Reading God in our lives.

This week is National Book Week, a time when we encourage our children to read. I would like to offer a different kind of reading this week. Christians are known as people of ‘The Book’, that is the Bible, which is really a collection of a number of different books that show how God worked in human lives. We are also known as people of ‘The Word’, that is Jesus Christ. St Augustine, one of the greatest writers in the Church, loved playing with words and ideas. One of his best was to say that when God expressed his love, spoke his Word, Jesus, he was thinking of each one of us as a syllable in that Word. Amazing! This means that each of us has something special and unique to reveal about the love of God and about the person of Jesus. This specialness is integral to how we are made, who we are. We are not used to reading ourselves and need to work at this. One way is to think of five words that you think describe who you are. (If you think of negative characteristics, name the positive side of it as well.) I sometimes even make up syllables that sound like me. Then try and think of five words that describe your family or loved ones. Make this the basis of a great family or group sharing. This is owning of our best selves and how God’s presence is revealed in our lives.

This week is also Seniors Week and offers us a great opportunity to ask our grandparents how God has written in their ‘Book of Life’. There is so much wisdom to be read there!

Sr Kym

Dear Parents,

This Friday and Saturday evening we have a number of our students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist. A great celebration for our Parish community! Archbishop Adrian will be Confirming the children on Friday evening at St James Church, Cygnet at 7.00pm. Please keep the following students in your prayers – Isabel Burdick, Ethan Carter, Brielle Gordon, Ethan Lovell, Bailey Reeve & Riley Griggs.

This week we welcomed Fr Greg back after his well-deserved break. Thank you to Fr Ross for looking after us while Fr Greg was away. I was very proud of our students last Friday when we formed a guard of honour at the funeral for Mrs Joy Hickey. Joy was a great supporter of our school and Parish for many years. Please continue to keep the Hickey family in your prayers and thoughts.

Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22nd Aug</td>
<td>Assembly 2.15pm Year 5/6 hosting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kinder excursion to Marine Discovery Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 27th Aug</td>
<td>Catholic School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29th Aug</td>
<td>Book Week Dress up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31st Aug</td>
<td>Monthly Mass Kinder/Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5th Sept</td>
<td>Crazy Day</td>
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Bookclub closes on 28th August
Cross Country

We had fabulous conditions for our Cross Country event last Tuesday. Congratulations to the members of the Hartz Team for ‘taking out’ the competition and to all students for their participation and sportsmanship. Thank you to Miss Longey and Mrs Thomas for organising the event and to a number of parents that assisted on the day. Our first four place getters from Grades 3-6 are representing SHCS at the Southern Catholic Carnival next Monday at Tolosa Park, Glenorchy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Grade 5</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Ethan Lovell</td>
<td>2. Reece Scotland</td>
<td>2. Tara Shanley</td>
<td>2. Olivia Riley</td>
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</tbody>
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School Improvement Survey

Thank you to all families that completed the online survey. We had a very healthy number of surveys completed (38). Congratulations to Michelle Dolaghan who won the $50 itunes card. The results of the surveys will be published to the community in the next few weeks.

Book Week

It is actually Book Week this week but due to other commitments we have decided to celebrate it at SHCS next week. On Wednesday next week we are encouraging students to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We will have a short gathering in the morning to view all the creations. Teams will also be participating in a range of other activities during the week.

Mrs Kathleen Evan’s Visit

We were very fortunate this morning to have Mrs Kathleen Evans in our community. Kathleen spoke to the gathering about her personal fight against her illness and how the power of prayer assisted. A very powerful experience for the children! Below is an extract from the Mary Mackillop website about Kath’s story. It might help if the children ask questions at home.

“My name is Kathleen Evans. I’m married to Barry. I’m a mother of 5 and a grandmother of 21 including 2 great grandchildren. I come from the small town of Windale in Lake Macquarie. In the 1990’s, I was diagnosed with a non small carcinoma in my right lung.

After x-rays and scans were taken, my GP sent me to a heart, lung surgeon. He put me in hospital for a biopsy. The surgeon explained that he hoped to remove my right lung as my youngest child was only 13. And by taking the lung out, it might give me 5 or 6 years to see him through high school. What he found was that the cancer was very aggressive and had spread into my glands. He was concerned that one of the glands was too close to the aorta. He also asked for an x-ray of my head to be taken. He found that a secondary had started at the bottom of my brain. This put paid to any operation.

I was then sent to a chemotherapist who gave me no hope of the chemotherapy working.
The next step was radiotherapy, only to be told that any ray treatment would help with the side effects and perhaps give me a couple more weeks at the end. For this to happen, I would have to go to the hospital for 10 consecutive days. I was too sick for that. Besides the odds were just not worth it. I was only given a couple of months at the most to live. So I said thanks, but no thanks. I went back to my doctor and asked him to see me through until the end. All this took 1 month.

All I had left was prayer. I was a great believer in prayer. The next few weeks were hard times. I was unable to stay out of bed for any length of time. I would get the shakes so bad that my husband would have to lay on me to ease them down. I couldn’t bath or shower myself or even use the toilet on my own. I suffered from night sweats and found it hard to breathe. I was in a bad way.

Where did Mary come into my life?

I had a friend who lived in the Hunter Valley. She gave me a picture of Mary MacKillop. Attached to the back, was a piece of Mary’s clothing. This is called a relic. I wore this relic on my nightie and later on my clothing. It never left me. She also gave me some prayer cards that had been given to her by the Sisters here at Mount Street. They were given out to all my family and friends asking them to pray the same prayer, asking Mary to pray with us to God for nine days on my behalf.

Instead of my health deteriorating, I started to get stronger. I was even able to stay out of bed longer. Within 2 weeks, I was able to go on a weekend retreat. Now I wasn’t jumping over the moon, but I was able to attend every session over that weekend and I have never looked back.

My doctor wanted me to have more tests done about 4 months later because as he said, I just should not be here. It wasn’t until another 3 months, which was 10 months from being diagnosed, that I went back to have those tests, to be told there was no sign of cancer anywhere, just scarring where the cancer had been.

So after all this time I can say I’m still here and very well and enjoying life to the fullest”.

Father’s Day Activity

Hopefully lots of Dads are able to participate in the Father’s Day evening at school that the P&F are holding on Friday 31st August. A great night of fun and entertainment! Please return the slip to the school office, so we have an idea for catering.

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal

Sacrament Program: There will be a practice Tuesday the 21 August at 7.30pm in St James Catholic Church Cygnet for all those children who are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Those children who are in other school systems other than Sacred Heart Catholic School or St James Catholic College are invited to be at the church at 7.00pm for Reconciliation or make a time to visit for this sacrament at a more convenient time. Children in SHCS or St Js will attend the sacrament of Reconciliation during the school day at a time to be arranged. Best wishes and prayers to all those in the program as they complete this important part of their journey. Fr Greg

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WOULD YOU LIKE A

FATHERS DAY BBQ

RSVP by 24th August 2012

TO CELEBRATE FATHERS DAY, SACRED HEART INVITES ALL “DADS” AND THEIR KIDS TO A BBQ TEA.
DATE: 31ST AUGUST
TIME: 4PM-7PM
PLACE: SCHOOL
COME ON ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE DAD IN YOUR FAMILY.

☐ I would/would not be interested
Signed ..................................................

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