Dear Parents and Friends,

In this week’s Gospel story we are reminded of the many gifts and talents we have been given. God gives every person gifts and talents, but reminds us this week that these gifts are not given for our own enjoyment alone. God wants us to use those capacities to do good work and help bring people closer to Him, we remind ourselves of this important message each time we pray our school prayer “… We all have wonderful gifts given by God. When we recognize these gifts we will do all the things you dreamed of us doing …”. This week let us all give thanks for the many gifts we have been given.

I am excited to announce that I will be heading to Numurkah Secondary College as the Learning and Teaching Leader next year, I am enthusiastic about the challenges and rewards which will come moving into a secondary school setting and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the team at Nathalia Secondary College in my new role. We look forward to welcoming Chris Summers to our school for the day next Thursday to formally begin the transition process for our school. Chris will also join us for our school closure day to plan and prepare for 2015 and beyond on Monday the 1st of December. We are in planning mode, however, over the next few weeks let us also remember to stop and enjoy right now. Every now and then, we all need a little “stop and ponder” moment, just to take stock of how our life is going along. “We're too busy it seems to take time for dreams or to go for a walk in the sun. Too busy today, no time for play too busy just getting things done. Too busy to watch the children play we don’t hear half the things they say. Will our hearts be filled with misgivings, when we learn we’ve been too busy for living?” Adapted from Too Busy Hilda.

It is true that the more we expect of life the busier it becomes and the more complicated and cluttered it gets. Inevitably, this leads to less time we have available to appreciate all the blessings of our lives! When we look at the Gospels that tell of Jesus’ life, it does appear that he was a very busy person. However, Jesus was also a person who celebrated life with enthusiasm from the beginning of his public life at the marriage feast at Cana to after his Resurrection, when some of the Apostles came ashore after fishing all night and found Jesus cooking breakfast for them. As we head into the last few and very busy weeks of our school term may we make the time to pause and enjoy the now.

Peace and Best Wishes,

Claire Kelly

Congratulations and blessings and much love to our gorgeous Elli Cowcher who this weekend will celebrate her marriage to Liam Mestrom.

May the longtime sun shine on you
All love surround you
And the pure light within you
Guide you on your way.
Akal, Akal, infinity…. Akal, Akal, no end
Traditional Irish wedding Blessing
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Tolerance. Tolerance is a skill, which can reduce conflict. It is an ongoing process. Tolerance encourages us to respect opinions and practices, which differ from our own, and to be free of bigotry. Tolerance encourages understanding and appreciation of individual differences, minimizes generalisations and helps combat prejudice and discrimination.

In Week 6 our Social Skills Blitz was around honesty. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Sarah Connelly, Catarina Pawlowicz, Zara Limbrick, Dylan Madden and Breanne Walpole.

Congratulations everyone

Miss Cowcher is getting married!

The Prep/Grade 1 students have been very busy putting together a book for Miss Cowcher in honour of her wedding, which is taking place this Saturday, 22 November 2014 at Sorrento. At assembly on Monday morning Ella Dealy and Bridie Wilson presented the book to Miss Cowcher. Below are two examples of the Prep/Grade One’s vision of Miss Cowcher’s wedding. We wish Elli and Liam all the best for their wedding day and their future life together.
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT:
We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jade Graham, as Disability Support Worker. Jade comes to us with extensive nursing and disability experience, as well as experience working with disengaged youth at Berry Street, we look forward to welcoming Jade to our school community.

LOST PROPERTY:
A size 5 child’s thong with back strap has been handed into the school office – so if your little one cannot find one of their thongs – there is a good chance that it is in the school office. Please check the photo to the left to see if the thong belongs to your child.

2015 GRADE SIX T-SHIRTS:
We are collating the size and number of t-shirts required for each student. We have two different sizes at the front office for students to try on (sample in photo to the left). Casual Step will place the order in mid December for an early January delivery. We ask that parents collect and pay for the t-shirts directly with Casual Step. If you have not advised the school of your child’s size and number of t-shirts required please place your order by Friday, 28 November 2014.

CARE TEAM NEWS:
The Care Team would like to thank the Parent Club for their kind donation of an upright freezer for the storage of donated meals. It would be lovely if we could fill the freezer so that we are able to help our families who are experiencing challenging times. We gratefully accept meals, soups, cakes, biscuits etc., and take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made food for our Care Team previously.

STRONGER RETREAT:
The annual Stronger Retreat for young people aged 16-26 will be held from Friday 5 December (eve) until Sunday, 7 December 2014

The speakers for this year’s Retreat will include internationally renowned singer, songwriter and priest, Fr Rob Galea, along with Paul Ninnes and Kym Keady, who will travel from Brisbane to be at the event. Here are highlights from the last two Stronger Retreat’s that may be of interest.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9TS3jtnDc
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjMcZ9v0gbA

Registrations cost $185 and are open until November 24. Subsidies are available. Transport will be available from Shepparton too and more details are available at the St Brendan’s parish office.
COMMUNITY NEWS

NATHALIA JUNIOR TENNIS

Junior Tennis and Hotshots will go ahead this Saturday, 22 November. All groups will be running as normal. Please let your group leader know if you are unable to attend this week.

Training will run each Tuesday from 3.45 p.m. – 4.45 p.m. For more details contact Di Bell on 0447 766 142 or Rose Nihill on 0438 662 149.