Dear Parents

On Monday the Church celebrated the Feast of the little known saint, St. Giles. He is the patron saint of the “handicapped and street people.” According to the Good News Ministries website, those who listened to Saint Giles preach were handicapped beggars, so he built hospitals and safe houses for them that were accessible to them. Due to his own damaged leg and his concern for the crippled paupers who needed money for survival, he became the patron saint of beggars and the handicapped.

So it was more than appropriate that, last Friday evening, about 50 students together with about 10 staff, took part in our annual “Bennies Bring a Blanket” Winter Appeal for the homeless. On what was a chilly evening, students took part in a simple immersion into the life of those who live on the street, including attempting to make a rudimentary shelter in the junior quadrangle area where they could sit and eat a meal from our “soup kitchen”. Later in the evening, Years 9 and 10 students took part in a moving liturgy reflecting on the tales of the homeless and the input provided by the president of the local SVdeP chapter, Mr. Alex Popovic. No doubt many of the students returned home understanding the concept of ‘cold and hungry’ and were grateful for a warm bed and possibly a fast-food treat on the way home. I thank Mrs. Wardley, Mr. Costin and Mr. Davidson for organizing the evening, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Bonfield who organized the soup kitchen with their own children and the families who encouraged their children to participate. Over $1000 was raised for the Winter Appeal.

The prayer of St. Giles concludes with:

Lord, heal them, lead them to therapies that will help them recover,
give them shelter and jobs, and show them how to rely on You for their strength.

Saint Giles, pray for us. Amen.”

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As part of Literacy and Numeracy week celebrations, all students took part in some real-world Mathematics this week. In an entertaining and engaging few hours, students were involved in brain-engaging activities solving Mathematical applications to puzzles and real-world problems. Presenter, Peter Wilson, tried to baffle the students with hands-on team building activities. It was fascinating watching the students work in teams to solve some really fun mathematical puzzles.
Which brought us to our semester one Academic Assembly last Thursday. In a simple but dignified presentation, those who worked hard and those who demonstrated high levels of achievement were recognized with awards. It was pointed out at the time that the award winners were often those who didn’t have a mindset of defeat or a mindset of limited capability but were prepared to “have a go” at most things and actually puzzle out where things went wrong when they did, and what they were going to do about it.

That capacity to be a resilient learner is one of the key strategies for students in the 21st century. We have attached some parent reading with the newsletter this week on building resilient learners. Watching the enjoyment of the students at the Mathematics day earlier in the week and moving from “I can’t do Maths” to “this is fun” is a great step in the right direction.

Michael Hanratty
Principal

Café News
The long awaited Café is now up and running.

In order to purchase goods from the Café parents must open an account on the Flexischools website and have their student linked to the account with the student ID card number. Directions for registration and ordering can be found on the school website. Menus and prices are also located on the website.

If ordering online the student need only use their card as proof of ID when picking up their order as payment is made as part of the online process. The student card will be used if your child wishes to purchase directly from the Café. This can only happen if the Student Card has been linked to the online registration.

Private Conveyancing
If you’re not close to public transport and need to drive a student to a bus stop or to school where no bus is available, you may be eligible for the Private Vehicle Conveyancing (PVS) subsidy. Transport NSW is launching an online service for families who wish to apply for this subsidy. To apply online and see the full terms and conditions visit transport.nsw.gov.au/pvc

Payments are paid twice a year to parents who qualify and register for the subsidy.

Congratulations to all the award recipients at the recent Semester 1 Academic Assembly.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY
SPIRIT ALIVE YOUTH GATHERING
Friday 12 September 2014

Don’t miss our Spirit Alive Festival being held on Friday 12 September at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Varroville. We are very fortunate this time to be joined by Sr. Therese Mills, a Missionaries of God’s Love Sister from Canberra who regularly takes young people on mission trips in the Asia-Pacific region and has a passion for youth ministry. The evening includes music led by youth musicians, dinner (bring some money for dinner and canteen) and time to connect with other young people from across our Diocese. Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm-9.30pm; Year 9 to 25 years; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Varroville (193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville).

Please see the flyer attached.


Download permission note for U18 via website.
Career News:

Apprenticeships & Traineeships 2015—My Gateway

My Gateway expect to have 20+ apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities for 2014 school leavers in the areas of:
• Administration  • Bricklaying  • Carpentry  • Childcare  • Electrical  • Formwork  • Heavy Vehicle  • Horticulture
• Reception Work  • Metals & Engineering..................and more

To register your interest, go to www.mygateway.org.au and email your resume and your job preference now for the chance to attend their Recruitment Day on Saturday 27 September.

Also their website has details of current vacancies including a Traineeship for a Draftsperson at Ingleburn and several vacancies for apprenticeships in electrical contracting companies.

Casual Sales positions with MOVE …

Dick Smith a leading retailer of consumer electronics with brands Dick Smith, Electronics powered by Dick Smith in selected David Jones locations and their fashion forward MOVE stores.

They have over 377 stores and counting and a strong online presence across Australia and New Zealand.

Shortly they will be advertising for these roles across Australia and New Zealand and will look for Casual Sales Consultants for the Christmas period who love technology and the lifestyle benefits it would bring to their customers.

Consultants who love technology and the lifestyle benefits it would bring to their customers.

This is an opportunity to earn an income, gain experience & training and may be the start of a fantastic career.


Important News from the St Benedict’s Uniform Shop

Fittings for uniforms for 2015 are now open and available from September through to November with all fittings by appointment only. Students from Year 9 who will require fittings for their Senior Uniform for Year 10 2015 are advised to make your appointments now. Year 7 2015 students have also been advised to make appointments.

The Uniform Shop needs to have all uniforms ordered by November to ensure that sufficient stock is on hand. Failure to make an appointment now may result in your child not having their uniform available at the start of the 2015 school year. The new contact for the St Benedict’s Uniform Shop is: stbenedict@ranier.com.au

A flyer has been sent home to Year 7 2015 last week and the Year 9 students will receive the flyer this week.

PRINCIPAL APPRAISAL
Parent Survey

As part of the Catholic Education Office Principal Professional Development Planning and Review Processes an Appraisal occurs for each Principal every four years of his or her contract. This provides system and community accountability that is aligned with the School and improvement processes, but focused on the Principal’s leadership achievements and future directions.

The Appraisal will be occurring for your Principal, Mr Hanratty, over the coming weeks and parents are invited to participate via a short survey. Surveys need to be completed before Wednesday 8 October 2014. The information you provide will be kept confidential to the Panel that will be undertaking the Appraisal. Details of how to access the online survey will be sent home this week with your child.

Another part of the process is a Panel Review and this will be occurring on Thursday 16 October. The Panel is comprised of an external educational consultant, a peer Principal and a member of the CEO Leadership Team. On this day the Parish Priest, members of the Staff and Student body and a Parent group (approx. 12 parents) will meet with the panel for approximately 45 minutes. Please speak with Mr Hanratty if you are interested in being involved.

I wish to thank you in advance for taking part in this important process which is aimed at continual enhancement of the Catholic Education provided at your child’s school.

Carolyn Hadley
Head of Human Resource Services
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong
Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Youth Ministry has held Spirit Alive Youth Events for the last four years. These popular events offer students and young adults the opportunity to connect with one another at a large event and share their faith in a safe, fun environment. The evenings include music led by youth musicians and singers, a meal (donations welcome), and dynamic input from an inspiring speaker, and are a great opportunity for youth from across the diocese to connect with one another and share faith and life. The details of our next event are:

Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm to 9.30pm; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

The speaker for our next event will be Sr Therese Mills, a Missionaries of God’s Love Sister, who is very experienced in and passionate about youth ministry. She regularly takes young people on mission trips to the most remote parts of Australia and Asia-Pacific, as well as inspiring youth at national conferences like ACYF and Ignite.

The event is supervised by Diocesan staff. Participants are asked to bring a small donation if possible (say $5) to cover the cost of dinner. School uniform is NOT required as this event is organised by Catholic Youth Ministry, Wollongong.

Bishop Peter Ingham has a strong heart for our youth, and is keen for this event to be a real inspiration to our young people. We have included the option of providing contact details on the permission form if you wish to be kept informed about future events.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

Richard McMahon
Director, Parish Services

Please ensure this form is completed and signed by parent/guardian and brought to the event with those who are under 18.

I, ________________________, give permission for my child __________________ to attend Spirit Alive at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm – 9.30pm.

☐ I give permission for the Diocesan Office to inform my son/daughter about upcoming events and plans in the area of Catholic Youth Ministry. I am aware my son/daughter will be able to opt out of the contact at any time.

Contact Email for updates: ____________________________

Contact mobile for updates: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ (best contact in case of emergency)
Teach children to persist

Parents can promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

“Persistence and patience have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

John Quincy Adams

The ability to persist at a task and see it through to the end is one of the most important success attributes that you can develop in a child.

There are numerous times every day when children must persist rather than give in. A young child learning to tie shoelaces must persist. A primary aged student must show determination to finish tasks and a secondary student needs to work through difficulties, particularly those he doesn’t understand or complete right away.

They need to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough. They need the ‘stickability’ to work through difficulties and hang in there when things don’t go their way.

Some children are more naturally predisposed to persist than others. They have a determined, even competitive streak in their temperament that doesn’t allow them to give in. These children and young people can drive themselves very hard to succeed.

The results of the Australian Temperament Project show that persistence is the one temperament factor that can be improved over time. Parents and teachers can develop persistence in children and also impede its development by making life too easy for children so that they don’t have opportunities to persist or hang in there.

Parents can promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

Parents can be a sounding board for children’s gripes but they should show confidence in their ability to cope and get through their difficulties. “You can do it” is far more powerful in terms of promoting an attitude of persistence than “if it is a little too hard then try something else.”

Let children know that there is a correlation between effort and success. In fact, they need to learn that by GIVING EFFORT they will more than likely experience more success. The ability to persist in the face of difficulties maybe an old-fashioned quality but it is one of the best success attributes that children will ever develop.

Here are four practical strategies you can use to promote a sense of persistence in your children:

1. Develop a vocabulary for persistence.
Words like “Hang tough”, “Work Hard” and “Hang in there” can become part of their every day vocabulary.

2. Point out to children when they stick at a task.
Most parents know it pays off when they catch their children being good but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. The behaviours you focus on as parents expand so let them know when they have been persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.

3. Help children to remember times when they experienced success by HANGING IN when they were younger. Let them know that persistence has paid off before and it will again.

4. Talk about HARD WORK with your children.
They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case.

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