Gratitude

An attitude of radical gratitude is God’s will for you because it develops your faith.

How does gratitude develop faith? It happens when times are tough — when things don’t make sense, when you can’t figure it out, when your prayers are unanswered, when everything is going the way you didn’t want it to go. It happens when you can say in those circumstances, “God, I know you’re in control. I know you love me, and I know you can bring good out of this. I’m thankful that you’re bigger than my problem.”

Anybody can thank God for good things. But if you can thank God even in the bad times, your faith will grow stronger as your roots go deeper. That is the ultimate test of the depth of your faith. Can you thank God when life stinks? When you’re going through tough times, don’t look at what’s lost. Look at what’s left, and be grateful for it!

You can be thankful to God just for being God. He has promised to see you through those tough situations, and your faith will grow even stronger because of it.

Colossians 2:7 says, “Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving” (GW).

God’s will is radical gratitude — in all things give thanks. Why? Gratitude honours God, it creates fellowship, and it develops your faith.

Excerpt from Rick Warren – The Daily Hope
2005 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation)
Submitted by Jennifer Aquino
From the Director of Learning

CAR PARKING SAFETY
As a member of staff who regularly assists on carpark duty both in the mornings and afternoons, I looked forward to returning to work in 2016 with the full space of the courts for parking again. Of course in 2015 there was limited space on the courts for parking due to the builder’s compound. Having accustomed ourselves to less parking in 2015, the feeling was that the 2016 version would be a luxury with few issues.

However, recently the amount of traffic onto the courts, particularly in the morning has increased significantly. Last Friday, for example, a number of parents were blocked in by other cars and could not leave until other parents had returned to their vehicles. In short this is an unacceptable trend. As amateur traffic cops, we as staff will monitor this more closely and ensure this does not happen again.

To assist in the safety and smooth running of our carparks please consider the following car park etiquette and tips for the morning drop off. Please share these with grandparents and uncles and aunts etc. who may also be doing the school run.

1. **Consider using Barton St** and its side streets for parking. Walk across the park and into the school to avoid the crush on Audrey Ave.

2. If you plan to use the courts for parking, arriving after 8:35am means there is no guarantee spaces will be available. **Use the surrounding streets instead.**

3. Do not use the courts for quick drop offs. This is what the kiss and drop lane is for. Cars entering and leaving the courts slows down the flow of traffic from Audrey Ave. **The courts should be used mostly by cars that leave the school after the 8:45am bell.**

4. **Avoid using the front carpark if you need to leave prior to 8:45am.**

5. Remember that **Fridays and Wednesdays are busier** in the carpark when Chapel and assemblies are on.

Our Year 4 students have recently collected data on the courts. They observed that 50-60 cars use the courts each morning but there are only spaces on the courts to accommodate about 28-30 or so cars safely. In the past week a number of parents have spoken of observing unsafe drop off practices such as students leaving cars while they are queued up on Audrey Ave or crossing Barton Street unsupervised between cars to reach the park.

It is easy and natural to focus on time when dropping students off in the mornings. But this should never be at the expense of the safety of others, ourselves or our children.

OLIPHANT SCIENCE AWARDS
The Oliphant Science Awards are now open for nominations. All nominations must be in prior to 23 June. The Oliphant Science Awards are an opportunity for students from Reception to Year 6 to develop their interests in science through a competition with a range of categories to suit a wide variety of abilities and interests. If students are interested in registering they need to speak to Miss Bec Mattner. More information about the awards can be found at [http://www.oliphantscienceawards.com.au/](http://www.oliphantscienceawards.com.au/)

UNIVERSITY OF NSW SCIENCE COMPETITION
The University of NSW Science Competition will take place for registered students on Tuesday 31 May from 9:15am. Please be aware that this is also the date for the Endeavour College Open Day. If you were planning to take your child to Endeavour College that morning, the test will be completed by 10:15am.

Jason Fay | Director of Learning
Finance News

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
School accounts for May will be sent home via either email or hard copy tomorrow. Please keep a look out to ensure that your account is paid on time. Term Two accounts were due at the end of week one unless you had a prior arrangement with the Business Manager. Thank you to all parents that have paid their Term Two accounts. Payments made on time assist the school with vital cash flow allowing us to provide valuable resources to all students.

Families that have made voluntary payments to the Building Fund will receive a statement the first week of July to help with information for their tax returns. All payments made are tax deductible.

School Card remissions are expected to be finalised over the coming two weeks. Families that are deemed eligible will receive a credit to their account for Term One and Two at the beginning of June. Applications can still be made, please ask the office for an application form for completion if you think that you are eligible.

Scholastic News

Scholastic brochures were due back today. The order will be sent off tomorrow morning. Late orders will be accepted up until 9.30am tomorrow morning.

Church News

6/7 SPY
6/7 SPY will be held this Friday 20 May in the church hall from 7pm to 9pm. We will be discussing King Nebuchadnezzar’s statue and Caesar’s denarius. Cost $2. Boys please bring some supper to share. For more information, contact Andrew Joppich on 0488 400 370.

PASTY BAKE
Yes, the rumours are true, they’re back! A tray of 6 famous pasties for just $12 are available for sale next Thursday 26 May. Please place your orders with Renate Burls on 8260 5758 or alternatively the school office on 8260 2655 no later than 9am on the day of the bake.

Parents & Friends News

ST PAUL ‘BRIGHT AND SHINY’ 2016 DISCO
Don’t forget that the school disco will be held on Saturday 4 June. Further details and pre-order forms will be sent home via email and hard copy this week. Also, look out for information on the P & F noticeboard adjacent the canteen and signs around school.

COMMUNITY LOTTERY
Thanks to all families that have returned their Community Lottery Books. Funds raised thus far are in excess of $800. Watch this space to see what exciting facilities are planned with monies raised.

The Parents & Friends Team