Dear Parents and Carers

This week I would like to share our ‘Head Of School Services’ Peter Douglas’ weekly reflection...

“We all heard the warnings our parents gave us about hanging around with those deadbeats, delinquents, troublemakers, recalcitrants and ratbags. Who knows what kind of trouble you’d find yourself in? Needless to say, despite the warnings, we did hang out with them – and in the end most of us turned out quite okay, a few lessons learned, a few brushes with the ‘dark side’.

The word ‘prodigal’ has received some rough press. Because we know how hard end the young man (of the parable fame) was, we tend to think that prodigal means ungrateful or sinful. In fact it has its origin in the Latin word prodigus for lavish or extravagant. Many prefer to call Luke’s parable of the prodigal son, the parable of the forgiving father. I would prefer to call it the parable of the prodigal father. For here is a most extraordinary father.

This sounds like the ideal parent, but you would have to wonder what on earth could be going through his mind. Did he fear for his son’s life as he fell into bad company? Did he hope in his heart of hearts that his son would see the error of his ways and return home? Did he think of his elder son, of his fidelity? For here is a father whose love is so lavish, so generous, so welcoming, and so forgiving, that we are not surprised by his elder son’s complaint.

In this parable we are able to see ourselves in each of the characters: the father for whom nothing is more important than loving forgiveness; the elder son who struggles to reconcile his steadiness and fidelity with the lavishness of his father’s welcome to his wayward brother; the younger son who wants to stretch his legs, see the world, burn up his inheritance, and who despite knowing his offences, believes that even as a servant, he is better off at home.

We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
This is a deeply rich story, for Jesus uses it as a metaphor for our relationship with God. For only God’s extravagant love has the capacity to forgive everything and yet still honour those who are steadfast and faithful.

This parable comes to us on this coming 4th Sunday of Lent as a challenge to our world-weary view on young people. Yes, our children will give us a hard time, but they need us to have that longer vision that helps us see to the horizon, constantly on the lookout for their return. You must let them go, and you must always leave the door ajar.

**ASSEMBLY**

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

Birthday wishes to staff and students celebrating their birthday this week: Charlotte, Marliah, Mrs Macgregor and Miss Reynolds.

**CANTEEN RE-OPENING**

Children and staff are very excited about the re-opening of the school canteen! Canteen will be held every Thursday commencing on 17th March. A copy of the Canteen menu, including ordering instructions, will be sent home next week. Thank you to Kim, Kristy and Holly for attending the canteen meeting this morning.

**DELTA CLASSROOM CANINES PROGRAM**

On Tuesday the school community was very excited to welcome our new Delta Dog, Dudley and his owner Sue Berry. Dudley and Sue will be listening to students read in the school library every Tuesday afternoon. Dudley was so comfortable and relaxed this week, that we think he may have had a little ‘Doggy Nap’.

**EASTER RAFFLE**

We are asking that each family donate an Easter egg, soft toy, Easter book or similar, to contribute to our Easter raffle. Donations may be sent to the school office. So far students have filled one basket with Easter goodies!! Raffle books were sent home yesterday and already some students have returned them! The prizes will be drawn at our Easter Assembly on Wednesday 23rd March. (Not Thursday as previously stated in last week’s newsletter.)

**INFORMATION VALIDATION and MEDICAL UPDATE FORMS**

**URGENT:** Parents please ensure that all completed medical forms are returned to the school office by TOMORROW.

**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.

**PARENT COMMUNITY MEETING**

Our first parent meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday 7th 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 validation 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 Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
PLAYGROUP–ST BRIGID’S BUDDIES
At St Brigid’s Buddies on Monday morning we explored how to look after our environment. We planted carrots and lettuce in the Kinder garden to enable us to watch them grow and learn how to care for them. We then read a book about caring for our environment. After our story we explored how to care for our playground at St Brigid’s by walking around and picking up rubbish. The children were very enthusiastic and had a fabulous morning!

SUBWAY LUNCHES
Due to the reopening of the school canteen, Subway Lunches are every Tuesday. Please ensure all orders are brought in on Mondays.

Warm regards

Annette

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Swimming Trials (Devonport) Grades 3-6</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Wynyard Show Gates Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Prayer Liturgy - Gr 5 Leading - Library</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>‘Getting to know Your Child’ - Parent/Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>‘Getting to know Your Child’ - Parent/Teacher</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgy - Gr 4 leading - St Brigid’s Church</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Easter Assembly - 1:40pm School Hall</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>School resumes after the Easter Break</td>
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APRIL

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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>End Term One</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Anzac Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Term Two commences</td>
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WYNYARD FOOTBALL CLUB UNDER 12’S
Training will commence for the Wynyard Football Club Under 12’s on Wednesday 9th March at the Wynyard Football Club at 5 p.m.
If you have any questions, please contact Adrian Dixon 0429 962 094.

SOCCER
We are now taking registrations for the 2016 season for children born 2004 to 2010
Registration options:
Online at www.myfootballclub.com.au
In person on registration day 19th March at Burnie United Soccer Grounds from 9am
Email westernschoolssoccer@gmail.com for a form to download
All players must be registered before 20th March to ensure a place on the team
Any parents, carers or friends interested in being a team facilitator or for any other enquiries please contact us via our Facebook page or at westernschoolssoccer@gmail.com

We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
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. We will send all donations to Caritas who will use this money to fight poverty and promote social justice in vulnerable communities worldwide. The money raised during our St Patricks Day ‘Jelly’ fundraiser will go towards Project Compassion - Caritas. It is wonderful to know that through our combined effort we will help empower communities.

For more information visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Dominic’s Story - Papua New Guinea

Creating a harmonious future

Participating in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program has empowered Dominic and the people of his village to create a new way of life, far from the violence and gender inequality of the past.

Dominic (36) lives with his wife and four children in the Jiwaka Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG), where generational poverty has led to many challenges, including inequality, alcohol abuse and violence.

Dominic admits that he too faced some of these challenges. But when Caritas Australia and local partner, the Sisters of Notre Dame, established the Community Conversations program, he saw an opportunity to create change.

“I was inspired to hear of the different issues highlighted and processes used to come up with solutions,” Dominic explains.

Through regular Community Conversations training sessions, Dominic learnt communication and problem-solving skills that helped him lead open, respectful community discussions in his village. By empowering everyone to voice concerns and play a role in community decisions, Dominic’s village has achieved greater peace and increased respect, as well as reduced violence and alcohol abuse.

Now, Dominic’s community has a chance to thrive and create a better future for themselves.

“When we start to realise we have power to stand independently to change ourselves, help ourselves, we feel liberated,” says Dominic. “I am most proud of the positive changes I am witnessing. I pass my big thanks and pray God will bless our supporters in Australia.”

Now everyone, women and young people, have a voice and peace is maintained that way.” - Dominic

St Brigid’s Church Refurbishing Celebrations

Parishioners are invited to the St Brigid’s Church Refurbishing Celebrations to be held Saturday 5th March in the St Brigid’s Catholic School Community Hall following the 6:00pm Mass. BYO Shared Meal (Casseroles and Sweets).

St Patrick’s Day

St Patrick’s Day is an annual observance celebrated March 17th. This event serves as a tribute to Ireland and one of its patron saints, St Patrick and is a religious and cultural celebration. Many Australians remember Irish settlement and culture on St Patrick’s Day. The Irish were among the first Europeans to settle in Australia and comprised a portion of the convict settlement population in the late 1700s.

300,000 more Irish settlers (not convicts) migrated to Australia between 1840 and 1914. Many Irish immigrants came to Australia to escape famine in their homeland. About 30% of Australians are believed to have some Irish ancestry. Saint Patrick was believed to have been born in the fourth century in Roman Britain to a wealthy family and at age 16 was kidnapped and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. There, working as a shepherd, he “found God.” Patrick returned home and eventually became a priest with the aim to convert people to Christianity. He died March 17th and became Ireland’s prominent saint.
**St Patrick’s Day Liturgy**
Parents and Friends are invited to our whole school St Patrick’s Day Liturgy to be held in the school library at 11:45am Thursday, 17th March. Grade 3 and Miss Maher will be co-ordinating the Liturgy with the assistance of Ms Reynolds.

**St Patrick’s Day Sports**
We will continue celebrating St Patrick’s Day with our ‘St Patrick’s Day Sports’ to be held after lunch. All parents are warmly welcome to come and cheer our students as they participate in friendly team sports.

**BURNIE/WYNYARD PARISH MASS TIMES**
*All Parishioners Welcome / All Masses*

**St Brigid’s, Wynyard**
Tuesday, 9:30am
Saturday 6:00pm St Brigid’s Church, 37 Goldie Street, Wynyard
**Good Friday:** 3:00pm (Passion of Our Lord)
**Easter Sunday:** 10:00am (Mass)

**Umina Park**
Wednesday, 10am North Lodge, Umina Park (2nd Wed of month only)

**Sacred Heart, Somerset**
Sunday 8:00am Sacred Heart Church, 7 Pelissier Street, Somerset
(1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays – Mass, 2nd Sunday - Liturgy)

**Star of the Sea, Burnie**
Thurs: 9:30am
Sunday 10:00am Star of the Sea Church, 96 Mount Street, Burnie
All are welcome to share a cup of tea in the Burnie Parish Centre after the 10:00am Mass each Sunday
**Holy Thursday:** 7:00pm (Mass of the Lord’s Supper)
**Good Friday:** 10:00am (Stations of the Cross)
**Holy Saturday:** 7:00pm (Easter Vigil)

**St Joseph’s, Yolla**
Sunday 5:00pm, St Josephs, 1566 Murchison Highway, Yolla
5:00pm (Mass 2nd Sunday), 5:00pm (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays - Liturgy)

**Stations of the Cross**
Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent, at St Joseph’s Church, Yolla at 7.00pm. Everyone is most welcome.

**Yaraandoo Chapel, Burnie**
12 Noon, First Friday of Month only

**Australian Church Women**
**World Day of Prayer**
This year’s, “World Day of Prayer” service has been planned by the women of Cuba.
The theme is: Jesus said to them “Receive Children, Receive Me”.
The Burnie Service will be held at:
St George’s Anglican Church,
Corner of Mount and Cattley Streets on Friday 4th March at 10:00am
The service will be followed by morning tea-a time for fellowship. All are most welcome to attend.
Congratulations to all our School Leaders.

**WYNYARD SHOW GATEKEEPING FUNDRAISER 2016 – Saturday 12th March**

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 - 3 hours.

For more information, please contact Alison Stevens.

Thank you for your assistance.

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<th>7-10am</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main Gate</strong></td>
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<td>1 more needed</td>
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<td><strong>Jenner Street</strong></td>
<td>Filled</td>
<td>1 more person needed</td>
<td>Filled</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gutteridge Gardens</strong></td>
<td>Filled</td>
<td>Filled</td>
<td>2 people needed</td>
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<td><strong>Cemetery</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supervisor</strong></td>
<td>7-11am</td>
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We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Overview 2016</th>
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</table>
| **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 |

We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe
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

We are Learners – We are Respectful – We are Safe