Wednesday August 8, 2012

Dear parents and friends,

**The Feast of St Mary of the Assumption**
The month of August marks an important date in our Catholic faith.

On Wednesday 15 August we celebrate the Feast of The Assumption, our parish feast day. Mass will be celebrated for students, teachers and parents at 9.30 am in the hall.

The honour bestowed on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, at the time of her death, to be taken body and soul into heaven, is one of the church’s strongly held beliefs.

We thank Mary for her life which was one of obedience to God and commitment to bringing up God’s son; she is a role model for us all in her love of God and Jesus. She also had an amazing role in the formation of the early church.

Below is Mary’s beautiful prayer of praise for her God, The Magnificat, tells of Mary’s love for God and the humble way she accepted her calling from God. It is a prayer of inspiration for us all. The Magnificat appears in our school letter head and on our uniform. Please read this prayer with your children.

**The Magnificat**
My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
And his mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of his mercy
Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.
Staff Learning

As you are aware there was no school this Monday. Our staff, along with 500 hundred other teachers from Catholic Primary Schools attended a meeting run by Professor Michael Askew on Mathematics. Michael provided us with a great deal of stimulating advice and ideas on how we can continue to become better teachers of Maths. Of great interest was a lot of learning on how the teaching of maths differs from the way we teach other subjects. As with all professional learning we will now take this information and look at how it can best meet the needs of our students and improve their learning.

Our staff engage regularly in a variety of learning. Every week staff attend these meetings outside of teaching hours

- **Staff Meetings.** Interestingly over the years these have been lots of discussion points and general information sharing which is not unlike other work places. Now we can do this by email. Over the last years these have changed to be more focussed on professional learning as a staff and about becoming better teachers. Currently much of our focus is on the area of Maths. This is a valuable time for us to develop our St Paul’s approach to learning and to be continually challenged to do better.

- **Professional Learning Teams (PLT’S).** These meeting are either about Literacy or Maths. These meetings are very much focussed on students, in particular their accomplishments and their needs. Under the guidance of our Literacy and Maths Coordinators staff analyse students results and devise strategies to help students with their next level of learning. This is something I am personally proud of and wish to thank all our staff for undertaking. Our teachers really know their students well. These meetings are vital for us to express our vision of every student achieving their personal best.

- **Religious Education Planning.** These meetings allow time for our Religious Education Coordinator to pan with staff to discuss our faith and how we can teach it to our students.

Upcoming Dates

* Wednesday August 15 – Feast of the Assumption Mass
* Monday August 27 Prep – Year 2 Swimming Program Begins Friday September 7 Prep –Year 2 Swimming Concludes
* Monday September 10- Wednesday September 12 Year 5 Camp
* Wednesday September 19- School finishes 1.50pm- 2.20pm-8.00pm Parent Teacher Interviews
* Friday September 21 – Last day of term

Best wishes

Adrian Glasby

Principal