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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 17 each year - this year, in 2011, it is Saturday 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 prophecies, 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.

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After the Liturgy we travelled down to the All Seasons Function Room. Mrs Amanda Ramshaw together with parent
helpers had transformed the room into a magical and fanciful room full of candy canes and multi-coloured wrappings. The colourful theme made it an amazing evening. I know our students did a double take when they saw the candy theme. It was a magical setting with a lot of thought and imagination. The night was made special for our students and I know they really appreciated all the thought and effort that went into the preparation for their night. Mrs Amanda Ramshaw was the driving force behind the evening and as their Year Seven Teacher she dazzled us with her creative spirit and made sure that the evening would be for all to remember. Amanda is a very organised, talented teacher who made sure the evening flowed into a perfect ending for our Year Seven students. Thank you Amanda for sharing your gifts with us, in making this night stand out for our students.

Swimming
This term saw us once again hold a swimming programme for our Kindergarten to Year Two students. Our students took to the water on four occasions and I must say their behaviour was just awesome. We had a lot of fun and our students just wowed us with their swimming prowess. Every student made progress and they really did work well as a team. Again we could not have held this program without the support of our staff and parents. Thank you to Miss Dee Campbell, Mrs Sonja Gobel and Mrs Sarah Fenney, our Teacher Assistants and extra helpers.

Pre-Primary Assembly
Our Pre-Primary assembly was just fantastic! Our young students lead us most beautifully. Miss Rachel Russell and her team, Mrs Tanya McGrath and Mrs Robyn Southorn, made sure our young students were well prepared. They dazzled us with their performance of the Aussie Christmas song, “Six White Boomers”. We loved the way they jumped down the middle of the assembly hall, and meeting Father Christmas was a great surprise for everyone.

School Concert
I must say what a sensational night we had for our concert evening. Our students once again performed their musicals exceptionally well. Each musical told of the nativity story but with a twist. Both the junior and senior choirs sang with the angels and I know we all appreciated their wonderful performance. 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!

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

NANO NAGLE GOOD SAMARITAN AWARDS
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 students are truly deserving of this award and have personified the spirit of the “Good Samaritan” during the course of 2011.
The Nano Nagle Good Samaritan Award for 2011 was awarded to: Farnaz Devlaliwalla & Jenevieve Zoghbi
Farnaz is gentle and considerate to those around her, always greeting people with a warm smile. Her pleasant manner, modest nature and honesty are valued and respected by staff and students alike. She is always willing to help those around her and does so with a smile and thoughtful consideration. Her enthusiastic cheering and support for all at the school’s sporting carnivals are an inspiration to those around her. She has been a wonderful role model to all. Well done, Farnaz!

Jenevieve can always be seen around the school lending a helping hand to staff and students. She always shows respect for the worth and uniqueness of individuals and continually enhances others self-esteem through her words and actions. Jenevieve’s kind and generous gestures are made without hesitation. She shows genuine care and compassion for others and uses her positive and bubbly personality to inspire others to have a go.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD 2011
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 Award for 2011 was awarded to: Zoe Podmore
Throughout the year, Zoe has shown an enthusiastic and mature attitude to all school events. She is always willing and ready to share her fantastic organisational skills and help set up for school events, doing so with responsibility. She always completes all tasks with a contagious smile and cheerful laugh, regardless of how difficult or inconvenient. She is always ready to take on extra responsibilities and help all those in the school community. Congratulations, Zoe!

SHINING STAR AWARD 2011
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 2011 was awarded to: Kyle Gould
Throughout the year Kyle has worked to the best of his ability in all areas of the curriculum. He is enthusiastic about learning and he is always willing to take on extra responsibilities in the school. Kyle is an active member of the Church community and his contribution as alter server has been much appreciated. Kyle shows respect for all parents, teachers and students around him. Kyle’s positive attitude and pleasing manner is a delight to see in the school. Congratulations Kyle!

Year Seven Assembly
Mrs Ramshaw and our talented Year Sevens lead our assembly for the last time on Friday. I was amazed at their courage as they took to the stage and performed for us and most importantly told us their inner thoughts about moving on. It was truly wonderful to see how far they have come and how they are ready to face the world head on. Congratulations and well done!
Competition Winner

We were delighted when we found out that one of our students entered a competition during the term and was chosen as the winner. Our amazing Farnaz Devlalivwalla won first prize in the Logitech competition. For her excellent work the school received $1000 worth of Logitech equipment which will be used by our students. Congratulations Farnaz on your ability to think of others and compete for our school.

Staff 2012

Today the students had the chance to meet with their teachers for next year and visit their new class rooms. Below is the list of staff for 2012.

Principal ~ Paula MacKenzie
Kindergarten ~ Carla Kay with Robyn Southorn & Megan Smith
Pre-Primary ~ Rachel Russell with Tanya McGrath & Danielle Retallack
Year One ~ Nicola Simpson
Year Two ~ Kathy Dowdeswell
Year Three ~ Mandy Sheen
Year Four ~ Jody Tait and Sean Sta Maria (Friday)
Year Five ~ Grace Joukhadar (Assistant Principal) and Lyn Poharama
Year Six ~ Jo Crisp
Year Seven ~ Emily Hopkins
Assistant Principal/Library ~ Dee Campbell
Computer/Science ~ Sean Sta Maria
Sport ~ Lyn Poharama
Reading Recovery ~ Rosie Vrancic
Teacher Assistant ~ Carmel Campbell
Teacher Assistant ~ Elizabeth Walker
Secretary ~ Hilary Rozario
Administration Officer ~ Genni McCormack
Canteen Manageress ~ Cathy McLaughlin
Volunteer Gardener ~ Tony Ormond
Cleaner ~ Robin Binissa
Bus Driver ~ Jacko Scheitens
Guardian Angel ~ Joe Wittpahl

I would like to thank all our staff for the tremendous work they have done this year. We are so fortunate as a school to have such a committed Staff. They continually go above and beyond the call of duty. Whenever I ask for volunteers or extra help I know I can count on them. At every event you will find them helping. It is a joy to lead our Staff because I know they love our children as much as I do and will always be on call to give assistance. I pray that they too will have a blessed and relaxed holiday until we all return next year for another fabulous year.

Year Book

We are waiting for the arrival of the Year Book and looking forward to their arrival. 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 2011. As soon as they are here they will be distributed to families.

End of Year Mass

On Tuesday we will celebrate our last School Mass for the year. We have so much to be thankful for and so much has happened. It is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and give thanks for all that we have been involved in. Thank you to Mrs Grace Joukhadar for preparing the last Mass and I know that we are blessed to have the chance to celebrate together until we meet again next year. At this time we can say thank you also for all the new friends and families that we have met as well as to thank God for all our families that have travelled with us over this past year. Some have moved on, while others will join us for another year. We will be celebrating on Tuesday at 1.15pm. Please take the time to pray with us as we would love to have your company for the last time this year.

Farewell to Staff

It is always sad when we say farewell to staff and this year is no exception. This week we will be farewelling Mrs Amanda Ramshaw, who has been a diligent teacher with us for the past five years. During her time Amanda has taught Year Six and Seven as well as run our sports program and helped us reach new heights. Amanda was also our Assistant Principal for a couple of years. Amanda has led our senior classes and shared her great sense of humour with them. She is a very organised and caring teacher. We wish her all the best as she heads back to her home town of Queensland. We thank you for everything you have done for our school.

Mrs Bridget Tesar joined us two years ago and her enthusiasm and joy of teaching was easy to
see. She settled quickly into Year Three and has really managed to become a valued member of our school. We wish her all the best as she leaves on Maternity Leave and awaits the arrival of her first child. We wish you all the best and remember to come and visit us next year.

Miss Jessica McIntyre joined us this year and was a wicked science teacher. Her passion and enthusiasm for Science was clear to see. Organising Science Week was great fun for everyone and when Professor Dunlop graced our presence, we knew we were in for some fun. Thank you Jessica for giving our students a love of Science.

Mrs Trish Van Den Hurk became part of the team in Term Three and we have loved your positive attitude and friendly nature. You are quick to smile and help out in so many ways. Thank you for being part of our team.

Welcome New Staff
At this time we would also like to welcome Mrs Johann Crisp and Miss Katherine Dowdeswell to our school community. Our students all know Johann as one of our relief teachers and we look forward to her leading our Year Six class next year. Katherine will be joining us in the New Year. I know that we are looking forward to getting to know Johann and Katherine next year and welcoming them into our school community very quickly.

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 items that I would like parents to look closely at for the start of 2012.

The 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. If you read the Parent Hand Book you will notice that it reads short back and sides. I ask parents to make sure that all boys have short back and sides for the start of the school year. If you find this too harsh for your sons perhaps St Cecilia’s is not the right 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 this is still occurring. So once again, I ask that you look closely at the school uniform requirements. Many parents find that school shoes do not last for the whole year. My suggestion would be to buy 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.

I am also seeing a variety of socks that do not meet the uniform policy. Socks need to be short, not low cut and of the specified colour.

Lastly the grey school shorts and shirts for boys. We sell these in the uniform shop but again I have noticed parents are choosing to buy the shirts and shorts from Kmart or other retailers. The result is we now see many different styles of shorts and shirts.

Please, all uniforms are to be purchased from the St Cecilia's Uniform Shop.

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 all 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 2012 is just around the corner.

God bless and may you all have relaxed and fun filled Christmas.

Paula MacKenzie
Principal
UNIFORMS - COMPULSORY

Students are required to wear correct uniform at all times according to our uniform code.

Uniforms are ordered through the front office and purchased at our uniform shop. Pre-loved uniforms are also available. Parents are required to support the uniform policy and see that students leave home in the correct school uniform.

All children in Years One to Seven are required to wear the school uniform as specified below. A note of explanation is required if the correct uniform is not being worn. All items of clothing are to be clearly marked with the student's full name. Full sports uniform is to be worn on class physical education and sport days only, in Term One and Term Two where the faction coloured shirt is required to be worn.

There is no compulsory school uniform for Kindergarten and Pre Primary students however most wear the school t-shirt, uniform black shorts and school hat. These items are ordered through the school office.

As part of our uniform code it is expected that the length of the uniform worn by our girls be knee length. We ask that parents look closely at the length of their daughters uniforms and if they find them to be above the knee that the dresses are altered as soon as possible. Most of the dresses have large hems to allow for growth and can be altered as growth occurs.

Boys are asked to tuck in their shirts when wearing the grey uniform. Please check that your child's shirt has adequate length to be tucked in.

SCHOOL BAG - COMPULSORY

The School bag is compulsory for both Boys and Girls from Year One to Year Seven. The school bag may be purchased from the uniform shop.

SCHOOL HAT - COMPULSORY

During all terms, wearing of the school hat is compulsory. Student without a hat will not be permitted to be out in the sun.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

From time to time we will have occasions where the normal dress code does not apply e.g. inter-faction carnivals, free dress days.

Dress requirements will be advised in notes sent home to families.

Thongs are not to be worn on free dress days.

JEWELLERY

Boys and girls are permitted to wear

- a watch
- a chain with a Holy medal
- studs or sleepers **one in each lobe** (small sleepers without accessories, one pair maximum)
- a Medic Alert bracelet (this is the only bracelet permitted)

No nail polish

UNIFORM SHOP

Throughout each term the uniform shop is open on the following days:

Thursday 9.00am after assembly

Orders can be placed and paid for during the week at the school office

Orders will not be dispensed without payment being made

**It is essential that uniform items are purchased from the Uniform Shop only**

to ensure that the style and colour is correct.
GIRLS Year One to Year Seven
Summer & Winter Uniform (All Terms)
Green check uniform dress with crest badge.
Black leather lace-up shoes (flat) or Black MaryJane type shoes
White ankle school socks (not low cut socks)
Plain brown (flat) leather school sandals, NOT surf sandals
School Hat
Green jumper with crest badge (winter)

Sports Uniform
Black sports short (From our uniform shop)
Coloured faction shirt with logo Terms One and Two
Green sport polo shirt with logo Term Three & Three
Plain sneakers (white with minimal coloured trim)
Plain white ankle socks (not low cut socks)
Green jumper with crest badge (winter)
Black track pants (winter)

BOYS Year One to Year Seven
Summer & Winter Uniform (All Terms)
Grey shirt with crest badge
Grey shorts/trousers
Black leather lace-up shoes (flat)
Plain grey ankle socks (not low cut socks)
Plain brown (flat) leather school sandals, NOT surf sandals.
School Hat
Green jumper with crest badge (winter)

Sports Uniform
Black sports short (From our uniform shop)
Coloured faction shirt with logo Terms One and Two
Green sport polo shirt with logo Term Three & Three
Plain sneakers (white with minimal coloured trim)
Plain white ankle socks (not low cut socks)
Green jumper with crest badge (winter)
Black track pants (winter)

Students are only to wear their sports uniforms on allocated sports day.

HAIR AND GROOMING
Children are to be responsible for their own appearance and it would be appreciated if students could have clean shoes, shirts tucked in and socks up, as well as careful grooming and brushing of hair.

Hair must be clean, neat and tidy. Students must have their hair styled or restrained so that it does not fall onto the face.

Student’s hair needs to be regularly examined for head lice and/or nits. Treatment is available from the chemist and parents should commence treatment as soon as the infestation is discovered. The school should also be informed and students kept at home until they are clear of lice/nits.

Coloured or dyed hair is not permitted for students at St Cecilia’s, if a children attends school with dyed hair they will be asked to return home and change hair colour back to natural state.

Hair for girls should be:
Clean, neat and tidy
Girls long hair (collar length and longer) should be tied back firmly away from the face.
For Girls if long, hair clips must be used to keep hair off the face.
Coloured or dyed hair is not permitted
Green or black hair ties and ribbons only
Extreme hairstyles are not permitted

Hair for boys should be:
Clean, neat and tidy
Boy’s hair is to be short back & sides, hair must be well above the collar, not over the ears and the fringe must be short and well above the top of the eye brows.

Extreme hairstyles are not permitted
Rats Tails are not permitted
Coloured or dyed hair is not permitted
Number one haircuts are not permitted
No razor cuts