



# IONA PRESENTATION

PRIMARY SCHOOL MOSMAN PARK

# NEWSLETTER

18 NOVEMBER 2016

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Some parents may have come across a book entitled, *"The Catholic School – a guide for parents"* by Barry Dwyer, in their travels through Catholic education. This book provides some useful information for parents and the school in developing, establishing and fostering the essential partnership between home and school. As has been highlighted many times before, collaboration between home and school is vital in providing our students at Iona Presentation Primary School with the best possible educational advantages and it is an area that we are always endeavouring to improve.

As we approach the reporting period, a good opportunity presents itself to take a step back and reflect on why we choose a particular education for our children and what that education affords them. Basically, all schools aim at developing:

- Self-confidence and high self esteem
- Sound judgement, wise decision making and a sense of responsibility
- Competence in literacy, numeracy and the new technologies
- Skills of problem solving, communicating, planning and working cooperatively
- Active and informed citizenship
- Understanding and concern for the natural environment

Why, then, do parents choose a Catholic education for their children?

Catholic schools follow the same curriculum as government schools; however, there is a religious dimension in everything that is taught in a Catholic school.

This creates the additional and most important learning area of Religious Education. Religious Education plus the Catholic culture of the school, separate us from 'other' education systems.

### What is 'Catholic School Culture'?

The term 'culture' is quite stylised these days. We hear of coffee cultures, corporate cultures, cultural capitals (I believe Melbourne has that title at the moment) – a plethora of cultures exist that identify and define us. A group's culture is the way it has of meeting its member's needs, finding meaning in their lives and expressing that meaning. It is the mixture of ideas, values, symbols, customs and stereotypes that are shared. It is what we learn from those with whom we associate; it is life as people understand it and live it.

Our school, like all schools, is striving to develop and express its own Catholic culture. The basis for such development is through the integration of all the different aspects of human knowledge taught through all areas of the curriculum in the light of the Gospel. This is supplemented through the growth in Christian values in all members of the school community.

The school relies greatly on each of its students and staff members being able to actively contribute to this culture. This, they do, through the vibrancy of the manner in which they are true to the practice of the heritage of their Catholic faith.

For such practice to be possible for students, it is necessary for parents to pass onto their children this heritage. Families who place their children in Catholic schools have a responsibility to that school to add to its Catholic dimension. For our Catholic school to maintain itself, it must be able to count on the unity of purpose and conviction of all its members – staff, students and parents.



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## OUR MISSION

*Iona Presentation Primary School, as a loving community, seeks to educate each child within a framework of Catholic values in an atmosphere of trust, openness and truth*



### NANO NAGLE

*The lantern she carried through the darkness in the streets and lanes of Cork became a symbol for the poor of God's love, touching and transforming the harshness of their lives and offering hope. Today that lantern has become the symbol of the mission of the Presentation Sisters around the world.*



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

## Prayer of Nano Nagle

Lord God,

*You raise people from age to age to speak anew your Word to us and to show us your ways.*

*Such is Nano Nagle.*

*In days when courage is needed, you give us this woman of strength to walk before us with conviction.*

*In days of great change, you present us with a prophet whose faith is firm.*

*As the light of her lantern brought hope into the lives made wretched by poverty and oppression, so may she inspire us to compassionate action for those in need around us.*

Amen

## COMING UP...

### TERM 4:

#### 21 NOVEMBER

##### Presentation Day

10.00am MASS (at the College)

12.00pm LUNCH (Primary)

1.00pm HOUSE ACTIVITIES

6.00pm Board Meeting

#### 22 NOVEMBER

Swimming lessons Yrs 1-3

#### 24 NOVEMBER

9.30 Kindy Orientation

#### 25 NOVEMBER

9.00 Year 1 Assembly

#### 27 NOVEMBER

1st Lego League Tournament - Curtin University

6.00pm Kindy Parent Info

Session 2017

With this in mind, I would like to sincerely thank all the families who have committed to attending the Family Masses throughout the year. To have school, family and Parish celebrating together as a community in Christ, is an expression of this Catholic culture and that as a community we are 'growing'. As we come towards the end of the semester, let us continue to celebrate our 'Catholic culture'. In the words of our Mission Statement:

***Iona Presentation Primary School, as a loving community, seeks to educate each child within a framework of Catholic values in an atmosphere of trust, openness and truth.***

### Presentation Day

On Monday, we celebrate the feast of *The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple*. To our Iona community, this day is known as Presentation Day – our school feast day. To the many parents who will join us on Monday, it will be a day of celebrating (through Liturgy), remembering (our story) and community (having our parents and friends join us for lunch). As a school community, we are blessed to have the Presentation charism alive in our school through the presence of the Presentation Sisters who, as well as being a presence in our school, attend many of our special celebrations.

For families new to the school, the rich traditions of the Presentation Sisters are entwined in our school culture. The Presentation story stretches back to the mid 1700's when Nano Nagle and her companions, moved by the poverty that existed in Ireland at that time, started schools for the poor. Nano was aware of the plight of the children, particularly the girls, who were often abused and mistreated. At the time, education for Catholic children was illegal and Nano and her colleagues risked considerable punishment for breaking the English law of the time.

Nano spent her life working for the poor and underprivileged, particularly in education. Today, Iona Presentation Primary School stands as a testament to the charism of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters through the values of excellence, compassion, hospitality and justice. As a school, we strive to deliver excellence through our curriculum, a sense of justice in our dealings with others, compassion through our outreach programs and a warm and welcoming community for all.

We send all our prayers and best wishes to the Presentation Sisters for this special day.

### Staff Announcements

Two staff members have informed us that they will not be returning to Iona in 2017. Mrs Lynne Lambert will be retiring at the end of 2016 to spend time with her husband and new grandchild. Mrs Jo du Toit has accepted a classroom teaching position at Trinity College. We wish Lynne and Jo all the very best and thank them for the contributions they have made to Iona Presentation Primary School over many years.

Mrs Claudia Di Biaggio will also be leaving us at the end of this year. Claudia has been on secondment for Semester 2 and will be returning to Loreto Nedlands in 2017. I would like to thank Claudia for her support during this period. Her passion and enthusiasm for teaching will be missed by both students, teachers and parents.

I would like to announce the appointment of Mrs Marisa Perica to the Assistant Principal position for 2017. We congratulate Marisa on her appointment and look forward to the gifts that she will bring to the position.

### Junior Musicals

Last Thursday evening, our very talented Year 1 and Year 2 students entertained their audience with their singing, dancing and theatrical acting abilities! Year 1 performed "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" and the Year 2 performed "Cinderella" with a "twist"!

Thank you to Mrs Belinda Chase, who worked with the students over the year, to learn their parts, dance, sing and act. The songs were very memorable!

Thanks also to Mr Alessio Loiacono who has assisted her throughout the rehearsals with his piano accompaniment.

I also wish to thank the many parents who assisted with costumes, make up and hair.



The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe  
by Year 1



## Paul Litherland's Digital Literacy and Online Footprint Presentation

Our sincere thank you to the P&F for organizing this evening and to the many parents who attended. Paul's presentation was a "reality check" providing examples of what is happening in the "online" world. Social networking is so much a part of most people's lives and will be of high importance to our "soon to be" teens. Paul provided the audience with tips to help protect and minimize the risks to children as they become involved with the online world.

## End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

We will be having a whole school 'End of Year Mass' on Thursday 8 December at 9.00am. This is a Thanksgiving Mass and a wonderful way to end our 2016 school year. Parents are invited to join our student community in prayer and thanksgiving. At this Mass, we will be farewelling staff who will be leaving our school, as well as the handover of Leadership responsibility from the Year 6 students to the Year 5 students. Please save the date and join us to celebrate mass as a school community.

## Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians

Congratulations to Greta Lynch on achieving a certificate of "Distinction" and to Leah Smith on her certificate of "Credit" in this Mathematics Challenge. Greta scored in the top 15% and Leah in the top 25% of students who competed in these challenges. They will be awarded with their certificates at the next assembly on 25th November 2016.

## Treacey Hall Gates

Unfortunately, visitors to our school using the gates near the hall are not always securing the gate after entering or leaving the school. To ensure that our students are safe at all times, we will be locking the gates near the Hall carpark from 9.30am until 2.00pm. Visitors to the school will need to access the school through the gates near Administration. Although this may be inconvenient for some parents, we place the safety of our children as a high priority. Thank you for your understanding.

## Carols on the Green

Following the tradition of past years, we will be getting into the Christmas spirit with the College through **Carols on the Green**. This event is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00pm on the Iona Presentation College grounds. All community members are most welcome to come along and bring a picnic dinner. Our Junior and Senior choirs will be performing on the evening. An invitation is included in this newsletter.

## Term Dates for 2017 (for students) Professional Development Days to be confirmed

**Term 1:** Wednesday 1 February - Friday 7 April  
(Break: Saturday 8 April - Sunday 23 April)

**Term 2:** Monday 24 April - Friday 30 June  
(Break: Saturday 1 July - Sunday 16 July)

**Term 3:** Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September  
(Break: Saturday 23 September - Sunday 8 October)

**Term 4:** Monday 9 October - Thursday 14 December

## Classes - 2017

Please be aware that transition day for students (when they will find out who their class buddies and teachers will be for 2017) will be on Wednesday 7 December. Due to continuing staff changes and movements, allocating class teachers until then is impossible. We look forward to the last week of school when we will be able to formally present the classes and teachers to the community. Please be aware that once classes have been advertised to the community, students will not be changed.

## Musical Soiree

What a "showcase" of talent, yesterday, our very skilled choirs and instrumentalists treated us to a most entertaining evening of musical excellence. I would like to congratulate Mrs Marisa Perica for her organisation of our music program, to Mrs Susie Endersby for her violin ensembles, to Mr Steven Perica for his assistance with the ukulele group and many of the other music tutors who are involved in the program.

**Mrs Jennifer Anderson**  
Principal

