Jesus, you spent forty days in the hot, dusty desert to get ready to do your Father’s work. Help us to get ready for Easter during the forty days of Lent. Help us to forgive others, to say ‘sorry’ and to make peace with everybody. Help us to say ‘yes’ to others so that we can follow you more closely. In this time of Lent give us generous hearts to become better people, More helpful people, More loving people.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents & Guardians

Lent, the season in which we prepare for the Easter celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, allows for six weeks of teaching children about prayer, sacrifice and showing kindness to others.

Lent is a very important time in our faith that focuses on the ideas of sacrifice, repentance, reflection and prayer. These are hard concepts for children to grasp, but that doesn’t mean they can’t fully participate in the Lenten season. Explain to the children that Lent is about getting ready for Easter as well as apologizing to God for the times when we weren’t so good.

Lent is a special time when God invites us to go without so that others may have a fair share of the gifts of creation. The season is about changing ourselves and thinking of others. It is a time to take action, to be aware of others and to work towards a world where we all have a healthy and safe environment to grow in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. On Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday as a school and all students received the ashes on their foreheads as a reminder that God loves us and wants us to live with Him forever.
Our students prior to the beginning of Lent took the time to write down their Lenten promises and these promises were also taken up in Mass as a reminder for our students of the changes they wish to make during this special time of the year. Thank you to Miss Dee Campbell for preparing the liturgy and the students for this special Mass. As always we are blessed to have Father Tom celebrate Mass with us and help to explain the Lenten period to our students.

Swimming
I have been delighted in the way our students have been participating in the swimming training so far. We have an amazing group of swimmers in our school who are working well to improve their strokes and distance. We have two training sessions left and these sessions will take place on Fridays once again. Our swimming faction carnival is on Friday 25 March so I hope many families will keep this day free in their diaries to come and join us as we cheer on our students.

In preparation for the carnival we will also be taking our Pre Primary, Year One and Year Two classes to the pool on Wednesday 23 March for a practice of the events they will be participating in, on carnival day. A note will follow with all the details.

The interschool carnival will be held on Friday 8 April. We will keep you informed of details for this special day as it approaches.

Year Two Assembly
It was a wonderful experience to be led by our talented Year Two class and their teachers Mrs Jody Tait and Miss Jessica McIntyre. It just goes to show no matter how young our students are they have the ability to step up and lead us at assembly. I know they have been practicing for the assembly and were eager to lead the school. Congratulations on a wonderful job.

Security Cameras
Last week we had a visit from HSS and they have consequently placed security cameras around the school. During the holidays we have had a number of break-ins around the school and after Board discussions, it was decided to install security cameras around the school to lessen these events and monitor the school. Thanks to the work HSS did the cameras are fully installed and fully operational.

St Patricks Day
Next Thursday is the 17th of March which means it will be St Patricks Day. Thanks to our wonderful P&F mothers, we will be selling green cup cakes to acknowledge this day and brighten up our lives - to be sure to be sure to be sure. So remember to bring along money next Thursday for morning tea and purchase a cup cake to celebrate St Patricks Day in style.

Student Leaders
At assembly today we saw our Year Seven students receive their leadership badges. It is a very proud moment when our students take on their leadership roles within the school. I know that our students take these roles seriously and because of this they really do make a difference. I would like to thank each and every one of you for joining our programme and working in the many different areas. I look forward to working with each and every one of you throughout the year.
Kindergarten Talk
On Tuesday 22 March Chrissie McDowell our School Health Nurse will be visiting the school to hold a meeting with all interested Kindergarten parents. The meeting will take place in the Multi-purpose Room at 8.45am. Chrissie would like to take this opportunity to talk with parents about a number of issues relating to their child’s progress at school. Chrissie will take the time to go through a number of topics with parents such as immunisation, school sores, head lice, nutrition. Chrissie will also discuss her role within the school and the screening processes she performs in the early years. Chrissie will talk about how to integrate your child in school in a positive way and reinforcing learning through play as well as developmental milestones that children pass through. At the end of the meeting Chrissie will hand out pamphlets on the various topics covered. Please take the time to join us if your child is presently enrolled in our Kindergarten.

Board Meeting
Our next School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March. All members are asked to keep this day available and I look forward to seeing you there.

Professional Development
On Friday we were fortunate to have Brad from 123 Magic come to the school and run through 123 Magic with the staff. This is the programme of discipline which we follow in the school. We have had a lot of success with this programme and I believe we do not have many behaviour issues at St Cecilia’s.

One thing I would like to say to our parents is that students will be counted when they do not comply with one of the class rules. I know that many parents become defensive and worried when this occurs. However, I believe if you were to count your children at home when you ask your child to comply with a rule which they do not follow immediately but you need to ask again or wait until they have settled down a little, you may discover that they will receive a number of threes in a day. I don’t believe you would be overly worried by this.

In a class students are expected to comply straight away and if this does not happen they will be counted and they are aware of this. Many parents are worried if their child is counted once or twice in a day, however you only need to be concerned if your child is counted three times.

I also like to advise that if the offence is serious you will be contacted immediately. The majority of time it is only minor and is dealt within the class, for example “talking when another child is talking”, followed by “not moving when asked”, lastly by “not doing their work when asked”.

A lot of parents come to let us know that this could not possibly be their child’s fault but that someone else has made a mistake. We are working hard to make sure that students take responsibly for their actions. They have choices that they make each day and with those choices come consequences.

Teachers are working with the 123 Magic guidelines to help their students follow the rules and work collaboratively as a group. If your child is counted numerous times in a day do not be alarmed. We hope with gentle guidance that these countings will diminish, remember if it is considered serious you will be contacted. The final outcome we are working towards, is students who follow the rules and take responsibility for their actions.

Positive Parent Approach
Schools are dynamic ‘people places’ with many thousands of people interactions each day. As a consequence there will be times when there are social disputes or misunderstandings between students. In most cases these can be easily resolved using our student management approaches. Other situations occur when parents feel that the school, either through the school based resolution of a student dispute or other administrative decision have not been ‘fair’. Schools do not do or say things to deliberately upset parents or students.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide the best learning environment and education for all children. Within this learning environment it is imperative that students feel safe and happy because then they are receptive learners. We pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have with our students and their families. If an issue arises, then please contact us. It is also important to remember that within the busy school environment and especially if the student hasn’t sought help from the school, we may be unaware of a dispute or incident until notified by parents. Be assured that when an issue is brought to our attention we will fully investigate.

A POSITIVE approach is always best, as in most cases the issue can be resolved quickly so that everyone is happy with the result. The last few lines from the poem “Unity” highlight one of the
most important relationships in a school community:

And each agreed they would have failed,
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parents stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.

God Bless

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

On Tuesday we celebrated Shrove Tuesday as a parish and school community with pancakes in the school hall. ‘Shrove’ comes from the verb to shrive - which means to obtain absolution for ones sins by way of confession and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence and is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren’t allowed in Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of doing without what is not necessary and focussing more on the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves and drawing closer to God through prayer. Lent is not only about ‘giving up’ something, but also about what you can DO to help others; it is about a change of heart. A special thank you to Mrs Jody Tait & Mrs Bridget Tesar for setting up the hall and organising all the ‘bits’, Miss Nicola Roderick, Mr Sean Sta Maria for music, packing up & setting out and Miss Emily Fox for helping with the packing up. Thank you also to the staff who generously donated pancakes for the evening. Another special thank you to the kind and generous families who donated pancakes for the evening.

A fun night of pancakes, butter and maple syrup was had by all!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday saw the beginning of the Church season of Lent which was marked by our Ash Wednesday service. We began our service with the burning of the ashes in the undercover area, followed by a procession to the Church for Mass. Our foreheads were marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that Jesus gave his life to save us. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. Thank you to Father Tom for sharing the burning of the ashes and celebrating Mass with us as a parish and school community.

Pastoral Care Committee

Previously the Pastoral Care Committee has called upon members of the school and parish community to provide meals for families in times of need. This may be due to the loss of loved ones, illness in the family and other difficult times in our lives. If you are able to help by preparing a meal or meals please see Miss Dee Campbell or leave your name with Mrs Hilary Rozario in the school office. Containers are available at the school office and when returned to the office with the meal, please clearly label a list of ingredients used, as this allows us to work around any food allergies.

Miss Dee Campbell
Assistant Principal Religious Education

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

WOW! It is so wonderful to see so many students enjoying time in the library and reading such fun books! I have been able to order a number of new and exciting books and am enjoying introducing the students to new adventurous series as well as some of the classics. I love seeing the students so excited about coming to Library. Please make note of your child’s book borrowing day and ensure they have packed their library bag (with book inside!). The policy is no bag, no book. Students become upset when they are unable to borrow a book because they have forgotten their library bag.

Monday Year 3 and Year 6
Tuesday Pre Primary, Year 5 and Year 7
Wednesday Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday Kindy and Year 4

A new set of Bookclub order forms went home on Tuesday and are due back to school on Wednesday 16 March (next week).

Miss Dee Campbell
Library Teacher
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

FEBRUARY
28 LODGE, Brandon PP

MARCH
01 WALL, Mathilda K
02 BOURKE, Nathan Y3
03 BOURKE, Jordan Y1
04 SANG, Benjamin Y1
04 SANG, Joseph Y1
07 FELSNER, Sarah K
10 McDONALD, Piper Y5
11 KELLY, Nyomi Y2

MERIT AWARDS
24February 2011
PP: Matilda Boyd Caitlin Felsner
Yr 1: Tyler Akerman Alexander Jonckheere
Yr 2: Olivia Campbell Ben Merlo
Yr 3: Cameron Mitchell Ruby Moore
Yr 4: Merekai Fitzhenry Joshua Peagam
Yr 5: Elyse Phillips Carl Singh Imogen Wall
Yr 6: Chloe Palmer Klass Willems
Yr 7: Jasmine Bailey Jordan Mathews

COMMUNITY NEWS

DYSLEXIA & IRLEN CLINIC
Difficulties Reading? Problems with spelling? Worries with writing?
You don’t have to go to Perth for assessments. Find out exactly where your child’s learning has stalled and what can be done to help them. Dyslexia and Irlen Clinic is in Port Hedland 4h to 20 April 2011 and Karratha 2-4 April and 20-23 April 2011 Phone 1300 732 998 or email beatrice@irlenwa.com.au for appointments. For more information and self-assessment visit www.worldwidelearningacademy.com. Next visit Sept 2011

Riverside Multi Sports at Trinity College
Riverside Multi Sports are hosting a sports programme for all students aged 6-14 at Trinity College from Wednesday 27 April to Friday 29 April. Each day will commence at 9:00am and conclude at 12:30pm with the focus being on a wide range of sports guided by experienced primary and secondary trained Physical Education Teachers. To secure a place on this exciting programme or for more information, email riversidesports@live.com.au or call Jonika on 0433 540 465.

THANK YOU
A big thank you from the Latham family for your kind prayers and thoughts during Nikki’s father’s operation and recovery.
The Year Five students have had a very busy Term so far. We have been learning different features in Persuasive text and getting ready for Lent. Here is a fun activity for all students: Can you guess the names of the students in Year Five?
Year Five
Silhouette Portraits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Riley</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Neel</td>
<td>Damian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>Benson</td>
<td>Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerieme</td>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>Jeffrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Breanna</td>
<td>Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>Madara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Piper</td>
<td>Tess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara</td>
<td>Elyse</td>
<td>Tayla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imogen</td>
<td>Madawee</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destiny</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Aditya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next P&F Meeting
Wednesday 23rd March,
7.00pm in the staff room.

The P&F has also given $500 to each class to enable teachers to purchase learning materials that they feel would be useful for their class this year.

Cupcakes will sell for 50 cents each, as the aim is to provide something fun for the children, and to help foster parent involvement in our school community.

If anyone would like to bake a dozen or so cupcakes for the day please contact me on 0407 610 244.

Cupcakes can be dropped off in the staff room where we will mix them up and deliver a platter to each classroom before recess. Each child may purchase 1 cupcake to take out for recess. To keep things simple could they be the larger sized cupcakes and iced. The cake or icing (or both) should be green. We will need approximately 270 or 23 dozen!

**COMPUTER LAB - UP AND RUNNING!**

The P&F has handed over a cheque for $50,000 to the school for the computer lab!!! Thanks to our massive efforts last year, we have helped the school to create this fantastic learning tool for all of the students to use.

**Easter Raffle**

Please assist us by donating chocolate Easter eggs for the Easter Raffle Hampers. Donations to be dropped off in the office.