Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians

What is lent:
The season of Lent is a Catholic liturgical season consisting of forty days of fasting, prayer, and penitence beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. The official liturgical color for the season of Lent is purple. Lent begins on February 13, 2013. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, spiritual growth, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. So it is fitting that the season of Lent begins with a symbol of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one's head or forehead. However, we must remember that our Lenten disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul, and spirit, and help us become more like Christ.

First two weeks
WOW, what happened to the first two weeks, seems like only yesterday that school started. I hope the last two weeks have been as enjoyable for the children as they have been for the staff. All staff members have been smiling and I believe I have seen the odd smile from children as well. I know Monday Week One there were more than one or two smiles from parents.

A huge thankyou to the dads and friends who put up the Kindy shade sails last Saturday. What I thought was going to be a somewhat difficult task was made fairly easy due to common sense thinking and many willing hands. Paula told me of the wonderful sense of community here and she was proven right.

There has been lots of testing going on in classes so teachers know where the students are at in their learning. This gives...
Don't compare your child with others
This applies to all children, but is especially important with children who have learning disabilities or other special needs. Don't put pressure on the child to be just like the child down the street. There's no such thing as the child that's like every other child. Every child is different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges and they all develop at different rates.

Help your child make connections to literature
To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. For instance, take your children to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With an arsenal of these skills in place, they will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don't have these life experiences, and we ask them to make deeper connection to literature, it can be hard for them. Read to your children, let them hear you put expression and intonation in your voice. If you aren't confident to read have them read to you.

Don't do everything for your child
Sometimes it's faster to do things yourself than wait for your child to complete a task. But by doing everything for them, you're not preparing them to take care of themselves. If your child is having trouble with something, such as organising his backpack, stand next to him and have him do it while you talk him through the process. This goes for time management as well. Parents can empower their children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves. They need to figure out: How do I juggle all of the activities and classes but not have to rely on Mum and Dad to step in. Remember you are setting your children up for the rest of their life, not just now.

Ask about your child's day
Stay involved in your child's education. Even small things, like asking children what they did in school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what was learned. If a student goes home and everyone says one thing they did that day, repeating it to anyone else in the house will help them remember it. If they say, 'I don't remember' or 'I don't know,' ask them something specific: 'What did you do in science today,' something that will get them talking about what they have learned.

P&F Meeting: Wednesday 20 February at 8:30am
School Board Meeting: Tuesday 26 February at 7:00pm

Special Notice
Please check your children’s hair as there has been a reported case of nits. There are many treatments available from chemists. The mildest treatment is to smother the hair in cheap hair conditioner. This suffocates the nits and also makes the eggs much easier to remove. Nits are a problem with all primary schools because children sometimes share hats or put their heads close together. Please be vigilant and if you find nits in your children’s hair keep them home until they are treated.
Thank you ICRG

I would like to acknowledge the ICRG (Indigenous Construction Resource Group) for their very generous donation of $5000 for sporting equipment. The ICRG Group work closely with regional Aboriginal communities and have developed an extensive Indigenous labour network across Australia. The donation means all the students at St Cecilia’s will benefit through the purchase of much needed equipment. A big thank you from the St Cecilia’s school community and we would like to invite you back to enjoy the new sporting equipment with us.

God Bless

Peter Allen
Principal

PARISH NEWS

MASS TIMES
St Cecilia's - Port Hedland
Tue, Wed & Thu Morning Mass 8.00am
Friday Morning Mass 7.15am
Saturday Evening Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sunday Morning Mass 8:30 am

St John the Baptist - South Hedland
Wednesday Night Mass 6.00pm
Saturday Evening Vigil Mass 6.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 9.30am
(after 9.30 communion round)

Seafarers Centre - Port Hedland
Sunday Evening 3.30pm (All welcome)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Cecilia’s gather together to start anew
St Cecilia’s school community gathered together Ash Wednesday morning, 13 February 2013 to make a fresh start before God. The students, parents and teachers wrote their personal promises to God for ways we can all become better people. The promises were collected as part of the ceremony and with the guidance of Father John, were burned together to form ash. The ashes from our Lenten promises were then mixed with the ashes from the Palm Sunday leaves from last year. It was extra special receiving the ashes at Mass when our promises were crossed on the foreheads of each one of us to remind us to ‘Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel’. What a solemn way to begin the season of Lent – reminding ourselves to stop, reflect and renew our hearts and follow Jesus.

Lent and our Chick-a-Thon

Our chick-a-thon began yesterday! You would have received a Project Compassion box provided by Caritas Australia and this will become a fundraising box to support our fund-raising efforts at St Cecilia’s. For every $10 your class raises for our Caritas Australia ‘Project Compassion’ Lent fundraiser, your class will provide a chicken for a Zimbabwe community.

We encourage students to contribute to this box regularly donating coins as a way of giving back during the Lenten period. Our Year Seven leaders will run the program and reveal each week which class has the most chicks. At the start of Holy Week, on 25 March, the class who has raised the most funds will be revealed and public recognition be given at assembly that morning.

Happy chick-a-thon!

Visitor from Caritas

On Friday 22 February, we will have Eleanor Trinchera from Caritas Australia visit our school and share some stories of working with Caritas. She will be visiting classes from Kindergarten to Year Seven throughout the day. Eleanor has worked in Bangladesh and Nepal and has been part of many peace-building and health initiatives. Eleanor will be flying in from Sydney and staying in Hedland for the weekend. I am sure you will make her feel welcome on her cultural experience to Hedland!

Faith Formation Session: Grace and the Sacraments

On Thursday 28 February at 3.00 to 7.30pm, Sr Carmel Posa is visiting Port Hedland to run a special session on the Sacraments, Grace and Baptism. We invite all members of our community to the session as it is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Sacraments. Sr Carmel will look at the meaning of Grace, understanding of Sacraments and the images and metaphors in Baptism and Eucharist. The session is free of charge. To register for the session, please email Grace Joukhadar on: Joukhadar.grace@cathe/dnet.wa.edu.au or call the school office.

SPAR – Stop Pray and Reflect

You are invited to join our parents and friends SPAR group. What is a SPAR? Our parents and friends SPAR group is your opportunity during the Lenten season to:

Stop
Pray
And
Reflect

This short prayer and reflection will run on Friday afternoons at 2pm in the hall. I personally will be running the sessions and look forward to having some ‘time out’ with you to share and reflect. Our SPAR session begins on Friday 22 February at 2.00pm.

Mrs Grace Joukhadar
Assistant Principal Religious Education
LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you very much to the AMAZING helpers who have already volunteered to cover books. The students have been so excited to see the new books and are quickly being snapped up for borrowing. At present, I have some books I still need to accession (barcoding etc). They will then be ready for covering. I hope to have this done by the end of next week. If you would like to help cover those books, feel free to email me or come and see me towards the end of Week Three.

Mrs Nicola Simpson
Library Teacher

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

BOOK CLUB

We are seeking a volunteer to take on the role of BOOK CLUB COORDINATOR. This role requires the person to collate the catalogues, complete online ordering and distribute the books.

Our previous coordinator, Sharon Buckland has been kind enough to offer to continue the role for Term One in order to show a new person the ropes. Please see Hilary in the office if you are keen to take on this role.

Mrs Nicola Simpson
Assistant Principal

CANTINE

Please note that we now have a new Canteen Menu for Term One 2013. Price lists are also available on the school’s website. www.stcecilia.wa.edu.au

Please check that you are paying the correct amount to avoid small accounts being sent home.

DONATIONS PLEASE

We would appreciate any donations the following items:

- Used stamps
- Aluminium can ring pulls
- Ice-cream containers and lids
- Shoe boxes

These can be brought in to the front office.

Mrs Rozario
School Secretary

BATTERY RECYCLING

The types of batteries to be recycled will include the following:

Primary (Single use) – batteries typically found in toys, watches/clocks, smoke alarms, audio-visual equip-ment and remote controls ie. AAA, AA, C, D etc…

Secondary (Rechargeable) – commonly found in cordless drills, mobile phones, laptops, PC’s, shavers and cameras.

Please note we are not collecting car batteries.

The battery recycling box is in the front office.

SCHOOL BANKING

St Cecilia’s and Bankwest offer a school banking service for the students of St Cecilia’s. This is a great way for children to start saving.

Bankwest have great children’s accounts where they can earn some fantastic interest.

Students will be provided with their very own bank book to record their deposits week to week and see their money growing.

This service will be offered on a Thursday morning between 8am and 8.30am in the library.

For parents/carers and students wishing to partake in school banking they will be required to open a bank account with Bankwest in the students name. It will not be possible to open an account at the school. No forms to complete just take your child’s birth certificate into the bank. If parents are not members of Bankwest they will need to take their drivers licence with them.

MERIT AWARDS

07 February 2013

PP: Noah Mitchell
Yr 1: Caitlyn Balcombe
Yr 2: James Larson
Yr 3: Jacob Balcombe
Yr 4: Cole McLarty
Yr 5: Jarred Ams
Yr 6: Tyler Kavanagh
Yr 7: Hannah Green

Nadine Retallack
Anthea Colato-Lopez
Ben Retallack
Ella McGrath
Decland Rahman
Nathan Generoso
Rawiri Te Tau

COMMUNITY NEWS

DYSLEXIA & IRLEN CLINIC

Does your child have: 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 will be in Hedland in March 2013 Phone 1300 732 998 or email: beatrice@worldwidelearningacademy.com for appointments. For more information and self-assessment visit http://www.worldwidelearningacademy.com.
Fundraising for Camp + Graduation
Quelch fruit ice blokes for sale every Friday lunchtime in the Undercover area and Kindy area!
Canteen green tick of approval
$1 ONLY

By Ella and Breanna
Year 1
What a fantastic start to the year! We have been hard at work from day one. Here are our creative portrait drawings that we carefully drew. We started with the outline of our face, then our eyes, ears, nose, mouth and hair. Finally we added some colour to make us come alive.

Welcome Caitlyn and Tadiwanashe
14th February 2019

As a parent of a child in this school, your voice is important in the upcoming State Election. Here’s Why...

With the upcoming state election, the Parents and Friends Federation of Western Australia Inc. would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of grass-roots parent advocacy to effect change at the political level.

The Federation was formed in 1954 with the principle aim of advocating for financial support from governments for Catholic schools. In 2018, after years of sustained effort and advocacy by the dedicated members of the PFFWA Council, “the Brand government Liberal-Country Party Government legislated to provide in WA the first per-pupil recurrent operating funds anywhere in Australia for children in non-Government schools.” [1]

The PFFWA were the first parent organisation in Australia to win this funding for children in Catholic and Independent schools and have continued to advocate on behalf of parents since that time.

It is still as important today as it was then to continue to push for funding equity at the grass-roots level - parents = voters. Whilst we appreciate the recently received $15m Low Interest Loan Scheme (LILS) funding for capital works in our schools from the Barnett government, the reality is that it has not increased since 1998, yet the cost of building new schools to provide choice and accessibility for families and the maintenance of existing schools to keep abreast of curriculum and technology needs has increased significantly.

It is important that you ensure your sitting member of Parliament and the prospective candidates in your electorate, know of your concern for the failure of state government to increase funding for Catholic school capital development.

The Federation has continued to advocate on behalf of parents of children in Catholic schools, maintaining a strong record of representation, advocacy and service through its independent voice. We hope that Catholic schools are provided with the continued funding and certainty to provide the exceptional education our children receive and the PFFWA will endeavour to ensure that the voice of parents is heard at all levels of government.

Please contact the PFFWA office on 9227 5909 if you have any questions.

Shelley Hill
PFFWA Executive Officer