To the St Peter’s community,
I hope that you all enjoyed a very relaxing holiday period with family and friends. Welcome back to another exciting year of learning at St Peter’s School. A very special welcome to our new students, families and staff; Anthony Hein and Margaret Weston join our staff team and we welcome Natalie Ilsley and Amanda Dean back from leave.

During the holidays, the school once again experienced significant flooding and damage due to extreme weather. Most of the affected areas have been repaired now with only a few works still waiting to be carried out. Many thanks to the workmen and staff who have worked so hard to get the school ready for the beginning of the school year; the learning spaces all look enticing.

At the end of 2016 we shared with you all the school theme and scripture reference that will guide us through this year. This information is repeated again for your reference in the Learning and Teaching section of the newsletter.

Last Sunday’s Gospel was from Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Reflecting on this scripture, I was struck with similarities to St Paul’s writings on the ninefold Fruit of the Spirit. Many years before St Paul shared the fruit of the Spirit in his letter to the Christians in Galatia, Jesus painted a picture of the life of his followers. Jesus starts with the characteristics (the Beatitudes) of his followers who belong to the kingdom of heaven. Beatitude” is Latin for “an abundant happiness”. In his lesson on the Beatitudes, Jesus calls us to an abundant happiness that makes us complete and whole, in which we find our true selves, the person that God intends us to be.

St Paul highlights for us that when a person uses the fruit of the Spirit, they demonstrate Christian characteristics in their lives. The fruit of the Spirit, when experienced in others is a beautiful thing; it makes Jesus real in our world today. The connection with the Beatitudes and the fruit of the Spirit could look like this.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs, theirs is the fruit of **love**.
Blessed are the meek: they shall have the earth as inheritance, and have **peace**.
Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted and know **joy**.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: they shall have their fill, they have shown **patience**.
Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them, and experience **kindness**.
Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God, they have **goodness**.
Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God have shown **faith**.
Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of righteousness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs, for they are **gentle**.
Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you for the sake of Christ, they show **self-control**.

**Lord Jesus,**
Your beatitudes call me to a new way of being that is centred on God and His desire for my life.
May the Holy Spirit work in me to know true happiness and joy. Help me to be a peacemaker, to bring reconciliation, to seek out opportunities for mercy and compassion, and to actively pursue justice and righteousness. Amen

We can live the Beatitudes where we are right now, one day at a time, one calling at a time, and one action at a time. We can live them realizing that we are imperfect, that we make mistakes, and need forgiveness. We can live them with confidence in Jesus’ promise of a joy and peace that only God can give.

Have a wonderful weekend,

**Kerry Miller**
Principal

**Fees and Levies**
A reminder that 2017 education levies and term one fees are due for payment now.
If you have made a payment and not been receipted, please contact the office as a matter of urgency.
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application Form has gone home to all families today. If you are the holder of a concession card and have not already filled one out at the office, please do so and return to the office by Friday 17th February.

DATES TO REMEMBER
- Friday 3rd Feb 10am - beginning of School Year Mass
- Tuesday 14th Feb - Whole School Community Welcome to 2017 Meet and Greet event
- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday 15th March - School Photo Day

EDUCATION IN FAITH
2017 school theme and scripture

Theme: Empowered by the Fruit of the Spirit; be animated in faith, life and learning.
Scripture: ‘So by the Fruit of the Holy Spirit you will know them.’ (Matthew 7: 20)

On Monday we as a staff group engaged in professional reading and dialogue to further unpack our theme and what it means to us personally as well as the impact it has and will have on our school community.

Over the next few weeks the whole school will continue to focus on what our theme and scripture mean to us. Make sure to chat to your children about their learning and how they have been unpacking: Empowered by the Fruit of the Spirit; be animated in faith, life and learning.

Below is compiled by answer garden by our staff.

Kindness is …
- showing you care
- thoughtful
- accepting
- caring
- giving many chances
- expected
- love
- care
- welcoming
- sharing respecting
- non-judgemental
- giving without return

Love is …
- never-ending
- respect
- hope
- compassion
- for life
- blind
- wanting
- with
- in
- a warm heart
- in our action
- everything
- happy
- living life
- life
- faith
- love
- God
- unconditional
- a new puppy
- God

Joy is …
- family
- inner happiness
- with
- in
- everything
- happy
- family
- together
- being
- to
- happiness
- every day
- happiness
- together

Generosity is …
- helping
- sharing
- of
- others
- giving
- of
- yourself
- to
- the
- needy
- good
- works
- giving
- with
- love
- sharing
- with
- others
- calmness
- happy
- happy
- together
- inner
- love
- outer
- love
- inner
- love
- happy
- happy
- together
- inner
- love
- outer
- love

Beginning of Year Mass will be held tomorrow in the Galilee space at 10 am. If you are able to join us please do so.

Emily de Kort, Director of Faith and Mission  ebaker@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
In keeping with our school theme the contact groups are named fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Please refer below for contact groups and names of teachers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Spirit</th>
<th>Narelle Bzdel &amp; Deborah Stewart</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Love (ML)</td>
<td>Linda Minahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Joy (MJ)</td>
<td>Sara Brundell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Peace (MP)</td>
<td>Sarah Raco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Kindness (MK)</td>
<td>Clare Bisby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Love (JL)</td>
<td>Silvana Sgarlata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Joy (JJ)</td>
<td>Stefanie Nicosia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Peace (JP)</td>
<td>Jennie De Neefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Kindness (JK)</td>
<td>Ashlea Branov &amp; Kate Hoseason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Generosity (JG)</td>
<td>Laura Mercuri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Love (SL)</td>
<td>Larrissa Curcio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Joy (SJ)</td>
<td>Lorena Colaianni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Peace (SP)</td>
<td>Maj O'Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Kindness (SK)</td>
<td>Hamish de Kort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Generosity (SG)</td>
<td>Anthony Hein</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Introducing STEAM at St Peter’s in 2017

This year St Peter’s will have an exciting development to their Specialist program. The students will have 3 hours per week with the STEAM specialist team working collaboratively on project based investigations. A number of primary and secondary schools in our area are also implementing this learning initiative.

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Arts (including Visual, Performing Arts and Japanese) and
- Mathematics

as access points for guiding student inquiry, investigation, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who are curious thinkers, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!

Prep and Junior levels will participate in STEAM on Thursdays, Middle level on Tuesdays and Senior Level on Wednesdays beginning next week.

This video clip provides information about the STEAM learning initiative. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6DSRtiDOg8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6DSRtiDOg8)

The members of the STEAM Team (specialist teaching team) for 2017 are:

Frank Fabri, Natalie Ilsley, Rebecca Christie, Emma Canning, Satoko Kuhlmann, Amanda Dean, Margaret Weston, Angela D'Ercole and Jo Hawke.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates from this new learning opportunity.

Bluearth Program

The Bluearth Foundation has been working in our school during term 4 last year with our Year 5 and Prep students and their teachers. Through physical activity the Bluearth facilitators encourage and develop self efficacy, self respect, respect for others and a willingness to learn and explore and encourage the children to move beyond their comfort zone.

Bluearth’s activities have been specifically designed to enhance left/right brain development which helps to develop numeracy and literacy competency in the learning space. The program helps build school capacity to improve behavioural management and develop positive lifelong habits of posture, function, self-efficacy and self awareness as well as teamwork.

Our Bluearth facilitator/teacher is Sam and each fortnight he will work with each contact group and their teacher on a physical movement program based on skill development (Victorian Curriculum based). All teachers will become qualified Bluearth facilitators as part of their professional practice. All students will participate in Bluearth Sport sessions twice a week.
**Junior News**

Welcome to our new look Junior Space. We hope that everyone had a great day exploring the new space. The doors opened at 8.30am and the chatter and wonderful response to each other was great to see. When you enter the space we have a beautiful welcoming area that we have called the Campfire. This space is where we meet in the morning and afternoon. The space will be used for lots of whole group learning, meetings, liturgical gatherings, meditation, guest speakers and other whole class events.

On the first day we explored all the different spaces, the discovery place, the resource place, the table space, the stand up working space and the floor space. The children are going to name these spaces over the next few days and then we will also decide on how these spaces will best work. We will also encourage the children to think of other spaces we might need. You will have noticed there is flexible seating arrangements and next week we will explore these and the children will choose the seating arrangement that they think they can do their best work. Please discuss these with your children next week and encourage them to think sensibly about this important issue. Thank you to the children for working so well in our new space, we are looking forward to a fantastic year.

**P-2 Team**

The Preps have joined the Juniors in a Professional Learning Team that meets for planning of the curriculum and looking at data to determine children’s needs. The Team consists of the contact teachers in the Juniors:

- Silvana Sgarlata, Junior Love
- Laura Mercuri, Junior Generosity
- Stefanie Nicosia, Junior Joy
- Ashlea Branov/Kate Hoseason, Junior Kindness
- Jennie De Neefe, Junior Peace

The contact teachers in Prep Spirit are Deborah Stewart and Narelle Bzdel. Connie La Spina, the Reading Recovery Specialist and Lynne Woloszyn and Jo Galic, our tireless Teaching Assistants, round out our team. Each of the teachers have a leadership role within our team. These are as follows:

- Jennie De Neefe-Leader of P-2
- Laura Mercuri-Maths Co-ordinator
- Laura Mercuri-RE Co-ordinator
- Stefanie Nicosia, Silvana Sgarlata- Inquiry and Thinking Co-ordinators
- Deb Stewart, Ashlea Branov, Kate Hoseason- Discovery Co-ordinators
- Narelle Bzdel- Sustainability Co-ordinator
- Jennie De Neefe-Literacy Co-ordinator
- Connie La Spina-Reading Recovery
- Lynne Woloszyn, Jo Galic- Teaching Assistants

**Middle School News**

On Monday the 13th of February the Middle school will be going to Task Works to learn about innovation. We are travelling to Task Works by bus. We will be leaving St Peter’s Primary promptly at 9:00am and will return by 3:00pm. During the day students will be participating in teamwork activities to explore ways they can be innovative.
Children will need to wear their sports uniform and hat. They will need to pack a small bag with their fruit snack, recess and lunch. They will also need a water bottle.

**Middle school students will need to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this year.**

In literacy the Middle School will be continuing with the CAFE program. As part of this program students Read to Self and we encourage them to bring a ‘good fit’ book from home to read during this time. There will also be opportunities to borrow from the school Resource Centre and our Middle School library.

**Middle Teachers**

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**SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

**Tuesday 14th Feb - Whole School Community Welcome to 2017 Meet and Greet event**

This night will be an opportunity for families to come and find out about continuing developments in the school, enjoy a BBQ as well as meet the 2017 staff. There will be an information session about Restorative Practices and an opportunity to participate in a Bluearth session.

Keep your eye on next week’s newsletter for more details.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME**

We have a number of desks that are free to a good home. If you are interested please see someone in the office.

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**Emma Canning - Director of School Community**
ecanning@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
**STUDENT WELLBEING**

When families are positively engaged in their child's school life, it leads to a happy and well-adjusted child. Engagement is being positively involved and active in your child’s learning. Your attitudes, values and behaviours can positively influence your child’s education outcomes.

**Fact:** The average school age child spends 80% of the waking hours in family and community and only 20% at school. Families are the first and main educators of our students, if we work together in partnership, your child will achieve even more.

As a parent, you are the most influential factor in how your child views school and the community they're part of. Your involvement with their learning goes a long way towards your child becoming a capable, resilient and happy adult.

Never be afraid to ask teachers how you can get involved. In the eyes of our school, you a valuable resource. Here's why…

**Better learners**

Research shows that children do better at school when parents get involved – in maths, English, their social relationships and their approaches to learning. It has also been proven that parental involvement leads to higher rates of children finishing school and higher aspirations toward further study. Some studies even state that a parent's involvement in their child's learning is the biggest factor influencing their academic outcome. Now while that possibility could be almost as terrifying as it is encouraging, it does make you realise that no effort you make is wasted.

**Happier kids**

When parents are involved in their child's school life, it leads to a happy and well-adjusted child, who has positive relationships with teachers and peers.

**Better coping skills**

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from disappointments and traumas in life. Research shows that a sense of belonging to a community is a key factor in becoming resilient. Children are more resilient when they feel they are a valuable part of the community, and especially in their school community. Parents also develop greater resilience skills if they feel they are supported in their community.

**What kind of involvement?**

While it's very important to stay informed and be involved in school activities where possible, there are lots of things you can do at home which can help your child to do better at school:

- Have high yet achievable expectations of your child.
- Talk regularly about school and the value of learning.
- Encourage positive attitudes and respect for school and teachers.
- Model the behaviours you would like to see in your child.

Other things you can do which have also been shown to have a positive impact are to:

- Read out loud with your child and listen to your child read out loud.
- Talk and ask about what they are learning.
- Ask what was and was not fun at school.
- Help them to develop strong work habits.

One of the most effective ways parents and families can help children to do better at school is to make sure they go to school every day. School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better results at school and are more likely to complete their schooling.

**Taking part in your child's learning takes many forms; here are some ways to get involved at St Peter's school:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>● help at the canteen</th>
<th>● helping in the Resource Centre (Library)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● turn sausages at the barbecue</td>
<td>● Walk Through Bethlehem</td>
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<tr>
<td>● help out with organising readers</td>
<td>● helping in the kitchen garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>● making simple resources</td>
<td>● helping with special events</td>
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<tr>
<td>● sew costumes for school production</td>
<td>● School Board membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>● helping to put up a display</td>
<td>● attending learning conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Fundraisers</td>
<td>Helping with Homework</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer to go on an excursion</td>
<td>Signing and returning notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping in Learning Spaces</td>
<td>Participating in special events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Working Bees</td>
<td>Reading &amp; responding to newsletter notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in Parish Mass on the weekend</td>
<td>Participating in school/level masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting P&amp;F activities</td>
<td>Attending school assemblies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Download TIQBIZ app</td>
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<tr>
<td>Download StoryPark app</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shopping for school supplies.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The more activities we offer your children, the more opportunities there are for you to get involved, even if it's once or twice a year.

*Jackie Fleischmann - Director of Student Wellbeing*  
jfleischmann@stprepp.catholic.edu.au