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COMING EVENTS
1 March
NO SCHOOL
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
4 March
Year 6 Assembly
11 March
Crazy Hair Day
15 March
NO SCHOOL
PUPIL FREE DAY
17 March
St Patrick’s Day Cup Cake Day
17 March
PP & Y1 Swimming Practice
18 March
Year 7 Assembly
19 March
Swimming Carnival
22-26 March
K & PP Screening
Complete Advantage
26 March
Inter School Swimming
26 March
Fancy Dress Disco

FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER
Term 1 Week 4 - Thursday 25 February 2010

What lies behind us and
What lies before us are
Tiny matters compared
To what lies within us.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians

Ash Wednesday, 17 February, is the first day of Lent. It comes from the old custom of blessing ashes and marking the forehead of the people with ashes on this day. The ashes are prepared by burning palms from the preceding Palm Sunday. On Wednesday Father Mark and Father Tom came to school and burned the ashes in the undercover area and then we celebrated the Liturgy in the Church. Miss Sweeney and the Year Five students led our Liturgy and assisted in explaining Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty weekdays. Lent represents the period Jesus spent in the wilderness during his temptation; while he prepared himself for what his Father asked of him. During Lent we are called to look at ourselves honestly, to remind ourselves as humans we are fragile and that we are not the source of our own salvation.

God is constantly offering us his blessing and his love. Lent is a time when we can stop and reflect on our lives, spend time in prayer and charitable works. Before the Liturgy on Ash Wednesday I spoke with the students about what they could take up for Lent. They were full of wonderful ideas, not only for themselves but also for their families. It would be a perfect time to sit as a family and look at what you would all like to take up for Lent.

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.
Try to give up something each week. You could have a dessert-free day, or a dessert-free week! How about a TV-free week? If you give up desert, or videos, or anything that costs money, you could take that money and place it in the project compassion boxes so that it could help others.

First School Mass
What a wonderful way to start the year by celebrating Mass together as a community. Special thanks to Mrs Ramshaw for preparing a very spiritual and reverent Mass and thank you to the magnificent students who participated so beautifully. As always we would like to acknowledge Father Mark and Father Tom, you really make our Masses child friendly and give us such great guidance. The way you celebrate Mass for us is sensational and you allow the students to fully participate in the celebration.

School Leaders
Congratulations to our Year Seven students! They are an amazing group of individuals who are capable and willing to lead our school. Last week Miss Fox, Mrs Ramshaw and I spent the day with the Year Seven students to find out the qualities we look for in our school leaders. The students were very forth coming in giving their opinions on what character traits are important. The students were given the chance to step forward and volunteer their services to the school. Some students chose to support their peers and be sound role models for fellow students while others chose to support the school in other roles. At assembly we presented certificates to the following students.

Communication Leaders
Renee Buckland
Alicia Gould
Emilio Gonzalez
Madison Connolly

Environmental Leaders
Keanu Rohrlach
Mitchell Nelson
Jacob Campbell
Elise Brabazon

Library Leaders
Gemma Neylon
Holly Bolton
Gerry Fox
Emily Barratt
Kevin Phillips

Sport Leaders
Griffin Bellette
Austin Gear
Keriana Eaglesome
Zac Esmonde
Fiona Barr

Minister for Education Visit
Last Thursday we welcomed Dr Elizabeth Constable, the Minister for Education to St Cecilia’s. The Minister spent time with the staff and then took the opportunity to meet with each of the classes. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the chance to talk with the Minister and asked many probing questions. The interaction between the Minister and the students was wonderful to watch. She took the chance to read to the Year One class while participating in a survey with the Year Four class. Our Year Six class have been studying Federal Parliament so there was a lively exchange between the Minister and the students about Parliament and the difference between State and Federal Government.

Board AGM
Thank you to all who attended the Board AGM, it was a great chance to look back over 2009 and take the time to celebrate all of our achievements. During 2009 we had a committed group of individuals who worked tirelessly for the good of the school; many important decisions were made for the future planning of our school. It is always sad when we need to say farewell to those who have served on our Board faithfully. We have a number of special people who have decided to step down and hand the reins on to others in our school community. I wish to thank you for the time you have served with us and know that your contributions have been an integral part of our success as a group. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all you have done and the support I have received as Principal.

Firstly I would like to thank Chrissie McDowell who has been our Chairperson for the past two years and whose support and assistance I have greatly valued. Chrissie has been a wonderful ambassador for our school, with her power house of enthusiasm, love for our school and Catholic Education. Thank you for everything you have done for us, you are a true leader.

Thank you also to Mark Hinch, Andrew Neven, Mel Elsum and Mary Wyn. You have all been invaluable to the Board.

Thank you to our new Board members who have nominated to join the Board I look forward to working with you and to continue with the development of St Cecilia’s.
P&F Meeting
We had a sensational P&F meeting with lots of new faces. It was so exciting to see our school community come and join in offering their assistance to the many events planned for the term. As always we are quickly down to business and looking ahead to the busy term.

Our first P&F event for Term One is the St Patrick’s Cup Cake Day so watch out for more information.

Our Hall
The hall is progressing well and should be ready to open when we return from the April holidays. Presently the hall is at lock up stage and the men are working on the inside walls. Once this is completed the floors will begin. The air conditioners are in place and the plumbing is almost finished. It will be an exciting day when it opens and we are all looking forward to this day.

Crazy Hair Day
Students are encouraged to wear crazy hair on Thursday 11 March and to bring along a gold coin donation. Just remember by Friday all hair is to return to normal. Hope you have a wonderful fun day.

Listening to stories
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 books a day. If you can’t manage two, try to share at least one book with your child every day!

Spelling
When we read the literature on spelling, it becomes clear that there is, and always has been controversy about the standard of spelling among children. Spelling is an essential part of written expression and there are educationally sound reasons for children to spell correctly. However, as spelling is so easily assessed, it too often becomes a method of comparison between children’s educational achievement and/or particular teaching methods. This is an extremely narrow view of education, and parents should avoid judging their children’s educational progress based on spelling alone.

The research on the teaching of spelling has been prolific and we now know so much more about how children learn to spell and the best approaches to teach and support children as they learn to master written expression. Young children quickly become competent speakers by formulating rules about how language works and testing these rules out. As parents we never think that our children won’t learn to talk; it is a natural thing to do. The same is true of spelling. Children acquire mastery over written language by formulating rules about the way written language works and then testing these rules out. As parents we never think that our children won’t learn to spell; “I wasn’t any good at spelling at school” is an often-heard parent statement.

As children become more experienced users of written language through many teacher designed reading and writing activities, specific development of a wide range of spelling strategies, children’s approximations more closely resemble, and ultimately become closer to conventional spelling. Spelling is no longer considered to just involve memorising words without a sense of why they should be learned. Spelling is intrinsically linked to a child’s authentic need to communicate via written language. Spelling is viewed as a problem-solving task, where the ‘writer’ uses many strategies to solve the prob-
lem. These strategies include listening for sounds in words, using common spelling patterns, using knowledge of the meaning relationships between words, and knowing how to apply common rules, or generalisations about how to construct words. Children are also encouraged to develop great spelling habits, such as trying unknown words and using many resources to check their spelling. It is important to remember that spelling is taught, not caught!

God Bless

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Parish Based Sacramental Program
The program for 2010 has begun. On Tuesday night we had a meeting with parents and students who enrolled in the sacramental program of Reconciliation. A big thank you goes to Justine Esmonde, Trish Bourke and Sister Maria for the organisation of the evening. We look forward to seeing all the families at the formal enrolment masses on Saturday 27 February or Sunday 28 February.

Project Compassion
What does ‘Caritas’ mean?
Caritas is a Latin word meaning love and compassion.

What type of programs does Caritas Australia support and where?
Caritas Australia supports long-term development programs in impoverished communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and Indigenous Australia, which help oppressed people to rediscover their dignity by taking greater control over their own lives. These programs are designed and managed by our local partners who are best placed to identify the needs and problems of their own communities. Development programs include a wide range of initiatives in health care and health education, water supply and sanitation, housing, education and literacy, programs for women’s rights and women’s leadership, the development of community leadership, the teaching of job skills and skills for alternative income, agriculture, ecologically sustainable development and environment education, promotion of traditional cultures and skills, assistance to communities after natural disasters and conflicts and housing support for refugees and displaced people. As a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the world’s largest and most effective emergency networks, whenever or wherever disaster occurs, Caritas can respond almost immediately, using local Church structures to deliver relief to the people in most need.

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

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

14 Feb Keysha Wilde (Year Two)
16 Feb Damien Buckland (Year Five)
18 Feb Madeleine Wilson (Year Four)
21 Feb Luke Garbin (Year Three)
21 Feb Tess Mellberg (Year Four)
24 Feb Benjamin Retallack (Kindergarten)
24 Feb Fletcher O’Connell (Pre-Primary)
26 Feb Caelan Press (Year Two)
26 Feb Tareah Britton (Year Six)
28 Feb Brandon Lopdige (Kindergarten)

MERIT AWARDS
11 February 2010
PP: Roselyn Ochigbo Shannon Wade
Yr1: Eliza Boyd Ali Wilson
Yr 2 Levi Bellette Jasmine Singleton
Pascal Zoghbi
Yr 3: Clancy Esmonde
Yr 4: Kyle Gould Benson Mbenjele
Elyse Phillips Madeleine Wilson
Yr 5: Corbin Bellette Zoe Podmore
Yr 6: Jack Barker Tareah Britton
Kristalle Dumesny
Yr 7: Fiona Barr Griffin Bellette

18 February 2010
PP: Isabella Leopardi Pierce McLean
Nicholas Merlo
Yr 1: Declan Rahman
Yr 2: Ella Braby Georgia Latham
Yr 3: Jack Bowins Holly Spurling
Bayley Warren
Yr 5: Class Certificate
Yr 6: Josh Allen Brody Mellberg
Yr 7: Renee Buckland Austn Gear
SPORT

Active After School Community Sport
This began yesterday afternoon. All students that have given the return slips to their teachers, have been included in the program. Please remind your children to take a change of clothes if they are not wearing their sports uniform on the day they have AASC. I would appreciate parents sending in a note if their child cannot attend one of the sessions. Thank you.

Faction Swimming Carnival
This will be held on Friday 19 March. We will begin at 9.00am and finish approximately 12.30pm. A note with more detailed information will be sent home shortly.
Mrs Ramshaw
Physical Education Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS
What a great start to the year. Most students are organised with their library bags and books, however some are still unprepared for lessons. Please help your children be equipped for their class.
There will be no library lessons next week, Week Five.
The School has purchased a new Literacy support programme that needs to be laminated. If there are any parents who would like to come and help do this at school please let me know.
We always appreciate your support.
Enjoy your week.
Mrs Rahman
Library Teacher

SCHOOL FEES
These will be posted out next week, Week Five.
If you have not received them by Friday 5 March please contact the office.

CANTEEN HELPERS NEEDED
We would appreciate any offers of help in the School Canteen. Even half an hour any morning would be appreciated. Assistance is particularly needed on a Tuesday morning and Friday morning. Please see Cathy our Canteen Manageress if you can assist. Any offers of assistance would be appreciated. Sorry but children can not accompany canteen volunteers. Thank you.

P&F UPDATE WEEK 4

We held our first committee meeting for 2010 on 16 February and were thrilled with the turn out. St Cecilia’s is well known for its fantastic school spirit and this year looks set to be a great one. We had lots of new parents at the meeting, with even more sending their details through to us wanting to join. Remember – the more people on the committee, the lighter the load for each of us individually!

We are hoping to have an incredible fundraising year so that we can help the school establish a computer laboratory. This would be of great benefit to all students in the school. After our success in the last two years where we supplied interactive whiteboards to every classroom, we are hopeful that we can achieve this new goal.

The following is an outline of upcoming events for this term:

ST PATRICK’S DAY
Wednesday 17 March
The P&F will be running a fundraiser on St Patrick’s Day. Cupcakes will be for sale at morning recess to raise money for the P&F. Donations of cupcakes on the morning would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Emma Merlo on 0407 610 244 to advise how many cupcakes you are able to donate, as we don’t want any children to miss out. More information will be provided in the next newsletter – stay tuned!!!

FANCY DRESS DISCO
Friday 26 March
This will be the first disco of the year. These are a really fun night for students, and we all enjoy a chance to dress up! More information will be in the next newsletter and orders for food and drinks will be sent home with students prior to the date.
EASTER RAFFLE
Thursday 1 April
Once again the P&F will hold Easter raffles. We will be asking each family to please donate an egg. These will be made into several individual raffles for each class – maximising your child’s chance of winning!! Tickets will be sent home with each child closer to the date, with extra tickets on sale before school in the lead up to Easter. The raffles will be drawn at the final assembly for Term One on Thursday 1 April. More information regarding tickets and egg donations will be provided closer to Easter.

AND NOW FOR OUR 2010 MAJOR EVENT!!
TWILIGHT FETE
The P&F has been hard at work with the planning of the St Cecilia’s Inaugural P&F Twilight Fete! Put Friday 18 June 2010 in your diary as you won’t want to miss it!! We are looking to have many different stalls on the night. Each class will have control of their own stall.

If you have experience with fetes, or even just plenty of enthusiasm!, please think about joining the fete sub-committee. The fete sub-committee meetings will be held fortnightly throughout Term One and the beginning of Term Two, moving to weekly meetings as the night draws nearer.

Next Fete Sub-committee meeting:
Tuesday 2 March at 8.45am in the staff room at school. If you can’t make the meeting but would like to help out, please contact Cass Connolly on 0427 700 420 or email connolly21@bigpond.com.

In the lead up to the fete, we will be asking for everyone to be generous in their donations for us. There are a number of stalls that the P&F will be hosting as well as the class ones. We will try to spread things out and hope that you can pop an extra item or two in your shopping trolley each fortnight. This fortnight, we would like to ask for donations of lollies. These will be used to make up mixed lolly bags for sale on the night – a sure hit with kids of all ages!

Remember all money raised by the P&F is used for the benefit of the students – including teacher requests such as additional books or other learning resources for the classrooms, items for the library and sports equipment.
PARENTS & FRIENDS FEDERATION OF WA IN 2010
Our first ‘new look’ newsletter will be distributed to all families in WA from February 25. Check it out for information and news about our 14/15 May conference, events, competitions for you and your children, coffee/networking mornings and much more....! A reminder that we are here to assist with fundraising ideas and support and we look forward to a really exciting and productive year ahead (contact details ph 9271 5909 or email admin@pff.wa.edu.au).

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
The holidays and getting ready for school means lots of time spent on your children. Why not spend a special weekend, just for you and your spouse, where you can focus on each other and your relationship, by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Weekend dates at Safety Bay 19-21 March 2010 and 25-27 June 2010. For details/bookings call Joe & Margaret on 9417 8750 or email: WABookings@wwme.org.au Website www.wwme.org.au

BEGINING EXPERIENCES
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

YACHT CLUB MARKETS
1st Markets for 2010
SATURDAY 6th March 9am – 12Midd
STALL HOLDERS WANTED - $20.00 PER TABLE
COFFEE AND CAKE AND MUCH MORE.
Food and Drinks available - bric a brac, huge variety of goods........
SELL SOME OLD TREASURES - BUY SOME MORE
Further Information or Stall Holders contact:-
CHRISSE 0429 203 289
DAWN 0407 192 170
LEAINE 9172 1282
cokla@bigpond.com

www.phyc.com.au
Project Compassion Prayer for Lent

Intro:
There will not be peace in our world while its people are poor and oppressed, while dignity is denied or while social injustice remains.

It is love that will lead to liberty and justice – love shown in words and actions.

In this season of Lent, as we turn to God in repentance, pray and fast, and share what we have with the poor, we can also be aware that in committing ourselves to stand with and stand for the poor we are building towards a world that we want.

Prayer:
God, source of human dignity, in your image every person is fashioned and by your Son all people are redeemed.

You want a world of justice, where every person created in your image is treated with respect.

Make us honour the work of your hands, that we may reverence you in those whom the world considers least and serve you in all whom society neglects.

Help us follow your example and be your hands to bring justice to the world in all that we do.

As our theme for Project Compassion highlights we all just want justice. To make this happen we know we need to change things in our own lives.

Today, we commit ourselves to speak out when people are treated unfairly; to share what we have with others; to live more simply so others can simply live.

We go forth as people of love, justice, peace and hope who together will build a better world for all.

Amen