FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians

What a fantastic start to the school year. Our Kindergarten and new enrolments have settled well into their new school. Our existing students have also settled very quickly back into routine. It is an absolute joy to walk around the school and see everyone settling in so well. The polite, friendly nature of our students as they play and interact with each other and staff has to be experienced to be believed. I thank the students for their positive, enthusiastic start to the school year and the manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the first few days.

The next few weeks are very important here at school as everyone settles into the new school year. Our aim is to make our students feel comfortable and successful in their new year level and classroom. Your child’s teacher will be working closely with the class to establish classroom rules and routines. They will discuss behaviour, work expectations and set the tone for the year. Teachers are also currently working on developing a picture of the capabilities of each student. Lots of assessments happen at the beginning of the year so that we can gain an understanding of what your child already knows and what skills they need to develop or refine. Teachers can then use this information to develop programs to provide support and challenges for every student. Our curriculum is designed around building upon what a child already knows and using this to learn and discover more.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Inspiration

We get new ideas from God every hour of our day when we put our trust in Him - but we have to follow that inspiration up with perspiration - we have to work to prove our faith.

Remember that the bee that hangs around the hive never gets any honey.

Albert E. Cliffe

VISION STATEMENT

St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School is a multi-cultural Catholic School where staff, parents and students strive to provide a secure environment concerned with the spiritual, moral, social, emotional and intellectual development of each person. We endeavour to create an atmosphere of openness, mutual respect and loyalty within the school community.
School Uniforms
I am a strong advocate for the wearing of school uniforms. Our uniform looks fantastic and we have received many positive comments about it. It is great that nearly all of our students are able to wear their full uniform every day. There are enormous benefits for ensuring all students wear our full school uniform. These include:
- Defining our school identity.
- Developing within our students a sense of belonging to our school community.
- Provides an opportunity to build and enhance ‘school spirit’.
- Promotes a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity.
- Enhances the health and safety of students when involved in school activities and excursions.
- Complies with our obligations under Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. ie: broad-brimmed hats.
- Promotes positive community perceptions of our school.
- Makes school clothing more affordable by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear current fashions and expensive clothes.

Please ensure that your children wear the full correct uniform each day. I have noticed that a number of our children are wearing black leather laced up joggers rather than the black leather laced up shoes. Would parents please rectify this as quickly as possible. Once again I would like to remind boys that their hair must be short back and sides no long fringes or hair over the ears. Thank you to all the parents who are quick to comply with the school requirements.

Thankyou
I would like to thank everyone who helped with the shade sails during the holidays. When we had an approaching cyclone we asked for assistance to bring down our shade sails. Thanks to our amazing Staff and Dads - Patrick Mellberg and Mark Bowins, it took no time at all to have them packed away safely. Then of course it was time to put them back up again. I would like to thank our special Dads who dropped everything to come and help erect them once more in time for our students on Wednesday. Thank you to Alan Boyd, Tony Riches, Kevin Moore, Michael Vickery, Carl Singh and Jack Merlo for coming to my rescue and working so hard to make sure the shade was up and ready to go.

Professional Development Day
On Friday, 4 March the Staff will be involved in Professional Development, therefore there will be a pupil free day for the students. This will effectively join onto the long weekend in Week Six.

Newsletter
Newsletters will be sent out every fortnight (apart from this first newsletter), on a Thursday of an even week.

Creative Thinking Workshop
We are very fortunate to have Kathy Boyatzis-Pascoe coming to Port Hedland to hold creative thinking workshops with our students. Kathy is the State Director of the Tournament of Minds and has made herself available to our students on Monday, 14 February working with each class from Year One to Year Seven. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students and we look forward to the visit. Sessions will take place in student’s classes throughout the day.

Assessments
It is important for students in Pre-Primary to be present at school during Week Two as we will be conducting PIPS assessments. These assessments take place twice a year once at the beginning and once towards the end of the year. The PIPS assessment supports our school’s focus on early intervention by allowing students to be identified as requiring assistance early in the year and to assess their progress by the end of the year. PIPS is not a traditional test with a fixed number of questions presented on paper. The assessment consists of screens, presented on the computer, that are visually appealing to young children. Students’ progress, through the PIPS program, is determined by their responses which reflects their abilities. In this way, the assessment is a positive experience for all students as they are not presented with a large number of questions that they cannot answer.

We will also be holding Observation Surveys for students in Years One, Two and Three during the first three weeks of Term One.

Parent Night
Every year we like to begin with a Parent Night so that parents can come to school and meet their children’s teachers. This night is a valuable insight into the working of your child’s class. Teachers are able to inform parents on how the classroom will be run throughout the year. Unfortunately there will not be time on the evening for a one on one interview but more as a collective. If you wish to speak with your teacher privately you will be able to make a time with them through Hilary our Secretary.

This year we will be holding two parent information evenings in anticipation that everyone will be able to attend. We ask that children do not attend the evening. Each parent will receive a handbook from their child’s teacher.

The evenings will be as follows:
- **Tuesday 8 February**
  - For Pre-Primary, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
    - (Session 1: 6.00–6.30pm, Session 2: 6.30–7.00pm)
  - For Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7
    - (Session 1: 6.00–6.30pm, Session 2: 6.30–7.00pm)

- **Wednesday 9 February**
  - For Pre-Primary, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
    - (Session 1: 6.00–6.30pm, Session 2: 6.30–7.00pm)
Assembly
We hold assemblies every Monday and Thursday morning at 8.35am. On a Monday the assemblies are in the undercover area and on a Thursday they may be in the undercover area or the hall depending on the weather. Parents are welcome to attend the assemblies and find out what is happening in the school. If you need to know if the assembly is in the hall or the undercover area just watch and see where our talented students lead you.

Starting the School Year
You can read all types of research that will tell you how to identify a successful school; however I believe the best 'litmus test' is the response of the children, teachers and parents. We have had an extremely smooth start to the school year. Credit must go to our dedicated staff who have spent many hours ensuring that we have a ‘hassle-free’ start and credit must also go to the children who have settled quickly and industriously back into ‘school mode’. I have been delighted by the many positive comments we have received about the school and how the children have settled in.

Schools are dynamic ‘people organisations’ and as a school community we all have a vested interest in the well-being of the school. The working relationship between the home and the school is a vital link, ensuring a positive and productive education for every child.

As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every child. Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. If you have concerns about your child, please contact us, as ‘problems’ are far more easily attended to now than in the last week of school!

We are only too aware that at times parents tend to think their concerns are trivial and you debate with yourself whether you should contact the school. Our response is that nothing is too trivial when it comes to the education of your child. So if you have concerns or want clarification, please contact us. I will ask you, however, to consider the following points:

- Teaching staff’s number one priority is teaching the children and therefore if you arrive unannounced, it may not be convenient or possible to release them from teaching duties to speak to you. It is always best to arrange a meeting time.
- If you want to meet with me, it is generally best to make an appointment as I can have a number of commitments throughout the day and am not always available at short notice.

God Bless and keep smiling

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELGIOUS EDUCATION
Welcome back to a new school year. We are starting the year with a Whole School Mass next Thursday, 10 February at 8:45am in St Cecilia’s Church. I would like to extend an invitation to all parents and guardians to come and celebrate the Eucharist with us. It would be lovely to see you there, and the students enjoy having their family sharing our celebrations with us.

We also look forward to celebrating Mass on Sunday, 27 February with the Year Seven class, will be led by Mrs Ramshaw. This Eucharistic celebration will take place in St Cecilia’s Church at 8:30am with the parish community. Once again, it would be wonderful if families from other year groups could support the Year Seven class by coming along to Mass on this day. Your support is highly valued and appreciated.

This year we will be celebrating two sacraments. First Holy Communion for the Year Four students will take place in Term Two, and Sacramental Reconciliation for the Year Three students will take place in Term Three this year. If there are any students in other year levels who have not completed the necessary sacraments, would you please contact Miss Campbell ASAP so your child’s name can be added to the sacrament list. As yet parent meeting dates have not been confirmed. As soon as parent meeting dates have been set, parents and guardians will be informed through the school newsletter.

Confirmation is an event which occurs every two years in this parish community. Last year Confirmation was celebrated with Bishop Justin Bianchini, and the next Confirmation will take place in 2012. This year the senior students are looking forward to participating in a school camp.

Miss Dee Campbell
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

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

DONATIONS PLEASE
We would appreciate any donations the following items:
- used stamps
- aluminium can ring pulls
- Ice-cream containers and lids
- Old batteries

These can be brought in to the front office.

Mrs Rozario
School Secretary
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

JANUARY
03 MOORE, Max PP
04 BATTLE, Jesse Y3
04 MARSDEN, Jed Y3
04 MATHEWS, Damian Y5
06 TAYLOR, Alleirah Y2
07 GALOVIC, Nicholas PP
07 KELLY, Tyrah Y4
07 BARKER, Jack Y7
08 MELLBERG, Brody Y7
11 BOYD, Matilda PP
11 MBENJELE, Elsie PP
11 MOUAT, Phoebe-Cate Y3
12 LEWIS, Jordan Y1
15 WILSON, Ashleigh K
15 MELLBERG, Tara Y3
17 GREIPEL, Natasha Y2
17 MATTHEWS, Shay Y2
18 HOBSON, Luke Y4
20 LEOPARDI, Angelique Y3
21 NUNN, Joel Y6
22 LARSON, James PP
24 COWLEY, Brendon Y2
26 ASPLAND, Ryan Y1
28 BLACKWELL, Hannah Y6
30 EMMITT, Charlotte PP

FEBRUARY
01 POHARAMA, Kohi Y6
03 LEWIS, Ashleigh K
05 SINCLAIR, Christopher K
06 JONCKHEERE, Lukas K

COMMUNITY NEWS

Scholarship Information

2012

In 2012 the following scholarships will be offered at Iona Presentation College:

Academic Scholarships:
- Sr Alacoque Gittins Academic Scholarship - minimum of two academic scholarships will be awarded to incoming Year 7 student
- Sr John Jones Academic Scholarship - a minimum of one scholarship will be awarded to a student entering Year 10
- Sr Joan Evans Boarding Scholarship - one academic scholarship will be awarded to an incoming Year 7 student
- Iona Presentation College Indgenous Scholarship - A minimum of one academic scholarship will be awarded to an incoming Year 7 student, who is the daughter/granddaughter of a Past Pupil

Indigenous Scholarships:
- Iona Presentation College Indigenous Scholarship - A minimum of one academic scholarship will be awarded to an incoming Year 7 student (Please contact College Registrar for further information)

Music Scholarships:
- Presentation Sisters' Music Scholarship
- Sr Patricia Downey Music Scholarship
- Sr Margaret Mary Eaton Music Scholarship

Further information on all scholarships for 2012 is available on our website www.iona-wa.edu.au. Interested candidates are welcome to apply for as many scholarships as are relevant to them. Please note that applications close for all scholarships at 5.00 pm on Friday 12 March 2011.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact:
Ms Deborah Peacock, Registrar
Telephone: +61 8 9285 5298
Email: dpeacock@iona-wa.edu.au

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2011 FROM THE P&F

The P&F is hosting a Welcome Morning Tea on Thursday, 10 February straight after assembly in the hall. We would love to meet all of our new families, and catch up with families who have supported us previously. Everyone is welcome – we hope that you can make it. Please come along and enjoy a cuppa and some morning tea with the P&F.

The P&F at St Cecilia’s is very hands on, and we have a number of ideas for events that we would like to hold for the students in 2011. Our first P&F meeting for the year is on: Wednesday, 16 February at 7.00pm in the Staff Room. We would love to see some new faces on the committee this year. If you have ever thought about coming along, now is the time!

The Executive Committee for 2011 consists of:
Rhonda Mitchell – President
Chantelle Cecich – Vice President
Sarah Bolton – Secretary
Maria Britcliffe – Treasurer as the executive

Plus lots of general members.

There is no pressure to assume a position if you come along to a meeting, but we would love the help and new ideas that you may be able to provide us!

If you would like to be on the committee, but cannot make the meeting, please email Sarah Bolton bolton.wa@gmail.com.