



22nd April 2015

Term 2

Week 1

Religious Education Matters

Mr Bawden walks in the footsteps of Jesus

Tabgha - Church of the Primacy of Peter



Basilica of the Transfiguration



Daily Mass has been an important part of our journey around the Holy Land so far. We have been able to celebrate in both incredible outdoor and indoor settings.



On a rainy, misty morning we visited Mt Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mt 17:1-2) where Peter said 'Lord it is good for us to be here'. These words became a theme for our journey as we visited holy sites that hopefully all Christians get to see.



We continued onto Nazareth and then the Basilica of the Annunciation. Here at the site of Mary's great YES to God we were challenged how often we answer 'Let it be done to me according to thy word' (Luke 1:38). Also, our visit included a visit to Nazareth Village, a recreation of the town and village life of Nazareth as it was in the time of Jesus.



Our time in Galilee ended with some time in Capernaum and Tabgha, areas where much of Jesus' teaching and healing occurred. This is also the home of St Peter and many of the other apostles. I was able to walk along the same shoreline that Jesus walked 2000 years ago and where He told the first apostles to drop their nets and he would make them fishers of men. Here we talked about how discipleship is hard and it is meant to be so. To follow Jesus often means we have to make hard choices and sacrifices.

I have been very lucky to also have my wife on this pilgrimage with me and during a visit to Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast (Jn 2:1-11), we renewed our wedding vows. As we celebrated our 25th anniversary last September this was a very special moment for us.

Our trip then took us to the Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus preached his great sermon on how we can prepare ourselves for heaven. After some heavy showers, the rain cleared in time for us to celebrate Mass on the Sea of Galilee. In this place where Jesus calmed the stormy seas we felt his presence as the silence and his comfort in the gentle rocking of the boat.



Principal's Message

This year we have continued to pursue school improvement strategies. These strategies have proven to date, that improvement will occur when clear and concise goals are developed and adopted by those who can make a difference. This year our school focus is to improve the learning of all students, to empower our children with the necessary skills to become effective critical thinkers and empathetic, hope filled citizens in readiness for life in a very dynamic and ever changing global world.

As part of my own professional learning, I constantly search for great proven educational research theories and practices that support and enhance student learning. I am a firm believer in not continuing with strategies that hold little value added advantage for our students. The challenge that confronts school leaders today, when reading the thoughts and research of many educational theorists, is to discern the many explicit strategies and frameworks that will improve the learning and implement those specific to students and their needs. These educationalists, near and abroad, hold firm the notion that to build strong schools requires strong teachers. John Hattie, a renowned expert, supports this view with data indicating that one of the biggest effect sizes to improve student learning is the quality of the teacher to deliver appropriate teaching to our students at point of need. Over many years our staff have embraced this theory and have dedicated serious time to building their own professional knowledge. This is our challenge and it is one that we have embraced enthusiastically and creatively, however, not alone. We have been very fortunate to be working with some very creative, expert educators who have challenged our thinking and are working along side us to develop not just good teaching but great teachers.

The flow on effect from this initiative is that the students will be exposed to opportunities to improve what they learn and how they learn. This term we began an innovative pedagogy in Year 6. This pedagogy is centered around establishing skills in **collaborating, creativity, critical thinking and communicating**. Together the four C's build vital learning skills for today that will be highly sought after in future career opportunities. The students are identifying and developing skills to build their learning power through very explicit and directed learning pathways.

It is with parent support and encouragement, talented and passionate teachers and clear direction that our school will continue to move forward.

I wish to sincerely thank you for your continued support and I look forward to sharing with you our great learning this term.

y Baird

Mrs Baird
Principal

Changes to school timetable

This term we have changed our break times. Recess begins at 11am until 11.30am. Lunch will begin at 1.30pm until 2.10pm, 10 minutes eating time and 30 minutes of play. This will be our normal school routine as of Term 2.



Stop Work Action !

Possible industrial action next week.

You may have heard that there is planned industrial action organised for the 28th of April. As of today, school will run as normal next Tuesday.

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.

Calendar



April

Tuesday 21st April — Wednesday 29th April	Life Education
Friday 24th April	9:00am Anzac Liturgy
	9:00am Life Education Parent Session
Tuesday 28th April	Stop Work Action—School as normal for students.
Thursday 30th April	3:00pm First Communion— Parent Meeting in hall



Birthday Wishes!
Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Rita Nohra!

Easter Liturgy

On Tuesday we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord as a school community. My sincere thanks to Miss D'Mello for organising this very special liturgy.



Anzac Day Liturgy

We will be reflecting on the meaning of ANZAC at our Liturgy on Friday at 9am. We invite you to join us in prayer remembering those men and women of courage who risk their lives so we can know peace.

Mothers' Day Stall

Parent Helpers Needed!!!!

We have organised a Mothers' Day gifts wrapping session in the hall on Tuesday the 5th of May starting at 9am. If you are available, please fill out the return slip attached to the letter that went home this week on Monday. Your generosity of time is appreciated.



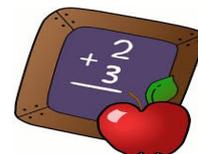
Change of Family Details.

It is critical that the school has up-to-date contact details for all students at all times. Please ensure that any phone, address or contact details that change are relayed to the office as a matter of urgency. It is most distressing for children and staff if we are unable to contact parents in the case of a child being ill or injured.



2016 Enrolments

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 are now being accepted. Enrolment packages are available from the school office for collection. Please inform your family, friends and neighbours.



School Fees

Term 2 School Fees will be issued in the next coming weeks. **Thank you to everyone that has already paid Term 1 School Fees and has kept to their school fee arrangement. If you have not yet finalised Term 1 fees please do so as soon as possible.** Please note, payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.



In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.