



St Theresa's School Albion



Be Safe,
Be Happy,
Be Caring,
Be Ready to
Learn.

Newsletter, October 13th 2022 (Term 4 Week 2)

FATHER BARRY'S CELEBRATION

We were privileged last Sunday to join in the Parish celebrations for Father Barry's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination. After a beautiful Mass, we joined with Father Barry, his family and friends, the staff from St Theresa's and Mother of God and his parishioners to enjoy a celebratory lunch together. It was a pleasure to listen to the wonderful stories and tributes given to Father Barry by his family, the Principals and the Parish Leadership Team.

"Today we reflect on a life of service, sacrifice, love, fidelity, friendship and witness that has inspired so many of us and many before us because of its authenticity. Especially here in Albion and Ardeer.

Thank you and God Bless you, Fr Barry. From All of you grateful parishioners and friends over all these years.



ASSEMBLY TOMORROW : FRIDAY 14th September at 2.15pm in the MPR.
Grade 3/4J will be the hosts....please feel free to join us!

SUMMER UNIFORMS

Children should be wearing their summer uniforms from next Monday which includes a hat. No hat means that your child must remain under shade for recess and lunch. Can I also remind everyone that runners are only to be worn on sport days. **Black leather school shoes must be worn on the other 4 days please.**

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

We are looking for donations of girls' school dresses and skorts, preferably size 6-12.
If you can help, just leave them with Trish or Jo at the front desk.
Thank you.

ST THERESA'S FEAST DAY



Even though it rained so much that our playground looked like a lake, last Friday was a fantastic day for our parish and our schools. The two schools, St Theresa's and Mother of God, joined together to celebrate the Feast of St Theresa. The church was bursting at the seams as we all celebrated Mass together with our P/1s excelling as they sang the opening hymn. Then after Mass the fun began as the children rotated through various activities during the rest of the morning. The festivities ended with a shared BBQ lunch and a quick play together (the sun came out just in time). We all enjoyed spending time together and making new friends.

Many, many thanks to the main organisers of the day, to the group of hardworking parents who were able to give up their time to make sure the kids were fed, to Ray who BBQed hundreds of sausages and to the teachers for making the day such a happy one.



ABBEE SOLO FOUNDATION

As part of this day, we asked that each St Theresa's child bring a gold coin. The money raised would go to the Abbey Solo Foundation which was set up to help with the everyday costs for families who have children with cancer.

We raised \$326 which we happily handed over to Gerard Broadfoot (the previous MOG Principal) who was very grateful and sends his thanks to our families.

2023 Class Structures and Staffing Arrangements.

2023 organisational structures including staffing and grade structures have been finalised and Rob will write to you in the next couple of weeks to let you know about them.

Industrial Issues continue.

Most of our staff are members of the Independent Education Union (IEU) which is currently in negotiations with MACS to develop a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement which will determine wage rises and improved work conditions for staff in Catholic Schools including our school. The stalemate in negotiations continues and the IEU has called on its members to take industrial action. So far, this action has not impacted on our families, other than the time change to the Year 1/2 dinner at school this Friday. However, into the future this action may affect you and/or certain school activities. Information about the action can be found later in this bulletin and there is a link where you can send a message to the Catholic Education employers.

SWIMMING PROGRAM for classes 4/5K, 5/6P and 5/6F

Due to larger numbers, for the first time at St Theresa's we are splitting our swimming program. The senior grades will begin their 2-week program next Monday 17th October and go through until Friday 28th October. Letters have already gone home with all the necessary details but if you have any queries ask Trish or Jo in the office. The junior and middle grades will begin their program on Wednesday 2nd November and it will run for 8 days. A letter with more details will be sent home next week.

A reminder that the next SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING will be held NEXT WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER at 7PM in the staffroom.

DISMISSAL

You have probably already noticed that we have moved back to our 'pre covid' dismissal routine. The children are once again lining up in the playground until the dismissal bell goes at 3.15PM, when their teachers allow them to walk to their parents or guardians. It is much easier to keep an eye on all the children this way and is also a chance for parents to approach the teachers if they need a quick chat with them.

2023 YEAR 7 TRANSITION PANEL

On Tuesday 25th October at 9.30 we have invited Year 7 students from 5 local secondary schools to sit on a question-and-answer panel. Greg Woolford has discussed with our year 6 students the questions or worries they might have about starting Year 7 next year. The panel will be given a chance to respond to these questions. Afterwards our students will be given time to meet with their particular secondary school group for a while, where they can get more specific advice.

Hopefully this Q & A session will allow our students to feel more comfortable with their transition to secondary school next year. Students from MOG and Our Lady's will also be attending.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION LETTER

Dear Parent / Guardian, We need your help!

We're campaigning for fair employment conditions in our schools. Government schools and Catholic Schools in the Sale Diocese agreed months ago, to better manage workloads and improve staff consultation. Our employers are refusing to agree to this.

What we're asking for isn't expensive or unreasonable – we just want the same conditions as our colleagues.

Because employer representatives are not listening, this term we are running a 'No More Freebies' campaign to show that schools rely on our goodwill and our willingness to go above and beyond to do extra unpaid work.

We don't want to have to do this – but if we stay silent now, we'll risk seeing our schools become second-rate workplaces, with staff leaving to work in schools which properly support them.

This is not about our principal or school leadership – it's about Catholic employers, who don't seem to understand the work that we do.

We hope we can rely on your support, as well as your understanding if things look a bit different, until this is resolved.

You can support us by sending a message to Catholic Education employers using the link or QR code below.

**Regards,
Catholic School Staff**

<https://rebrand.ly/catholicschools>



This week members of the Leadership Team were invited to speak at a forum attended by schools from the western suburbs. St Theresa's maths data has showed a steady increase over the past few years and we were asked to talk about how maths is taught at St Theresa's. This article gives a few handy hints about how parents can help with maths learning at home, just by changing their thinking about maths.

Stressing about maths multiplies kids' anxiety



CHRIS HOGBIN

FORGET snakes and spiders. In primary school, my biggest fear was long division. I still vividly remember the feeling. A gut-wrenching stress triggered by symbols that refused to make sense, numbers that seemed to appear from nowhere, and concepts that were tortuously abstract. I felt like the one kid who couldn't, wouldn't get it, desperately fighting back tears as the lesson flew over my head.

Now I see this fear from the other side of the teacher's desk. Regularly I work with students who freeze in exams, get flustered when confronted with basic sums, or avoid mathematics altogether.

Why? Well, mathematics anxiety is a genuine condition. It's also on the rise. According to the most recent PISA results, between a quarter and a third of all Australian students experience mathematics anxiety; an alarming statistic in a country where STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) is consistently identified as an educational and economic priority.

What's driving our kids to become more maths phobic?

Increased high stakes testing and packed curriculums play a part, but I'm convinced the real root of the problem lies in what we collectively believe about maths as a culture. Even as adults, we just can't shake the assumption that mathematics is impossibly hard and most of us will never be any good at it.

I've had countless interviews with parents who nonchalantly explain they were never good at maths, therefore their children are doomed to struggle. Others insist their child doesn't have a "maths brain" — whatever that may be.

Outside the classroom, introducing myself as a maths teacher is invariably a cue for people to explain how badly they failed the subject in high school. Clearly, we never grow out of mathematics anxiety, even in adulthood.

Australia-wide, mathematics is suffering from disengagement, and a whole generation of students are graduating with only limited numerical ability.

According to the Engineers Make Things Happen Report, only 6.2 per cent of girls and 11.5 per cent of boys study advanced maths in year 12 — disturbing figures in a nation that's trying to shift to an innovative, technological economy. No wonder 57 per cent of our

engineers are born overseas; Australian kids are opting out of mathematical career paths before they've even left primary school.

In each new crop of teachers, mathematics specialists make up a dwindling minority. The shortage has meant many maths classrooms are led by teachers who feel ill equipped to handle the subject and therefore rely on “hands-off” teaching practices that kill enthusiasm: rote learning, silent textbook work, and an endless procession of archaic worksheets.

Earnestly, we've responded by packing even more into the curriculum, overloading primary schoolers with high-stakes tests, and shaking our heads over NAPLAN results. Let's look abroad for comparison, to countries that have successfully improved students' engagement with the subject.

In Finland, students aren't introduced to rules and symbols before the age of seven. They spend their first years of primary school exploring maths through hands-on play — just as they would at home.

In Estonia, maths is integrated across subjects and throughout the learning environment. Schools have numbers painted on stairs and shared charts where children record the daily temperature or tallies of birds they've spotted in the playground.

Closer to home, Singapore has adopted a “teach less, learn more” policy, so students can build a deep understanding of maths at their own pace, instead of rushing through a packed curriculum.

These approaches show students maths is about more than just rules, memorisation, and abstraction. It's relevant, creative, maybe even fun.

If we change the way we think and talk about the subject, our kids will tackle it more confidently and with better results. What's more, we'll produce the mathematical problem solvers Australia's future demands. Here are three ways to alleviate maths anxiety in your kids.

Make maths real at home

Find fun and relevant ways to highlight the maths in everyday home life. Try some easy activities, such as cooking a meal with your kids and having them guess, then measure out, different quantities. Solve a brain teaser together. Show them maths is tangible, real, and full of curiosity and exploration.

Talk positively about maths

Avoid talking about maths as if it's something only select people can do (“He's a maths person”, “I'm terrible at maths”). Kids internalise this attitude and become more resistant to learning. Instead, change the rhetoric in your home to focus on progress. Remind your kids everyone can succeed at maths, mathematical ability can be developed, and mistakes are great learning opportunities.

Involve yourself in your child's mathematical learning

Take an active interest in the learning that's happening at school. Discuss the subject with your kids and their teachers so you're aware of their struggles and success, and celebrate effort as well as results.

By taking these initiatives, we can encourage kids to feel excited by numbers instead of afraid. And once that happens, there's no telling what they'll be able to achieve.

YEAR 3/4 DOXA CAMP 2023 PHOTO GALLERY

Last term the children from Years 3 and 4 went to Doxa Camp in Malmsbury. The teachers and the parents all said that the kids were brilliant and they had a great time....and these photos prove that!

