Priest Principal Forum
Last Thursday 12 June Fr Gabriel & I attended a Priest Principal held by the Brisbane Archdiocese. The forum was held to launch two documents ‘Collaborating for Mission: The Parish & the Catholic School’ & ‘The Administration of Parish School Assets’. In 2013 we attended a meeting to discuss & review these documents in draft.

APA Performance Review
Every five years BCE personnel in leadership positions have to undergo an appraisal. Our APA, Peter Hehir’s professional review has been held this term. Thank you to the parents who responded to the online survey at the start of the term & to those parents who met with the review panel members on Thursday 5 June 2014. On this day the panel which comprised our area supervisor Alain Pitot, a colleague of Peters’ Brett Kitchener & me, also met with school staff, year 7 students & Fr Gabriel. Peter is to be congratulated on the feedback he has received from all members of our school community.

APA Position at St Dympna’s School
The APA position at BCE schools is a ten year position, two lots of five years. Peter has held the position for ten years so it has now become vacant. Applications for the position have closed & we will be interviewing on 24 June 2014 for an APA to assume the position in 2015 for the next ten years.

Student Activities
Our Senior Girls Choir recently attended a workshop day at All Saints, Albany Creek. During the day students from St Columba’s School, Wilston, All Saints & St Dympna’s spent the day under the instruction of a music teacher from Mt Alvernia College. Parents & teachers were treated to a 4:00pm concert which showcased the day’s achievements. Last year our boys’ choir participated in a similar day.
Recently we held our annual Autumn Choral Festival in our multipurpose hall. Our five choirs performed for a large audience of family members & staff. The children displayed wonderful skills delighting the audience with an hour of fine music. Congratulations to our students, Mrs Hehir & the accompanying musicians.
School level cross country competition has now ended with some of our students competing in state trials later this month.
Our year 5, 6 & 7 students have been competing in interschool sporting competitions each Thursday afternoon. This week we have the final competition Gala Day. Morning training sessions for next term’s Athletics Carnivals began this morning. Our HPE teacher Ashleigh Duffield & staff volunteers will hold before school training on three days leading up to the school carnival in Week 2 next term.
We have year 5, 6 & 7 teams competing in this year’s Queensland Debating Union competitions which begin this month. Yesterday afternoon debating students attended a workshop at Brisbane Girls Grammar School in preparation for the first debated being held this week. Thank you to Mrs Jill Chesher & Miss Carlie Dole who are coaching our debating teams & thank you to the parents for their commitment.
Two of our year 6 students, twin brothers have won a national competition to design the Socceroos mascot. The mascot has been made & has travelled to Brazil with the Australian team. Local papers have been running the story. Last week our year 5 students & staff members enjoyed a three day camp at Mapleton. Thank you teachers for supporting this extra curricula activity thus making it possible for the children to have this experience.

**Chess Tutoring**
Next term we are hoping to introduce chess tutoring for students from Prep to Year 7. Notes have gone home calling for expressions of interest. If you are interested please return the tear off slip so that hopefully the chess can go ahead. Without a show of support we will not be able to engage the tutor. On Tuesdays during first break Mrs Herzig runs chess competitions which are very popular.

**ICT in Education**
A large part of all school budgets in the 21st century is technology. To keep hardware & software up to date we have to budget carefully & purchase wisely. We will be up grading & expanding hardware next term. This morning Peter Hehir, Maree Coughlan & I attend a Technology Forum held by BCEO sharing information with schools & seeking feedback. One factor which is undisputed is that technology is influencing all aspects of our lives & its influence will continue to grow. Our schools need to keep pace with technology but at the same time ensure that we are improving student learning. Last week Peter, Maree & Jo Downing our curriculum support teacher, attended a two day EdUtech conference with presenter from across the globe. At St Dympna’s we ensure that our ITLC is current & educationally sound.

**Reporting to Parents**
All of our students will be receiving a written report on Friday from their class teachers. Teachers will also be conducting parent teacher interviews to discuss the report & student progress. If you have not already done so please book a time as soon as possible with your child’s teacher.

**Winter Holidays**
This term ends next Friday 27 June when the students enjoy a fortnight’s holiday. School resumes on Monday 14 July 2014. Term 3 is a ten week term.

Congratulations & thank you to our Social Committee members for organising & running another successful Trivia Night. It was enjoyed by all who attended. What talented ‘Dress Ups’ we had for the night!

I wish our students & families a happy & safe winter vacation.

God bless
Janet Smith