Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a confiding thought, a simple movement of heart towards God will renew our powers. Whatever He may demand of us, He will give us at the moment the strength and the courage that we need.

Francois Fenelon

STRENGTH

I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord.

The Book of Psalms

COMING EVENTS

14 FEBRUARY
Creative Thinking Workshops
Y1 to Y7
14 FEBRUARY
Board Meeting 7.00pm
16 FEBRUARY
P&F Meeting 7.00pm
17 FEBRUARY
Year 4 Assembly
P&F Welcome Morning Tea
27 FEBRUARY
Year 7 Class Mass 8.30am
04 MARCH
NO SCHOOL - STAFF PD
07 MARCH
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
LABOUR DAY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK
Dear Parents & Guardians
Whether your child is just starting school or returning after a long summer’s break, getting into the swing of things at the start of the school year can be a challenge!
Listed below are some simple strategies that can be useful to get everyone back into the routine of school days!
Ensuring your child has had adequate rest is very important. Is your child getting to bed at a reasonable time?
Children’s need for rest can vary at times and this can affect your child’s sleep patterns. It is important to set an agreed bedtime, and stick to it where possible. If your child is wakeful, encourage them to read quietly in their bed or listen to some quiet, restful music or perhaps have a warm bath before bed time.
It’s a good idea to have a bedtime routine as this can help lead into a quiet night where everyone knows what is going to happen and when.
Setting a regular pattern of events in the morning can impact on how smoothly and happily everyone gets ready for school. Here are a few ideas that other parents have found useful which can save a lot of last minute headaches and fuss:
The night before:
• Check that your child’s school clothes are clean and ready for the next day. Encourage them to place their shoes with their clothes in readiness.
• Are there any additional activities happening (eg. sport, library?) Have
your child place the necessary items in their school bag.

- Lunches can also be prepared or semi prepared. Children can help with this.
- Bags can be packed (don’t forget your school hat!) by your child and placed in a regular spot ready for the next morning.

In the morning:

- Using an alarm will ensure everyone is out of bed with plenty of time to get ready.
- Be positive! Grumpy parents make for grumpy children. Encourage and give positive feedback.
- Keep the TV off! If the TV is to go on, only allow it to go on after your child is absolutely ready to go to bed.
- Provide a healthy breakfast eg. cereal, milk, juice, water, toast and spread, fresh fruit. Children are like cars ...they run (behave and learn) better on good fuel.
- Encourage children to get ready by themselves: cleaning teeth, brushing hair, packing school bag, making bed, helping them only where needed.
- Leave the house on time. Setting the kitchen timer can be a help here. Tell the children that when the alarm goes you will be leaving for school; make sure you are ready yourself!

The first few weeks at school
Getting settled into a new school year is very important. We aim to make our students feel comfortable and successful in their New Year level and classroom. Sometimes moving to a New Year level can be a bit scary for students and they begin to doubt that they can handle the work or habits that will now be required.

Teachers use the first few weeks to develop confidence in students and to gradually introduce them to the new work or expectations that are part of growing up and moving on. At this stage, teachers are designing programs that allow students to experience success as well as practicing both old and new routines. Teachers are currently working on developing a picture of the capabilities of each student. Lots of assessment happens at the beginning of the year so that we 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 that provide support and challenges for every student.

Our curriculum is designed around building upon what a child already knows and using this to create learning opportunities to learn and discover more. These assessments ensure that students have a solid foundation in skills before attacking more complex ideas and activities. Getting to know your child and ensuring that they are settled into their new class and feeling confident are very important first steps for teachers.

Parent Meetings
What a fantastic response we have had with the parent teacher meetings this year. Thank you to all our wonderful parents for making yourselves available to come to school and interact with your classroom teachers. The teachers have created information packages for you and relished the chance to talk with you about your children and what is happening in each class.

They were able to run through the different programmes and themes they are working on this year as well as give you an idea of how the classroom will run and the expectations. Thank you to all the teachers for preparing these sessions and the care they have taken with these meetings. They are an amazing bunch of teachers and they really do make an incredible difference in our school.

Anniversary of the National Apology
On 13 February 2008 the then Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, moved a motion of Apology to Australia’s Indigenous Peoples with specific reference to the Stolen Generations. The Prime Minister described it as an occasion for “the nation to turn a new page in Australia’s history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence in the future”.

The apology honoured the Indigenous people of this land and reflected in particular on the mistreatment of those who were from the Stolen Generations: “For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind”.

On Sunday we will remember the anniversary of the National Apology and remember those who walked before us on this land.
Condolences
During the week we were sad to hear of the loss to the Clarke family of a beloved sister and aunt. We will keep Hilary, Kevin, Regina and Cheyanne in our prayers and know that our thoughts and love are with you.

Buddy System at St Cecilia’s
We have instituted a buddy system at St Cecilia’s between our junior and senior years. This week saw the Year Seven students’ pair up with our Pre-Primary students. Now each Year Seven has a buddy in Pre-Primary and each Pre-Primary student has a big buddy in Year Seven. The students really enjoy working together and take great pride in helping each other. On Thursday the Year Seven students escorted their buddies to Mass, sat with them and assisted them in their understanding of this special celebration.

The Year Six students are going to buddy up with the Kindergarten Class later on in the term and they too will help their buddies settle into school life. In this way the Year Six students will keep their buddies for two years, now in Kindergarten and next year in Pre-Primary. We hope that the students enjoy this sharing time together.

Creative Thinking Workshops
On Monday 14 February Kathy Boyatzis/Pascoe will be coming to visit St Cecilia’s. Kathy is the State Director of the Tournament of Minds and has made herself available to work with our students from Years One to Seven. It is a wonderful opportunity to help our students and teacher’s see and think differently to unlock their creative minds. There will be a timetable set up for each of the classes and Kathy will run through many thought provoking strategies. We look forward to seeing how the students participate on the day.

Kathy is also going to work with the staff on the Tuesday afternoon. We know we have many creative people in our school both in staff and students, so it should be a wonderful two days.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) national tests will be held in literacy and numeracy for all students in Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

National tests will provide information on how students are progressing, and support improvements in teaching and learning. These tests will make it easier to monitor student performance in literacy and numeracy across the nation. Over 1 million students from 9,000 schools across Australia will participate in the national tests. This information will be used to evaluate what students can do and how they perform against the national benchmarks. You can help your child by talking about these tests as a means of showing what they know and can do at this point in their schooling. Ease any anxiety by explaining that everyone in Australia will be doing this test at the same time and the testing process is an integral part of their school life.

In Term Two students return on Thursday 5 May; the NAPLAN testing begins on Monday 9 May. It is essential that all students return on the correct day in the lead up to the NAPLAN testing.

Flood Appeal
As a school we would like to support the flood appeal and have decided to hold a free dress day on Friday 18 February for a gold coin donation. This money will then be sent to the Bishop who will direct it to the flood appeal. It is an extremely hard time for many families and as a school we would like to support others. The money will be collected first thing in the morning. Please remember to wear suitable clothing on the day as it is a school day. No thongs on feet please but rather closed in shoes.

Church Ministries
As a Parish we are hoping we can find members that would like to join the various ministries we have at St Cecilia’s Church. Many people say they would like to help but feel they are not sure of what they need to do or when to do it. As a Parish we would like to invite interested members to come to the church this Saturday 12 February at 9.30am so that we can run members through the various ministries. Please consider joining us and becoming an integral part of our Parish. We have many new members, and by joining us this weekend you can feel more confident in the various roles. You may like to be a reader or Church cleaner or special minister or help set up Mass or help with morning tea or take up the gifts. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday.

First School Mass of the Year
Thank you to Miss Dee Campbell and her wonderful helpers who led our first school Mass for the year. It was a wonderful celebration with Father Tom and Father Jude. We are so fortunate to have so many fantastic people who are willing to share their talents with us. I was most impressed with the singing this morning and I know that St Cecilia will be smiling upon us after that beautiful singing in Church.
St Cecilia’s Parish AGM
On Thursday 17 February we are holding our St Cecilia’s Parish AGM. Presently our Parish Council is made up of a small number of parishioners. We would love more members and therefore are inviting you to become involved in the running of the Parish. Please join us on Thursday evening at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre situated next door to the Church. All are welcome.

Baptism at Parish Mass
Last year we took the opportunity to have our students lead the Sunday Mass in our Parish, once a term. I am so proud when I see our students involved in the Parish, they are just amazing and so confident. On Sunday 27 February, Mrs Amanda Ramshaw and the Year Seven students will be leading our Parish Mass. We hope many families will come and join us to pray in the Parish.

At this time we would also like to welcome the Smith family into our Church family. Presently Claire, Andrew, Ella and Max are part of our school family and on Sunday 27 February at 8.30am we will formally accept Ella and Max into our Church family through Baptism. This is a joyous event and we look forward to celebrating with Ella and Max as they are baptised. There will be a morning tea to follow, so please stay and join with us as we wish the Smith family every blessing in the world.

Professional Development 4 March for Staff
On Friday 4 March, all staff will be involved with Professional Development. This will be a pupil free day for our students and as it precedes the long weekend please enjoy your well deserved break and we will look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 8 March ready to work again.

Listening to Stories with your Child
Listening to stories is one of the greatest pleasures in a child’s life. Not only is it an enjoyable experience, but a very valuable learning time. The physical closeness that comes from snuggling up with a book provides an opportunity to talk about the way books work and to learn new words in context, but also to develop a shared joy in the content of the book. Some things you can point out with your children are: the use of different fonts or text size to indicate emotion or volume; the use of a variety of words in place of ‘said’; the use of punctuation throughout the story; the way the text tells a story but the illustrations help the reader to understand it.

During or after reading the story, ask your child to find: the page with the word ‘____’ on it; the page with the most capital letters; a question mark or the most interesting spelling of a word. In this way, you are reinforcing what your child already knows about the way books work, in a meaningful, but relaxing situation.

Research shows that children, who are read to often, are better readers. Mem Fox, author of Possum Magic, says that children should have been read at least 3000 books before they begin formal schooling. That sounds like a lot of reading, but is actually about two a day. If you can’t manage two, try to share at least one book with your child every day!

Talking to your child about School
“What happened at school?” “Nothing!” Does this sound familiar? You know that your child has had a full and engaging day at school; involved in many activities, experiences and social interactions. Often children feel that their school experiences are not important or interesting. Parents, on the other hand, do genuinely want to know how their school day was. This can result in a sort of cat-and-mouse game; the parent probes, the child evades, the parent asks again, the child evades again, and so on. Usually, it is the parent who gives up first.

Most children can be exhausted after a long day at school and discussing their day is the last thing on their mind. When they get home, they generally need a healthy snack and some ‘tune out’ time before they are ready to share some of their day with you and complete their homework. Listed below are some of the strategies that families use when asking the “What happened at school?” question.

- Create a family ritual in which everyone shares something about their day at dinner. Start by talking about your day. Make sure that everyone has a chance to talk, but also has the option of ‘passing’ if they don't feel like contributing.
- Rather than posing a general question, ask about a specific event or class. For example, ‘How was the big assembly?’ or ‘What did your class do in sports today?’ Try to phrase your questions to invite answers that are longer than
‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘OK’. Questions that begin with ‘What did you do in ...?’ are often better for this purpose than ones that start ‘How was ...?’ or ‘Did you ...?’

- When your child does respond, give them your full attention. Let them know that you’re listening by asking clarifying questions, such as ‘Do you mean that...?’ or ‘Let me make sure I understand...’

- Keep open channels of communication with your child's teacher. Teachers who know that you are interested and friendly are usually glad to keep you abreast of what's going on. You can also grease the wheels of communication by offering to help out in the classroom or on excursions from time to time.

- Respect your child's privacy, but let them know that you are open whenever they feel like sharing their thoughts. When children don’t feel they are being continually ‘forced’ to talk about their whole day, they will often willingly recall special parts of their day.

God bless and happy reading and chatting with your children.

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS
Today we celebrated the beginning of the School Year with a whole school Mass. A special thank you to the altar servers, readers and offertory people for their amazing efforts and bravery. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and speak in front of the whole school. It was lovely to see so many students singing and praying so reverently. Thank you also to the parents and friends who came along despite the poor weather, it was lovely celebrating the mass with you all.

YEAR 7 CLASS MASS
On Sunday 27 February our Year Seven students will be leading the Mass in St Cecilia’s Church at 8:30am. It would be lovely to see the wider school community come together to support our Year Seven leaders in this Eucharistic celebration.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
The date for FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be Sunday 26 JUNE.

Sunday 26 June, 8:30am
St Cecilia’s Church, Port Hedland

Sunday 26 June, 10:00am
St John the Baptist Church, South Hedland

Please keep this date in your diary, as it would be wonderful to see our school community supporting these children and their families on this special day.

Miss Dee Campbell
Assistant Principal Religious Education

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS
It has been wonderful to see so many students remembering their library book bags!
Please remember that if your child does not bring their book bag along on their library day, they will not be able to borrow a book to take home.

A reminder also that BOOKCLUB ORDERS are due back to school by Wednesday 16 February.

Miss Dee Campbell
Library Teacher

SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking for 2011 will be on every:
Thursday from 8.00am to 8.30am.
Commencing Thursday, 17 February.

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.

February
08 JOHNSON, Breanna PP
11 CORNELIUS, Imogen Y1
12 PHILLIPS, Georgia Y4
13 WALL, Imogen Y5

COMMUNITY NEWS

PILBARA MUSIC FESTIVAL 2011 AGM
New members welcome
Tuesday, 22 February 7pm
Held at St. Cecilia’s Parish Centre
Sutherland Street, Port Hedland
Enquiries 0407 991 227

CANTEEN NEWS

On Ash Wednesday, 9 March Fish Burgers will be served instead of Chicken Burgers. There will be no meat served on this day.
Also every Friday during Lent there will be no meat (ham or beef) served.

Mrs Cathy McLaughlin
Canteen Manageress

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
- Ionia Past Pupils Association (IPPA) 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

Music Scholarships:

- Presentation Sisters’ Music Scholarship
- Sr Patricia Downey Music Scholarship
- Sr Margaret Mary Eaton Music Scholarship

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)

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
ENROLMENT CANCELLATION

If you are leaving town and/or the school at the
At any time, please complete
an Enrolment Cancellation Form.
These can be collected or sent home from the office,
also available on our website:  www.stcecilia.wa.edu.au
We would appreciate as much notice as possible
as we have many students on the waiting list.
This information will be kept confidential.

P&F NEWS

The P&F is hosting a Welcome Morning Tea on Thursday, 17 February
straight after assembly in the hall. We would love to meet all of our new fami-
lies, and catch up with families who have supported us previously. Everyone is
welcome – we hope that you can 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.

CALENDARS
There are a few remaining 2011 P&F Fundraising calendars for sale in the of-
fice and after assembly next week. Now $5 each!
2011 Classes