Dear Parents and Guardians

From the moment you enrol your child at St Cecilia’s you are encouraged to develop a strong partnership with us. Research sends out a very clear message about the importance of partnerships in education. When parents express confidence in the school and teachers, and are involved in some way, their children are more likely to be happier and perform better academically.

We actively seek parent participation in the ‘life’ of the school. As a parent you can contribute and help your school in many different ways. We acknowledge that many parents have a host of other commitments and will find it difficult to help at school during the day. If this is the case, then don’t worry as there are many other ways that you can actively contribute. Here are some ideas to help your school, teacher and child before, during and after school!

- Help in the library
- Help in the canteen
- Repair library books
- Work as a classroom aide under teacher direction
- Collect materials for classroom projects, school function or activity
- Tidy up store cupboards
- Gather community resource information
- Listen to children read
- Help with supervision on excursions
- Make tapes for listening posts
- Make classroom resources under teacher direction
- Repair broken school resources
- Join the fundraising committee
- Type up children’s stories
- Get local businesses to donate resources for the school
- Assist with the swimming program
- Help to record class activities on digital equipment
- Attend working bees

We need time to dream, time to remember, and time to reach the infinite.

Time to be.

Gladys Taber

Dream

May each day unfold for you like roses, sparkling in the dew, that open to the morning sun and bloom until the day is through.

And may each passing moment bring a song as pure as angels sing, but may there be above all things a peace that only God can bring.

ST CECILIA’S
Catholic Primary School
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Port Hedland, WA, 6721
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COMING EVENTS
12 February
School Mass
8.45am
15 February
NO SCHOOL
PUPIL FREE DAY
16 February
Fete Sub Committee Meeting 8.45am
16 February
P&F Meeting 6.30pm
17 February
Ash Wednesday Mass
8.45am
17 February
AGM Board Meeting
8.45am
18 February
Parish Council Meeting
23 February
Reconciliation Meeting
6.00pm
15 March
NO SCHOOL
PUPIL FREE DAY

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.
* Organise a children’s book club
* Offer a skill you have. eg. pottery
* Develop a list of parents who can act as resources
* Act as ambassadors for the school
* Organise welcome groups for new parents

Now that you have dropped your child off at school……follow them inside and have fun!!!!

**Parent Evening**
Thank you to all the parents who made themselves available for the Wednesday Parent Evening Meeting. The evening was structured so that you, the parents, had a chance to sit and hear from your child’s teacher about how the classroom is to be run for the year. Each teacher had a hand out for you so that you could easily follow the plans for the year. It is important that each parent has a copy of all information given on the evening. It is so important that the home and school support each other and this evening was a great way to begin the year.

**P & F Welcome Morning Tea**
Thank you to our sensational P & F for providing a Welcome Morning Tea for our school community. Once Assembly came to an end it was great to see everyone take the time to talk and meet with each other in a relaxed way. It is a wonderful way for new families to meet existing families involved in our school and it’s a great way to meet new people.

**P & F Meeting**
Our first P&F Meeting for 2010 will take place on Tuesday 16 February at 6.30pm in the Staff Room. We hope that many parents will come and join us as we have an amazing year ahead. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and be part of the St Cecilia’s community.

**Board AGM**
The AGM for our School Board will be held on Wednesday 17 February at 7.00pm in the Library. The Board reports to the community on its activities during the past year at the AGM. Elections are also held for office bearers and positions on the board. Please consider supporting the school through your membership and with your attendance at this meeting. School Board members are elected to the position for a two year period. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of each month. The Board is responsible, in the main, for the financial management of the school and its overall direction in accordance with the constitution.

**Parish AGM**
On Thursday 18 February the Parish of St Cecilia’s will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the School Library commencing at 7.00pm. All Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to come to the meeting to help gain a greater insight into the running of the Parish. Father Mark will be reporting at the meeting and we hope to generate a discussion on ways to keep the Parish alive and energised.

**Crazy Hair Day**
On Thursday 11 March we will be holding a Crazy Hair Day. Students may dress up their hair for the day for a gold coin donation which will go to the Leukaemia Foundation. We are supporting Ruby Esmonde as she partakes in the World’s Greatest Shave. Colours may be used but all hair colour must be returned to normal by the following morning.

**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. 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.

Remember there is Pupil Free Day on Monday 15 February.

God Bless

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ash Wednesday
Next Wednesday, 17 February is Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of the season of Lent in the Church’s liturgical calendar. I invite you to join us in the celebration of the Liturgy and receiving of the ashes at 8.45am. We will begin with the burning of the ashes in the Under Cover Area and then walk to the church to continue the Liturgy. Children in Kindy and Pre Primary will receive the ashes in their classrooms after Mass.

Project Compassion
The season of Lent that is about to begin invites us into a time of reflection, transformation and conversion as we seek healing for the brokenness of our world and its people. Our efforts should not be just inward and individual but outward and social; in this way we take the opportunity to respond to God’s call for a better world.

In 2009, Project Compassion raised $8.7 million dollars. Your generosity, through almsgiving and solidarity with others, has enabled Caritas Australia to continue to support some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the world.

Each family should have received a small Project Compassion Box into which I ask you to put your loose change over the next 6 weeks. We collect the boxes back in the last week of term and the proceeds are sent to Caritas Australia. Each fortnight the newsletter will provide you with more information regarding the work of Caritas.

Sacramental Program
The Parish based Sacramental Program for 2010 is ready to begin. Last week you should have received a letter from Father Tom and Father Mark our Parish Priests for Port and South Hedland inviting your family to be part of the program. If your child is Catholic and in Year Three, Year Four, Year Six or Year Seven, you will have received the invitation. If your child is Catholic and has missed out receiving the Sacraments due to unforeseen circumstances please contact Father Mark, Father Tom, or Amanda Ramshaw the Assistant Principal of St Cecilia’s to make sure that your child is included.

The first parent meeting for Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, 23 February 2010 at 6.00pm in the School Library.
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

MERIT AWARDS
Yr 1: Teniyah Burton Alec Gregory-Smith
Ben Singh
Yr 2: Alex Britcliffe Sophie Pileggi
Yr 3: The Whole Class

BIRTHDAY WISHES
Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

08 Feb Gerry Fox (Year Seven)
10 Feb Emily Barratt (year Seven)
11 Feb Imogen Cornelius (Pre-Primary)
12 Feb Alec Gregory-Smith (Year One)
12 Feb Georgia Phillips (Year Three)

YACHT CLUB MARKETS
1st Markets for 2010
SATURDAY 6th March 9am – 12Midd
STALL HOLDERS WANTED - $200.00 PER TABLE
COPPER AND CARRIAGE MUCH WORE...
FURTHER INFORMATION OR STALL HOLDERS CONTACT:
www.chyp.com.au
P & F INTRO LETTER 2010

Welcome back to all parents for 2010 and a special welcome to parents joining St. Cecilia’s for the first time. The St Cecilia’s P & F Committee would like to introduce ourselves and let you know what we have planned for the year.

The current P & F Office Bearers are:

**President**  
Cass Connolly  
Mobile: 0427 700 420  
Email: connolly21@bigpond.com

**Vice President**  
Trish Bourke  
Mobile: 0409 089 899  
Email: mick.n.trish@bigpond.com

**Treasurer**  
Maria Britcliffe  
Mobile: 0427 411 092  
Email: britclif@bigpond.com

**Secretary**  
Rhonda Mitchell  
Mobile: 0417 181 618  
Email: mitchjr@bigpond.com

Please feel free to contact one of the above people, or any other committee member, with any issues or ideas that you may have. Alternatively come along to a committee meeting to see what goes on and to have your say about our school.

The P & F has a huge year of events planned for 2010. Our main fundraiser this year will be a Twilight Fete which is scheduled for June.

We have also planned a number of other events including:

- St Patrick’s Cup Cake Day  
- Disco’s  
- Easter Raffle  
- Father’s Day Raffle

Throughout the year there may also be cake stalls and sausage sizzles to participate in, as well as a car wash fundraiser.

**OUR OVERALL GOAL FOR 2010 IS TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY FOR A COMPUTER LAB FOR OUR CHILDREN!!!**

Our first P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 February in the Staff Room commencing a 6:30pm.

Additionally we will be holding a fete planning meeting on Tuesday 16 February at 8.40am in the multi purpose room. If there is anyone that would like to assist with the fete preparation please come along, otherwise contact either Cass Connolly or Trish Bourke. Any additional help/ ideas will be greatly appreciated.

**P & F 2010 EVENTS CALENDAR**

**TERM ONE 2010**

- 11 Feb  9.00AM  Welcome Morning Tea
- 16 Feb  9.00am  Fete Sub Committee Meeting – Multi Purpose Room
- 16 Feb  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 16 Mar  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 17 Mar  Recess  St Patrick’s Cup Cake Day
- 26 Mar  6.00pm  Disco
- 01 Apr  Assembly  Easter Raffle drawn

**TERM TWO 2010**

- 27 Apr  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 06 May  Assembly  Mothers Day Raffle drawn
- 15 Jun  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 18 Jun  5.00pm  ?  Twilight Fete

**TERM THREE 2010**

- 27 Jul  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 17 Aug  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 02 Sep  Assembly  Fathers Day Raffle drawn
- 17 Sep  6.00pm  Disco
- 21 Sep  6.30pm  P&F Meeting

**TERM FOUR 2010**

- 19 Oct  6.30pm  P&F Meeting
- 16 Nov  6.30pm  AGM
- 26 Nov  6.00pm  Disco
- 30 Nov  6.30pm  P&F Strategic Meeting
- Nov/Dec  Photo Competition & Calendar

We look forward to working together for a great 2010. May God Bless You

2010 P & F Committee.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE**

The Beginning Experience is running a **WEEKEND PROGRAMME**, designed to assist and support people in learning to close the door gently on a relationship that has ended, in order to get on with living. People who have had similar loss experiences themselves facilitate the programme. If you feel that this programme could benefit you or someone you know, you are invited to contact us. The next weekend programme dates are:

**Friday 19 to Sunday 21 MARCH 2010**

For further information please contact:  
**Helen**  Phone:  9246 5150  
**Maureen**  Phone:  9537 1915