St Gabriel’s News
A school for students with hearing impairment 
and other special needs
within Edmund Rice Special Education Services

Newsletter No: 8
Date: 17 June 2011

Principal’s Message

Dear Families and Friends

We come to the end of the term with lowered energy, some outcomes achieved others not but also with a sense of closure. This is the beauty of the school year. Four terms gets the adrenalin going to conclude projects and themes and to enjoy the anticipation and creativity of new beginnings. The tough work around managing individual needs with the demand for consistent intervention is hard to sustain over long periods of time however the term break offers a reprieve and an opportunity to reflect and evaluate what is in place. What I see here at St. Gabriel’s is an ongoing dialogue between teachers and staff, emails and meetings are continuous, in an attempt to positively change and manage challenging student behaviour and teach more appropriate behaviours. I would like to acknowledge our staff for the time and commitment they give to supporting the students – there is no more difficult work than this. Managing individual needs and balancing them with the daily teaching of curriculum can be relentless but also the most satisfying aspect of the work we do. To see our students as effective learners who can enjoy their social relationships is reward enough. Recently on one of the very wet days I saw our children totally engaged in the most creative games, all of their making. There was much noise and action but also a sense of peace and fun. This is just as it should be.

Preparation for Friday’s end of term liturgy is well underway and once again I was struck by the creative ways in which our core values are taught. To make our students aware of the needs of others and what they can do to help is such a challenge but so worthwhile. This liturgy promises to be most memorable.

I will be on leave for the first two and a half weeks of the term attending a course at Boston College – it will be difficult to miss the beginning of the term but I have every faith that all will be well. Denis O’Brien, EREA, will step into my place and will support the executive team at both schools.

Enjoy your holidays and take advantage of both closure and new beginning!

Very best wishes

Kathy

Diary

Friday, 24th June
Last day of Term 2—assembly and handover of collected clothing and blankets to St Vincent de Paul

Monday, 18th July
Term 3 commences

Wednesday, 20th July
7.00 p.m. Parent Fundraising Meeting

Happy Birthday to those children celebrating birthdays in July

Melanie who will be 9 on 1st July
Joe who will also be 9 on 13th July
Dion who will be 10 on 19th July
Ethan who will be 8 on 24th July
Children's Awards

The following Awards were presented at our School Assemblies:

Week 7, 2011 (Monday, 6th June—Friday, 10th June)

Student of the Week: Jayden

Class Awards
Junior N - Miguel for doing his best in phonics
Middle L - Melanie for excellent counting in maths
Upper W - Douglas for trying his best to use his signs and his iPad to tell us how he feels and what he wants

Do Your Best Award: Blake
Be Safe Award: Emma
Care and Share Award: Scott
Uniform Award: Dion

Week 8, 2011 (Monday, 13th June—Friday, 17th June)

Student of the Week: Tom for fantastic work in English—talking and listening, reading and writing

Class Awards
Junior N - Scott for fantastic talking and listening
Middle L - Ethan for excellent listening and following instructions in all lessons
Upper W - Emma for fantastic writing

Do Your Best Award: Corey
Be Safe Award: Aaron T
Care and Share Award: Kian
Uniform Award: Dominic
In the last 2 weeks we have collectively celebrated our many strengths and achievements over the course of this year and in fact, since the beginning of last year: our emerging sense of belonging together as families, staff and wider community; the growth of educational programs and the ongoing achievements of individual children in classroom and school settings. Through weekly assemblies, our first parent iPad meeting on Thursday, the Design 2 Shine Program, first reports for the year, teachers presenting their expertise to staff at staff meetings and the many new families we’ve been meeting at enrolment interviews, we have indeed been blessed and are reminded of the mysteries of how the Holy Spirit works amongst us in such loving and inexplicable ways. As these holidays approach, we wish all of you the many fruits of the spirit, especially those of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and generosity!

Warmly
Dianne

Congratulations to Blake who has just received his first Holy Communion on 11 June at St. Paul the Apostle in Winston Hills! It’s a significant event in the life of any young person – and for Blake we celebrate ‘doubly’. Well done, Blake – we are all very proud of you!

Warm congratulations to Letitia and Jim Lagopoulos on the birth of their baby daughter, Alyssa who arrived on 21st June—a beautiful sister to Dion!

Design 2 Shine
The project days for our first Design 2 Shine for 2011 took place on 1st and 2nd June and were a huge success when students from St Bernadette’s Primary School and Gilroy College joined our students in various workshops to produce some wonderful artworks. These were put on display at our Presentation/BBQ on 2nd June. We look forward to further collaboration with these schools at our Design 2 Shine projects in Terms 3 and 4.
It is the policy of St Gabriel’s to distribute information when requested regarding activities and information concerning disability. This does not imply that St Gabriel’s endorses these activities or the information contained therein in any way.

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