04 February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our school community for 2016! I hope we can continue to strengthen our community by working together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practise positive school habits.

I would like to emphasise the importance of open lines of communication throughout the year. Parents know their children better than anyone and when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children’s education. Therefore, opportunities for productive and ongoing communication throughout the year are essential. I encourage you all to be proactive throughout the year in maintaining this communication with the relevant classroom teacher. If you have concerns after communicating with the classroom teacher, please do not hesitate to talk with me. Problems we will encounter throughout the year do not have to be stumbling blocks but occasions for us to work together to find positive and creative solutions – solutions that will benefit the students.

It has been a pleasure working with the staff over the last two weeks and I thank them for their enthusiasm and professionalism. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Kathy Doherty join our staff as our Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE) and year 2/3 teacher. Kathy has a wealth of experience as a primary teacher and has previously held a number of leadership roles in the primary sector. Her knowledge, talent and experience will no doubt greatly enrich our school community.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family in the coming weeks.

Peace and Best Wishes

Brendan

From the APRE....Kathy Doherty

As we start another new school year, we take a moment to place all that we do in the hands of our loving God.

*May God bless each of our children with eagerness to learn, willingness to work, and the ability to listen well. May they respect their teachers and respect one another. May they grow enthusiastic for knowledge and truth, always enjoying their achievements and taking pride in their development. May the Spirit of all knowledge go with each child to strengthen them as they begin this new school year. We ask our prayer through Jesus, the Great Teacher, the one who taught us how to live. Amen.*

UPCOMING DATES:

*Ash Wednesday Liturgy* on Wednesday 10 February at 9am. All parents and parishioners are very welcome to join with Prep to Year 6 students.

*Family Sunday Mass* on Sunday 28 February at 5pm. Further information will be sent home with children in the coming weeks.
**Representative Sport Dates for Term One**

Central Downs Swimming, Monday 8th Feb  
Southern Downs Swimming, Monday 15th Feb  
Central Downs Tennis, Friday 19th Feb  
Southern Downs Softball, Thursday 25th Feb  
Southern Downs Tennis, Thursday 3rd March  
Central Downs Netball, Friday 4th March  
Central Downs Rugby League, Friday 4th March  
Central Downs Soccer, Friday 4th March  
Southern Downs Netball, Friday 11 March

**SCHOOL FEES:**

School Fees for Term 1 are being sent home today with the due date for the payment of Term 1 Fees being, **Friday, 04th March, 2016.**  
We do recommend the setting-up of a direct debit facility to pay regular amounts into the school account. This alleviates overdue bills.  
Fees/ levies are compulsory unless negotiated. I would ask that any parents who would like to discuss any matters to do with the payment of school fees to make an appointment to see me. **Confidentiality is assured.**  
Agreed arrangements do not carry over from year to year. If at any stage the payment of fees becomes a problem **please do not hesitate to see me.**

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photo Day is fast approaching. (**Monday, 29th February 2016**). Photo envelopes are being send home today. Please return your child’s photo envelopes to school.  
Sibling Photo order envelopes are available in the office and you may include payment for all children in one envelope. Please return all forms even if you are not purchasing any photos.

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**Mass Times**

**Clifton:** 1st Sunday – 7:30am  
2nd, 3rd & 5th Saturday-7pm  
4th Sunday-Family Sunday Mass at 5pm

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**Dates To Remember**  
**February 2016**

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy:**  
Wednesday 10th. Starting at 9am in the church.

**Clifton Show:** 12th, 13th and 14th

**Battle Of The Brains:** Saturday 13th at 12:15

**Planet Rhythm Performance:** 16th from 1:50 to 2:20. Parents are most welcome.

**Information Night / Meet & Greet :**  
Thursday 18th  
5:00pm - 6:00pm BBQ  
6:00pm - 6:30pm New Parent’s Info  
6:30pm - 7:30pm Information Session

**Family Sunday Mass:** Sunday 28th at 5pm

**School Photo Day:** Monday 29th

**Leader Induction Ceremony:** TBA

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**March 2016**

**Parish Fete:** Sat 19th. Starting at 10am.

**FDSF Cross Country:** Friday 18th  
(Wet day 23rd)

**Holy Thursday:** 24th

**Good Friday:** 25th

**Easter Sunday:** 27th

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**Mini Vinnies**

The Year 4/5 class are selling pancakes for Shrove Tuesday next week. Proceeds from the sale of the pancakes will support our endeavours to raise funds for Caritas.  
Cost of pancakes (3 small pancakes with topping) $1

**Angela Ehmer Website:**

Angela offered parents the opportunity to use resources on her website for Literacy and Numeracy. Please see the details below:  

God Bless,

**Brendan O’Reilly**

Principal
The students in the upper years will have opportunities to trial for district and representative teams throughout the year. Please be aware that the eligible age does vary for certain sports. If your child plays a particular sport at a competitive club level and is interested in trialing for a sport, please provide me with your child’s name, the year they were born and the name of the sport. When we receive information pertaining to that particular sport, we will pass on that information to your child. Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming nominations are based on recorded times or placing’s at our own carnivals. All other nominations for other sports; Softball, Hockey, Triathlon, Basketball, AFL, Touch Football, Rugby League, Rugby, Tennis and Cricket, will need to be provided by you. Is is highly recommended that your child is proficient at the particular sport and plays at a competitive level before they attend the trail or trials. Please provide me with this information as soon as possible. I look forward to hearing from you.

Brendan
What do you like about school?

Caitlyn

I love playing in the playground.

Playing on the monkey bars and sliding down the slide.

Gabriel

Playing in the playground and eating my lunch.

Haylee

Learning about letters and numbers. Making new friends.

Riley

Playing games at my desk. Going for a run in the morning.

Nate