Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday we held our first school assembly for 2016. It was a very special assembly where we acknowledged, congratulated and presented our Term 1 & Term 2 Class Captains, SRC members, House Captains and School Captains with their badges. We were extremely fortunate to have Alec Townsend and Abbey Fairbrother, Year 12 students and SRC Members from Marist College speak to our students about their journey through school, their individual roles as a leader and the leadership qualities that are important to them.

There are many ways we can forge the relationship between home and school. There is an enormous body of research on the positive impact of parent partnerships and student success, not just in school but throughout life. According to studies, the most accurate predictor of a student’s achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student’s family is able to become involved in their children’s education at school and in the community (Henderson and Berla, 1994).

It is with this in mind that I invite you to get involved in your child’s education by coming along to our Information Evenings, ‘Getting to Know your Child’ sessions, Parent Teacher Interviews and Parent meetings. You can become directly involved in many different ways by helping to plan, organise and implement projects that will enhance not only your children’s lives at school, but your own as parents.

Our first parent meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday 7 March at 1:30pm in the staffroom (toddlers welcome). Part of this meeting will involve discussions on 2016 fundraising, St Brigid’s Fete, parent social events, school improvement and viewing our new sports uniform polo top. Please come and join us for a cuppa, we would love to hear your ideas.

We are looking forward to our ‘gold accredited’ canteen re-commencing this year. A huge thank you to Kim McLaren and Kristy Barnes for co-ordinating the canteen and Michelle Wells for her guidance.

ASSEMBLY
Our next School Assembly is on Wednesday 9 March in the school hall commencing at 1:45. All welcome.

We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
**BIRTHDAYS**
Birthday wishes to staff and students celebrating their birthday this week: Indiana, Riley, Mrs Macgregor and Miss Reynolds.

**CANTEEN RE-OPENING**
"Calling all canteen volunteers!"
Prior to our March 17th canteen opening, we will be having a casual meeting at 9am, Thursday March 3rd. Please come along for a cuppa and a chat, even if you’re unsure whether you can volunteer - all help will be appreciated. We look forward to your support in the re-opening of the ever-popular canteen for 2016!
Kim McLaren and Kristy Barnes

**EASTER RAFFLE:**
Over the next 4 weeks the Social Committee will be asking that each family donate an Easter Egg, soft toy, Easter book or similar, to go towards our Easter raffle. Raffle books will be sent home next week to each family. It is usually very successful and the children look forward to this event each year. The prizes will be drawn at our Easter Assembly on Holy Thursday. Donations may be sent to the school office.

**HELP!!!**
We are in desperate need for volunteers to give Wess Koop a hand in the school grounds over the next couple of weeks!! (Whiper snippering, edging and weeding). Wess will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays so if you are able to assist please come and see him or contact the school office.

**INFORMATION VALIDATION and MEDICAL UPDATE FORMS**
These forms were sent home 2 weeks ago and due back on 15th Feb. Could parents ensure that all completed medical forms are returned to the school office as soon as possible.

**OFFICE HOURS**
Office opening hours are: 8am - 4pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.15am - 3.30pm Friday.
If you have any fee payments or queries please speak with Ruth Mackenzie during office hours Monday - Thursday.

**PLAYGROUP- ST BRIGID’S BUDDIES**
This week at St Brigid’s Buddies we celebrated the beautiful weather with a beach and water play morning. We explored and investigated water and beach activities including our very own rock pool in the playground. Some children enjoyed playing with seaweed, shells and sand, sensing all the different textures, while others worked together to help create a beautiful beach collage using paint, sand and shells. We used our craft skills to make an octopus and discovered they have 8 legs. This gave the children an opportunity to practise their counting skills. It is fabulous to see the children continuing to explore and enjoy a fun filled morning each week.

**SWIMMING PERMISSION**
The Swimming Trials and Fun Day for Grade 3-6 will be held Friday 4th March and all signed permission forms need to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 2nd.

**SUBWAY LUNCHES**
Due to the reopening of the school canteen, Subway Lunches will now be every Tuesday from next week. Please ensure all orders are brought in on Mondays.

Warm regards

Annette

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**LENT - Project Compassion**

During Lent each year, we hold Fundraisers for Caritas, (an International Aid and Development Organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia that assists people in poorer countries). Project Compassion boxes will be available in classrooms during Lent and if you can spare any change please send this to school with your child to place in our Project Compassion boxes. We will send all donations to Caritas who will use this money to fight poverty and promote social justice in vulnerable communities worldwide. For more information visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

**Hum Noy's story - Laos**

Knowledge helps our children grow

Duangmala wishes for a bright future for her eight-year-old son Hum Noy, who is living with a disability. But faced with discrimination and limited learning opportunities, Duangmala feared he might never reach his full potential. Thankfully, a program supported by Caritas Australia has opened up a world of change for this small family.

*I just want him to be able to communicate, talk and understand me... I want him to have friends.*

Duangmala

Duangmala wished for a bright future for her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, who has Down Syndrome. However, she feared he would remain isolated and never reach his full potential due to a lack of support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos.

Thankfully, everything changed when Duangmala and Hum Noy were introduced to the Intellectual Disabilities Unit, which was set up by the Lao Disabled People's Association with the support of Caritas Australia. This specialised school provides learning support and nurturing care to 50 children with intellectual disabilities in the Laos capital, Vientiane.

Since starting school, Hum Noy's behaviour and abilities have changed remarkably. He is no longer isolated, lonely or frustrated, and his communication skills have advanced quickly. "Hum Noy is learning how to follow instructions and say the names of his teachers and friends," says Duangmala proudly. "He likes to draw, play instruments, and when they do aerobics he joins in!"

The program has also opened new opportunities for Duangmala, who received training to become a teacher at Hum Noy's school. Now, she is hopeful that her son and his classmates can lead more prosperous, fulfilling lives. "It's important to use our knowledge to help our children grow and develop," she says. "We are lucky to have this program."

*I'm proud that my child has a chance to learn and that I am able to help other children through my work.*

Duangmala

**BURNIE/WYNYARD PARISH MASS TIMES**

Saturday 6:00pm St Brigid’s Church, 37 Goldie Street, Wynyard

- Good Friday: 3:00pm (Passion of Our Lord)
- Easter Sunday: 10:00am (Mass)

Sunday 8:00am Sacred Heart Church, 7 Pelissier Street, Somerset

Sunday 10:00am Star of the Sea Church, 96 Mount Street, Burnie

- Holy Thursday: 7:00pm (Mass of the Lord’s Supper)
- Good Friday: 10:00am (Stations of the Cross)
- Holy Saturday: 7:00pm (Easter Vigil)

Sunday 5:00pm, St Josephs, 1566 Murchison Highway, Yolla

5:00pm (Mass 2nd Sunday), 5:00 PM (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays - Liturgy)
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WYNYARD SHOW GATEKEEPING FUNDRAISER 2016
Each year volunteers from St Brigid’s man the Wynyard Show gates and receive a percentage of gate takings as a fundraiser for the school. Having five gates to man over an eight-hour period requires many volunteers. This year’s Agricultural Show is on Saturday March 12th.

Thank you to those who have volunteered. Attached is a roster showing some spaces still vacant. If you are able to help, please leave your name at the office. Some of our keener volunteers have already put their names down! The early shift only has a few spots left so be quick if you would like one of these shifts. Time slots are 2.5 - 3hours.
For more information, please contact Alison Stevens.
Thank you for your assistance.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH
Friday 4th Swimming Trials (Devonport) Grades 3-6
Wednesday 9th School Assembly
Saturday 12th Wynyard Show Gates Fundraiser
Monday 14th Public Holiday
Sunday 20th Palm Sunday
Monday 21st ‘Getting to know Your Child’ - Parent/Teacher
Tuesday 22nd ‘Getting to know Your Child’ - Parent/Teacher
Thursday 24th Holy Thursday - Easter Assembly - 1:45pm
Friday 25th Good Friday
Sunday 17th Easter Sunday
Wednesday 30th School resumes after the Easter Break

APRIL
Friday 8th End Term One
Monday 25th Anzac Day Holiday
Tuesday 26th Term Two commences

TERM DATES 2016

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<td>Term 4</td>
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Residents of Waratah-Wynyard are being asked to help shape the next 25 years of four Council areas. Your views will help form the Sustainable Murchison Community Plan, which is an initiative of the Burnie, Circular Head, King Island, Waratah-Wynyard and West Coast Councils to provide a unified vision for Murchison over the next 25 years. There is an online survey, discussion board and polls for the project hosted at www.placespeak.com/murchison2040. Copies of the survey and a postcard with key questions are also available at Waratah-Wynyard Council. There are also a number of pop up events and a community workshop to discuss the project with dates and locations available on the project website and advertised via The Advocate Newspaper. Waratah-Wynyard Council looks forward to hearing your vision for the future.

GUITAR LESSONS - Clinton Hutton
I am a local guitar teacher (electric or acoustic) and would like to offer my services to any interested students at St Brigid’s. I am passionate about sharing my knowledge (all styles and genres) for learning the instrument. For more information - 0417 146 482

WANDERING WOMBATS
The Wandering Wombats are having a Trivia Night to raise funds for ‘Relay for Life’ Friday at the Wynyard Football Club, 26th February starting 7pm. The cost is $10 per person (tables of 8) and cheese platters are available ($20). The bar will be open, there is a raffle, lucky door prize and silent auction.
To book a table or for further details please contact Renee 0409 197 052.

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Quick and tasty ideas:

- **Sliced melon platter** - try watermelon, rockmelon or honeydew melon
- **A large bunch of grapes** - try different colours and varieties
- **Wholemeal or multigrain crackers and dip** e.g. hommus or salsa
- **Fruit bread or fruit buns**
- **Celery boats** - fill celery sticks with peanut butter* or cottage cheese and dot with sultanas
St Brigid's Buddies

Birth to 4 Program

St Brigid's Buddies is a structured program focusing on early years learning and development, including sensory play, movement, social and emotional wellbeing with a literacy focus. This is a learning opportunity, not only for children, but for parents to socialise in a relaxed and fun environment.

*Please phone 6442 2167 for further details*

| Week 3   | Monday 15th February 2016  
|          | 9-10:30am  
|          | *Let's go camping!*

| Week 4   | Monday 22nd February 2016  
|          | 9 - 10:30am  
|          | *Water & beach play*

| Week 5   | Monday 29th February 2016  
|          | 9 -10:30am  
|          | *Caring for our environment*

| Week 6   | Monday 7th March 2016  
|          | 9 -10:30am  
|          | *Obstacle course*

| Week 7   | *Public Holiday - Eight Hours Day*  

| Week 8   | Monday 21st March 2016  
|          | 9 -10:30am  
|          | *Nan or Pop Day - You’re the Teacher*

| Week 9   | *Easter Monday*  

| Week 10  | Monday 4th April 2016  
|          | 9-10:30am  
|          | *Let’s look at seasonal change*
Expression Of Interest

for the following is invited

ST BRIGID’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

An opportunity exists to engage with St Brigid’s Catholic school community by becoming a member of the Board.

As described in the Constitution the Board will work collaboratively in an advisory and supportive role with the Principal within the broad parameters established by the Governing Council and TCEO. Particular responsibilities of the Board are:

• to advise on and assist with the formulation of policy for the conduct of the School in line with TCEC/TCEO policies and Governing Council directives;

• to co-operate with and support the Principal in maintaining the School as an institute of Catholic Education;

• to contribute, where possible, in matters regarded as major initiatives and/or changes;

• to liaise with the local Parish Priest/s and/or Parish Pastoral Council/s, in matters of mutual concern to the School and Parishes;

• to participate in and co-operate with the School on the planning, research, development, implementation and evaluation of the School’s Strategic Plan;

• to contribute to the planning and management of maintenance and building programs necessary for the recurrent and long-term welfare and effective development of the School; and

• to review the finances of the School, and the prudent use of funds, according to the provisions of this Constitution and the directions of the TCEO.

If you are interested in becoming an appointed member of the Board. Please email annette.mcculloch@catholic.tas.edu.au for a nomination form and return by 25th March to: annette.mcculloch@catholic.tas.edu.au

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