Yesterday I travelled to Canberra with Helene Boller REC to attend the annual REC/Principal/Clergy day. Over 160 Priests, Principals and Religious Education Leaders gathered in the Bradman Room at Manuka Oval, to discuss our partnership in creating authentic Catholic learning environments across the Archdiocese. Guest speakers included Crichton Smith from Catholic Education Commission NSW who presented a broad picture of demographic trends across Catholic Schools using the latest data. Vicar General, Fr Tony Percy placed in context some of the local challenges that are facing our Parish and Regional groupings. The time together concluded with workshops where participants discussed practical ways of addressing the issues raised throughout the day.

During the day the key leaders also had the opportunity to listen to some of the participants in the recent World Youth Day events in Poland.

Last Friday it was wonderful to see the children dress up in their favourite book character around the theme of Story Country for National Children’s Book Week. The children gathered on the basketball court at 1pm for the Book Week Parade. It was fabulous to see the way the children embraced the theme with creativity and imagination. Thank you to our parents for their assistance with this and helping to make it such a special day for your child. It was great to see so many of our parents and grandparents attend the parade and cheer the children on as they paraded around the basketball courts.

On Monday the children participated in Literacy and Numeracy Week activities. This year the focus was on Numeracy with the students showcasing measurement activities during their Numeracy blocks at 12:30pm. As I moved throughout the school it was magnificent to see the variety of activities the children were doing and their engagement while they participated in their group tasks. The conversations which the activities generated were thought provoking and indicated the depth of inquiry learning and knowledge of the concepts that were being focused on.

The children are continuing to seek sponsorship for the Walkathon with the amount raised changing at a rapid rate. Last week the class that raised the most amount of $136.20 was Year 3 with the total amount raised so far $2064.10. The children enjoyed participating in a games afternoon last Friday which was the second incentive.

Recently I purchased the prizes which are –two JB Hi Fi Gift vouchers-$100 voucher for the most money raised and $50 voucher for the lucky draw followed by several lucky draws of Squiggle merchandise for students in each class. Thank you parents for rallying behind the children and supporting them. Don’t forget the lamington drive closes this Friday, it is not too late to place your orders with Samantha in Year 3 or Melanie in Kinder.

This year Trinity will be participating in the Western Regions Choir festival at St Mary’s West Wyalong. Mr O’Brien and Miss Pieper will be rehearsing with the children and preparing them for this event. It is pleasing to see so many of our students so keen to participate in this wonderful cultural experience.
Check out these fabulous book week costumes! The children loved the opportunity to dress up in such a varied range of characters!
Trinitarian
Term 3 Week 7
‘Blessed are the merciful…’

Do others see the ‘real’ me?

This afternoon as I drove back from Canberra I listened to a discussion on the canonisation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta which takes place this Sunday. The question was asked whether she was ‘saintly’ and if her actions were really transformative. Like any one, Blessed Teresa had her shortcomings, but there can be no argument that she gave all she had for the people she served.

It seems that no matter what good a person does there are always those who criticise and say it should have been done this way or that. Most of us, if we could wind back the clock would do many things differently. The reality is we act with the best intentions in the given time and place.

One of my favourite reflections is The Meditation of Cardinal Newman who was an important figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century.

‘God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this life, but I will be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connectivity between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it - if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever, wherever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me - still He knows what He is about.

A special ‘thank you’, to Sophie, Jonnie and Letitia for their steadfast participation in Family Masses.

We wish all fathers, grandfathers and those men who are important figures in the lives of their families a very happy Father’s Day on Sunday.

Peace and blessings

Helene Boller

There will be Mass in St Mary’s church on 9:30am Thursday 8 September, which is Mary’s birthday. Year 1/2 and Miss Green are preparing the readings and prayers. We warmly invite you to join us.
I went to the museum. I saw a gun and I saw a bullet that was very big. I saw a white wedding dress upstairs. It belonged to my grandmother. I saw old iron that you put on your clothes. I had fun.

Charlie

I saw a photo of my great great grandpa. He was a soldier. There was a shoe horn which they used in the older days to put their shoes on. I had the best time.

Thomas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location/Requirements</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th August – 2nd September</td>
<td>Sabbath Week National Literacy Numeracy Week</td>
<td>Open Classrooms showcasing Literacy and Numeracy Investigations</td>
<td>12:30-1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1st September</td>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
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<td>9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8th September</td>
<td>School Mass – Year 1/2</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Friday 9th September</td>
<td>Year 4-6 History Excursion</td>
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<td>7:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10th September</td>
<td>Harden Show</td>
<td>Show Ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16th September</td>
<td>Walkathon</td>
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<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Monday 19th September</td>
<td>Community Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20th September</td>
<td>Kite Making Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd September</td>
<td>Western Regions Choir Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd September</td>
<td>Mercy Mass</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
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**LIBRARY REQUEST**

We have just received our order of the 2016 short listed books for the library.

If someone could kindly lend a hand to cover these books it would be greatly appreciated.

Please see Dan O’Brien if you are able to assist.
Our Lady of Mercy Parish Harden

150 Club

please show your support by purchasing a ticket

$50-00 per ticket

(can’t afford the $50 then why not join a $25 Syndicate)

PRIZES

1st = $1600
2nd = $900
3rd = $500
4th = $150
5th = $100
then 5 draws of $50 ea
(so a great chance of a win-return)

Drawn – 16 October 2016
at our Parish Celebration Day
for tickets or enquiries please phone:
Maryanne Fitzgerald 63862200 (wk)
or
Evelyn Shea 63862550 (home)