

Principal's Report July 2016 P&F Meeting

Welcome to term three! In terms of teaching and learning we look forward to a solid and substantial term. As noted in the newsletter last term, Pat Winton and Gilly Goubert are on long service leave and we wish them a thoroughly enjoyable break! Geordie, Br Stephen and myself are sharing Pat's Admin responsibilities, and Chris Baker is teaching the Year Five C gang.

Reference to a number of events have been made through last week's newsletter and as such this is a term of much variety and opportunity for our children. We welcome several new children to our school, and it has been a real pleasure to see them making new friends as they settle in to the school. One made a point of coming up to me and expressing her appreciation at the number of people who had emailed her welcoming her, and inviting the family to social functions. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression, and that support from our families means a great deal.

We had a very enjoyable assembly led by the Year Five D gang last Friday. It was really well done and really enjoyable. We are refining our assemblies now to time them at 35 minutes and include Aussie of the Month, Merit Awards and Class Items.

Sacramentally we will have a big term, with Reconciliation and First Communion taking place. As a Catholic parish community school, this is core to our being, and we wish all children involved and their families a wonderful, rewarding, revealing journey ahead.

Last week's Student free professional development days were really powerful. The focus of staff was use of google docs and developing lessons on Digital Citizenship across classes on Monday. Blogging, and integrating ICT across curricula framed the agenda for Tuesday. Lachie Darby and David Edwards supported Geordie Thuijs in leading the rest of us over these two days. Outcomes include the development of blogs across all grades for families to access, the ease of developing shared documents across our school, lessons from three year old Kindy to Year Six focusing on digital citizenship, and strategies to integrate ICT. A lot covered, a lot learned, all from one another. In 12 months I have seen so much progress in the use by teachers of ICT, and it has transferred to students. This will continue apace.

Thank you.