



St Paul's Catholic School Palette

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Mosaic of Life

Yesterday I did a mosaic workshop – my first. I went with a few possible designs, picked one, hoping perhaps to come home with a trivet. Our tutor was excellent but I still didn't expect it to be easy. It wasn't but while it wasn't killingly hard, it was a challenge. As I went on, I realised that doing mosaics is a pretty good metaphor for much of life.

We start with a good design but as we choose and cut the tiles to fit, we find ourselves hedged by the limitations of the materials. Tiles are shifted around as we try to capture the sense of the picture and maintain a sense of flow. While fingers can be caught in the cutters or cut on the sharp edges of the tiles, the most deflating part is that in looking too closely at the work one loses the idea of picture as a whole. This makes one too critical, which then deflates enthusiasm, leading to a sense of defeat and the temptation to give up. The trick to mosaics is, while giving care to the detail, to let the sense of the whole picture determine the work.

As we live our lives, we can become so swamped by its daily demands and duties that we can feel that we have lost the plot. When things get tough, this is the time when we most need to step back and try to see things in the big picture, and the biggest and best picture is the way God looks at our life, that is with love. In the light of that love, we can start to see the design that is being drawn in our lives and we will discover that mess and muddle is often the place of God's best, creative design.

Loving God, give me a glimpse now and then of the big picture you are drawing in my life and let it give me the confidence to lovingly face my daily challenges. I ask this in Jesus' name, confident that you will hear me.

Sr Kym Harris osb

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all families for ensuring the students looked neat and tidy in their winter uniforms for our photos today. We hope to have school photos back by the end of the term.

Our Grade 3 & 5 teams seemed to go well in their NAPLAN testing last week. All students were calm and anxiety levels were low. Even though we don't place a huge emphasis on the tests, they do give us some valuable information on student learning.

There was a fantastic article in The Mercury Newspaper on Saturday. A positive story about our commitment to ensuring the students are ready for an active day at school by having a full stomach each morning. We have even started using jams and sauces that are made with ingredients from our own kitchen garden. This week our Grade 1/2 students made pumpkin soup with our very own pumpkins.

PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that this Friday, 20th May is a pupil free day for all St Paul's students. Our staff are participating in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Conference at Guilford Young College.

Visitors to St Paul's

Over the past week we have had a number of visitors at St Paul's. Our friends from St Patrick's College in Launceston spent Monday this week with our Grade 6 leaders. Every Monday afternoon we have a number of students from Guilford Young College travel to St Paul's to work with our Grade 3/4 Team and last Friday we had the Preps from St John's (Richmond) visit to spend time in our interactive playground.

Yesterday we had four staff from Sacred Heart (Launceston) working in our community learning about some of the programs we are running that support students with additional needs. Our community should be very proud that other Catholic Primary schools see St Paul's as a leader in many areas.

Kinder 2017 Enrolments

This is a final call to current families to ensure you have enrolled your child/ren for Kindergarten 2017. At the end of May places will not be reserved for our current families and offers will be made to families outside of our community. If you need an enrolment pack, please contact the school office ASAP.

School Administration

Our Administration staff are attending a conference with their colleagues from all the other Catholic schools/college this Wednesday and Thursday in Launceston. Mrs Morgan is looking after the office during this time. Please be patient if you require any assistance by the office, as we will be down on office staff for those two days. **The uniform shop will not be open this afternoon due to this.**

Winter Wonderland

Mr Veitch is planning an exciting event for our community to celebrate the start of winter. Please keep Wednesday 1st June free, so you can enjoy the outdoor movie night and food festival.

City to Casino

We had a great group represent St Paul's at the City to Casino last Sunday. The students, parents and staff were amazing in challenging conditions. Well done to Zac Rogers (Gr 2) for being our first student across the finish line. Well done to Mr Morey for competing in the 11km and finishing in the top 20. Mr Morey has commenced his trail blazing running group every Friday morning before school. It's great to see a large number of students and parents participating last Friday.

School Facebook site

The school Facebook site is working well. This is a great vehicle for the school to get messages out quickly and to showcase some of the great activities that are taking place. Some of our posts have reached over 5,000 views. It is crucial that all comments continue to be supportive and positive as this type of communication can be shared quickly with the wider community.

Have a great week!

Stuart Kelly
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Walk with Christ

*His Grace, Archbishop Porteous invites families to join with other members of the Catholic community on the Feast of Corpus Christi, on **Sunday 29th of May, 2016**. In the “Walk With Christ” event.*

The walk commences at St Joseph's Church (Hobart) at 1.15 pm, involves a short procession along Harrington Street to St Mary's Cathedral, where the prayer intentions of the community will be presented and veneration of the Blessed sacrament will take place.

The walk will conclude by 3pm.

Experience our rich Catholic heritage, as we join in solidarity with Catholics from all over the world, and through the ages, in this Walk with Christ.



Edmund Rice Mass

On Thursday August 5th students from Grades 3 to 6 attended the ‘Edmund Rice Mass’ at the Derwent Entertainment Centre. It was a tremendous occasion, which was celebrated by a number of schools from around the state. The Mass was presided by Father Peter O’Loughlin, who shared some heartfelt stories with the congregation. The students enjoyed the drama piece presented by the St Virgil’s students that re-enacted the life and works of Edmund Rice.

Mercy Action Program

Last Friday students from Grade 5 went on an educational excursion to AGFEST. Students arrived at school at 6:30am in the morning “bright eyed and busy tailed” ready for an action packed day. The children participated in a variety of activities and learnt about agricultural life in Tasmania. Some of the highlights included the extreme woodcutting, the University of Tasmania tent, The Defence Force stall and the sheep dog trials. A big thank you to Sister Carmel for supporting this program with the financial support of the Sisters of Mercy.

I would also like to thank Mr Veitch for driving the bus and Miss Negri for helping with supervision on the day.

Mr Sam Morey
AP/RE

