Christmas is a time of the heart, 
Not just a date. 
Its meaning transcends time. 
Jesus was born to love us and fill our lives with himself.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK
Dear Parents and Guardians
Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose coloured, and the rose coloured vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year - this year, in 2010, it is Friday of the Third Week of Advent. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus’ life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Graduation 2010
What a magical night we saw on Friday 10 December when our Year Seven Students graduated from Primary School. The evening began with a beautiful liturgy; each reading was chosen with care and kept the Year Sevens in mind. We saw an amazing power point showing how much our students have grown from their beginning years at school until now. Father Mark celebrated the liturgy with us and made sure he included a thought for each of the students as they begin their journey from Primary to high school.

COMING EVENTS
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The last day of school for Term Four 2010 will be Thursday 16 December 2010

Students return to school for Term One 2011 on Wednesday 02 February 2011

UNIFORM SHOP
Open during school terms each Thursday after assembly approximately 9.00am to 9.45am

CANTEEN CLOSED
The Canteen will be closed for the first week of Term One 2011. Opening in Week Two, Monday 7 February.

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.
Jimmy Barr, on behalf of the parents spoke to our students and reminded them of how much they are loved by their parents and supported by the school. He reminded them that their future is in their hands, to make the most of life and enjoy life to the fullest. You have to be able to laugh and enjoy life and Jimmy certainly showed us how.

The Year Seven Students then took the walk down to the hall and had no idea what was awaiting them. The hall had been transformed into a winter wonderland. This was the most awesome sight to behold. Thanks to the work of some fantastic mums and staff, the room really did take on a new life. There were audible gasps from some of our students and it really was a sensational evening. The evening took on a magical quality.

To finish off an amazing meal, there was of course the magnificent cake. The cake was outstanding and what a taste treat. Students, Parents and Staff really did enjoy the evening. A special thank you must go to Miss Emily Fox for organising the entire graduation. While she had many willing helpers, the graduation required a leader to make sure that all bases were covered. Congratulations Emily on a magnificent night! Of course any graduation can always be topped off with a sleepover. This really was above and beyond the call of duty. We had Emily and a number of willing staff who braved the evening and stayed with our talented students. Not only did they feed them sugar but they all remained for the evening to enjoy each other’s company.

Lastly I would like to congratulate our Year Seven Students, you really have been a wonderful group of students who clearly love each other and enjoy working as a team. You have led our school most beautifully and we will all miss you. Take care and fulfill your dreams.

Assembly
I would like to thank our Year Seven students once more for finishing off the year with a wonderful assembly. It was a great opportunity to see our sensational Seven’s once more lead our school and show just how talented they are. Thank you also to the adorable Year Two students who led us in the final song, Feliz Navidad. We enjoyed it so much two weeks ago, that we asked them to return this week to lead the whole school. Congratulations on a wonderful song. It really did finish off the year perfectly.

End of Year Mass
We celebrated our last School Mass on Tuesday with Father Mark. As always Father Mark made the Mass memorable and finished the year on a special note. Thank you to Miss Roderick for preparing the Mass and to the amazing Year Two students as they led our Mass and read most beautifully. It was fantastic to see our young class step up and lead us in such a great way.

Farewell to Father Mark
As a school community I know we will all be sad to say farewell to Father Mark Connolly. Father joined our school and Parish community just two years ago and in a very short time became a permanent fixture in our lives. You can always rely on Father Mark to stop and have a chat and I know that a delightful laugh is never far away. We have been truly blessed to have Father Mark in our lives. He has made the sacraments so memorable for all families and has been a strong advocate of the school. I know that whenever I have needed support or wisdom Father Mark was always there to help lend a guiding hand. For every special event Father Mark makes himself available and is quick to help in so many ways. We have seen him in and around the school celebrating liturgies, explaining special days in the Church and coming into our classes to talk with the students and teachers. You really have made a huge difference in our lives, thank you Father Mark and may God keep you safe all the days of your life.
Farewell to Staff
We have had an amazing year this year and it is thanks to the wonderful people in our school community. It is always sad when we have to say farewell to families and staff. It is sad time but we shall always remember those who have journeyed with us. Firstly I would like to thank Simone Ikin who has been part of our school community for the past three years. This year Simone has taken on the role of Science Teacher and has really worked well with our students in performing many exciting experiments. Simone will be heading east and we wish her all the best.

We have been privileged to have Renae Sweeney join our staff in Term 4. 2009. She has done a wonderful job in Year Five and we wish Renae well as she returns to her old school in Kalgoorlie. Thank you both for all the dedication you have given to St Cecilia’s.

Assistant Principal
For the past three years Mrs Amanda Ramshaw has taken on the role of Assistant Principal at St Cecilia’s. Amanda has a wonderful eye for detail. We have been most fortunate to have Amanda also run our sports program including the planning of all the sporting carnivals over the last three years. Amanda is a dedicated teacher at our school and has chosen to step down from the role of Assistant Principal and Sports Coordinator for 2011. I would sincerely like to thank Amanda for the work she has done and look forward to her working with her in her new role as the Year Seven Teacher for 2011.

Staff 2011
Today the students got the chance to meet with their teachers for next year and visit their new class rooms. Below is the list of staff for 2011.

Kindergarten ~ Peta Mottlee along with Robyn Southorn & Danielle Retallack
Pre-Primary ~ Melinda Coleman together with Justine Esmonde & Tanya McGrath
Year One ~ Nicola Roderick
Year Two ~ Jody Tait / Jessica McIntyre (Friday)
Year Three ~ Bridget Tesar
Year Four ~ Mandy Sheen
Year Five ~ Lyn Poharama
Year Six ~ Emily Fox
Year Seven ~ Amanda Ramshaw
Assistant Principal/Library ~ Dee Campbell
Computer/Technology and Enterprise ~ Sean Sta Maria
Teacher Assistant ~ Carmel Campbell
Teacher Assistant ~ Elizabeth Walker
Secretary ~ Hilary Rozario
Administration Officer ~ Genni McCormack
Canteen Manageress ~ Cathy McLaughlin
Cleaner ~ Robin Binissa
Bus Driver ~ Jacko Scheitens
Guardian Angel ~ Joe Wittpahl

Year Book
By now all families should have received their copy of the St Cecilia’s Year Book. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff of St Cecilia’s for helping to create this wonderful collection of events and placing them in a year book, so that families can look back on their time at St Cecilia’s and see just how much was achieved in 2010.

Uniforms & Haircuts
When parents enrol their children at St Cecilia’s they readily agree to abide by all the rules and regulations so that their child can become part of the school. I would like to address two items that I would like parents to look closely at for the start of 2011. First item is that I have been disappointed about the length of the boy’s hair. Slowly as the year has progressed the hair of a number of boys has become longer and longer. When I have asked for the hair to be cut to the correct length I have found parents not wanting to upset their sons and have decided not to cut it to the required length. We have always asked for boys to have hair above the collar and the fringe short. I have now rewritten the hand book for 2011 to say short back and sides. I ask parents to make sure that all boys have short back and sides for the start of the year. If you find this too harsh for your sons perhaps St Cecilia’s is not the correct school for you.

The next item is to do with school shoes. You will have seen photos on the office window showing the correct shoes for boys and girls. Once again I have had parents opting for different shoes for their children. I understand that at times it can be difficult to acquire the correct shoes, however I have specifically asked not to have students wearing black joggers or boots and still this is occurring. So once again, I ask that you look closely at the requirements. Many parents find that school shoes do not last for the whole year. My suggestion would be to new ones when you are on holidays during the year. Many families go to a lot of trouble to follow the rules and I appreciate their effort. I now ask that all parents follow the guidelines set by the school.
Concert
Congratulations to the staff and students on the wonderful end of year concert on Wednesday 8 December. I was amazed by our talented students; they certainly sang like angels and performed most beautifully as they retold the story of the nativity. A huge thank you to all the staff who can always be relied upon to help in so many ways, nothing is ever too much trouble. They are an amazing group of dedicated people who want the best for our students. We had many people helping behind the scenes with costumes and props to help make the evening memorable. We also thank you!

Awards Night
During the evening we recognized four of our students who have been exceptional over the year. They have been recognized for their gifts and contributions to the school. I would like to mention each by name.

NANO NAGLE GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD 2010
The Good Samaritan Awards are given to students who have become valued members of our school community. They have shown by their words and actions to be outstanding role models for their peers and examples of good character. Through their compassionate, honest and thoughtful nature, they are able to inspire and encourage other young students to have a go. They never hesitate to give a helping hand, a kind word or a smile just when you need one.
The following student are truly deserving of this award and have personified the spirit of the “Good Samaritan” during the course of 2010.
The Nano Nagle Good Samaritan Awards for 2010 were awarded to: Ciara Strachan and Alicia Gould.

Ciara is compassionate and accepting towards others in the school community. Her pleasant manner and delightful smile is always a welcoming sight. Ciara participates in many school and Parish activities.
Ciara’s honest and thoughtful nature is an inspiration to all those around her.
Well done on achieving these fine qualities and thank you Ciara for your wonderful work!

Throughout the year, Alicia has shown herself as being considerate, thoughtful and always ready to help anybody and everybody around her. She has been an organised and ready participant in numerous activities connected to the school and has always displayed an honest, hard working and positive attitude. Her beautiful manners and friendly smile are always evident around the school and are a wonderful example to those around her. Congratulations Alicia!

CITIZENSHIP AWARD 2010
The citizenship award is given to a student for various reasons. These include a contribution to the school community; displaying personal qualities important to the school spirit; showing enjoyment working with other students and accepting a leadership role. The recipient of this award has shown awareness for the community beyond the school, and at all times shows respect for others.
The Citizenship Awards for 2010 were awarded to: Austin Gear and Holly Bolton.

Throughout the year, Austin has always been ready to step up and help whenever there is a need and has done so happily and willingly. He has always treated those around him with respect and courtesy, behaving like a thorough gentleman through words and actions. He has been a conscientious sports leader, going over and beyond the call of duty and always taking pride in his role and work standard. He always speaks patiently and politely to younger children and is respectful when talking to adults around the school. He has been an inspiration to all members of the St Cecilia’s community. Well done, Austin, congratulations!

Throughout the year Holly has been an enthusiastic, happy and energetic participant in the St Cecilia’s community. She always completes all tasks, regardless of the difficulty, with a positive attitude and ready laughter. Holly has always demonstrated a willingness to take on extra duties and is always ready to step in at the last minute. She has been a fantastic role model to those around her, demonstrating excellent qualities both in the classroom and around the school and wider community. Congratulations Holly!

SHINING STAR AWARD 2010
The St Cecilia’s motto Faith, Family & Friendship is one that Melissa Pethick lived up to admirably in her eight short years. Melissa’s spirit of kindness and friendship touched the lives of many people. She always had a smile to share with everyone and really learnt the value of making the most of every day.
The Shining Star award is dedicated in loving memory of Melissa Pethick to a worthy recipient who has set a fine example to their peers.
The Shining Star Award for 2010 was awarded to: Sarah Corbett

Throughout the year Sarah has shown a positive attitude to all elements of school life. She always has a smile and a kind word for other students and adults. Sarah is perceptive of others feelings and empathises with them. She is always enthusiastic about her school work and has continued to complete her work to the best of her ability, no matter how challenging. Sarah is open to the lessons these challenges bring, and she delights in using her new learning to further her own self development and resilience.

Congratulations, Sarah!

Netball

Today we had the battle on the netball court and I must say it was contested strongly by staff and senior students. However only one team may be victorious and the luck was with the teachers. As a team we would like to thank our senior students for putting on such a valiant effort but at the end of the day I believe height and strength lay with the staff. We shall look forward to another game in the future. Grow tall and prosper.

FMG Attendance Incentives

FMG very kindly presented two bikes to our school community this week in relations to perfect attendance for the term. This has been an incentive by FMG for all schools in Hedland. Today, Paul from FMG came to the assembly to present the two bikes to Joice Damian and Harrison Lockley for their 100% attendance during Term Four of 2010. FMG also generously gave thirty $20 gift vouchers for students with 90% - 99% attendance for Term Four. We would like to thank FMG for their kind donations to a wonderful scheme. I hope that the lucky students enjoy the extra special presents at this wonderful time of the year.

Condolences

We would like you all to keep Carl and Dee Singh in your prayers and thoughts after the passing away of Carl Singh senior. Christmas is a time of joy but I know that for the Singh family it will be a difficult time and we as a community would like to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you God’s peace.

Christmas concert DVD

I have the video from the Christmas Concert and look forward to creating DVD’s for parents. We will take orders at the beginning of the year.

The Bustle of Christmas

Christmas is a time of great joy for most people. It is the time to reflect on the year that has been and to prepare for the birth of Jesus. I know that many families will be busy preparing the festivities for the day making sure that Christmas cards have been written and sent and that there is enough food and presents. I hope and pray that are families have a festive season and return safely after the holidays. Remember Children to show your parents lots of love at Christmas and take the time to talk as a family and enjoy the holidays. This year has sped past I can’t believe that 2011 is just around the corner. God bless and may you all have relaxed and fun filled Christmas.

Paula MacKenzie
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On Tuesday, 14 December the Year Two class presented the End of Year School Mass, beauti-fully. Thank you to all the students that took part in the mass and we loved the hymns chosen by Miss Roderick. Well done!

I would like to thank all the parents, students and staff for their support during my time as As-sistant Principal at St Cecilia’s. I have thor-oughly enjoyed working closely with the parents and teachers. Thank you also for the kind words and support for my decision to return to the classroom fulltime. I miss being in the classroom with the students and I am very ex-cited about taking the Year Seven class next year! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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
GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue Library Book Accounts
As there are still library books outstanding at the end of this week, I would like you all to look for them during the holidays and return them at the beginning of the year so that your child may continue to borrow with the rest of the class. Reminder notices have been sent out over recent weeks and there has been a good response from these, thank you. If your child still has an outstanding book an account will be sent out by mail. This covers the replacement of the book and can be paid when your child returns back to school, if the book has not been found in the interim. Thank you to all parents for your support with the library program this year and the wonderful parents who helped cover books etc.

Mrs Tait
Library Teacher

ST CECILIA’S SCHOOL WEBSITE

Have you looked at our website yet?
Uploaded to our website are many items of interest including: newsletters, term planners, canteen menu, uniform order form, medication authority form, cancellation form, parish information etc
If there are more forms or information you would find useful if included on our website please let us know and we will see if we can include it.
Go to: www.stcecilia.wa.edu.au

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

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THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF HEDLAND
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
FOR PORT HEDLAND & SOUTH HEDLAND

Monday, 20 December
Advent Penitential Service of Reconciliation
St Cecilia Church, Port Hedland 7.00 pm

Tuesday, 21 December
Advent Penitential Service of Reconciliation
St John the Baptist Church, South Hedland 7.00pm

Friday, 24 December
Christmas Vigil Mass for Families
St Cecilia Church, Port Hedland 7.00pm
Service of Carols & Christmas Vigil Mass
St John the Baptist, South Hedland 11.00pm

Saturday, 25 December
Mass of Christmas Day
St Cecilia Church, Port Hedland 8.30am
St John the Baptist, South Hedland 10.00 am

NO VIGIL MASSES ON SATURDAY, 25 DECEMBER

Sunday, 26 December
Feast of The Holy Family
St Cecilia Church, Port Hedland 8.30 am
St John the Baptist, South Hedland 10.00 am

ST CECILIA’S CALENDARS

You can pay for and collect calendars from the front office.
They make great Christmas gifts—especially for family and friends not in Port Hedland.

Calendars are $10 each, so get in quick!

GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

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MERIT AWARDS

02 December 2010
KG: Henry Connor Jenae DeCourcy
    Lena Loghe Mackenziee Walker
    Ethan Williams Elias Zoghbi
PP: Qabale Badolicha Olivia Mitchell
Yr 1: Kayla DeCourcy Mirabelle Zoghbi
     Sarah Washington
Yr 2: Kenai Rehn
Yr 6: Tareah Britton Jeneveive Zoghbi
Yr 7: Holly Bolton Chelsea Turner-Ledwidge

09 December 2010
KG: Nicholas Galovic Matthew Gould
    Brandon Lodge Matthew Nakoul
PP: Olivia Braodfoot Cullen Connolly
    Jacob Gould Toby Hunter
    Jayden Rozario
Yr 2: Sophie Pileggi
Yr 3: Thomas Mconald Bayley Warren
     Georgia Hinch Emma McLean
     Tess Mellberg Carl Singh
     Madeleine Wialson
Yr 5: Josie Cecich Zoe Podmore
     Nader Zoghbi
Yr 6: Jordan Mathews
Yr 7: Renee Buckland Madison Connolly
      Tegan Longden

CANTEEN CLOSED
The Canteen will be closed for the first week of Term One 2011. Opening in Week Two, Monday 7 February.

2011 UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
The Uniform shop will be open on the following dates and times prior to the 2011 school year commencing:

- Monday, 31 January 10.00am to 12.00noon
- Tuesday, 01 February 10.00am to 12.00noon
- Then each Thursday after assembly approximately 9.00am to 9.45am.

Please note that the uniform shop will not be open each morning of the first week, only on Thursday mornings.
Office staff will be unable to assist with uniform items.

Please ensure that you attend at the times mentioned above.
"May His Love Bless You"

God be with you at Christmas time
And keep you in His care,
God grant you peace and happiness
And answer every prayer,
God fill each day ahead of you
With blessings from above,
So you will know, your whole life through,
The fullness of His love.
Merry Christmas