Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a fantastic start to the school year. I must say I was delighted when I walked around our school to see how quickly our students have settled into their new routines. Even our Kindergarten students were quick to settle down to work. 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 they 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. The assessments ensure that stu-

ATTITUDE

Happiness isn’t about what happens to us. It’s about how we perceive what happens to us. It’s the knack of finding a positive for every negative. And viewing a setback as a challenge. If we can just stop wishing for what we don’t have, And start enjoying what we do have, Our lives can be richer; More fulfilled and happier. The time to be happy is now.

Lyn Peters.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

The Greatest discovery of any generation is that human beings can alter their lives By altering the attitudes of their minds. Albert Schweitzer

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.
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.

You can read all types of research that will tell you how to identify a successful school; however, I believe the best ‘litmus test’ is the response of the children, teachers and parents. We have had an extremely smooth start to the school year. Credit must go to our dedicated staff who have spent many hours ensuring that we have a ‘hassle-free’ start and credit must also go to the children who have settled quickly and industriously back into ‘school mode’. I have been delighted by the many positive comments we have received about the school and how the children have settled in.

Schools are dynamic ‘people organisations’ and as a school community we all have a vested interest in the well-being of the school. The working relationship between the home and the school is a vital link, ensuring a positive and productive education for every child. As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every child. Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. 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.

Welcome to New Staff and Families
A warm St Cecilia’s welcome to all of our new families who are joining us for the beginning of 2012. It is wonderful to see how quickly our new students have settled into their classrooms. I have had a chat with our students in their classrooms and you can see how comfortable our new students are in their new surroundings.

A special welcome to Miss Kathy Dowdeswell, our Year Two teacher and Mrs Johann Crisp, our Year Six teacher. I am sure that they will both feel part of our school community in no time at all.

Sacraments
Each year we are blessed to celebrate the Sacraments at our school with our students and their families. Each Sacrament gives us grace from God and helps us to live our lives as Jesus wanted us to. We receive Nourishment from the Eucharist, Strength and Courage from Confirmation and Peace from Reconciliation. Each Sacrament helps us to build on our faith journey. It is always so inspiring to watch as our students and families work towards receiving the Sacraments. At the time of each of the Sacraments we watch as our Churches are inundated with families eager to participate and have their children receive these Sacraments. Our Churches at both South and Port are filled and it is a wonderful celebration. It would be awesome if we could see this excitement and attendance throughout the year.

Accompanying the Newsletter you will find the dates for all the Sacraments that will be celebrated this year. Each Sacrament begins with an enrolment Mass. It is important that parents and children attend the Enrolment Mass so that Father Tom and Father John are aware of who is asking to participate in the Sacraments this year. Parents and candidates are both asked to attend the two parent meetings as well as the Sacrament Day. If there are students in our school who are Catholic and have not received the Sacraments they will also need to make contact with Grace our Assistant Principal so that arrangements can be made. At St Cecilia’s our Year Three students receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our Year Four Students receive First Holy Communion and Year Six and Seven Students receive Confirmation.

P&F Morning Tea
A reminder that there will be a special morning tea run by our amazing P&F on Thursday 16 February straight after Assembly. This morning tea is held so that all our families can meet, have a chat and get to know each other. We welcome all parents new and old to come and take the time to meet with each other. If you are a Kindergarten Mum this would be a wonderful opportunity to meet the rest of the school community.

School Mass
This morning we celebrated our first school Mass for 2012 and what a glorious celebration. We are so fortunate to be able to welcome back all of our students and staff together with our new families. Everyone has had a safe and happy holiday and are now ready to begin another school year. Today we were able to say thank you for everything we have and ask for a blessed year. Special thanks to Mrs Grace Joukhadar our Assistant Principal of Religious Education who wrote our awe inspiring Mass for today and helped to lead us this morning with her student volunteers. In particular it was wonderful to recognise our Year Seven leaders who have taken on the responsibility to lead our school for 2012. I have been most impressed with the way our seniors have begun the year and the way they are ready to take on responsibilities. I look forward to working with each of you.

This morning we were blessed to have Father Tom celebrate Mass with us. Father Tom has been our leader for many years and it is always a joy to have him join with us and celebrate Mass as a School. Today we were also blessed to have Father Michael, Fr Jude, Fr Bill, Fr Peter and Fr Daniel join with Father Tom as co celebrants. The Spiritan Fathers have always ministered to Hedland and truly make Jesus’ presence felt in our school and Parishes.

Parent Nights
Every year we like to begin with a Parent Night so that parents can come to school and meet their children’s teachers. This night is a valuable insight into the working of your child’s class. Teachers are able to inform parents on how the classroom will be run throughout the year.
Unfortunately there will not be time on the evening for a one on one interview but more as a collective one. If you wish to speak with your teacher privately you will be able to make a time with them through Hilary our Secretary.

This year we will be holding two parent information evenings in anticipation that everyone will be able to attend; each parent will receive a handbook from their child’s teacher.

We ask that children do not attend the evening. The evening will be as follows: We shall begin in the hall at 6.00pm for a discussion on Explicit Teaching. This is the model that we at St Cecilia’s will be following in Numeracy and Literacy. Then there will be two sessions held in the classrooms. Parents are asked to attend the hall session followed by a classroom session. We are holding two sessions so that parents who have children in more than two year levels will be able to attend both meetings. The evening will then run the same for Thursday night.

Wednesday 15 February
For Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7
(Session 1: 6.30–7.00pm, Session 2: 7.00–7.30pm)

Thursday 16 February
For Pre-Primary, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
(Session 1: 6.30–7.00pm, Session 2: 7.00–7.30pm)

Assembly
We hold assemblies every Monday and Thursday morning at 8.35am. On a Monday the assemblies are in the undercover area and on a Thursday they may be in the undercover area or the hall depending on the weather. Parents are welcome to attend the assemblies and find out what is happening in the school. If you need to know if the assembly is in the hall or the undercover area just watch and see where our talented students lead you.

Parish AGM
All parents are welcome to attend St Cecilia’s Parish AGM. The meeting will be held in the Parish Centre at 7.00pm on Thursday 22 March. Any parent who would like to belong to our Parish and Church are invited to attend the AGM.

Dispute and Complaint Resolution Policy
When each family joined our school they began with a pamphlet on how to deal with a dispute or complaint in a Catholic School. As part of a review process that is currently taking place we have been asked to mention this policy to all parents in Catholic Schools. If parents would like to revisit this document they can find the e-brochure on the Catholic Education website. [link to e-brochure]

Busy Bee
On Friday 23 March we will be holding a Busy Bee to clean up the area around the Church and the Parish Centre. We would welcome as many families as possible to come and assist us. Our students travel up to the Church quite often and the area between the School and the Church can be very overgrown at times. We invite families to come along with gardening gloves and tools to help give the area a very good prune. Arnold Carter will be organising a skip bin to take away the weeds and rubbish. We are looking for some whipper snippers to help with the job as well as a lawn mower and lots of pruning implements. We shall begin at 4.30pm and will stop at 6.30pm for a sausage sizzle and drink. If you are able to assist please let Hilary in the front office know so that we can organise the food and drinks. We hope that many of our families will come and join us and help keep the Church area clean and tidy. So please pop the date on your calendar and come and help us if you can.

P&F Meeting
Our first P&F Meeting will take place on Monday 20 February. We hope that many parents will come and join us and find out what our awesome P&F are planning to look at this year. Every year our P&F and their amazing families support the school and help us in so many ways. Our meetings are held in the staff room at 6.30pm so please come and join us for a night of sparkling conversation and awesome people!

Swimming Begins
As we begin 2012 we have witnessed our new sports teacher jump into action. Mrs Lyn Poharama has worked out our school program for Term One. This week saw our students from Years Three to Seven take to the pool to begin the first practise for the year. Our students will be busily preparing for the faction swimming carnival, which will be held on Friday 9 March. Later in the term our Pre-Primary to Year Two students will venture to the pool for a try out before the carnival.

Board Meeting
Our first Board Meeting for 2012 will take place tonight at 7.00pm in the staff room. We look forward to welcoming our new and old board members.

Thank You
A very sincere thank you to Mr Arnold Carter, for organising and Mr Chris Ferris from Hedland Hiab; who kindly donated and placed all the concrete sleepers on the edge of our oval. Your generosity is kindly appreciated!

Special Thank You
We are all aware of what a busy time it is when cyclones are around. When Cyclone Heidi came to visit I was most fortunate to have the help of a number of staff and parents to bring down the shades in the Pre-Primary area. Special thank you to Mrs Carla Kay and Mr Aaron Kay as well as Mr Joe Wittphal and Mr Tony Ormond, our gardeners. It did not take long to bring down shade and make the school ready for the winds that came.

After the cyclone the time came for shades to be put back up: never an easy job! However once again I was able to rely on the generosity of a number of our terrific parents and their helpers. Before I knew it our shades were back up over the Pre-Primary area, then to top it off the shade was also out back up over the play equipment on the oval. A big thank you to Mr Michael Warren and his helpers, Mr Tim Britcliffe and Mr Daniel Holmstrom. This group of wonderful men jumped in and made sure that our shade was up once more, so that our students could enjoy the play equipment and be protected from the sun.

Pupil Free Days
Every year the school is given a number of pupil free days to hold Professional Development for the staff. We have chosen to hold two these days this term. The first day is Friday 2 March, when the staff will be look-
The Love of Reading
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, and 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.

Asking your child what happened in the book and really helping them to understand what the story is about is very valuable. Take the time to ask questions and explore a book together. A great time for older children is when you are cooking and preparing dinner. Your child has the chance to read aloud and you may like to ask questions that your child can answer about what they have read. During or after reading the story, ask your child to find: 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!

Reading is part of homework and we encourage all our children to engage in reading whether they are reading or being read to. Homework will begin in Week Three for all classes from Years One to Seven.

Getting Organised for School
Whether your child is just starting school or the children are 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 can change over time. 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.

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 fusses:

- 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!
  - Provide a healthy breakfast eg. cereal, milk, juice, water, toast and spread, fresh fruit. Kids 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!

God Bless

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ash Wednesday
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (22 February) and is a time to do a big spiritual ‘clean out’. Lent is a time to reconcile, pray, fast and give to others. We are all encouraged to do more of these things during the Lenten period as we prepare to celebrate the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday!

We will have an Ash Wednesday service at St Cecilia’s Church on Wednesday 22 February at 8.45am. You are most welcome to join us as a school community.

Lent and our Chick-a-Thon
Our chick-a-thon begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Each class will receive a Project Compassion box provided by Caritas Australia. This will become their class fundraising box.

For every $10 raised by each class for Caritas Australia ‘Project Compassion’ Lent fundraiser, the class will provide a chicken for a Zimbabwe community.

We encourage students to contribute to this box by regularly donating coins as a way of giving back during the Lenten period.

Our Year Seven Religious Education leaders will run the program and reveal each week which class has the most chickens. At the start of Holy Week, Mon-
day 2 April, the class who has raised the most funds will be revealed and public recognition be given at assembly that morning.

Happy chick-a-thon!

Mrs Grace Joukhadar
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

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS
Book Covering
As always we are in DESPERATE need of wonderful parents who would like to spend a few therapeutic hours covering books. Many of the new books to be covered are readers for our Kindy/Pre-Primary students, as well as a few more new library books. The School Library is available from 1pm – 2:30pm Monday to Thursday. If you would like to come and make yourself comfortable or please see Dee Campbell for a box of books to take home if you prefer.

Miss Dee Campbell
Library Teacher

SPECIAL THANK YOU
A special thank you to the Strachan Family for the huge effort they have put into covering reading books and laminating flashcards for the classrooms. The time and effort you have all put into helping our school in this area, is greatly appreciated.

DRIVE THRU PICK UP
All students are asked to meet the duty teacher at the top of the ramp beside the Year One classroom, NOT to go straight to the pick-up point. Please reinforce this with your children, as some students are making their way by themselves to the pick-up point. Also, students must make their way to the ramp as soon as they leave class, not wait up on the grassed area, as the teacher on car park duty may not be aware they are being picked up.

CAR PARK – BOATS & TRAILERS
Please leave your boat/trailer at home when collecting students from school. We have limited parking available and it is made more difficult and becomes a safety issue when boats and trailers are brought onto the school grounds.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Please make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform to school each day. An easy way to do this is to check with the class teacher, if you are unsure. Staff are checking uniforms each day to make sure students are in the correct uniform and wearing it correctly as well. Students in the wrong uniform or not wearing the uniform correctly, will be issued with a uniform note. Please sign the note and return it to the classroom teacher. Parents and students are aware of the uniform when the student is enrolled. Repeated deliberate incorrect wearing of the uniform will lead to parents being informed by phone and asked to bring the correct uniform to school so the student can get changed. Faction shirts are worn in Terms One & Two only as part of the Sport Uniform.

Miss Dee Campbell
Assistant Principal

CANTEEN

2012 Price List
Please note that there was a new canteen price list effective from Wednesday 1 February. These were sent home to each family at the end of 2011. 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.

Ash Wednesday & Lent
On Ash Wednesday, 22 February 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.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to the following students who will celebrate their birthday.

January
2 WALKER, Kaydence K
3 BINNING, Mitchell K
3 MOORE, Max Y1
4 BATTLE, Jesse Y4
4 MARSDEN, Jed Y4
4 JESSOP, Isaac Y5
6 TAYLOR, Alleirah Y3
7 GALOVIC, Nicholas Y1
9 CURRIE, Jordan Y2
11 FLETCHER, Heidi K
11 MBENJELE, Elsie Y1
11 MOUAT, Phoebe-Cate Y4
15 WILSON, Ashleigh PP
15 MELLBERG, Tara Y4
17 GREIPEL, Natasha Y3
17 MATTHEWS, Shay Y3
18 HOBSON, Luke Y5
20 LEOPARDI, Angelique Y4
21 BRIGHT, Maddison Y4
21 NUNN, Joel Y7
22 LARSON, James Y1
23 RUSSELL, Kaitlyn PP
26 ASPLAND, Ryan Y2
28 BLACKWELL, Hannah Y7
29 DALITZ, Charlie K
30 EMMITT, Charlotte Y1

February
1 POHARAMA, Kohi Y7
3 MCCLEAN, Paige Y6 P
6 JONCKHEERE, Lukas PP
7 DOYLE, Jamal Y2
8 JOHNSON, Breanna Y1
9 BRERETON, Gracyn PP
11 CORNELIUS, Imogen Y2
13 PENTNEY, Willow K
16 BUCKLAND, Damien Y7
21 GARBIN, Luke Y5
21 MELLBERG, Tessa Y6
24 RETALLACK, Benjamin Y1
24 BROJANOWSKI, Tobi Y5
26 PRESS, Caelan Y4
The Year Seven students of St Cecilia’s are our school leaders and are expected to be fantastic role models to all the other students in the school. The Year Seven students discussed some of the qualities that make a good leader and they came up with a list of leadership qualities that they would like to demonstrate throughout the year. Here are just some of the qualities they believe are important:

- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Reliability
- Patience
- Understanding
- Initiative
- Enthusiasm
- Courage
- Kindness
- Modesty
- Respect

These are a few of their thoughts on leadership:

- Leaders should always be responsible and trustworthy. Josh
- Leaders should always show initiative and responsibility when doing tasks and any other roles. They should also show maturity. Brianna
- To be a leader you have to show initiative and let people know that you know what you’re doing because being responsible is showing great leadership. Tennika
- I believe a good leader should always show maturity and respect and they should always be honest with others. Chloe
- I believe a good leader is kind and willing to step in and help. Harrison
- I believe a good leader shows maturity and initiative in everything they do. Sara
- I believe a good leader should always show responsibility and respect for others younger and older than them. Celeste
- I believe a good leader is trustworthy and can always be relied on. Riley
- Leaders need to show responsibility, maturity, reliability and respect. They are also examples to others and should show good qualities to inspire others. Tamara
- I believe a good leader needs to problem solve if something goes wrong, have a clear voice and show kindness towards all. Dane Shipway
- I believe a good leader has to have confidence. Joel
- Leaders should always be able to handle the jobs given to them and have patience when doing it. Patrick
- I believe a good leader is kind and willing to step in and help. Harrison
I believe a good leader should show honesty and should always be kind to other students when they are sad or happy.  Sarah

I believe a good leader should show maturity and responsibility towards little kids.  Kohi

I believe a good leader should show respect to teachers, other students and parents, be trustworthy, and be willing to help everyone around them.  Hannah

I believe a good leader should show kindness and responsibility and earn someone’s trust..  Damien

I believe a good leader should always show respect to teachers, other students and parents, be trustworthy, and be willing to help everyone around them.  Hannah

I believe a good leader should show kindness to all teachers and students and care about the school.  Josie

I believe a good leader should show maturity and responsibility towards little kids.  Kohi

I believe a good leader should take responsibility for their actions and have patience with others. A leader should know what they’re doing and not just make it up on the spot..  Samantha

I believe a good leader should show confidence and lots of maturity as that would make a great role model out of the leader.  Farnaz

I believe a good leader is always respectful towards others.  Peter

I believe a good leader understands the students and what age they are at and doesn’t expect them to be exactly like them but shows them how to act respectfully towards others.  Ruby

I believe a good leader should have respect for school property, show respect to the teachers and all students and not just boss anyone around just because they are in Year Seven.  Katie

I believe a good leader should show responsibility through all tasks no matter if they like it or not.. Leaders should show responsibility to all younger students.  Zoe

I believe a good leader should show kindness and responsibility and earn someone’s trust..  Damien

I believe a good leader should show kindness and responsibility and earn someone’s trust..  Damien

I believe a good leader should handle any job or task thrown at them. They should show confidence in everything they do and help people out..  Matthew
Welcome!

The P&F would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School this year. We will be hosting a welcome morning tea in the hall after assembly on Thursday 16th February. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to meet new people and catch up with old friends. The younger members of the family will also get the chance to have a run around and make new friends of their own!

Our first P&F meeting for the year will be held on Monday 20th February at 7pm in the staff room.

We can’t wait to start planning for the year ahead!

If you are interested in what will be happening around the school this year, please come along and share your ideas. Not only do we discuss fundraising opportunities for the school, we also organise community building events for our children and families. This is a fun and easy way to get involved in the school community.

No pressure – ever!

- Thurs 16th Feb after assembly
  Welcome Morning Tea
- Mon 20th Feb 7pm Meeting
- Meetings – monthly
- Casual attendance welcome
- Ideas or suggestions - ekmerlo@hotmail.com

The Executive Committee for 2012
Rhonda Mitchell – President
Sarah Feeney – Vice President
Emma Merlo – Secretary
Maria Britcliffe – Treasurer