



St Augustine's School, Mossman

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Week 5 Term 1

From the Principal Desk.

Yulmburral

I am certain that many of us are shaking our heads when we realise that at the end of this week we are already at the half way mark of Term 1. As we look back over the past 5 weeks we can all take immense pride in how the school community has settled into the 2018 school year so quickly, positively and purposefully. I am certain that the small class sizes, no composite classes, increased school officer support, the clear high expectations on work practices, student behaviour and uniform have all improved the tone and culture of the school. Narrowing in on one specific domain of the "Disposition of a Learner", one Mercy Value and one Social & Emotional element has provided a focus for students to develop as learners and as positive members of the school community. A special mention must go to our little people in Prep for the way in which they have embraced school life at St Augustine's. Well done Preps!

In responding to feedback from parents and caregivers we have moved our Parent-Teacher interviews to Weeks 6 & 7. In this way student affirmation and/or concerns are addressed earlier rather than towards the end of the term. By the end of this week parents will have taken the opportunity to book interviews through the PTO link on the Parent Portal. I would encourage all parents/caregivers to bring their child to the interviews so that each child can participate in the conversation and take ownership of the matters discussed. Participation in these interviews are critical for supporting all aspects of student growth.

A quick reminder that students arriving prior to 8:20am are to sit in the Undercover Area until a member of staff commences playground duty. After that time before school play is open to all who wish to participate.

Thank you to the enthusiastic parents who participated in the informal P & F get together on Wednesday evening at the Mossman Bowls Club. My understanding is that many wonderful ideas were discussed and developed at this brainstorming event. The challenge is for the P & F Executive and the School Leadership team to take the suggestions and develop a strategy to bring many of the proposed ideas into reality, so the children of our school benefit from the various initiatives.

Another way of supporting the school is through service on the School Board. I am inviting all members of the school community to consider membership in this aspect of school life. It would be wonderful to have a cross section of members of the school who reflect one or more characteristics of our community; eg trades people, retailers, professionals, single parents, working parents, indigenous and non-indigenous caregivers, stay at home parents etc. This Newsletter, our Parent Portal and the school Facebook page contains a copy of the CES published document outlining the role and commitment required. It is entitled: ***A guide to Catholic College Boards in the Diocese of Cairns***. I encourage all who may be interested in this aspect of school life to first read carefully the expectations required of prospective Board Members.

The latest advice regarding Student Protection from the Catholic Education Office in Cairns is that Parent helpers may only help within their own child's class. Parents wishing to participate more fully in the life of the school during events such as Sports Carnivals and Under 8's Day will be required to have a QLD Blue Card and have a copy of this card held by the school administration. This extra requirement and compliance is regrettable yet reflects the current social expectations required to further enhance a structure that supports student safety within schools. I encourage as many parents as possible to consider obtaining a Blue Card. It won't be long until Week 10 is upon us and the Cross Country Carnival will be run. It would be disappointing to limit parent engagement and assistance in the carnival due to the non-existence of a Blue Card. Please note that this is not a school-based decision but rather external advice from CES-Cairns.

Lent is in full swing and members of the school community may be considering what Lenten devotions they could undertake. Please consider the Friday morning mass that Fr Michael celebrates each week starting at 8am. It is a quick mass and is usually completed within 25 minutes, so it is over before the commencement of the school day.

Caritas to all

Paul



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Kuku Yalanji and Kubirri-Warra peoples, and pay our respect to the elders, both past, present and future.

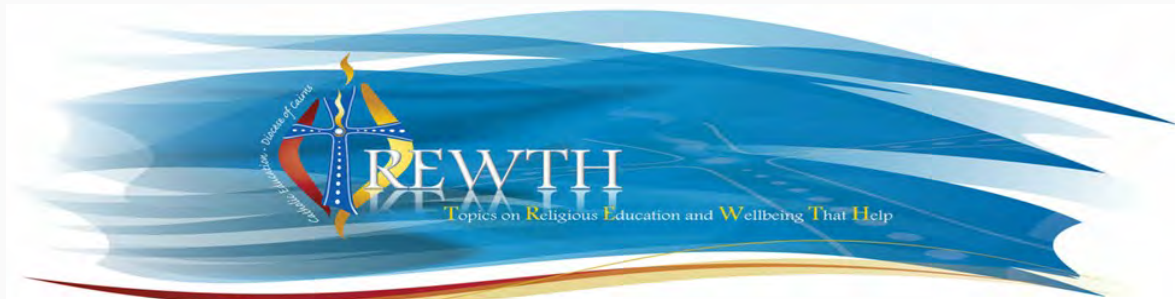


Happy Birthday

The Children enjoying before school play

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
26 th Feb 2018	27th Feb 2018	28th Feb 2018	1st Mar 2018	2nd Mar 2018	3/4 Mar 2018
	<p>Tuckshop Cash Orders due today</p> <p>This Weeks Special This Weeks Special Home made Spaghetti Bolognaise</p> <p>Tuckshop Counter Michelle Zonai</p> <p>Stamp Out Bullying School Performance</p>	<p>Tuckshop Flexischools orders due by 9am</p>		<p>Tuckshop Helpers Michelle Pamela Taylor Karen Smith-Marron</p> <p>Afternoon Prayer 2.10pm</p> <p>Cluster Sports Day Upper Primary</p>	<p>Undercover Angels</p> <p>Hober Family</p> 
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
5th Mar 2018	6th Mar 2018	7th Mar 2018	8th Mar 2018	9th Mar 2018	10/11 Mar 2018
	<p>Tuckshop Cash Orders Due Today</p> <p>This Weeks Special Veggie & Feta Quiche</p> <p>Tuckshop Counter Michelle Zonai</p>	<p>Tuckshop Flexischool orders due by 9am</p>		<p>Tuckshop Helpers Michelle Mel Jones Liza Giudice</p> <p>Afternoon Assembly 2.10pm</p>	<p>Undercover Angels</p> <p>Smith-Marron Family</p> 

Parent—Teacher Interviews 26th February to 9th March



Professional Development ~ TREWTH Conference

Teaching staff are giving up their Saturday to attend the annual TREWTH Conference in Cairns this weekend. In the words of Catholic Education Services Cairns:

The TREWTH Conference is held annually as a service of the CES Identity and Mission team. In addition to the Keynote Address, TREWTH provides a wide variety of workshops related to Religious Education and Wellbeing. These presentations are particularly suited to teachers of Religious Education, Spirituality and Social Emotional Learning, and anyone wanting to deepen their knowledge and understanding in these areas.

I commend our teacher's willingness to deepen their professional knowledge in an area that is vital to our School's commitment to a Catholic Identity.



Project Compassion First Week of Lent



Janaki is a young entrepreneur from Nepal, who has turned her life around. Growing up in a world of poverty and disadvantage, coupled with a forced marriage at the age of twelve, she was in a very vulnerable position. Even more so when her husband died just two years into their marriage. With the help of a Caritas Australia supported program she is now running her own successful sewing business and has become an inspirational community leader.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulnerable young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone 1800 024 413.

May Jesus walk with you this week,

Josh Mullane (APRE)



STEM NEWS

There are some amazing creatures roaming the STEM lab!

Armadillos, maned wolves, anacondas, capybaras, poisonous dart frogs and jaguars all gathered together to compare adaptations to the habitats in which they live.

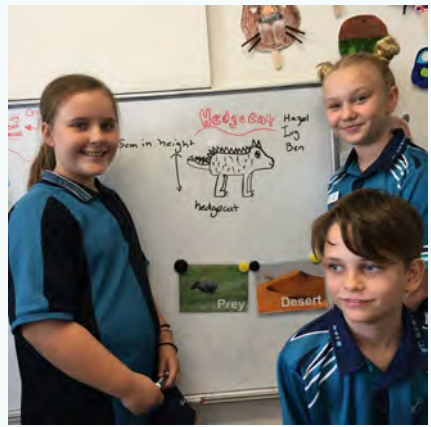
Checkout the photos of the masks created by the Preps-2's. The children really produced an interesting collection that is displayed in the STEM room. They will now go on to create their own creatures by drawing and colouring on paper.

Each junior class will be divided into 3 habitats - desert, jungle or ocean and will design an animal according to their habitat. The animals will be cut out and laminated for longevity and placed in an appropriate habitat background created by the students.

Years 3-6 have reached the design stage of their new species and have invented some truly strange creatures with incredible adaptations blended from researching creatures found in their nominated habitat.

The older students are expected to focus on how their new species structure and behaviour helps it to survive and provide scientific details. The new species is to be drawn on poster paper and labelled, photographed and uploaded to use in a presentation online. The students will then make a model of their new species to display. This will involve measurement and engineering design techniques.

I am looking forward to seeing these strange and wonderful creatures come to fruition over the next weeks. Stay tuned!





A guide to Catholic College Boards in the Diocese of Cairns

What is the role of a college board?

The college board provides the opportunity for members of the college, parish and diocesan communities to support the mission of Catholic education in the school. Working with the Principal, Priest Chaplain, and staff, the college board members provide leadership to the wider school community.

The college board has a decision-making role in certain policy areas and an advisory role in others. The Principal has responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the school. The board often operates as a "sounding board" in considering ideas and providing advice and counsel to school leadership.

College boards also play an important role in helping to define and celebrate the special religious character or charism of the Catholic school.

What does a college board do?

A college board has the following responsibilities:

- To support and promote the Catholic identity of the school and contribute to its evolving charism such that the school remains reflective of Catholic mission and values.
- To work to ensure the school has a dynamic function in the life of the Parish and wider community.
- To provide advice and counsel to the Priest Chaplain and Principal, as appropriate, on a wide range of college operational functions including, but not limited to:
 - ✓ strategic planning and school renewal
 - ✓ budgets and financial management,
 - ✓ staffing,
 - ✓ curriculum and the school's educational program,
 - ✓ inclusive practices,
 - ✓ capital works and school development,
 - ✓ school maintenance,
 - ✓ parent and family engagement,
 - ✓ communication and marketing,

while always having regard for diocesan and government requirements and areas relating to professional judgement.

- To work to ensure that the college fulfils its potential as an option for all who seek its values, including the poor and students with disability.

- To contribute to the selection process for the school Principal.
- To contribute to the formation and evaluation of school policies and core documents, particularly those which assist in defining the character and purpose of the college.
- To contribute to the induction and ongoing formation of college board members so that they understand the scope and extent of their role.
- To contribute to the advocacy role of Catholic schools to influence governments for the betterment of the school.

Are college boards different from company boards?

A very important distinction is that college boards are about service, not power. Decisions are based on the process of shared wisdom that values everyone's input into the discussion. Matters are decided through reflection and consensus rather than being put to a formal vote. There is a higher regard for listening to, and understanding, the views of others, than advocating one's own opinion or position.

The experience of many board members is that membership adds depth to their own personal and faith development.

What does a college board look like?

College boards generally have no less than seven and no more than 12 members. The Priest Chaplain or Priest/religious community leader and Principal are *ex officio* members, meaning they are members by virtue of the positions they hold.

It is expected that a significant number of members will be parents of current, prospective or recent students of the school. Members should reflect a diverse range of backgrounds and skills and help develop relationships with the Parish and wider communities.

Staff are not eligible to be members of college boards for schools at which they are on staff, but staff of the school may be invited to Board meetings to provide briefings and join discussions where their expertise is required.

What background should board members have?

All college board members should have:

- A demonstrated commitment to Catholic values and the ministry and mission of Catholic education. Members do not necessarily need to be Catholic but should be supportive of the values of Catholic Education and the Catholic Church.

- An understanding of local Church policies, particularly as determined by the diocesan Synod process.
- A genuine desire to be of service to the school community.
- The necessary skills to contribute to the college board's work.
- The ability to work collaboratively and constructively with other members of the college board.
- Adequate time to give to college board duties.
- Willingness to act within the code of ethics for college board members.

How are board members appointed?

There will be an open call for nominations within the school and parish communities. This is done through meetings, newsletters, websites, social media and local announcements.

Those wanting to nominate for the board should complete a nomination form that is available from the school.

Nominees are then invited to attend a formation program (generally one or two evenings) to further understand the role of the board and discuss how they might contribute.

After a process of discernment involving the existing Board the Principal will forward recommended appointments to the Diocesan Board of Governance Education.

The final decision on the composition of the board rests with the Diocesan Board of Governance Education which acts on behalf of the Bishop of Cairns.

What time commitment is required?

Board appointments are for three years with provision for a three-year extension. The practice of most college boards is to meet once or twice a term with meetings no longer than two hours.

How does the board's role intersect with the P&F?

College boards and P&Fs both have important and overlapping roles in school communities. P&Fs generally have a dynamic, 'here and now' agenda with a major role in encouraging parent involvement in the life of the school and parent engagement in student learning. College boards are generally more reflective, long term and strategic in their orientation and are often structured to provide a diverse range of specialist advice and counsel to the school's leadership.

Like to know more?

A range of information is available on the Cairns Catholic Education website www.cns.catholic.edu.au/our-school-communities/school-boards-pf-executives. This information includes constitutions, nomination forms, the code of ethics, readings and videos.