"Think Twice"

“I tell my children and I try to do it myself. Think twice about what you are doing and going to do. You can even use it in learning people’s names.” So said a neighbour while chatting recently. They are wise words, words to live by. Children can drift through situations, not noticing what is happening and then explode, over react or get into trouble when things move beyond their control. But a little thought along the way, a little mindfulness can make their lives and ours a richer, better experience.

Jesus tried to provoke such thoughtfulness. His whole way of teaching wasn’t a series of straightforward, black and white rules. Rather his parables, his short sayings, some of which seem to contradict each other, are meant to challenge us to ask ourselves, “What does God want me to do in this situation?” We need to use thought and prayer to discern what to do in changing circumstances. Our brains are not there just to keep our ears apart. Along with our heart, we are meant to use this precious gift so that we can live as humanly as possible in the varying events of life.

Loving Father, send us your Spirit that we may know how to apply the teachings of Jesus to our lives. Filled with his Spirit may we have loving thoughts and wise hearts. We ask this in his name, confident that you will hear us.

An Invitation

Share your responses to these reflections with other parents and caregivers across Australia at the blog ‘Casting the Net’ at http://castingthenetaustralia.blogspot.com.au/ . You may like to begin with ‘the wise words to live by’ which you offer your own children.  

Sr Kym Harris osb

Dear Parents,

I would like to wish all the mums and grandmothers a Happy Mother’s Day this Sunday. Tomorrow we have a special assembly at school, which will have each team prepare a little performance (or show work) that highlights the importance of these special people in the children’s lives. All mums/grandmothers are invited. The assembly will commence at 1.45pm. I have included an interesting article about Mums by Michael Grosse with the newsletter this week.

Last week I was very fortunate to spend a few days away with the Grade 3/4 Camp at Waddamana. It was a great experience with the children being very determined to not let the wet weather ruin their camp. Thank you to Mrs Campagna, Mrs Doherty, Mrs Hall, Mrs McQueen and the number of parent helpers that assisted. It was the first time ever that Grade 3 students have had a two night outdoor education experience. I am happy to report that they coped very easily.

Dates for your diaries

9th May - Assembly 1.45pm
25th May - End of Term 1
18th June - Term 2 begins
‘Making Friends Performance’
This morning all Prep to Grade 6 students travelled down to Geeveston District to view a performance that highlighted some of the important issues about friendship. We are hosting Geeveston and Dover students in second term for another gathering that is looking at protective behaviours. Great that we are working together to share resources!

NAPLAN Testing
Next week our Grade 3 and 5 students are participating in the National Literacy and Numeracy Testing. These tests are becoming increasingly important and linked to our system and school funding. I would appreciate it if parents ensure every effort is made for the Grade 3 and 5 students to be at school next week and that they have a few early nights and eat well in preparation for the tests. Tests will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

P&F Assoc.
The P&F are running the Mother’s Day stall tomorrow which allows children to purchase something special for their mums. The P&F also purchased a new oven for our school canteen last week, which will make life a lot easier for Mandy. The next P&F meeting is on Tuesday the 15th May at 9.00am.

Board Meeting
Our Board meeting for this week has been cancelled due to a number of the members being unavailable and a clash of dates with an important Parish gathering. The Board meeting will now be held next Thursday the 17th May at 6.00pm.

‘Making Jesus Real’ Program (MJR)
This Friday we are welcoming Mr Romeo Fabrizio back to SHCS. Mr Fab is assisting Peter Mitchell in facilitating the MJR program. A great program that assist students with their spiritual development. I caught up with Mr Fab over the weekend and he is very excited about his visit.

Dare to Lead Visit
Next Thursday and Friday we are participating in the Dare to Lead Program. The facilitators of the program will spend two days at SHCS looking at how we cater for our Aboriginal students. After the visit they prepare a report that will assist us in the future. The facilitator will be interviewing a number of community members, including students. Thank you to those parents that have kindly offered their time.

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal

REMINDERS
- Sacred Heart is participating in Woolworths Earn & Learn again this year. It starts tomorrow 9th May. Place your stickers on your sticker card (more cards are available from the office)
- Book Club closes 15th May

WANTED - Garden pots - all different sizes.
Please leave at the school
Australian Mobile Recycling

Sacred Heart Catholic School has registered as part of the drive to recycle unwanted mobile phones. Australian Mobile Recycling was founded in September 2011. Our aim is to collect as many used and unwanted mobile phones as possible. All mobile phones received will be recycled for reuse. This means they will be refurbished for resale. Each handset is restored to factory conditions and all sim card and memory cards are destroyed. Any phones that are beyond repair will be broken down into their constituent parts and recycled by Australian licensed recyclers. For your efforts your organisation will receive $3 for every mobile phone returned. If you have any unwanted mobile phones please drop them into the school office.

Sacred Heart Parents & Friends
Mothers Day Stall – Wednesday 9th May

The Parents & Friends will be holding their annual Mothers Day Stall for the children. Children are invited to purchase 2 small items for their mother, grandmother or special person in their lives. This is a non-profit stall. The children enjoy purchasing a surprise for Mothers Day. Gifts will be priced between $1 and $4. If children forget their money tomorrow they are allowed to layby an item and collect it on the Thursday. Thank you for your support.

Every Thursday from 3.30pm-4.30pm, Kids bootcamp
Port Huon Sports Centre
For kids aged 6-12
Games, relays, some exercise… Have fun, make new friends, and get fit in the process!
Cost: $5.00

Mothers (and fathers!) Would you like to get fit after dropping your child off at school in the morning? We are looking at providing a 6-week fitness course for parents, every Wednesday morning from 9-10am. If you are interested, please call us on 6297 1708. Cost: $30 for the full course. Location: Port Huon Sports Centre.

Any Arty/Crafty Mums and Dads Out there??

We are looking for some new Artisans to join the team at Southern Design Centre in Geeveston. Studios available for rent now – suitable for two if you have a friend that can share your space.

Work the hours to suit you and earn an income from your Art or Craft.

First month is free and then monthly from then on.

Interested?? Please call Fiona 62 97 0039
Or email fiona.donato4@bigpond.com.au

Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Mother of all jobs

As an ex-house dad, I take my hat off to mothers.

When I was busy at work I would often think about what my wife must be doing. I used to conjure up an image of her playing happily with my three-year-old son in the sandpit at the local playgroup while the other two children slept peacefully nearby. With these images at the front of my mind I thought motherhood sure beat working for a living.

Many years ago I discovered how far from the truth my notion of motherhood really was when my wife and I swapped roles. I must confess that two of the children were at school so it was easier for me to manage but it was as close as I could get.

The first thing I learned was that while I may be the primary carer I could never be a substitute mother to my children. Take sickness or illness for example. When one of the kids was off-colour, I had a cut or bruise or just needed some tender loving care they headed straight for their mother. Dad may do in the meantime, but I was a pale imitation of the real thing, their mum, when it comes to dispensing comfort. I could give them just as good a hug as any female. It is just that their mum was well their mum. It is as simple as that.

I also learned there are some things that fathers can’t do as well as mothers. In my case it was fixing my daughters’ hair. The first time I put my youngest daughter’s hair in a plait she cried. Not from pain, just the embarrassment of being seen in public with a hair-do that looked like a piece of knotty, old rope. It became accepted in my house that ‘dads don’t do hair’.

I soon appreciated the unique skills that mothers develop if they are to survive the rigours of parenting on a daily basis. In particular, mothers seem to have the uncanny knack of doing three jobs at once while dealing with noisy or whingeing children.

Multi-task masters

Anyone who can cut a round of sandwiches, prepare breakfast for a family, find a missing pair of socks for tiny feet while making sure everyone is on track, has my vote. I have trouble getting myself dressed in the morning, let alone worrying about anyone else.

There is no place in a mother’s repertoire for tunnel-vision or focussing on one task at a time. These are luxuries reserved for the workplace, not the family home. The fact that kids are noisy, demanding and often unpredictable means anyone who spends a fair time in their vicinity must be flexible, patient and able to keep cool under extraordinary pressure. Qualities I still don’t possess.

Take cooking for example. The job of preparing a decent meal wasn’t too hard. I could – and still can – usually produce something quite edible with a minimum of fuss. However, rarely did I have the chance to cook in isolation. There was always a child interrupting, asking for help or just wanting to chat. Not to mention fitting cooking around bathing, hearing kids read or picking them up from sports practice.

An increasing number of mothers do full-time paid work then come home for their second shift of parenting. Any mention to these mothers of my trials with the juggling act, simply evokes a shoulder shrug and a ‘welcome to the real world’ look.

If anyone says that motherhood is not like real work, send them my way. After many years of being the primary parent to my children – usually the preserve of women – I can really set them straight. It’s hard yakka that largely goes unrewarded.

Happy Mother’s Day.