

## From the Head of Teaching and Learning - Mrs Bird

### Maths at St Paul's

I was never confident in my Maths abilities and often needed extra support to learn multi-step concepts when I was at school (particularly with long division...that concept required extra tutoring one morning a week for over a term with my teacher to master). It is somewhat ironic that I am now studying my Masters in Mathematics and am a passionate advocate for Mathematics being an engaging subject where students are hungry to know more. It is an absolute privilege to be in my role and work with my colleagues to build excellent lessons and units that engage students and support them to think deeply when using mathematics.

Did you know that the Foundation for Young Australians produced a report on the future of work where they predict that the students at St Paul's today will use problem solving 90% more, critical thinking skills 40% more and Maths skills and knowledge 80% more per week compared to the workplace of today? What outstanding statistics! When we went to school, knowing how to calculate sums quickly was considered to be an admirable skill. With computers increasingly entering workplaces to replace human jobs with automation, we need to ensure that our kids don't only know how to solve problems, but they also need to be able to think creatively and critically reflect on what steps they took to solve the problem.

On Sunday, I had the privilege of presenting at the Queensland Maths Conference. I spoke about Rich Tasks and argued that deep engagement was essential for the students of today. I have to tell you even though I had thoroughly researched my presentation, I know that a change of mindset and way of doing things is hard for people to get their heads around. I was surprised that the teachers at the conference were leaning forward in their seats wanting to know more so that they could start implementing these things straight away.

At St Paul's, we have worked hard to strategically target and refine our English program. It is now time for us to focus on Maths, and what an exciting time it is. Mrs Lynda Witham, Mrs Lianie Kriel and myself have formed a Maths Action Group and the first steps of reflecting on what we do and refining our practices is to survey the teachers, students and parents. I implore you to please fill out your parent survey so that we can plan to support your child's Mathematics development. Please complete the 2-minute, 5-question survey by Saturday 20th May.

Survey link and QR Code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ir70aBBSGB>



## Number Talks

Last term, students in Year 2-6 were treated to a Number Talks lesson with Dr Liz Irwin, from Cross Consultancy. Our school has been playing with Number Talks for the last couple of years to encourage our students to be flexible with numbers and to help them to understand a range of strategies and approaches that can be used to solve problems in Mathematics. Dr Irwin spent an evening sharing Number Talks with our teachers from Years 2-6, and then spent an entire day in our school coaching our teachers and students in Number Talks.

**Number Talks** is a transformative mathematics practice that can be used from Kindy to Year 12 (and beyond!) to go beyond simply regurgitating formulas and rules through memorisation. Number Talks supports students in developing mathematical proficiency and helps them to develop efficient, flexible and accurate computation strategies. The newest version of the Australian Curriculum (Version 9) aims to provide opportunities for students to apply their mathematical understanding creatively and efficiently, helping students become self-motivated, confident learners through practice, inquiry, and active participation in relevant and challenging experiences.

Our Prep and Year 1 teachers and students will undergo training and coaching this coming week with a specialised area of Number Talks that supports student understanding and development with subitisation and number sense.

If you are keen to learn more about Number Talks, you can ask your child to explain it to you or you can visit this link for more information:

<https://www.youcubed.org/resources/stanford-onlines-learn-math-teachers-parents-number-talks/>

## Silver Maths Active Status

Over the past year and a half, our school has been aspiring to reach an aspirational goal of becoming a Bronze Maths Active School with the Queensland Mathematics Association. This recognition is quite rare in Primary schools, particularly without a dedicated Maths department. With our active participation in a range of Maths competitions and investigations, along with active participation in specific professional learning for our teachers, we achieved a status of being a Silver Maths Active School. This is a highly sought after level of achievement and we are so proud of our students and staff for their work they have put in to get our school to this level. Our school has been displaying the silver logo on our website and in our emails, and we retain this status for 12 months.

For more information, please feel free to visit this website:

<https://qamt.qld.edu.au/>





## Pastor Mike - Thought for the week

A big THANK YOU to the Year 3 Team and teachers, Ms Cross, Mrs Tremayne, Mrs MacFarlane, for reminding us that the Bible is full of treasure. Yes, we have to go searching. We have to discover the treasure that is to be found as we open our Bibles. It's full of the most precious things that God gives each one of you.

We really appreciated the Year 3 gift to Friday's chapel and to FOOD FAITH & FUN Sunday@5. Thanks mums and dads for bringing them along and for joining in.

As Year 3 students dug deep into the treasure of the Bible, they helped us think about one of the intriguing little stories (parables) Jesus tells. He describes the person who stumbles on a treasure, realises its value, and so goes and sells all he has in order to claim the treasure (Matthew 13). Sure, that's about us needing to appreciate how valuable the Bible's Treasure is, but I think it's also a picture of Jesus, who finds each of us. He sees in each of us the treasure we are as he claims us as his own. He treasures each of us some much that he is willing to give up His life for us.

Thank you Year 3.  
Pastor Mike



## Who's Who in the Zoo?



This week we would like to celebrate the wonderful Mrs Donna Armstrong! Mrs Armstrong is our wonderwoman in Prep who started working at St Paul's in 2001. She grew up in Grafton NSW before moving to Redcliffe with her family. She loves good Middle Eastern food and running in beautiful places when travelling.

Mrs Armstrong loves our close community spirit and her favourite bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Thank you for all you do for our Preppies and the warmth you share with our whole St Paul's community!

## What's coming up?



- 19 - Year 1 Excursion to Australia Zoo
- 22 to 24 - Year 4 Camp to Luther Heights
- 25 - Year 3 Excursion to Science Centre
- 29 to 02 Jun - National Reconciliation Week

