



Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane

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2 May 2018

The Principal
Mr David Mezinec
Tenison Woods College
PO Box 965
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Dear Mr Mezinec

Recently I completed the Aussie Camino with a group of pilgrims that included three colleagues from Brisbane Catholic Education. This 200km walking pilgrimage from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia pays tribute to the contribution of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods to Australia. After traversing The Great South Walk to Port MacDonnell we arrived in Mt Gambier. On leaving Mt Gambier for Kalangadoo we were met along Hinton Road by three Year 4 students from your school.

In a time when the Catholic Church's reputation has encountered significant and justifiable social commentary and criticism and when we as Catholic educators wrestle with the questions and challenges of Catholic identity, these Year 4 students by way of their example provided the reassurance that the Jesus story is alive and well in Catholic schools.

Firstly, and most significantly the three girls welcomed the stranger in their midst with generosity. They ran toward us with great excitement down a dusty Hinton Road welcoming us to rest and take refreshments that they had thoughtfully prepared.

They offered the stranger hospitality. They gave us as pilgrims the gift of themselves – they had laboured to bake biscuits, prepare tea and coffee and served it to the dusty strangers with finery.

Finally, and in the spirit of giving they expected nothing in return other than the genuine and mutual joy of the encounter.

This experience lifted my spirits on the day and that of the group of pilgrims. You, your school community and the girl's parents should certainly celebrate the example these three Year 4 students from Tenison Woods College have offered as in my opinion their gesture was a lived example of the gospel message in action in our modern world and a celebration of our Catholic identity.

Sincerely

Peter Hill
Director Employee Services

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