Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Information Night Success—Thank you to attendees of the parent information evening and meet and greet last week. Given the feedback, the night was very successful with nearly all of our new families in attendance. Including our new families, a little over 20 of our families were represented. The sessions gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions they had in regard to our school routines and curriculum content delivered. We thank Mrs Eileen Moyle from the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office for taking the time to talk to us about supporting our children in reading and thank our teachers for their engaging presentations. For those of you unable to attend last weeks sessions, the PowerPoint from last week’s sessions have been added to the newsletter email today. The videoed session presented by Eileen will also be available soon for viewing.

The Art of Speaking and Communication in our Children — Last week’s session on reading presented by Eileen, once again brought to our attention the importance of the development of competent and correct oral language. The old saying used by teachers is ‘If they can say it, they can write it, and if they can write it, they can read it.’ In our classes, a routine that has been introduced is the high expectation that students will communicate in complete sentences. Practice in this is very important. As teachers and parents, we have all seen examples of the way our children speak in their writing with words such as ‘dunno’ (‘I don’t know’) and ‘sarvo’ (‘this afternoon’).

Developing good communication skills in our children is an important life skill. As highlighted by Michael Grose in his ‘Parenting Ideas’ blog, ‘Teach kids to ask for what they want’, we often accept silences, sulks or whining from our children and try to interpret what they want which encourages further development of lazy communication habits. Michael suggests the following tips for putting these good habits into practice.

1. Help children find the words they need to ask for what they want from you and others. Use prompts such as: “Take a minute and think through what it is you want me to do.” “What would you like me to do?”
2. Encourage children to ask for what they want in the following way:
   - Make eye contact
   - Speak clearly and to a person.
   - Use a moderate, firm voice as opposed to whiny or loud voice
   - Accept that the answer they receive may not be the one they want

These powerful lessons in communication are important life skills that we can pass on to our children. The above information and more can be found at: https://www.parentingideas.com.au/2017/01/teach-kids-to-ask-for-what-they-want/

God Bless

Paul J. Meyer

Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/p/pauljmeye190945.html?src=r_communication

Congratulations to our swimmers on gaining selection into the Central Downs Swimming Team. These students will compete in the Southern Downs Carnival on the 17th February at Allora Pool. Good luck!
Assembly Roster
Term 1 Friday’s 8.45am
Week 4: Year 6 Leaders
Week 5: Year 6 Leaders
Week 6: Year 6 Leaders
Week 7: Year 6 Leaders
Week 8: No Assembly
Week 9: Year 6 Leaders
Week 10: ‘You Can Do It’ Presentations (Thursday)

School Masses – Term 1
Family and friends are invited to share with their children the following celebrations:

Wednesday 1st March
Ash Wednesday Mass
Friday 17th March – St Patrick’s Feast
9.30am

Happy Birthday this week to:

School News

Homework is always a point of interest and was covered in last week’s parent information session. Please note, as stated in our school’s homework policy; ‘The supervision of homework by parents should not lead to stressful situations. Teachers and parents/carers should engage in conversation with one another with the aim to provide appropriate support to the child.’ Please do see your child’s teacher in relation to any concerns relating to homework. If your child/children is flatly refusing to do homework, rest assured, that they will need to attend the support room to complete it the following day. In this way students take responsibility for their work. In the instance that homework cannot be completed, a signed note from a parent/caregiver will suffice.

Referral Forms— Occasionally students will be referred to our visiting advisory teachers (speech/ occupational therapists and or school counsellor) for assessment in identifying specific learning needs. In this instance a standard form will be sent home seeking your permission for your child to access this support. Please contact the school if you have any queries or concerns in relation to these processes.

Cross Country training will commence at school once the hot weather has subsided. In the meantime, if your child would like to commence at home, children born 2012/2011 will run 500m, children born 2010/2009 will run 1km, children born 2007/2008 will run 2km. children born 2006/2005 will run 3km.

Dalrymple News

Learning Fun

What an amazing start to the 2017 school year for the Dalrymple students. They are busy learning and practising our St. Patrick’s school-wide routines. They have also begun investigating how authors use different language devices to make their writing interesting for the readers. The children have also been looking at numbers to tens of thousands in mathematics. In Religious Education, our learning focus is all about prayer and how it is our opportunity to communicate with God. The children have been able to consolidate their new learning by playing some fun games. Quotation marks have been a challenging concept that we have been doing lots of work on to make sure we are punctuating sentences correctly.

You Can Do It!

So far this term, Dalrymple have been looking at ‘Getting Along’. This has allowed us all to get to know one another and we will continue to build on from this when we investigate what it looks like to get along with others.

Did you know?

In our Article-A-Day reading we have been reading all about rocks. This has tied in wonderfully with Mr. Clark’s work in Science. The children have been able to share their new knowledge about types of rocks and how they are formed with Mr. Clark and he has been very impressed.

Students of the week

Last week, Jason Deehan was our ‘Student of the Week’ for his fabulous commitment to his learning. Dakoda Cunning received the Mary MacKillop award for her respectful reverence. Congratulations!!!
St Patrick’s Allora School Newsletter
Celebrating 100 years of Education in 2016

Parish News

LITURGY TIMES

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH –
MASS 9AM

2ND, 3RD SUNDAY OF
MONTH – MASS 6pm

4TH, 5TH SUNDAY OF
MONTH – LITURGY OF THE
WORD – 9 AM

School Family Mass
9am on 5th March
Followed by shared
morning tea

First P & F Meeting for 2017 is
Wednesday 22nd February
at 7pm in the Library. All Welcome.

The Catholic Education Office
Resource Centre has set up an
eLibrary, using Wheelers as
their eBook Platform. The
schools’ Years 4, 5 and 6 stu-
dents are now able to borrow
from this library. They have
been shown how they access and borrow these eBooks,
which they will do from home and
onto a personal home de-
vice. The App is free to down-
load and is obtainable by typ-
ing Wheelers ebook platform
app into Google. All loans can
then be managed from there.
The eLibrary has a number of
titles that are not suitable for
our primary classes. These Ti-
tles have an age restriction,
making them unavailable to our students.
What’s Happening at St Patrick’s Allora?

St Francis de Sales School Centenary

Dates: Saturday 18th and Sunday the 19th March, 2017

Events: Saturday evening from 7:00pm Celebrating a Centenary Dinner at F.E. Logan Hall Clifton.

Sunday 9:00 am Mass, followed by celebrations at the school. A Barbeque lunch, display of memorabilia, entertainment and games will be part of the day. Souvenir items will be on sale.

Updates on Face Book: St Francis de Sales School Centenary 2017, or contact Lisa: Ph 0407254078 email: lisamLucas@bigpond.com
Pat: ph: 0410415067 email: patricia.tickner@bigpond.com

DATE CLAIMERS- 2017

17 Feb SD Swimming Carnival—Allora Pool
22 Feb P&F Meeting (please note the change of date—previously advertised for the 8th Feb)
24 Feb CD tennis team event—Clifton.
1 Mar Ash Wednesday Mass
5 Mar 9am School Family Mass
31 Mar School Cross Country—Competing with St Francis de Sales at Allora Golf Course
31 Mar Term 1 Ends

18 Apr Term 2 Starts
25 Apr ANZAC Day (School Closed)
1 May Labor Day (School Closed)
23 June Term 2 Ends
10 July Term 3 Starts
15 Sept Term 3 Ends
3 Oct Term 4 Starts
16 Oct Student Free Day (School Closed)
1 Dec Term 4 and School Year Ends