Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

Yesterday we celebrated the great Feast of Pentecost which is often referred to as the birthday of the church. Pentecost recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus fifty days after the resurrection and a few days following the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. The disciples were gathered around Mary praying for the Holy Spirit to strengthen them for the mission entrusted to them by Jesus at the time of his Ascension.

The Holy Spirit did come in a dramatic way to emphasise that God was faithful to his promise never to abandon his people by sending them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came in the form of fire accompanied by wind and noise, and there was a miracle of speech as a sign that the Holy Spirit brings unity. Fire was an ancient symbol of God’s presence, and noise and wind were signs of God’s strength and power. After the Pentecost event the followers of Jesus were changed people. They were strong in their faith and firm in their willingness to spread the Gospel, and they were united as a group conscious that God was always within and among them.

Christians receive the Holy Spirit in a grace filled way through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. These sacraments mark us as members of the church and followers of Jesus. We are entrusted with continuing the mission of Jesus through the witness of our lives. In writing to the people of Galicia Saint Paul identified nine fruits or qualities of people who were filled with the Holy Spirit. These fruits of the spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, trustfulness, and self-control. We should all strive to make these qualities a reality in our lives, and if they are then there will be an absence of hate, negativity, violence, intolerance, cruelty, revenge, teasing, dishonesty, and bullying.

We pray this week for the grace to open our hearts to God’s Holy Spirit so that all we do and say may be directed by the Holy Spirit, and then our homes and community will be places of harmony, forgiveness, and tolerance.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ

Br Daniel

Principal
Welcome

Welcome to the group from Clonard College in Geelong who are visiting Santa Teresa this week. Clonard is one of the schools hosting the Drummers during their trip to Melbourne this week.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at the assembly last Wednesday: Aizleen McMillan, Ruth Hayes, Augustine McMillan, Kurt Smith, Narissa McMillan, Leocardia Nguuruwuthun, Jamie Young, Natalie Alice & Teresa Laughton.

Mother’s Day Assembly

Thank you to the mothers and family members who were present at the Mother’s Day celebration at the school last Monday. Special thanks to Wighto for arranging the celebration and preparing the invitations and gift bags for the new mothers; to Alana for the liturgy; and to Barbara and her team for the catering.

Ltyentye Apurte Drummers

Tomorrow the Drummers begin their trip to Melbourne which will culminate next Saturday evening with a performance in Federation Square as part of the celebrations for Dreamtime at the G, and later that day with their attendance at the Richmond/Essendon Game at the MCG. Staff members accompanying the group are Ali, Elaine, Rachel, Marcus, Peter & Barbara. (Shon & Svet from Ba Boom are also travelling with the group). During their week away the Drummers will also visit and perform at Clonard College Geelong; Avila College Melbourne (special guests at their music festival); and Assumption College Kilmore. These schools have a connection with Santa Teresa through annual visits and are also providing accommodation and some meals for the group. There will also be a visit to Essendon and Richmond Clubs and participation in Essendon’s special schools day programme. We are most grateful to the following who are the major sponsors of the trip:

Australia Post ($5 000 donation and provision of a bus for the week in Melbourne); AFL ($5 000 donation); Centrecorp Foundation ($10 000 grant); Bob Stewarts School Uniform Specialists (donation of specially embroidered track suits); Palmer family (donation of bullock for the raffle); Bush Bus (transport to/from the Alice Springs Airport). Richmond Club is providing a ‘hoodie’ for each member of the group and Richmond & Essendon Clubs are giving the group tickets for the game on Saturday evening.