In Literacy, we’ve been learning about why authors write. We now know that there are three main reasons and we use the PIE acronym to help us remember. They write to persuade (P), inform (I), or entertain (E).

Everyone was given a little box of Smarties. Our task was to write three paragraphs. We needed to write one to persuade, one to inform and one to entertain. It was a lot of fun (especially as we got to eat the Smarties later!). We all did a great job, but Mrs Gallin was especially happy with Halle’s work. Here’s what she wrote.

Persuade
Buy Smarties! The chocolate inside the Smartie will melt in your mouth. The soft chocolate is so tasty and creamy. There are lots of different flavours and colours that you will not know which colour to choose first. Smarties are yummy for your tummy!

Inform
This box is full of round different coloured balls. It is a colourful box with Smarties written on the front. It tells you where they are from. It has a firefighter on the back with a hose and a fire extinguisher. There are 3 blues, 3 pink, 3 red, 1 orange, 1 yellow, 1 green and 1 brown. There are 13 Smarties.

Entertain
One day, a blue Smartie went for a walk. He found a pink Smartie. They fell in love. They went on a date to the candy shop. Soon they were married and had little Smarties.

Next time you’re reading something, have a think about what purpose the author had in mind while you dream.

From the Principal
Dear Parents, Friends and Students of St Joseph’s School,

AGMs and Parent Information Night
Last week’s AGMs were very well attended, as were the Parent Information Nights. It was a wonderful community atmosphere and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the parents. Thank you to all who attended or put in their apologies.

Commissioning Mass
Last Sunday school staff and members of the School Board and P&F were commissioned in their service to our school. My sincere thanks to the people who were able to attend or were unable to attend and sent in their apologies. Such an event reminds us that together we are working for the benefit of our children.

During the homily we were reminded of the very important role parents play in the education of their children. As the Second Vatican Council puts it: the role of parents “is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.” Our Staff, Board Members and P&F committed themselves in their particular responsibilities in the lives of our children, but are under no illusion that their efforts can replace those of parents.

Early Arrival
I have noted that a number of children have been dropped off before 8.15am, with some even earlier than 8.00am. This is potentially a dangerous situation as staff duty of care is effective from 8.15am. I understand time management can get very tricky but I must emphasise the safety of our students, your children, is extremely important. Please ensure your children arrive at school no earlier than 8.10am.

Late Arrivals
Please note students must be in class by 8am and if there has been no notification of absence parents will be contacted.

70th Anniversary Celebration.
As much as we all enjoy such events, we must endeavour to contribute some of our time and efforts, so that others aren’t left to carry more. Please check inside this newsletter for an update of order of events.

From Bishop Holohan
This Thursday Pope Benedict steps down and there will no longer be a Successor to St Peter until a new Pope has been elected. Please keep the coming conclave in your prayers, that the Spirit guide the cardinals as they seek to discern whom God is calling to serve as our new Pope. From Friday next, reference to the Pope in the Eucharistic Prayer ceases - again until we have a new one. The only reference is to the bishop.

Enjoy the long weekend ahead.

God Bless
Karmela Messineo - Principal
Lent
Lent is a period of forty days which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. It is the Christian time of preparation for Easter ~ “The Feast” of the Church year, where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. It is recognised as a time of fasting, reflection, prayer and penance and is closely linked with Baptism (where we die to our old ways and rise to new life in Christ). Sundays are not included in the days of Lent because every Sunday is a Day of Resurrection.

Why Forty Days?
In the early centuries, the period of preparing for Easter was a two day fast which began on the two days prior to Easter, but during the fourth century it was extended to forty days, for a number of reasons. Firstly, forty is a biblical number which signifies a time of testing, tribulation, endurance and temptation. In the Old Testament we hear of the Israelites wandering, lost in the wilderness for 40 years. In the New Testament Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. For him it was a time of searching, where he comes to know more deeply God’s presence in his life and his call to take up his public ministry. The mythical number of forty suggests a time to retreat from the stresses of life to re-establish our priorities and values.

Secondly, Lent was extended to forty days so that the Catechumens (those who were preparing to become members of the Church) could prepare for their Baptism at Easter.

Thirdly, it was stretched to forty days so that others in the community (known as Penitents) who had fallen into serious sin after Baptism could repent and prepare to renew their baptismal vows with the Catechumens at Easter. For all in the Church this period of scrutiny (looking more deeply at one’s life) was a time of renewal, conversion and growth, which has continued into the life of the Church today.

Catholic Day Monday 19th August Note: Catholic schools are granted one extra day’s leave, in recognition of the commitment to Church activities.

P&F Easter Raffle
Donations of Easter Eggs will be greatly appreciated and can be left at the school office. Last day for donations is Thursday 21st March. Drawn Holy Thursday, 28th March. All proceeds to benefit our ‘fantabulous’ students.

Rain Gauge: Help Needed
Some of you would have noticed the strange metal canister sitting in the middle of the basketball court. It is a rain gauge used to record the official rainfall for our town-site. This has been passed on to the school by the previous recorder, in the hope that we could take it on. Unfortunately we have no open, unused areas to place it and the school is unattended during the holidays. Is there anyone out there that would be willing to take it on? It would be a pity for it to not continue, as the data collected goes back to 1935. If you can help us out, or would like some more information, do not hesitate to come and see me.

Regards, Kate Vidulich

Crazy Sock and Crazy Hair Day
Students and staff are invited to participate in a Crazy Hair and Crazy Sock Day on Monday March 18th. For the privilege of wearing crazy hair and crazy socks, participants are asked to bring a gold coin donation. This money will be given to Project Compassion—Caritas, to help others who are less fortunate.

Assembly Date Change
Due to a number of factors the Year 6/7, Year 5 and Year 3/4 class assemblies have had to be moved to Term Two. The new assembly dates are:
Year 3/4: Friday 24th May, Year 5: Friday 7th June, and Year 6/7: Friday 21st June.

The other class assemblies have not changed.