"When a child has a reason to learn, the basics will be sought after, rather than imposed"

- Yong Zhao

In this week’s newsletter I will be sharing and building upon some of the thoughts of education professor Yong Zhao. In some recent articles Yong Zhao offers a fresh approach to education that strongly challenges our view on mandated curriculum and standardised testing such as NAPLAN.

The ideas discussed will challenge many community members’ ideas relating to the purpose of standardised testing and prompt us as educators to reflect on the purpose of education itself. As educators, I refer to all of us whether as parents, carers, teachers or grandparents. We all have a key role in assisting children to reach their full potential.

Australia, following policy reform from the UK and United States has become swept up in a global trend towards a narrowed focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Standardised testing, publicised on the ‘My School’ website has lead to positive results being directly aligned with a ‘good school’. I strongly argue, across Australia this is not always the case. Some schools placed huge value on testing and spend much of their time ‘teaching to the test’. There is no arguing the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills are vital for children to function in society. However, a narrow focus on these skills can discriminate against those whose interests and strengths lie in other areas such as technology, science, music, art or sports.

Zhao argues that placing huge value on standardised tests and rigorously implementing mandated curriculum suppresses creativity and innovation in schools. Instead what we are challenged to provide students at St Brigid’s is a broad, flexible curriculum that supports children’s individual interests and strengths to engage them in their learning.

Tests such as NAPLAN are just one form of assessment. So how else can parents assess the success of their child’s learning? Parents seeking assurance that their children are learning can look at their child’s engagement level, and notice if they’re exploring topics or pursuits that interest them, and improving in not only Literacy and Numeracy, but also in their areas of interest.

Perhaps at our coming Parent Teacher Interviews it would be a valuable opportunity to further discuss the interests of your child and how we as teachers can continue to individualise our programs to engage our students in meaningful learning experiences.
**BIRTHDAYS**
Birthday greetings for the following staff and students celebrating their birthday this week: Lochy, Mason, Izak, Genevieve, Mrs Hill and Mr M Schleich.

**DANCEFEVER - SKIPPING**
As next Monday will be the final session of DanceFever skipping Jayman invites parents to view their child’s skipping showcase. We apologise for the late notice. In the past all students have performed together to all parents. This year under Jayman’s recommendation the three groups will not all perform together and although this provides some challenge with parents who have children in a number of Grades, the sessions will be more personal. This experience has been wonderful for developing children’s health as well as their interest in skipping.

DanceFever Skipping Showcase times:

| Grade 2: 12.20 - 12.50pm | Grade 3 & 4: 1.30 - 2.10pm | Grade 5 & 6: 2.10 - 2.50pm |

**HOT CHOCOLATE**
Mr McCulloch and his team of Mrs Wells, Nate, Jason and Isabella broke the term record with 58 hot chocolate drinks made yesterday morning.

**MID-YEAR REPORTS AND PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**
Mid-Year reports will be sent home with students from Prep to Grade 6 on Monday 27th June. Parent Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday 29th June and Thursday 30th June. (Kinder interviews will be held Tuesday and Wednesday). Interviews will be 15 minutes duration. We ask that parents please book your preferred time on the Interview Timetable Sheets that are in the foyer near the Uniform Shop. We strongly urge all parents to take this opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher.

**NETBALL**
Isobel Cunningham shared her team’s sporting news from the weekend. Wynyard Black was the winner against Wynyard White. Weekly Welcome is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of the wide variety of sports our students participate in. Thank you to community members including Katrina James, Rebecca Cunningham, Kate Percy, Lisa Dixon and Tammy Filleul who assist with the coaching, training or umpiring of school netball. Due to low numbers in some grades it is great to see St Brigid’s students teaming up with children from other schools such as Table Cape and Yolla.

**THIS WEEK’S GAMES - 10.30am**
- St Brigid’s Navy v Penguin Purple - CRT 6
- Wynyard Black v BPS Blue - CRT 2
- Wynyard Navy - BYE

**PARENT COMMUNITY MEETING**
A Parent Community Meeting to discuss the future direction and structure is scheduled for Tuesday 28th June at 7pm to be held in the school library. We would love to see as many parents, friends and parishioners as possible attending.

Warm regards

Ben

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EISTEDDFOD 2016

I had the incredible privilege of being able to take twenty amazing students to perform at the 2016 Burnie Eisteddfod on Tuesday morning. The choir did themselves and the school proud. They performed their items very well and with great composure and enthusiasm, they sounded like angels. For more than half of choir, it was their first experience of singing at the Eisteddfod. They held their nerves in check during the performance and it was a very valuable learning experience for them. The students had a wonderful time listening to some of the other choirs singing and learning how we could do some different things in the future. Their behaviour was exemplary and they looked fantastic in their full winter uniform. Although we did not get a placing, all these students are winners in my eyes as it takes great courage and commitment to stand on a stage and perform - well done to all of you!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the choir members for their wonderful commitment to practices (in their Friday lunch break), to the parents for their support and positive feedback and also to Mrs Wells for accompanying us on Tuesday.

Preparations are well in hand for St Brigid’s Fair which will be held on Friday 28th October 5pm-8pm. Bookings have been confirmed for the 'Giant Slide', Classroom stalls (Lucky Jars/Recipe Jars, Wendy’s Food Stall/Nachos/Fishing for money/Guessing Booth/Pot Luck/Show Bags/temporary tattoos), Slip Stream Circus Display, Entertainment, Lego Competition and Class Art Auction. Other activities and food stalls are also in the planning stage.

This fortnight our donation focus is:
Clean, medium sized jars with lids.

St Brigid’s Buddies

Birth to 4 Program

St Brigid’s Buddies is a structured program focusing on early years learning and development, including sensory play, movement, social and emotional wellbeing with a literacy focus. This is a learning opportunity, not only for children, but for parents to socialise in a relaxed and fun environment.

Please phone 6442 2167 for further details

Week 10  Monday 27th June 2016 9-10:30am
Celebrate Aboriginal Culture

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Grade One - Christian Meditation

Mrs Harrison’s Grade One class have been participating in Christian Meditation.

“As a part of our daily prayer time, Grade One students have been connecting with God and the world through their participation in Christian meditation. Meditation allows us to practise stillness and then the following reflection time allows the children to verbalise their gratitude of God’s creation. The children enjoy this opportunity where we take the time to listen to the sounds around us and to recognise the feelings within us. The children love to share their appreciations within our prayer circle.” (Mrs Harrison)

NAIDOC Week Liturgy

NAIDOC is the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s, which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July, however, as this is the first week of our term holidays, our school will also be celebrating and acknowledging NAIDOC week during the last week of Term 2.

Grade 4 students with the support of their teachers Mr McCulloch and Mrs Macgregor will be presenting our whole school NAIDOC Week Liturgy on Monday June 27th at 11:45am in our school hall. All parents, friends and parishioners are welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there.

BURNIE/WYNYARD PARISH MASS TIMES

All Parishioners Welcome / All Masses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Brigid’s, Wynyard</th>
<th>Sacred Heart, Somerset</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9:30am</td>
<td>Sunday 8:00am Sacred Heart Church, 7 Pelissier Street, Somerset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6:00pm St Brigid’s Church, 37 Goldie Street, Wynyard</td>
<td>(1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays - Mass, 2nd Sunday - Liturgy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Joseph’s, Yolla</td>
<td>Star of Sea, Burnie</td>
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<td>Sunday 5pm, St Josephs, 1566 Murchison Highway, Yolla</td>
<td>Thursday: 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5pm (Mass 2nd Sunday), 5pm (1st, 3rd &amp; 5th Sundays - Liturgy)</td>
<td>Sunday 10am Star of Sea Church, 96 Mount Street, Burnie</td>
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<td>All welcome to share a cup of tea in after the 10am Mass in the</td>
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<td>Burnie Parish Centre each Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umina Park</td>
<td>Yaraandaoo Chapel, Burnie</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 10 am North Lodge, Umina Park (2nd Wed of month only)</td>
<td>12 noon, First Friday of Month only</td>
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Move Well Eat Well

Make time for active transport!

Make time to regularly walk, ride, scoot or skate to:
- School
- Local shops
- Local play spaces

Active transport can add to the 1 hour of physical activity that children need every day!

For more information and for family ideas on healthy eating and physical activity visit:
www.movewelleatwell.tas.gov.au

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FUTURE

With $2,000 less government funding per student, on average, Catholic schools save taxpayers $1.6 billion annually.

DON’T take government funding for granted

SchoolFundingFacts.com

Source: ACARA My School data 2014. Authorised by Ross Fox, National Catholic Education Commission, Level 3, 158 Gloucester St, Sydney

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DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE
Friday  
24th  Class Curriculum Newsletters
Monday  
27th  NAIDOC Week commences
Monday  
27th  NAIDOC Week Prayer Liturgy: 11:45am
Monday  
27th  Mid-Year Reports
Tuesday  
28th  Parent Community Meeting - 7pm
Wednesday  
29th  NAIDOC Week Assembly 1:45pm
Wednesday  
29th  Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday  
30th  SRC Thankyou Afternoon Tea - Parents invited - 2pm
Thursday  
30th  Parent Teacher Interviews

JULY
Friday  
1st  End Term 2
Monday  
18th  School Resumes - Term 3
Tuesday  
26th  2017 Kindergarten Information Evening: 7pm
Thursday  
28th  Pre - Kinder 9am-10:30am
Thursday  
28th  Friendship Mass Prep - Grade 2: 11:45am

AUGUST
Tuesday  
2nd  School Photos
Monday  
8th  Mary Mackillop Feast Day
Thursday  
11th  Pre - Kinder 9am-10:30am
Saturday  
20th  Book Week 'Australia! Story Country'
Wednesday  
24th  Book Fair viewing
Thursday  
25th  Pre - Kinder 9am-10:30am
Thursday  
25th  Book Fair 8:30am - 3:30pm
Friday  
26th  Book Fair 8:30am - 3:30pm

SEPTEMBER
Sunday  
4th  Father's Day
Thursday  
8th  Pre - Kinder 9am-10:30am
Thursday  
22nd  Pre - Kinder 9am-10:30am
Friday  
23rd  End Term 3

OCTOBER
Saturday  
8th  Tulip Festival
Monday  
10th  Term 4 begins
Friday  
28th  St Brigid’s School Fair: 5pm-8pm

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