Dear Parents and Guardians

The theme for NAIDOC WEEK is “honouring our elders, nurturing our youth”. It invites all Australians to value the wisdom of Aboriginal elders and celebrate the diverse contribution of Indigenous People. We know there have been times when we have, through ignorance and fear, forgotten the rich and dynamic history of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We have misunderstood their culture, we have ignored their needs.

When the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, travelled to central Australia he encouraged Indigenous Australians to take their rightful place in the Church and be affirmed as a vital part of our Nation. He called for a greater acknowledgment of the spiritual wisdom of the traditional custodians and the need for justice and reconciliation for Aboriginal and Islander people.

This week we are celebrating NAIDOC week at St Cecilia’s. We began with a special assembly and we were very fortunate to have Maggie Galvin and Kevin Clarke join us at the assembly and tell us their stories about St Cecilia’s and the time they spent at school growing up along with their families.

The children then proceeded to join in with activities in the various classrooms around the school. Each of the teachers developed some wonderful activities for the children to participate in during the day. The activities focused on Aboriginal Culture and I know that the children appreciated the many different types of activities.

We would like to thank the Geraldton Catholic Education Office for helping with the funding of these activities.

We always appreciate the assistance we receive from the office.

Today was made special by not only having our special speakers but also by the blessing from Father Mark and Father Tom. It is wonderful to have our Spiritual advisors join with us in prayer. At this time I would also like to extend our thanks to Sister Jane for joining us from South Hedland Parish and Councillor Jan Ford from the Town of Port Hedland. We were also fortunate to have so many wonderful parents join our celebrations.

I would like to mention Rosemary Vrancic, Lizzy Walker and Sean Sta Maria; thank you so much for your assistance in the day and for preparing the assembly. It is wonderful when you are part of a team and we are fortunate to have so many wonderful helpers in our community.

Farewell Kim

We have been blessed to have Kim Hadden as part of our teaching staff at St Cecilia’s. Kim joined us in Term Four 2008, and has proven to be a dedicated and enthusiastic member of our team. Kim has been a wonderful asset in our school and is a gifted teacher. We wish her well in her teaching endeavours in Victoria. Kim we would like to thank you for your dedicated service and care for the children, staff and parents of St Cecilia’s.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Miss Melinda Coleman as our new Pre Primary Teacher and we hope that you feel part of our school community. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing our community with you.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Cecilia’s CPS is a multi-cultural school where our community strives to provide a secure environment for the spiritual, moral, social, emotional and intellectual development of each student. We endeavour to create an atmosphere of openness, mutual respect and loyalty within the school community.
Holiday Fun
We wish Mr Sta Maria a very pleasant and restful long service leave break. We hope you have the chance to catch many fish and enjoy your rest, you deserve a lovely long holiday and we hope you will come back to school refreshed.

Grass Helpers
I would like to thank the lovely parents who came to our aid this week and assisted Mr Bob in the planting of new grass on the oval. It really helps when we are able to find some willing workers who take on the challenge. Thanks to this great work we should see new grass appearing on the oval after the school break.

Kindergarten/Pre-Primary Area
As you will be aware the Kindy and Pre Primary area is having a make over. When children return next term the area will have taken on a new look with shade sails in place along with the new soft fall and artificial turf. It should make a big difference in this area, so enjoy!

Portfolios
Your child’s portfolio will be coming home this Friday, please take the time to sit with your child and discuss their work. I have spent an enjoyable week travelling to each class to look at their work samples. The children have been delighted to show me their work and I encourage each of you to talk to your children about their samples. They have spent a lot of time producing some lovely work and I know they would like to share it with you.

Newsletter
Beginning next term newsletters will not be published weekly but fortnightly. They will be circulated on the even weeks of the term.
At times we are aware that our students are performing wonderful achievements in the wider community, when this occurs please inform us so that we can recognize them in our newsletter and share the good news.

School Holidays
Now that the holidays are approaching, it’s time to think about keeping the students entertained on those long, hot, summer days. There are many activities you can do with your children which are inexpensive and good fun. You don’t need to entertain them every moment of every day, but if you plan a couple of special family activities with them, it helps to break the monotony as well as building relationships with them.

Have you taken the children fishing lately or tried rollerblading or bike riding with them? What about a picnic by the beach? Had a barbecue in the bush recently? Take a picnic lunch to the local library and borrow a book, or buy a new one to share; teach them to play hopscotch or a board game; ride a bike, throw a ball, kick the footy; cook some biscuits together or make a yummy fruit salad. Most importantly…..TALK, TALK, TALK with your children.

Have a great holiday and enjoy spending time with your children; they’re very special young people!
School returns on Tuesday 13 October.
God Bless and have a wonderful holiday.

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Thank you to Mitchel, Keriana, Katrina, Ben, Lauren, Rhea, Emily and Renee for reading so beautifully at the Mass on Tuesday. You were all fantastic. Special thanks to Father Mark, for sharing his story and photos with us. Thank you also to our parents who were able to join with us in the celebration.

Mrs Ramshaw
Assistant Principal Religious Education

PARISH NEWS

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Saturday  7.15pm
Sunday  10.00am

ST CECILIA’S PARISH
Saturday  6.00pm
Sunday  8.30am
Mon-Fri  8.00am Morning Prayer & Mass

COMING EVENTS
25 Sep  Portfolios go home
25 Sep  Canteen Closed - Friday
25 Sep  Last day of Term Three 2009
13 Oct  Students return for Term Four 2009

MERIT AWARDS

KG:  Ryan Aspland            Alexander Harrington
     Wayne McNicol        Owofu Ochigbo
 PP:  Kayla DeCourcy     Kimberley Morton
      Declan Rahman      Ella Smith
      Alleirah Taylor    Pre Primary Class
 Yr 1: Alex Britcliffe    Ruby Moore
      Phoebe-Cate Mouat   
 Yr 2: Jordyn Cornelius   Georgia Phillips
      Olivia Sinclair     
 Yr 3: Riley Caswell      Abbey Jacoby
      Destiny Liddell-Tewano
 Yr 4: Galgalu Boldicha   Marisol Fernandez
      Celeste McCorry     
 Yr 6: Shania Dershaw     Zach Esmonde
      Mitchell Green      Mitchell Nelson
      Tomas Sweeting     
 Yr 7: Taylor Wilde      

ST CECILIA’S PARISH
Sunday Mass  7.30am
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Sunday Mass  8.30am

CONSIDER THIS: write or email a friend to come over and play; write a shopping list together; draw a map of the neighbourhood, your house or the way to your friends house; plant some seedlings; look at photo albums and tell stories about when you were a child; design, make and fly a kite; estimate, compare and count collections of things; visit the local library and borrow a book, or buy a

SS TIMES
8.00am Morning Prayer & Mass
8.30am Sunday School
6:00pm 7.45pm
15 pm

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**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

- 20 Sep Tyler Pedley (Year One)
- 22 Sep Eliza Boyd (Pre Primary)
- 22 Sep Nadia Pereira (Year One)
- 26 Sep Joshua Elsum (Year Four)
- 27 Sep Courtney Healey (Year Two)
- 28 Sep Carl Singh (Year Three)
- 29 Sep Benjamin Merlo (Pre Primary)
- 29 Sep Jakob Healey (Year Two)
- 29 Sep Jeffrey Strachan (Year Three)
- 30 Sep Elizabeth Sinclair (Kindy)
- 04 Oct Alexander Lowe (Kindy)
- 04 Oct Charlotte Boyd (Year Four)
- 05 Oct Declan Rahman (Year Five)
- 07 Oct Emily Hunter (Year Seven)
- 08 Oct Sarah Corbett (Year Four)
- 08 Oct Chadd Nunn (Year seven)
- 10 Oct Elise Brabazon (Year Six)

**GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS**

**CANTEEN CLOSED**
The Canteen will be closed tomorrow: **Friday 25 September**. All students will need to supply their own recess and lunch.

**LIBRARY**

Composting System Update
Hello again and thanks for reading these updates on the progress of our new composting system. We finally have enough containers for our system and they will soon be put to use. Our composting system is progressing well and will be in action next term. Just a reminder, fruit and vegetable scraps, grass clippings and shredded paper are **ONLY** allowed to go in the containers. You will see new posters going up soon, so keep an eye out as they will give you more information about the composting system. I’d like to thank my team, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Rahman for helping to create the system. And some thanks to me for doing up these articles.

By Mitchel.P

The Year Six/Seven class have started a composting program for our school. We would like to inform the Parents/Guardians as it is important that they know what food products we are encouraging students to bring.

Composting is going to become very important at the school. Some of the things you can put in your child’s lunch box to help composting are: **putting bags of chips in a reusable container to take back home, fruit and vegetables and please try not to have wrappers of any sort.** Thank you and I hope you will help us with the program.

By Thomas Jacoby and team

**FEES DRAW**

All families who paid their School Fees by Wednesday 9 September had their name placed in a draw for one family to receive a refund for their first child’s tuition fee. We are am pleased to announce the Bauckham/Gould family, Eve from Year Two and Elia from Kindy, are the recipients of this draw. Congratulations!

**HELP NEEDED**

Due to the shortage of accommodation in Port Hedland we often use the Parish centre to cater for our visitors. If anyone can assist to do a quick clean before and after we have these visitors stay (some times only over night). Please contact Fr Mark on 9173 1687 if you are able to assist.

**HOMEWORK CENTRE**

Please note that there will be no Homework Centre in the last week of Term Three or the first week in Term Four.

**DONATIONS PLEASE**

Pre Primary would appreciate donations of the following items:
- Old Hair dryers
- Old Telephones
- Old Computer keyboards

Thank you
Pre Primary Team

**SCIENCE BOXES**

In order to make up science boxes for each unit level we require some items to be collected and sent to the school. Items at this stage that we are looking for are: yoghurt containers, thick plastic bags,(clothing shop style), coat hangers, thin garden stakes, screw bottle top lids, corks, any left over coloured contact, meat trays, buttons, ice cream containers.

Thank you for your donations.
Ms Tait Year Six/Seven Teacher

**YACHT CLUB MARKETS**

Saturday 3 October, 9am till 12pm (set up is at 8am)
Coffee and cake and much more.
Come and join in. Food and drinks available.
Sell some old treasure buy some more.

For further information or stall bookings

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**TRELOAR CHILD CARE CENTRE**

Vacation Care - Positions Vacant for Children 5-12 years
28 September- 9 October 2009
Phone Chantal or Jennie on 9140 1666 to enquire

**DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES**

The Port Hedland and South Hedland Dental Therapy Centres will be closed for Term Four.
In the case of an emergency during this time please contact the South Hedland Dental Clinic on 9172 2223.
Please note that general routine dental treatment will no be provided until Term One 2010.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

The last day of School for Term Three will be Friday 25 September 2009.
Students return to School for Term Four on Tuesday 13 October 2009.