

St. Ignatius Catholic School

Weekly Bulletin for Parents 2017-18

January 15 - 19

FROM THE HEADS OF PRIMARY/SECONDARY: Dear Parents,

"We must provide acceptance, love, esteem, emotional, and spiritual concern for every child that comes into this world. Teaching all to respect minors and that it is their right to live in safe environments is part of Church teachings. When implemented, these teachings provide safety for minors. We are all called to protect the life and dignity of all human persons. [Prevention]...is a necessary response to what we are called to do as God's Church. "Wherever children are accepted, loved, cared for and protected, the family is healthy, society is more healthy, and the world is more human"

The above statement builds on the papal teaching, Familiaris Consortio 26, which documents the rights of all children. Our young people are the foundation of St. Ignatius School and they lead busy and sometimes complex lives; friendship and family life, accepting societal norms, finding their place in the world, the pressure of examinations, dealing with new technologies and all of the issues that may arise from them as well as negotiating growing up, adolescence and discovering who they are and what their core values are. It is not easy and we are mindful that children need the guidance and support of all adults in their lives to support them through what can be vulnerable times. Ensuring that children are safe, respected and cared for is the responsibility of the whole community.

Because of this responsibility and as part of our school development, we started off our whole staff safeguarding training session on Tuesday with the statement above as a means of reflecting on why protection and safety of children is so important. Staff also examined a rationale as to why we continue to develop our Safeguarding Practice here at the school, primarily so that children are protected from harm but also because of changes to Caymanian Law, because it provides stakeholders clear guidelines and boundaries and it raises transparency and so on. Staff also received training on how to use a new monitoring system to ensure that high quality and secure recording and reporting of any concerns takes place.

Tuesday's session was preceded on Monday by external trainers visiting the school so the vast majority of staff have been trained in *Darkness to Light*, a programme designed so that adults know how to keep children safe. This builds on existing Diocesan training our staff have already received. We will be publishing our Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policies online so that they are available to all members of our community. These are guidelines about how we expect staff and all adults who come into contact with our children to behave. Online copies can be found on the School Website.

Parents will have the opportunity to discover more about the St. Ignatius Safeguarding Policy at a meeting on 1st February at 8:00 am and again at 5:30 pm and more details can be found within the bulletin.

We envisage that our policy will continue to develop as new initiatives come into place and we aim to ensure that we continue to be compliant with the law and with best practice and advice.

This is so that our school can continue to provide caring adults, working with and nurturing students, all learning and growing in a friendly, safe and family environment.

"I wish to express the joy that we all find in children, the springtime of life, the anticipation of the future history of each of our present earthly homelands. No country on earth, no political system can think of its own future otherwise than through the image of these new generations that will receive from their parents the manifold heritage of values, duties and aspirations of the nation to which they belong and of the whole human family. Concern for the child...and then throughout the years of infancy and youth, is the primary and fundamental test of the relationship of one human being to another. And so, what better wish can I express for every nation and for the whole of mankind, and for all the children of the world than a better future in which respect for human rights will become a complete reality...."
Familiaris Consortio - The Fellowship of the Family.

James Hickey - Head of Primary
Peter Embleton - Head of Secondary

PRIMARY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

From the Head of Primary, Mr. James Hickey:

- ⇒ **Mass:** Congratulations to Year 2 Davies who led our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. They reminded us of how John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan, and how some Christians here on island are themselves baptised using natural waters right here in the Caribbean Sea at Smith's Cove. Next week, parents are warmly invited to Year 6X, Mrs. Johnson's Mass, to celebrate the theme of "Courage." As usual, it is on Thursday at 8:55 am.
- ⇒ **National Trust Assembly:** Following last week's assembly, your child should have received their National Trust Card. For more information about the work of the National Trust, please visit: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.ky/>
- ⇒ **Reading:** Thank you to parents and children for their great work in reading at home and at school. Reading is a key life skill and we are delighted to have so much parental and volunteer support. There is a book sale on 17th January especially for EYFS in the canteen for the Humane Society. There will be lots of high quality books available.
- ⇒ **Farmer Charlito:** Thank you to Farmer Charlito who has worked so hard in creating a wonderful planting and gardening area for our Foundation Stage. Farmer Charlito has given his time voluntarily so the children can have this space in which to work. We are very grateful for his efforts here and look forward to his next project!



The Early Years Greenhouse and students watching Farmer Charlito

- ⇒ **Punctuality:** Thank you to those parents who ensure that children are in on time. We appreciate how mornings can be with young families but it is important that we give our children a good example by being punctual, especially at the start of the day. Thank you for your support.
- ⇒ **Safeguarding tip of the week:** Please be aware of the Designated Safeguarding Leads in the School. Adults or children can report any Safeguarding concerns to them. They are:

Fr Suresh Rajaian (Head of School), Mr. James Hickey (Primary), Mr. Peter Embleton (Secondary), Mrs. Clare Shaffer (EYFS/KS1), Mrs. Emily Garvey (KS2), Ms. Bernadette Devlin (KS3/4), Mrs. Suzanne Goodwin (Sixth Form). Any concern can be reported to any of the above and Mrs. Claudia Ecke is our advisory board member for Safeguarding.

- ⇒ **Safeguarding Coffee Morning:** As mentioned at the start of the bulletin, the policy and procedures will be presented to parents at a coffee morning on Thursday 1st February at 8:00 am and again at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.
- ⇒ **Healthy Snacks:** Thank you for your continuing support in helping to ensure lunch kits and snacks are as healthy as possible.
- ⇒ **Year 1 Curriculum:** Parents are warmly invited to a coffee morning presentation about the Year 1 Curriculum on Tuesday 16th January at 8:00 am. All are welcome.
- ⇒ **Clubs:** These start this week. Please be reminded that they finish at 4:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- ⇒ Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Whiteside whose stepmother passed away earlier today.

Years 4, 5 and 6 - CCMI: CCMI, which is a marine research organisation based in Little Cayman, will be running a series of live interactive sessions for Years 4, 5 and 6. As the members of the organisation dive below the sea to explore the reefs and marine habitats, a live stream will be broadcasted into the classroom and questions can be sent for them to answer. There will also be a variety of hands-on activities to reinforce what has been taught.

More information can be found on their website:

<https://reefresearch.org/what-we-do/education/reefs-go-live/>

Sustainable Development Group: Thank you to Susie Bodden, President of the Cayman Islands Rotary Club and her fellow Rotarians, Mr. Phil, Mr. Chris and Mr. Lyndhurst for attending our first meeting of our Sustainable Development Group. We will be running our Sustainable Development Group as part of the Early Act groups run by the Rotary Club. We will continue to meet every Friday lunchtime. If you are interested in attending please speak to Miss Thornberry or Mr. Rogers.

SECONDARY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Years 12/13 students: Appleby Legal Scholarship Presentation: All students in Years 12 and 13 interested in applying for the legal scholarship should attend the scholarship presentation at **3:10 pm on Tuesday, 23rd January in C2.**

Year 13 Caymanian Students: I would like to remind all students interested in applying for the Government Overseas Scholarship that the deadline is **January 31st (late applications are not accepted).** Students will need to complete the online and paper application and upload the paper application to the online application. Students are required to order a transcript through Mrs. Huggins and arrange through their teachers for references to be submitted if required. Please remember that teachers need 2 weeks notice for references and transcripts take 1 week.

Mrs. Artuch - Head of Guidance

Year 11 Mock Examinations: Year 11 Mock examinations continue until Thursday. All Year 11 students are back in school for normal lessons from Friday, 19th January. The Science examination will take place on Friday during their normal Science lesson.

Years 12 and 13 Mock Examinations: Years 12 and 13 Mock examinations take place this week and the Art mock exam will take place on 23rd and 24th January.

St. Ignatius Catholic Church - Youth Ministry - for Years 7 - 11: FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH - JANUARY 19TH - BOWLING AT KINGS: 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Meet at Kings Sports Centre. Cost is \$10, which includes bowling and pizza. Drinks and snacks sold separately. All those attending MUST sign up and pay in the church office no later than Thursday, January 18th, 3:30 pm. Please note that this event is limited to 24 youth, so don't delay! All those in Years 7 - 11 (ages 11 - 16) who attend St. Ignatius School and/or St. Ignatius and Christ the Redeemer Church are welcome to attend youth events. For more information, please contact O'Neil Miller or Jeremy Rice in the church office on 949-6797 or via e-mail.

WHOLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stride against Cancer: Our annual Stride against Cancer will take place from 7:30 - 7:50 am on Friday, 26th January on the front field. Please join your children before school starts that morning and a donation would be much appreciated. Funds collected will go to the Cayman Cancer Society and we thank you in advance for your support.



Safeguarding Coffee Morning: The Safeguarding Committee and Board approved our Safeguarding Policy last month. The policy and procedures will be presented to parents at a coffee morning on Thursday 1st February at 8:00 am and again at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to the Red Cross facilitators who gave up their time last Monday afternoon to train our staff. Mrs. Lindsay Huskisson (also a parent at the school), Ms. Cindy Blekaitis and Ms. Sophia Chandler Alleyne. We are most grateful for their input.

ADVANCE REMINDERS:

- January 22 Public Holiday - National Heroes' Day
- January 22 - 30 Trinity Music Examinations
- January 26 7:30 am: Annual Stride against Cancer
PSA Years 7 - 9 Squash Tournament
- January 31 8:30 am: Nursery to Year 2 Sports Day
- February 1 8:00 am: Coffee morning for parents on Safeguarding policy and procedures
- February 2 8:00 am: EYFS/KS1 Sports Day Awards Assembly;
Year 11 Mock examination results go home to parents
- February 4 9:30 am: Confirmation Mass in the Church
- February 6 & 8 3:00 - 6:00 pm: Year 1 - Year 6 parent meetings, by appointment
- February 6 3:30 - 5:30 pm: Year 11 mock results parent meeting in Loyola Hall
- February 8 Years 12/13 Mock examination results go home to parents;
Frozen Yogurt on sale after school - for Guides - \$2