



Thursday 18th February 2021



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we celebrated Ash Wednesday with mass for older grades and a liturgy for our K-2 students. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season which traditionally is a time of personal reflection and renewal. We heard Fr. Joy challenge us all to let Jesus into our lives through the actions of Lenten traditions of prayer, alms giving and fasting. This is a great opportunity for parents to speak to their children about the traditions of the Lenten Season as a time for reflection and renewal through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

- Our Beginning School Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 25th February. It will be divided into two celebrations. The Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 students will attend mass along with parishioners at 9am.
- Our Kinder, Year 5 & 6 students will attend mass at 11:15am. At this Mass, we will be commissioning and inducting our school captains and colour house captains to their leadership roles for 2021. We will also be acknowledging and blessing our Year 6 Leadership group during the mass. Congratulations to our badged leaders and we wish them every success in their leadership roles in 2021.

As in our St Patrick's tradition, our Year 6 students will give a special blessing to their Kinder Buddies at this mass.

School Captain	School Captain	School Vice-Captain	School Vice-Captain
Jake F	Sophie W	Matthew T	Rebecca C
Mercy House Kurt W Zasha E	Coolock House Michael P Natasha H	Xavier House Marcus B Tara C	McAuley House Mathias A-R Max M

- Thank you to the parents who indicated they would like to attend one of the Beginning School Mass celebrations. As places are limited due to the restricted capacity of the church, parents attending will receive an email confirming their attendance at their chosen celebration. On the day, parents attending will need to sign in through the Service NSW App using the QR Code and adhere to the Covid-safe procedures in place for St. Patrick's Church.
- The age champions for each age group for our school swimming carnival will be acknowledged at this week's Friday Morning Awards Assembly. I invite parents to tune in to the assembly each week to be part of our weekly assembly. The access code for each Friday Assembly is: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/93541693068> A reminder to those joining the assembly to please keep your settings on mute and your video turned off.
- As previously communicated, the school will hold individual Parent/Teacher Meetings later in the term providing the chance for parents and teachers to meet face to face or via zoom depending on the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time. At these meetings parents and teachers can connect and discuss relevant information for their child, their child's effort and progress during Term 1 and set goals and make plans for the year ahead.
- Parents who have important information they wish to communicate to their child's class teacher before the Individual Parent/Teacher Meeting takes place are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office or communicate information via an email to the school office to be passed on to the class teacher.
- Our gymnastics provider, Moving Bodies, have been generous with their praise of the children's behaviour and efforts over the past few weeks. The children have enjoyed participating in skill-based movement activities and look forward to a few more weeks of the program. We thank Mrs MacMahon for obtaining the Federal Government Sports Grant to access the program.

God bless you and your families.

Todd Vane-Tempest