News from Scott

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I sincerely hope that all the mothers and mother-like figures in our community were duly recognised and appreciated over the weekend for all they give to make our families happier and better functioning. I got the chance to take my mum out for breakfast on Sunday morning and it was a greatly appreciated, quiet moment away from the business of our lives to just be together and discuss the mundane yet important things that join us together.

Last week I joined some colleague principals in prayer. In the stillness and peace of this time I found myself reflecting on Mary, mother of Jesus and my mind drifted back to my pilgrimage last year. In Ephesus I visited Mary’s house. The building believed to be the place where Mary lived out her final years with John – ‘the blessed disciple’. With Easter also in my mind, I contemplated the immense trauma and grief Mary must have endured during the days leading into his death as well as the unyielding faith and joy in the rising of Christ in the resurrection. For a woman who had experienced such trauma and turbulence in her life to continue to live such a modest and quiet existence is a testament to the peaceful character of the person. Her house radiated the same peace and tranquility when I visited it many years later.

This reflection during prayer reminded me, as it often does, that in moments of busyness and crisis I need to take a peaceful approach to dealing with challenges before me.

In giving we receive.

Scott

News from Matt

More on the Numeracy Block

The Importance of Counting:

Number sense is of significant importance in order for children to be able to effectively and efficiently work with numbers to solve problems encountered as part of daily living. Counting becomes a powerful tool for children to solve problems when they can both accurately count a collection, and can count-on and count back from any number by ones, twos, fives and other multiples.

Counting strategies identified include count-all (not just say numbers in order but counting a collection of objects), count-on (from a given number), count-back-all, count-down-to, and count-down-from. Once children have developed counting strategies it is important for them to begin using reasoning strategies including doubles, near doubles, adding ten, adding nine, combinations for ten and part-whole strategies. When children have developed a range of strategies, it becomes important to choose wisely among these strategies, to fit the demands of a task.

Counting forms a basis of all numeracy lessons. Questions that are regularly asked of any given number that has been counted include: What is 1 more? What is 1 less? What is 10 more? What is 10 less? What is 11 more and 11 less? These questions deepen children’s understanding of number concepts, encourages the discovery of patterns of numbers particularly when counting and helps children develop more efficient counting strategies.

Numeracy Hint:

Try asking these questions at home whenever you encounter numbers.

What is 1 more? What is 1 less? What is 10 more? What is 10 less? What is 11 more and 11 less?

Literacy Hint:

Reading should be enjoyable for you and your child. If your child becomes distressed or loses interest when reading at home:

- take a break from reading and try again later.
- All children, regardless of age, like to be read to. Make a special time whenever possible for reading with your child away from interruptions.
- Point out words on street signs, packets and labels
- Talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a TV guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book, an encyclopaedia, web search
- Point out the different size and shape of words.

In giving we receive.

Matt
Religious News

This Sunday we will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 16:15—20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them “Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers; in my name they will cast our devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover”.

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Living the Gospel – Proclaim Good News

Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, ‘Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!’ In every interaction we have we say so much about who we are, what we think of the other person and what we believe – even without opening our mouth. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and yet behave unjustly then it is our actions, not our words, that will be heard! When we are called to ‘proclaim the Good News’ we are called to do this first and foremost in action.

© Greg Sunter Liturgy Help

Mamre Team News

This week a group of parents met with me in the hall to help decide on the design of our new Trinity tracksuit. Fashion design is not one of my strengths and I thank the group of parents who gave their time and talent to work with Layla from Lowes to determine the colours and style of the tracksuit. It will now go into production and will be available later this year for purchase in preparation for 2016.

Next week the Mamre Team will send home raffle tickets to each family for the Trinity Feast Day Fun Raffle. We are asking that each child bring in an item to place into hampers as prizes for the raffle. A note is going home today outlining what each year group can provide for these hampers.

A big thank you to everyone for supporting the Trinity School Community.

The Mamre Team
**News from the LARC**

**LARC Refurbishment**
Thanks for your patience, understanding and positive comments so far. We are pleased with the painting and carpet tiles. A big thank you to Col and Pat on our Maintenance team and Scott who cleaned the louvers, moved shelves, fire extinguishers and other items the weekend before last.

This week, blinds will be installed and Col and Pat will start on the wall tiles. Also, the top windows will be tinted to help stop fading of the books. The shelves that were moved for painting will be reattached. We have started moving the Junior Fiction off the shelves, the Non Fiction to the Junior Fiction shelves and the Fiction to the Non-Fiction shelves. Stocktaking of the Fiction has also started. This whole process will take the next two weeks at least.

Next week, new Junior Fiction shelves will arrive and new end panels to enhance our newly painted internal doors. The week after that, we hope to stocktake Junior Fiction, move one whole section of Non-Fiction shelves to the other end of the LARC and try and move the Teachers' Reference books to that location. This will mean that we can add more tubs to the compactus for the new expected Guided Reading 24-30 and spread out existing resources so that the boxes on the top shelves are not as heavy.

**Writers’ Festival**
Congratulations to our Year 5 Writers’ Group who will be attending Sydney Writers’ Festival Primary School Days at Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre at Penrith next Friday 22nd May. The children will share some of their learning in the Transmitter and at Assembly.

_Liz Jenkins_
Teacher Librarian

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**TRINITY FEAST DAY**

Our Trinity Feast Day will be held on Friday 29th May 2015. We will begin our day of celebration with Mass at 9:15am in the School Hall. This will be followed by Open Classrooms where parents/carers are welcome to join your children in their classrooms to see what wonderful learning has been going in this year. The remainder of the day’s events are yet to be decided and more information will be sent home in the coming weeks. We welcome everyone and look forward to seeing as many families celebrate with us.

_In Giving We Receive._

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**2016 ENROLMENTS**

We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2016. To enrol your child for school he/she must be turning 5 on or before 31 July 2016. Enrolment packs can be obtained from the front office. If you know of any families wishing to enrol their child/children at Trinity please let them know.

Enrolment interviews will begin shortly.
NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

BUS BAY
At Trinity we are very fortunate to be one of the only schools in the diocese with a designated parent car park.

With this wonderful asset come some responsibilities for parents. I have noticed however, that some parents are accessing the bus bay at the front of the school to drop children off in the morning. This is extremely unsafe as there is a high risk of collision with our buses.

PLEASE NOTE: No parents should be parking in the staff car park at all. No cars should be accessing the Trinity bus bay before 9 o’clock in the morning or after 2:30 in the afternoon, unless arranged through the school office.

CAN YOU HELP???
We are looking for a volunteer to coach our Year 3 and 4 Rugby League team. If you have a current Rugby League coaching qualification and can spare an hour from 3pm until 4pm one afternoon a week, please let us know by contacting the school office.

CLASSROOM PARENT HELPERS
You may be aware that there is currently a Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse being conducted. One of the positive things coming from the commission and its findings is the serious review by the Catholic Church in Australia into how it needs to change to better protect our kids. An element of this has been a significant change in the requirements of people having access to work with children (including volunteers). To ensure that we follow the changes to policy and process correctly and continue ensuring that our children’s safety is our priority, we have delayed inviting ‘parent helpers’ into school to assist with things like reading groups. We are continuing to seek clarification through Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta. Once we have our policies updated and in place we will be able to move forward with ‘classroom parent helpers’ this year.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
Parents/Carers we have noticed a number of children coming into the school office needing to change their school uniform due to mess etc. Could you please ensure that all items sent home from our office are cleaned and returned to us as we need this to fulfil our uniform orders and are running low on stock.

Thank you for your understanding.

Have you subscribed to our newsletter online?

Registering is easy simply head to our website www.trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au and look for the ‘Subscribe to our Newsletter’ section.

Holy Family Primary School, Luddenham 25th Anniversary Mass & Morning Tea.

Friday, 12th June 9:15 am in the Church followed by Morning Tea in the School Hall.

If you are able to attend please RSVP by 22nd May to Marie, Monica or Despina.

For further information please contact the school office on 02 4773 4485 or Email: Luddenham@parra.catholic.edu.au

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