Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

National Reconciliation Week

This week in Australia is being celebrated as National Reconciliation Week. This is not just for schools but the wider community as well. I have posted the text from the NRW website below to provide you all with more information on this excellent national initiative. It is being talked about this week in our classes and Brisbane Catholic Education and our Archdiocese are very strong supporters of it. Reconciliation is a major theme for us all as Christians and this week we are asked to focus specifically on how we as parents and families can bring about greater reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. Education is one of the keys to working towards this goal and as such these weeks have great significance for us all.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation’s history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonalisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights called Native Title. 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the Mabo decision.

What is the theme for 2013? The theme for this year is ‘Let’s Talk Recognition’—with a focus on how Australians can better recognise each other, and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. But how you interpret the theme is entirely up to you. It could be as simple as:
- Playing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander music in your workplace or classroom
- Starting a recognition wall
- Purchasing an artwork for your office, school or university
- Displaying the 2013 NRW Poster.
- Learning more about reconciliation.

We all know the importance of recognition and how good it makes us feel. National Reconciliation Week is the perfect opportunity to recognise all Australians, and the unique place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within this country. More details can be found by visiting the NRW website: http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw

Report Cards & Student Portfolios

Our teachers are currently drawing together their Semester One Report Cards and accompanying Student Portfolios. These reports will be sent home at the end of the day on Wednesday, 19 June, in sealed envelopes. These documents take a great deal of time to put together and much behind-the-scenes work is done by our staff to produce them for you. They seek to provide you with a point-in-time reference on your child’s development over the course of the year. As always, if you wish to discuss your child’s progress with your teacher please contact them through the usual protocols so that suitable times can be organised.

Latecomers & Early Arrivals

As the cooler months draw upon us we are starting to have a number of children who are arriving quite late for the start of school. This can create a number of issues for the child and the class if it becomes a recurring experience. It is important that the children are here and ready to start school at 8.35am as the first 10 to 15 minutes are key preparation times for the day and these help to settle the children and in turn the whole class. Late arrivals can throw things out very easily.
It is also timely to remind parents that children should not be dropped off to school before 8.10am as this is when our supervision begins. Our school is a large facility and unless fully supervised accidents are more likely to happen. If children are here before 8.10am they are putting themselves in a potentially unsafe position.

Please help us, and in turn, your child out by adhering to these important safety and procedural measures.

**College Building Start - June 24**

In the coming school holidays construction will commence on a new three story building which will house classrooms and speciality rooms (eg music / drama) for Marymount College. The building will be situated to the east of the old College library and will spill out on to our current Year 1 / 2 playground space. The old shelter shed near our playground equipment will be removed during this construction and some of our gum trees in this area will also be removed. Safety fencing will be established around the site with work expected to be finished by the end of the year. Most of the construction traffic will be directed through the access road near the Doyle Centre and our ovals. The builders will be provided with our lunch breaks and start / finish times so that our traffic flows will be least affected. I will endeavour to keep you up to date on the progress of the works and any impacts it will have on our school life. We have already looked at alternate play spaces for our Year One and Twos and we will start the transition process with our children when work officially starts.

Thanks for your time this week

Yours in Christ

*Greg Casey*

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**Music Notes**

There will be catch up brass lessons next Monday (due to camp and NAPLAN for students in 6M 6A 6R & 5R).

Music lessons happen on Wednesdays. Senior band is on Wednesday morning at 8am and Junior band on Wednesdays at 10.40am.

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**Patron Parents Events**

1R - 1 June - Family BBQ-12noon - Esplanade, Burleigh Beach  
0Y - 9am - Ambarella Fine Foods, Burleigh Homespase (near Trade Secret on Bermuda Street)  
0P - 14 June -5pm Family dinner Robina Tavern, RSVP to Michelle 0435 203576 by 17 May.  
OM - 14 June - 7pm - Elephant Rock Cafe RSVP Kate 0414612904  
1P - 14 June - 7pm - Justin Lane, RSVP Kim 0449969105

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**Due Date for Book Club Orders**

4 June.  
No cash or cheques please.

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**Size 4 Polo Shirts are now back in stock. Contact the Uniform Shop for more details.**
It would be hard not to be touched by the incredible story of Clare Sultmann in last Sunday’s “Sunday Mail”. It is a moving and challenging article.

Clare’s story is one of tragedy, but also remarkable love and triumph. It is ultimately the story of resilience in the face of absolute despair and what could have been hopelessness. In Clare’s story of her recovery from horrific injuries after being run over by a garbage truck in 2000, there can be found many soul-searching questions about personal adaptations to life and what it is important for both us, and our children. Of her wishes for her first child born in 2011, and possibly coloured by the experiences of her accident, she wrote:

_ I wish him to be courageous in the face of adversity, to find inner strength to overcome the most challenging of obstacles, and the unconditional love of family and friends to sustain him in good times and bad._

Life altering events such as Clare’s accident tend to bring a fresh perspective to how we view life. Interesting to note there is no mention of a mother’s wishes for an “A” on a school report, or for him to make the top sporting team, but rather her wishes were for a fulfilling life based on more permanent and significant factors. These desired qualities are not measurable by any formal assessments and certainly are not specifically targeted as reportable in school systems. They are however most significant in determining success in life.

The question can then be asked why some people are so much more resilient than others; why are some “victims” who tend to make excuses for non-achievement, whilst others tend to adopt a mentality of “suck concrete” and get on with it. Child psychologist, Bruce Perry, identifies four influencing factors for resiliency as:

- temperament
- healthy attachments, and
- opportunities to practice.

According to Perry, temperament is largely determined by genetics and the environmental conditions of the womb at the time. However, regardless of these conditions, he argues that the ability to cope with stress and challenges is shaped by parents or other caregivers. A parent’s response to situations provides modelling and teaches a child ways to cope, or not cope. For instance, if a caregiver approaches difficult situations in a calm manner, the child is more likely to feel secure in themselves and manage situations in a similar way. On the other hand, if a parent approaches situations with trepidation and a high degree of anxiety, the child is likely to also feel insecure and inadequate when faced with difficult circumstances. Children are more likely to develop resiliency if they experience good attachment with primary caregivers than if they are not afforded this. This is particularly noticeable for those children who have experienced severe trauma. Ideally children have support and interest from extended family and friends as well. Even with the best support networks however, the real benefits are reliant upon a child’s ability to connect with people and enter into relationships.

Very importantly, Perry argues that children need opportunities to practise resilience. This is about providing love and care in a nurturing environment, but allowing them to make mistakes and accept consequences of their actions. It’s about modelling and helping them develop a risk-taking approach with a positive, ‘can-do” attitude. It’s also about supporting them as they work through problems and uncomfortable situations, and talking through ways to approach such situations. The resilient child is one who is capable of thinking that things will be better; that the bad or uncomfortable feelings are normal, but that the situation can, and will improve. These are the children who have the attitude that for every problem, there is solution, and part of the solution is squarely in their laps.

However, children are just that; children. They desperately need connections with nurturing adults to develop these qualities. Connections, modelling and attachment were very evident factors in Clare Sultmann’s story. Of the three year journey from accident to “recovery”, Clare’s mother, Noelene recalled her deep pain and heartache and tears, but also her determination to remain positive and focused to bring about the best outcome for her daughter. Of her own struggles and part of the solution is squarely in their laps.

_The way I saw it was you have two choices, you either sit in the corner, cry and hide your head, or you say ‘this has happened, how do I deal with it and get up and run with it’. I kept telling Clare if she could get through each day, the next day would be better. I’m not sure I always believed it, but I had to be strong for her._

In this amazing story of resiliency, love and hope and the impact of her upbringing, attachment and modelling by a significant caregiver, Clare states:

_ I was incredibly lucky to have a mother who told me we would walk out of that hospital together, that things would get better and that it wasn’t the accident that would define me, but what I did from that point._

I hope and pray that all our children are afforded the benefits of opportunities and circumstances to help them build resiliency and that we can all adopt the attitude that:

_We don’t drown from falling in the water; we drown from not getting out._

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Annette O’Shea
**Catholic Campaign**

The Catholic Campaign fundraising initiative by the Archdiocese of Brisbane continues this week. This fundraiser supports many of the ministries of the archdiocese. In recent weeks details have been included in our newsletter about the Mary MacKillop Brisbane Catholic School Access Fund, a fund assisting families to send their children to catholic schools. In this week’s attachment, we meet Grace who was supported by campus ministry through Freedom and the Religious Ministry Fund. Please consider supporting this important initiative.

All the best for the week ahead

*Kevin Yates*
Don’t forget to collect your Woolworths Earn & Learn points.
Game Day Wednesday
5 June

Sausage Sizzle
$3.00 + yummy surprise

No other orders available on this day.

Order must be in

NO LATER than Friday 31st May

ORDER FORM—Please return slip attached to lunch bag and money ($3.00 correct change please) enclosed to tuckshop.

No other orders will be available.

NAME: ____________________________________________________________

CLASS: _________________

Extra orders (Drinks etc.)

___________________________________________________________
Thankfully I met up with Freedom Catholic Ministry at university. It makes a big difference to meet others who share my faith.

Donate now at www.catholiccampaign.com.au
I wouldn’t be where I am today without the work of freedom.

Grace went to a boarding school in Toowoomba and moved to Brisbane to study at university.

She suddenly found herself searching for something more than university classes and partying. Thankfully Grace met up with a Catholic campus ministry at university called Freedom. It was a blessing to meet other people who shared her faith. Grace deepened her faith through the sacraments, study, fellowship and leadership development.

Grace would not be where she is today without the work of Freedom. She now has the confidence and skills to live out her faith, and is excited about what people her age can do to help make the world a better place.

Your gift to the Annual Catholic Campaign will make a big difference to other young people like Grace.

Please show you care with a gift to the Annual Catholic Campaign.

The Annual Catholic Campaign supports religious ministries like Freedom’s Catholic campus ministry and others through the Religious Ministry Fund.