Greetings everyone.

We have come to the end of the 2016 school year and we have a great deal of achievements to be proud of and celebrate. I would like to thank you all for the contributions you have made to supporting your children from home and at school.

I would also like to thank the children. They have made many significant contributions throughout the year and I have learned a great deal about myself and about ongoing work at Galilee by working with them.

Thank you to our incredible staff at Galilee who work extremely hard to support your children each and every day. They all see your children as incredibly capable young people who have great ideas and gifts to share.

Thank you to the staff who are leaving us to begin new chapters in their lives and careers as acknowledged in the last newsletter. They have all shared wonderful things with us which will remain with us for years to come.

I would like to also mention Bianca Moore, who has been our chaplain at Galilee. Through this role, Bianca has supported children, families and staff in many ways over a significant period of time. Bianca will continue to work at Galilee in 2017 as an education support officer, supporting children and teachers in the teaching and learning. We are so glad that Bianca will be able to continue to share her wonderful gifts with us.

In 2017 we will welcome Merenia Vince into the chaplain role at Galilee. Merenia has stepped into this role in the past while Bianca has been on leave and is well known to the community and parish through her roles on the Galilee Catholic Community Council and the Galilee Catholic Parish Pastoral Council. We look forward to working with both Merenia and Bianca in their
roles in 2017.

Thank you to the members of our Galilee Catholic Community Council and the Parents and Friends Committee. Collectively, these groups have worked so positively together to provide the necessary leadership and direction for our community to continue to develop and grow in meeting the needs of our children and families. These groups will continue to make significant contributions in the coming years.

On Monday evening we celebrated and acknowledged the wonderful contributions of our Year 7 students and sent them forth from our community to continue their life journey in secondary schools. Their speeches and participation during the mass and the presentations that followed filled me with great pride and hope for their future. They may be leaving us at this point in time, but they will always have a place with us in the wider Galilee community that includes the school and parish.

Our parish at Galilee invite you to join with them in celebrating Christmas and the new year with them in the coming weeks. I know they look forward to seeing both local and visiting families at this special time. Further details can be found in this newsletter and by contacting the local parish office.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and peaceful new year in which you can find the time to stop, spend time together with family and friends and relax. Our families and friends deserve our time and energy. They can be the source of and inspiration for a great deal of our strength, resilience and hope.

God bless.

Anthony Garton
Principal
Farewell

As the 2016 school year comes to an end it is a time that we all pause and reflect on our journey as a learning community. My year has been a filled with joy and excitement. I have had the privilege of being lovingly welcomed into the Galilee community by staff, families and children.

As a leader I have learnt a lot from the community and proudly take this knowledge with me as I begin my new role as Acting Director of the Early Childhood Centre at Nazareth Catholic Community.

I will miss ‘the hug of the hills’ and the delight of watching the children construct and play during outside learning. My senses have been tantalised throughout the year with the children’s creations of potions, perfumes, cupcakes and mud-pies. Sitting and enjoying a cup of tea on a wooden log with the children has become a favourite pastime of mine.

Thank you to the community for making 2016 a memorable time for me. The school community certainly lives up to the Galilee values of welcome, respect and construct.

I wish you all a merry christmas and a happy new year!

Kind regards
Kate Turner
Acting Deputy
Harmony Inquiry 6-7 year olds 2016

Can we create harmony?
We wondered if the children could experience and create harmony in the herb and sensory garden. We went out to explore the garden.

**Kade C** – I like it in here.
**Thomas** – There are lots of pretty bushes.
**Darcy** – The fence is so ugly, we need a wooden fence.
**My Dad’s a carpenter and he could make one for us!**
**Layla** – I don’t like the fence. I would like it without that fence. Maybe we could have a nice fence like wood!

After reflecting on what the children’s work, we noticed many spoke about the fence.

Do fences bring harmony?
**Eva** – Without a fence people might run through and squash plants.
**Louie** – A metal fence is too hard.
**Axle** – A wooden fence is nature.
**Sienna B** – A wooden fence to see through it.
**Marley** – A fence for plants to grow up like vines.

We then looked at various types of fences.

What comes to mind when you look at this image?
**Eila M** – The plants and water bring harmony.
**Blake** – I think it has harmony as all of the plants can grow though the fence.
**Dilly** - I like how it makes a zebra pattern on the ground.

Children drew designs and a group of students meet with the principal to discuss cost and ideas. Darcy’s Dad, Kyle helped to make our ideas into a reality.
At the heart of the Christmas story is Mystery, Love and Peace …

This story of the birth of Jesus, which we celebrate at Christmas has endured. It is a story of humility – the baby’s crib being an animal feed box; Mary and Joseph are travellers of no fixed address. It is a story of peace – the angels declare this birth announces ‘peace to all on earth, good will among all people’. It’s about hope and survival – a family, under threat from King Herod, on the move, escaping, refugees.

It’s a story of Mystery and Love – Jesus is called Emmanuel - ‘God with us’. Our God of Compassion became human, with us, out of great love for us.

What does this story offer you and your family at this time?

As a story announcing Peace, we perhaps recognise many times in our own year, and certainly in our world where peace is far from the reality. At this time in particular we are aware of the horrific struggles in Aleppo, Syria. ‘If we have no peace it’s because we’ve forgotten we belong to each other’ – Mother Teresa.

We pray, as a small community at Galilee, and as members of our earth community, that we grow in understanding and act in ways that show we belong to each other.

Wishing you a peace-filled Christmas season.

St Francis of Assisi, creator of the first live nativity scene in 1223, preached a profound message of peace and connection - our ‘belonging’ to one another, earth and all creatures.
A BIG THANK YOU!

The response to the Vinnies hamper drive (organised by Ms. Jannsan’s class) has been amazing. We have received lots of items including many Christmassy foods and presents and specialty items that will help make a difference to families in need at Christmas.

If you would like to help put these hampers together our St. Vincent de Paul group will be working together this Saturday, Sunday and Monday 17-19th December from 9am - 1pm each day.

This is a really wonderful opportunity to give your time and is a great way for children to see how the goods that they have brought to school get packaged to distribute for families. Working together and helping others is the true spirit of Christmas. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS DRAMATIZATION

Thank you to those children who have agreed to be part of the Dramatization of the Gospel at the 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass at Mary of Galilee Church on Saturday, 24th December. A reminder that our DRESS REHEARSAL will be on Wednesday, 21st December in the church at 3:15pm. Please contact Sr. Margaret Ann for any inquiries: 0488 287552.

Thank You.
Congratulations to Emily P for winning most improved for contemporary dance, most enthusiastic, Champion intermediate duo for the BBO Theatre awards for tap and runner up for Jazz.

Congratulations to Ravyn T for her encouragement award for contemporary dance and for ballet. Well done girls!

Galilee OSHC News

The December 2016/January 2017 Vac care programme is now available at the office or on the school website. Please return booking forms with deposit as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Galilee OSHC will be limiting children's screen time beginning this holiday period. Tech play, such as iPads and video games, will be limited to between 8am and 10am, and 4pm and 6pm daily. While OSHC Services have a requirement to provide some technology to students, we also maintain the importance of natural play and learning that occurs through programmed and spontaneous activities away from the screen.

Places available contact 0411382054.

CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

St Vincent de Paul Society
Fred's Van in Aldinga
Can you help?
Fred's Van provides a free weekly nutritious hot meal to those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet, prepare a dinner or just feeling lonely. It is a sit down meal in the Aldinga Community Centre
Details: Required fortnightly for a weekly shop: existing Menu and shopping framework: no financial outlay: Approx. 2 hours per week shopping required Thursday Or Friday
Please contact Teresa Branch 0419 857 966 if interested.
Attendance Matters

If your child is going to be absent, late, or leaving early please notify the office by SMS on 04 07761162 before 9am. Please provide the following details:

- Child’s name
- Reason for absence/early departure/late arrival
- Child’s home room teacher

Galilee Directory

School
info@galilee.catholic.edu.au
p 85579000

Fr. Charles Gauci
p 83821717

Sr Margaret Ann Connelly
p 0488287552

Centacare
p 85579050

Galilee OSHC
p 85579043
Director m 0411382054

Galilee OpShop
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am - 3pm
p 0451830929

Galilee Playgroup
Monday 9am - 10.30am
Miss Gould & Miss Little
p 85579000

PFCG:
pfcg@galilee.catholic.edu.au

Book Day Wednesday 25th January 2017

Book day 2017 will be held on Wednesday 25th January from 8.30am to 4.00pm.

Book day is provided for parents and or carers to collect their child’s books to take home and prepare for use throughout the school year. Teachers will provide detailed instructions with your pack. This is an exciting exercise for children and we believe this will give them a greater sense of ownership of their books.

All books must then be returned on the first day of school. You will be responsible for replacing any lost or damage books from your pack.

Will there be a fee?

Yes! There will be a fee of $50 per student payable on the day at the front office prior to collecting your books; this will then be credited to your school fees for 2017. However, if you fit one of the below criteria you will be exempt from paying this fee;

- You were eligible for school card in 2016
- You already have a direct debit payment agreement in place for 2017 and all prior fees are up to date or enter into an direct debit agreement on book day
- Have paid 2017 fees in full prior to book day

What will happen on book day?

On book day you will come to the school between 8.30am and 4.00pm.

- Visit the front office to make payment or collect your paid voucher for those in the exempt categories above.
- You will then be directed to the designated area for collection of packs
- Take your books home and follow the teachers instructions on how they want them named and or decorated.

Please remember to bring the books back on the first day of term Monday 30th January 2017.

Should you have any queries please talk to one of our friendly office staff.

Kind Regards
Kylie Taylor
Finance Officer
finance@galilee.catholic.edu.au