Wellbeing Leader

CHOIR CLUB

WHO LOVES TO SING?

**The St. Agnes Choir is starting up again for 2019.
This year choir club is open to all
Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 students.**

**We are looking to expand and be bigger and
better than ever with various performance
opportunities throughout the school year.**

**As in the past, we look forward to visiting various
aged care facilities and kindergartens in the
Highett area.**

**NOT SURE ABOUT CHOIR?
JUST TRY IT OUT!**

TERM 1 -

**All students will be rewarded with a lucky dip
prize on their attendance . Hurry - don't miss out!!**

Please join us in the hall on:

Tuesdays from 10:45 -11:05

See you then songbirds!

**Mrs. Anna Gugliucciello
(Performing Arts Teacher**





The Children's Book Council of Australia has announced that the theme for Book Week for 2019 is **READING IS MY SECRET POWER.**

Children's Book Week is held in the week of 17th- 23rd August .Each year schools and libraries all over Australia celebrate books and Australian authors and illustrators.

The power and satisfaction, the imagination expanded, the skills in comprehension developed by extensive reading, the use of our wonderful school library and local library and consistent “ voracious“ reading at home and school has an enormous impact on student Literacy development.

“Voracious” reading is a term used in CAFE Reading, our school program which helps our students focus on the strategies they need to use to become ”better and better readers”



Comprehension
I understand what I read.

Fluency
I can read with accuracy and expression.

Accuracy
I can read a variety of words.

Expand Vocabulary
I know, find, and use interesting words.

A quote from our CAFE/ Daily Five document by Richard Allington says that “Children should spend a minimum of 90 minutes per day in high success reading of 98% accuracy and all formal instruction should occur outside those 90 minutes.

“ Books are uniquely portable magic” says author Stephen King and as our home Reading Program moves in to full swing in classes over the next weeks I encourage you to take some regular time with your children during Home Reading, to strengthen that 3 way chain of learning-Child/ Parent/ Teacher by communicating with our teachers via the student reading diary those achievements, successes and needs.

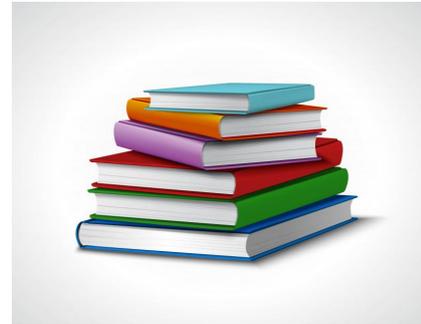
According to guidelines from the UK Literacy Association “Children are more likely to read for pleasure and improve their reading when this behaviour is modelled by and shared with adults.”

The Department of Education Australia in it's research found that “Over half of parents stop reading aloud with their children once they begin to

start reading for themselves. Reading aloud with your child throughout the Primary Years has significant, positive effects on their learning and reading skills. Listening to your child read and having them read to you builds social skills and confidence as they engage with you, and the quality time that you spend with them, raises their mood and sense of wellbeing.”

Donating Books

As Our Programs of DAILY Five and CAFE Reading require a “ saturation “ of books in the classroom we hope that you will consider donating some “gems” to the school.



Appropriate children’s picture books , novels etc in good condition will be appreciated.

There is a tub in the office foyer to place your donations in.

Classroom Helpers Information



An important part of the Literacy Program is the regular inclusion of Classroom Helpers working with the students.

If you have been, or wish to be a Helper in the class there will be an Information session on:

Wednesday 12th March in Room 4 at 9.00am.

A notice will be sent home via CareMonkey, to enable you to rsvp to the meeting, Helpers will begin to assist in the classrooms once this meeting has taken place.

Thanking you in advance!

Julie Grace

Literacy Leader

Welcome to St Agnes' Library News

It's Library Lover's Month!



Welcome to an exciting year with electrifying things to do. February is the month of library lovers. The entire month of February is dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to the reading, housing, organizing, categorizing, finding, studying and otherwise loving books.

Libraries provide so much more than a place for us to enjoy great novels or to discover amazing adventures and untold history. It provides a quiet space to study, but they do so much more. For pre-schoolers, libraries entertain them with theatre and hands-on activities exposing them to music, art and their first friendships. Many communities rely on their libraries for meeting space for public forums, socials, fundraisers and classes.

Libraries lend not only books but music, ebooks & audiobooks, eMagazines and movies and much more. So, visit your local library and see what they have to offer.



Library Lovers' Day was last Thursday 14th February 2019. It was an opportunity for libraries and library users to celebrate all the ways that love can be found in the library. Organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), this annual event involves hundreds of libraries and thousands of library users. "Every year ALIA's Library Lovers' Day is celebrated in and around libraries right across

Australia.

[Welcome to Our new Library](#)

The library is up and running in the portable. The library will be open on Monday and Thursday before and after school for parents, grandparents, pre-school, students and the wider community to come and have a browse or borrow some items.

[Premiers' Reading Challenge 2019](#)

Premiers' Reading Challenge is changing its look and website to make it much better for the students, parents and staff to navigate around the site. With that in mind they will be launching it late in this term or early next term.



Please keep a written report on the books your children have read. When you get their username and password you can enter the books they have already read.

Story box library

Story Box Library is a subscription based educational website, created for children to view stories by local authors and illustrators, being read aloud by Australian and New Zealand, storytellers. Story box library connects children with literature through the complementary medium of film providing a vibrant, interactive experience via a diverse range of everyday storytellers - sportspeople, musicians, grandparents, teenagers, comedians and actors, with varying accents and from different cultures - each sharing past and present book titles. It is for home use as well as school use. We invite the parents, students and staff to use this website at home.

<https://www.storyboxlibrary.com.au>

Below is the username and password for story box library.

- Username: library2016
- Password: agnes2016

Just a bit of housekeeping

For borrowing purposes. All students are encouraged to have a waterproof library bag, labelled with both their first and last names and grade.

A Library Bag:

- Protects the book.
- Ensures the library book is kept separate from household books when not in use, making them easier to find on Library Book Borrowing Day
- Makes it easier for students to carry
- Most importantly protects library books from damage, especially leaking drink bottles, to and from the library especially when it is raining or wet under foot.
- Waterproof Library bags are available from the uniform Shop for \$13.00, however you may use any waterproof, protective bag, preferably around the size of a pillowcase to accommodate our larger books.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me:

jgonzales@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

Kind Regards

Mrs Julie Gonzales

Library Technician

Welcome to Uniform Shop News

Hello to everyone from your new uniform shop co-ordinators, Sophie and Leanne.

Opening Hours

The uniform shop is open every Tuesday 8.30am to 9.30am

HELP NEEDED

We would love to have some extra helpers – if you could spare one hour of your time on a Tuesday morning once per month to help us, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Leanne on 0406 602 111 or Sophie 0417 536 959 if you can help.

WINTER STOCK- SALE ITEMS

Hard to believe but we are already ordering our winter stock! Could anyone who thinks their child may require adult sizing please let us know ASAP? We will be ordering in the next 2 weeks.

For those of you who like to get organised early we have a few items on sale that we plan to discontinue.

Boys trousers with Zip and button (size4-16)- usually \$35, now \$20 (as we are no longer going to be order this style- drawstring will be the only style available in future)

Fleecy Rain Jacket (size 10-16)- usually \$35, now \$20

Thanks for your patience with us as we learn the ropes.
Sophie and Leanne

Thank you.

Uniform Co-ordinator
Sophie Cartwright
Leanne Cooke



Parents and Friends Messenger

Class Reps:

There are still 5 classes without class reps for 2019.

- 3/4 G
- 3/4 K
- 5/6 C
- 5/6 M
- 5/6 W

Class reps are primarily a source of support and communication in relation to the needs of your class as requested by the teacher and or P&F. This may include things such as helping relay information about excursions, promoting whole school events and special activities in the classroom. It is a role that is primarily done in your own time at home, via email and during pick up and drop off. It can be done as a 1 or 2 person role. If you would like to help this year please contact Fleur Luke 0439 456 020 or lukef@countryroad.com.au. It would be great to see some new faces take on this role this year!

Thank you to the following mums who have already volunteered:

- Krystle Dunkley – Foundation class rep
- Maya Cotes – 1/2 L class rep
- Lauren Karpathakis 1/2 G class rep

Tuesday March 5th – Shrove Tuesday

P&F (plus helpers!) will be preparing pancakes for the students as part of Shrove Tuesday celebration. There will also be some toppings to go on the pancakes such as butter, jam, syrup, lemon and sugar. Instead of each class cooking their own pancakes in the classrooms, we will be preparing them in the school hall kitchen & on the BBQ. Please contact your classroom teacher and provide an alternative if your child has an allergy or you do not wish for your child to participate. If you can help out on the morning of the 5th, please let one of us know. **ALL HELPERS MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A SIGNED CODE OF CONDUCT.**

Fleur Luke , Christie Jones & Stacey Straford
Co P&F Presidents