Our Teachers

by Brendan Gorman

A recent newspaper article tackled the notion of attrition in the teaching profession. Far too often we see teachers across the nation packing their bags and taking on a position outside of the one they feel passionate about and have trained hard to attain. There are many reasons that the article suggests contribute to teachers leaving the profession. The ones that resonate for me as a Head of School include the increased focus on Compliance and Administration as well as dealing with unrealistic expectations of parents.

I’m not saying that these are issues at St Peter’s, in fact our Teachers frequently comment on the encouragement and support they feel from our Parent Community. This is wonderfully unique and I encourage you to continue to do this.

Our teachers are vital to the success of our students. The media often portrays teachers as people who only work a few hours a day and enjoy their school holidays. We know that this couldn’t be further from the truth for a St Peter’s Teacher. Our staff work hard both when with their students and when preparing to be with their students. They meet and plan during Non-Term time and attend additional Professional Learning. As a school, we take Compliance seriously, yet seek to balance this with the real needs of our students. We have wonderful support staff to allow our teachers to get on with their core business of teaching, learning and building meaningful relationships with their students.

We have exceptional teachers at St Peter’s. Keep them in your prayers, encourage them, support them, affirm them as you entrust your children into their care each and every day.

Community

It was a small number of parents who braved the heat on Monday evening to join in our Community Dinner as part of our Meet the Teacher evening. We are grateful to those who could come and understand that many couldn’t. Throughout this year, our 35th year of operation, we plan to hold a number of events for our community. These provide opportunities for parents to get to know one another, catch up and support one another. Stay tuned for further details and specific invitations.

Swimming Carnival

Well done to all of our students who participated in our Carnival yesterday. Congratulations to Cook for winning this year’s Carnival! Well done also to Bligh for being the House who cheered constantly throughout the day. Our IPSHA team will compete at Homebush on Tuesday, 7 March and Mrs Hornman will advise the team of their place.

Year 6 Leadership Camp

Our Year 6 students will be commencing the year with a Leadership Camp next week. This Camp is for all of our Year 6 students as they consider their roles in Leadership within the School. Whilst some of Year 6 students hold badges and specific positions of responsibility, all of our students are Leaders and will lead a Buddy Group as part of our House structure. We look forward to seeing the many benefits of this Camp, when Year 6 return.

New Students

We would like to welcome the following new student to our school:

Yutong
Kiss ‘n Drop
As the year commences and we seek to safely have 600 students arrive and leave each day, may I remind you that our Kiss ‘n Drop area is for this purpose only. Parents wishing to arrive early, see a staff member, should park in one of the council car parking areas nearby.

Uniforms
Commencing Monday, students will be formally reminded if they are wearing incorrect uniforms or missing items of their uniform. All students are expected to be in the correct uniform each day. Where this is not possible for a short time, a written note should be given to the student. We are grateful for parental support in this matter.

Disco
Our Disco will soon be here and we would love your help! If you could volunteer your time to help set up, decorate or serve food, we would love to hear from you. Please use the reply form on the note that will be sent home, or contact the School Office on administration@stpeters.nsw.edu.au

Robotics
Next week, our Robotics Club will meet on Thursday after school in the Library, finishing at 4.15 pm. If your child is in Year 3 or 4, and would like to participate, please encourage them to get their name on the sign up sheet next Tuesday during Recess or Lunch which will be on 1A classroom door. Please be aware that spaces are limited and are only open to students who can commit to attend each week.

Introduction to Strings
An Introduction to Strings Programme with Mr Kowalik, will commence on Monday, 20 February. The Programme will be held in the Band Room at 8.00 am - 8.45 am each Monday for the remainder of Term 1. The cost of $100 per student includes tuition, instrument hire and is payable directly to Mr Kowalik. Please contact Mr George Kowalik on 0418485 210 if you have any questions or to join.

St Peter’s Physical Culture Club
Classes began on Wednesday, 8 February in the Church Hall. Students wishing to attend directly after school, will be supervised by the Physical Culture staff until collected at the end of the lesson, or can be returned to OSHC.

For further information please phone Anne McLeod on 46257253, 0447200128 or email annemcleod2@gmail.com

Grandparents’ Day
Grandparents’ Day is a wonderful opportunity for our students to share their learning and school with grandparents. Please provide an email or postal address to administration@stpeters.nsw.edu.au so an invitation to attend this special day may be extended on your child/ren’s behalf.

P&F
On behalf of the St Peter’s Anglican Primary School P&F, I would like to warmly welcome the school community to the 2017 school year. Whether you are a returning parent or new to our school, you will be amazed at how many opportunities there are to be involved in the school community throughout the year. One initiative we would like to introduce is a short survey so we can gain a greater understanding on how the P&F can remain relevant, provide real benefit to the school community and engage with our parents. I kindly encourage you to spend 5 minutes of your time completing the survey below, with the results and a showcase of our 2017 year to be presented at our first P&F meeting on Tuesday, 28 February. If you would like to be involved in the P&F activities throughout the year, either as a volunteer or participant at our meetings or events, this is your chance to register your interest.

2017 P&F Survey - Click here to follow link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMDLB87

I wish you and your family a wonderful 2017, and on behalf of the entire P&F Committee, we look forward to your support and involvement throughout the year.

Peter Buckley
2017 P&F President

School Banking
Banking will commence for the year on Thursday, 16 February.

School Lunches
Due to the increase in the number of children requiring Recess or Lunch, a note will be sent home to advise parents/carers that your child has visited the School Office. We kindly ask that a gold coin donation be returned to contribute to the associated costs.

Library
by Sandra Busutel

Book Club LOOP Orders
Please note orders will close on Thursday, 23 February.

Borrowing
Borrowing has commenced. Please ensure if your child is in Prep – Year 4 they have a Library Bag. Be a partner with the School and encourage your child to borrow as reading helps with Comprehension, Spelling, Grammar and Oral Reading.

Changing Books
Kindergarten – Year 6 students are able to change their book throughout the week before school and during the second half of Lunch or after school if accompanied by an adult between 3.15 pm – 3.40 pm.

Healthy Habits
No time for Breakfast?
Try some of these quick Breakfasts children can enjoy "on the go".
- Reduced-fat Yoghurt;
- Reduced-fat Yoghurt drink;
- Healthy Cereal in small plastic bag (a small carton of Milk can add a Calcium boost);
- A slice of Banana loaf or other low fat Fruit loaf.

IPSSO Sport
IPSSO Sport will commence on the Wednesday, 22 February. Morning training will also commence Wednesday, 22 February for all teams accept Senior Basketball, which will train during Lunch time. Training will be held between 8.00 am - 8.30 am.
Parent Prayer Group
Please come and join Miss Leanne Burns, Senior Assistant Minister from St Peter’s Anglican Church, for a Parent Prayer session. This is held from 8.30 - 9.00 am every Wednesday in the Board Room.

Road Safety
The safe conduct of motorists, either driving through or parking in School Zones, is of paramount importance to our community. This will ensure the welfare and safety of our school children and other pedestrians, particularly during school starting and finishing times.

Campbelltown City Council have provided the following school zone parking offences for information:

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Calendar Reminders
TERM 1: 27 January – 7 April

Week 4
Monday – Wednesday  13/02/17 – 15/02/17
Year 6 Leadership Camp
Thursday  16/02/17
Parent Information Session 9.30 – 10.30 am
Parent Information Session 7.00 – 8.00 pm
Friday  17/02/17
School Tour 9.30 am

Week 5
Monday  20/02/17
Junior Primary Assembly: 11.30 am
Primary Assembly: 2.30 pm
Wednesday  22/02/17
Junior Rep Sport 11.50 am
Senior Rep Sport 1.10 pm
Thursday  23/02/17
Kindergarten-Year 2 Disco 3.00 – 4.30 pm
Year 3 – 6 Disco 4.30 – 6.00 pm

Week 6
Monday  27/02/17
House Day
Tuesday  28/02/17
P&F Meeting 7.00 pm
Thursday  2/03/17
Year 6 Taste of Broughton Day

Week 7
Monday  6/03/17
Junior Primary Assembly: 11.30 am
Primary Assembly: 2.30 pm
Prep Koalas and Kangaroos, Kindergarten – Year 6 Parent Teacher Interviews 4.00 – 8.00 pm
Thursday  9/03/17
Prep Echidnas and Wombats Parent Teacher Interviews 4.00 – 6.00 pm
Prep and Kindergarten 2018 Information Evening 6.00 pm
Friday  10/03/17
Cross Country

Prayer Points
1. Pray for our newest students in Prep as they adjust to school routines and culture.
2. Pray for wisdom for our Schools Council as they govern and make decisions.
3. Give thanks for the excitement at the commencement of the year as students begin their first Units of Inquiry.

The School Prayer
Jesus, our Master and our Friend. You came to show us the truth and to teach us the way of life; Send your blessing on our School. Guide by your Spirit, the children and their parents, the teachers and staff, and the Schools’ Council. As we work together with one another and with you, may St Peter’s Anglican Primary School be a place where children learn and where all discover the true meaning of ‘Life through Christ’.

Amen

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
https://www.facebook.com/stpetersaps
https://twitter.com/stpetersaps

St Peter’s Anglican Primary School is a ministry of Campbelltown Anglican Churches.

Church at Ten is held in the School Hall on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am.

Please call the Church Office on 4625 1041 or email office@campbelltownanglican.org.
Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills*

Help is available to pay your energy bills.

For information on rebates and emergency assistance go to:
or phone Service NSW on 137 788

* eligibility criteria apply

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Family Energy Rebate* – $150 or $15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

NSW Gas Rebate* – $90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

Medical Energy Rebate* – $235 per year – You could qualify for his rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson’s disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

Low Income Household Rebate* – $235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

Life Support Rebate* – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

EAPA* – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?
The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

REMEMBER
If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.