Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days. 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 human beings 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

 Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a confiding thought, a simple movement of heart towards God will renew our powers. Whatever He may demand of us, He will give us at the moment the strength and the courage that we need. Francois Fenelon

STRENGTH
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord.

The Book of Psalms

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK
Dear Parents and Guardians,
Ash Wednesday, 22 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 John, Father Tom and Father Peter came to school. The students, staff and parents had written out their Lenten promises which were collected and burned as part of our celebration. These were then mixed with the ashes and placed on our foreheads to remind us of the promises we have made at this special time of the liturgical year.

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time in prayer and charitable works. During the lead up to 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 and look at what you would all like to take up for Lent, as a family.

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 place that money in the project compassion boxes so that it could help others.

**School Leaders**

Congratulations to our Year Seven students! They are an amazing group of individuals who are pro-active, enthusiastic and ready to take up the challenge in leading our school. I listened to their speeches and what struck me the most was their honesty and willingness to help others and to really lead our school in love. They showed their commitment to their roles and this really inspired me. I know that our students are ready to take on the many challenges that will come their way.

Thank you to Mrs Hopkins for organising our Leadership Day. I know that the students really enjoy this day and gained a lot from sharing with each other. Each leadership group will be lead by one of our Staff and I look forward to sharing meetings with our leaders throughout the year.

Last week at assembly the school was introduced to our leaders and now I would like to share our leaders with the school community.

**Religious Leaders** – Lead Teacher ~ Mrs Grace Joukhadar, Ruby Esmonde, Tamara Van Den Hurk and Sara McDonald (absent).

**Communications Leaders** – Lead Teacher ~ Mrs Emily Hopkins, Farnaz Devlaliwalla, Damien Buckland, Zoe Podmore and Tennika Quick

**Environmental Leaders** – Lead Teacher ~ Mr Sean Sta Maria, Brayden Jessop, Joel Nunn, Kieran Murphy, Hannah Blackwell, Joshua Elsum and Samantha Bolton.

**Library Leaders** – Lead Teacher ~ Miss Dee Campbell, Josie Cecich, Chloe Palmer, Mikayla Garbin, Sarah Corbett and Harrison Lockley.

**Sports Leaders** – Lead Teacher ~ Mrs Lyn Poharama (absent), Patrick Selfe, Brianna Barron-Liddell, Riley Rusu, Celeste McCorry, Dane Shipway, Peter Wyn, Kate Morley, Kohi Poharama and Matthew Birch (absent).

**Year Six Assembly**

What a great start to the year! Mrs Crisp and her sensational class really took us through our paces as we learnt all about place value. It was a lively and catchy assembly item that really taught us a lot. Congratulations on a great assembly item.

**Parent Evenings**

Thank you to all our teachers for preparing the parent teacher meetings with our community. We had a very good number of parents come to the evenings and I believe from the conversations I have heard that they gained a lot from the evening. Every parent was given a hand out that outlined the expectations for the class and lots of other useful information. If you were not able to attend the evenings that were provided please talk with your classroom teacher and ask for the
handbook so that you know what is happening in your child’s class.

**P&F Meeting**
We had our first P&F meeting this week and as always our P&F are an awesome group of women who constantly help out in so many ways. We are really looking for parents to come and join our P&F and become part of the meetings. Each of our meetings is full of good conversation; you don’t need to know others, just come and join us. You don’t need to take on jobs, just come and find out what is happening in our school. We had a lovely P&F morning tea for parents to meet others and have a talk. We encourage our new parents to become involved and take the time to chat with other parents in our school community.

**Swimming Carnival**
We have our swimming carnival fast approaching. The date of the carnival will be Thursday 8 March; we hope that no one will be inconvenienced by the change of date. Please mark the date on your calendar as we will be looking for parents to help out on the day and to ensure the day runs smoothly. Come along ready to cheer and swim! We always finish with a parent, staff and student race so keep this in mind if you feel the urge to participate on the day. Mrs Pohamara has been training up our students and I know they are ready to take to the water.

**Talking about school with your child**
“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.

God Bless

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Project Compassion & Chick-a-Thon**
Our Chick-a-thon has begun! Each class has a Project Compassion box provided by Caritas Australia and this will become a fundraising box. For every $10 your class raises for our Caritas Australia ‘Project Compassion’ Lent fundraiser, your class will provide a chicken for a Zimbabwe community.

Happy Chick-a-thon!

We are also providing families with a Project Compassion box to take home. This is one way our families may like to ‘give back’ during Lent. You are invited to contribute to our Caritas Australia fundraiser by filling up your box with loose change over the 6 weeks of Lent. At the end of term, you can bring in your Project Compassion box and all the donations will go towards outreach through Caritas Australia. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.
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 to:
- Stop
- Pray
- And
- Reflect
This short prayer and reflection will run on Thursday 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 began this afternoon. If you didn’t make it this week, we hope to see you next week!

Friday Morning Mass
For those who would like to attend Mass more frequently during Lent, Fr John will lead a short Friday Morning Mass at 7.15am at St Cecilia’s Catholic Church. You are all most welcome. Mass is anticipated to finish about 7.45am.

Ash Wednesday - Thank You
We had a very special and prayerful celebration for Ash Wednesday yesterday morning. Our students, staff and parents wrote their personal Lenten promises which were burned as a sign of our commitment and love towards God and others. These ashes were combined with the ashes from last year’s Palm Sunday and were marked on our foreheads as a sign of turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel. Thank you to our parents and families who came along. You always make these celebrations extra special!

Mrs Grace Joukhadar
Assistant Principal Religious Education

PARISH NEWS

MASS TIMES
St Cecilia’s - Port Hedland
- Tue & Thu Morning Mass 8.00am
- Wed Morning School Mass 8.45am
- Fri Morning Mass 7.15am
- Saturday Evening Mass 6:00pm
- Sunday Morning Mass 8:30am

St John the Baptist - South Hedland
- Wed Night Mass 6.00pm
- Saturday Evening Mass 7:00pm
- Sunday Morning Mass 10:00am

Seafarers Centre – Port Hedland
- Sunday Evening 5.00pm (All welcome)

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

Woolworths Earn & Learn
This week we have been fortunate to receive Maths Equipment selected through the Woolworths Earn and Learn Competition held last year. The school has received a large fractions kit, volume kit and other sundry items. The staff are looking forward to putting these to good use in the classrooms. These resources are a valuable tool to use with the new maths programme designed for the Australian Curriculum. Once again thank you to all the families who supported our school by bringing in your barcodes!

ICAS / UNSW Assessments
Recently, forms went home about the ICAS Assessments. These assessments run in Years 3 – 7. They are not compulsory. All testing is done here at school on the nominated day (or as close to it as possible). Any children ill on the day of the assessment will sit the assessment as soon as they return to school. A schedule of the testing dates is posted on the Assistant Principals’ office window, and in the middle and senior foyer windows as well as on the forms sent home. A website with practice questions is available to all students sitting the assessments, and past papers are also available. Please see me for further information.

If parents wish to submit an entry for their child, this may be done with Mrs Rozario in the front office. Payment for the assessments is due at the time of entry and can be done by cash or card. Closing date for all assessment entries is MONDAY 26 MARCH.

A Special Thank you
A special thank you to the wonderful mums and our incredible Teacher Assistants who have worked so tirelessly on flash cards and book covering over the last few weeks. The support here at St Cecilia’s really is incredible and something to be proud of. I am constantly talking you up to my friends in other schools and they are totally envious!

Fire Drill
Today we ran a fire drill at St Cecilia’s. While often inconvenient to visitors, fire drills are a necessary part of keeping students safe here at school. Fire drills are necessary for students to be confident in the procedure in the event of a real fire occurring, particularly as their regular classroom teacher may be absent from school and they are being cared for by a relief teacher on the day. The staff regularly discuss and practice what to do with the students to help them become more confident in following the procedure correctly. It was great to see all the students being so sensible as they made their way to the muster point.

Aussie of the Month
In 2012 St Cecilia’s is continuing with the Aussie of the Month programme designed to recognise the efforts of students who go ‘above and beyond’ here at school. I am thrilled to announce that the recipient of the Aussie of the Month Award for February is Olivia Campbell in Year 3. Olivia has spent hours putting stickers on library books and stamping them with the school logo, as well as helping with cutting out and even putting away junior books. Thank you Olivia for all your efforts, you are a gem!
Spectacular Students
It is truly wonderful to be part of such a caring community. Recently I was approached by one of our lovely mums who was late getting to her children’s bus stop due to unforeseen circumstances. When she turned up (slightly panicked) she was relieved and impressed to see older Saints students waiting with her children. A special thank you to Ruby Esmonde (Yr 7) Thomas Barker (Yr 6) and Noah Atkins (Yr 5) for waiting with these junior school students. Your caring attitudes and the way you look after others here at St Cecilia’s is very much appreciated.

Pupil Free Days
Please remember that Friday 2 March and Monday 19 March are Pupil Free Days. The school will be closed on these days so staff can undertake valuable Professional Development.

Miss Dee Campbell
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL FEES
Semester 1 school fees are being posted out tomorrow. Should you not receive yours within a week, please contact the School Administration Officer.

YOUR CHILD HAS STARTED SCHOOL
Information from school nurses to new parents
You are invited to attend an Information Sharing Session with Chrissie McDowell, our School Health Nurse:
Day: Monday 27 February
Time: 8.30am
Where: Multi-purpose room
The Sharing Session will cover the following topics:
1. Role of the Community School Health Nurse and how she can be contacted
2. School Entry Health Assessment (CHS409) and Referral Process
3. Immunisation and disease prevention
4. Nutrition and lunchboxes
5. General Health Topics
Kind regards,
Chrissie McDowell
School Nurse

BIRTHDAY WISHES
Congratulations to the following students who will celebrate their birthday.

February
28 COX, Zayne PP

March
2 BOURKE, Nathan Y4
3 BOURKE, Jordan Y2
4 MORLEY, Kate Y7
7 FELSNER, Sarah PP
9 MURPHY, Keiran Y7
10 McDONALD, Piper Y6

MERIT AWARDS
16 February 2012
PP: Marco Cecich
Yr 1: Scarlett Foti
Yr 2: Olivia Broadfoot Braxon Holmstrom
Yr 3: Olivia Campbell
Yr 4: Jesse Battle Tara Mellberg
Yr 5: Isaac Mbedzi Cautlyn Shirley Tobi-Craig Brojanowski
Yr 6: Kaya Dhu Mason Rehn
Yr 7: Sarah Corbett Mikayla Garbin

GONSKI REVIEW
The release of the Gonski Review into Funding for Schooling on 20th February represents the first step in the Australian Government’s plan to introduce a new funding system for all Australian schools from 2014.

There is no doubt that the review is significant and comprehensive, but it provides only a theoretical framework for a new funding model - key questions remain unanswered.

Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the model and recommendations before a sound assessment can be made of what this means for our schools.

The government has announced a consultation phase, including analysis and testing of the proposed model, to commence immediately. This work will be used to help define a concrete funding model.

The government also acknowledged in their response to the review that families face financial pressures and do not wish to see school fees rise beyond their reach.

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) will be working hard during the consultation phase to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees.

School funding reform of the magnitude suggested by the Gonski review cannot occur without adequate funding.

The NCEC strongly backs the review’s call for an additional $5 billion in funding for all schools—this represents less than one half of 1% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP)—and has called on government’s to commit to increased funding sooner rather than later.

There’s a lot of work to be done over the coming months. The NCEC will be actively working for the interests of our school communities and will keep communities updated throughout the consultation phase.

Further information:
A full copy of the Gonski Report can be accessed from the Your School Our Future website
www.schoolfunding.gov.au
We also invite you to visit
www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au
Year Five have been learning about amazing leaders both past and present. Here are some things our Year 5 students had to say about people who inspire them...

Steve Irwin inspires me because he had a passion for nature and animals and I love animals.

David Warner inspires me because he likes smashing a ball in cricket just like me.

Nicky Minaj inspires me because she has the gift of singing and I want to be just like her.

Ned Kelly inspires me because he is a famous Australian hero.

My grandad inspires me because he has a really good imagination and he’s great at telling stories.

David Beckham inspires me because I want to be a soccer player when I grow up.

Cristiano Ronaldo inspires me because he is a good soccer player.

Bear Grylls inspires me because he shows people how to survive in the wild.

Someone who inspires me is Ned Kelly because even though he kept on getting in trouble with the police, he kept on doing what he wanted to do. This shows that he believes in himself.

David Villa inspires me because he is the world’s top soccer player.

Mother Teresa inspires me to be a better person because she helped the poor and sick.

My dogs, cat and crab inspire me because they keep me company and love me the most in the family!

Victoria Justice inspires me because she is a famous TV star and has been in a lot of kid shows and she is very funny.
Selena Gomez inspires me because she is a very good singer and actress and I really want to be a singer and actress and be more confident.

Babe Ruth inspires me to become a professional baseball player.

Usain Bolt inspires me because he is a sprinter and I like running and racing.

Someone who inspires me is Jim Parson because he makes me laugh and I like his TV shows.

Benji Marshall inspires me because he has won four Golden Boot Awards and this shows he persevered.

Manny Pacquiao inspires me because even though he’s a boxer, he’s nice to everyone.

Flo Rider inspires me because he is a really good rapper and I like music.

My mum inspires me because she always finds a solution to every problem! The author Paul Jennings inspires me too because he can write so many amazing stories which tells me that I can do it too!

Andy Griffiths inspires me because he is a really good author and makes funny books. I quite like those books.

Nicki Minaj and Jessie J inspire me because they make me want to sing even though other people may tease you, you can do what you want to do if you like it.

My dad inspires me because he works hard and takes me dirt bike riding.

The makers of the video games by SEGA inspire me because when I grow up I want to make up my own games.

Someone who inspires me is Mother Teresa because she helped a lot of people even though they were really really sick and I want to be like her.

LMFAO inspires me because they are really good singers and I love music.

I look up to Terri Irwin because she has a passion for animals and wild habitats as do I.

I look up to Terri Irwin because she has a passion for animals and wild habitats as do I.
Wine & Cheese - On the House! Tempting?

The perfect opportunity to unwind in the company of others!
Come for a Wine and Cheese casual evening on Monday March 12th @ 7pm in the school Library. Mark your calendar!

St Patrick’s Day Friday 16th March

The P&F will be selling Green Cup Cakes for 50c each at recess.

If you can make some cupcakes, please let Emma know ekmerlo@hotmail.com

Easter Raffle

Please bring in an egg for the Easter Raffle.

If everyone donates an egg, we will have many prizes for each year group.

For Free!