20 January 2015

Principal’s Report

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year with all its hidden joys and challenges. 2015 has very quickly come upon us following what has hopefully been a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we set out once again on a new year of learning and discovery, I invite you to share in the challenge of all that lies ahead.

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and staff work as a team. Parents’ enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly learning environment and celebrate our achievements.

We hope that throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God’s presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year: “The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you… plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

Within our school, we can all try to model God’s love for each one of us, by being a renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school’s endeavours. For this sentiment to continue throughout the year, it will require our collective wisdom and generosity of spirit to be at the forefront of all our communications.

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will also provide experiences of liturgy and prayer as invitations to know and experience the enormous love and special friendship of God.

May the school year ahead, see staff and parents in genuine partnership in our collective role of secular and faith education.

STAFF NEWS:

It gives me great pleasure in announcing that Mrs Leonie McCormack will continue in the role of APA (Assistant to the Principal – Administration) and Curriculum Coordinator for 2015. I’m certain that Leonie will continue to embrace the challenges of her dual roles positively and I pray that together, as a school community, we continue to strive for common goals and remain supportive of each other’s efforts.

FEE POLICY:

The school fee policy is attached to assist you in calculating annual school fees payable for 2015. This is very detailed and self explanatory, however if you require clarification please contact the front office.

OFFICE HOURS – this week:

The school office will be open this week (Monday, 19th to Friday, 23rd January) from 8:00am until 2:30pm for inquiries.

OPEN CLASSROOMS:

To assist families, classrooms will be open on Friday, 23rd January from 8:30am until 9:00am. Books and other classroom belongings can be brought into your child’s new classroom during this time.

AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY:

Please note that Monday, 26th January is a public holiday.

SCHOOL 2015:

School commences on Tuesday, 27th January.

TUCKSHOP 2015:

A reminder to families that our tuckshop will re-commence on Wednesday 28th January.

Please note Changes for 2015 Tuckshop Menu

Tuckshop Online: Flexischools link: https://www.flexischools.com.au

ST THOMAS’ CALENDAR:

A calendar of all up and coming events for 2015 can be found on our school website:
http://www.stthomasmareeba.qld.edu.au/

This calendar is updated regularly and highlights events at our school throughout the year.

ST THOMAS’ SKOOLBAG APP:

Our School has a Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student
community. We are asking parents/students to install our free Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name “St Thomas School Mareeba” in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

CHESS:

Chess with Mr Harnischfeger (ph: 40922930) will continue each Wednesday from 11:40am, commencing in Week 1. The cost for Term 1 will be $60, which can be paid at the front office or through our Flexischools payment system. To register please complete the Chess Nomination Form for Term 1.

P&F MEETINGS 2015:

It was decided at our last P&F Meeting to schedule all future meetings to the first Wednesday of every month. All parents are members of the school Parents and Friends Association. In the spirit of community and valuing your child’s education, parents are encouraged to take an active role in the life of the school through the P&F Committee. The P&F meet once a month, on the third Wednesday at 7pm in the staffroom. For more information about the P&F visit www.pandf.org.au

NEXT NEWSLETTER:

Tuesday, 27th January.
I look forward to catching up with you in the coming weeks.

Rita Petersen