Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a fantastic start to the school year. Our Kindy and new enrolments have settled well into their new school. Our existing students have also settled very quickly back into routine. It is an absolute joy to walk around our playground at lunch and recess breaks. The polite, friendly nature of our students as they play and interact with each other and staff, has to be experienced to be believed. Visitors to our school almost invariably comment on the ‘tone’ of our school.

I would like to thank the students for their positive and enthusiastic start to the school year and the manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the day.

The First Few Weeks at School

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 student already knows and using this to create learning opportunities to learn and discover more. The assessments ensure that 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 students, 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 students 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 students have settled in.

Schools are dynamic ‘people organisations’ and as a school community we all have a vested interest in 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 student already knows and using this to create learning opportunities to learn and discover more. The assessments ensure that 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 students, 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 students 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 students 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 student. As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every student. Students who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners.

**New Staff & Families**

On behalf of the school community I would like to warmly welcome the new staff to St Cecilia’s; Miss Emily Fox who has taken the role of Year Seven Teacher and Mrs Mandy Sheen our Kindergarten Teacher. I am sure they will feel part of the school community very quickly. We also welcome Mrs Zara Bellette who will be assisting in Year One throughout the year. As the New Year has begun 25 new families have joined our school community we hope and pray that your stay will be happy and you will feel part of the school in no time at all.

**Parent Meetings**

We will be holding parent meetings from Year One to Seven on Wednesday 10 February. This meeting is structured so that as parents you can sit and hear from your child/ren’s teacher about how the classroom is to be run and the expectations for the students. You will receive a hand out and information booklet on how to assist your child/ren with reading at home. It is important that each parent receives a copy of all the information given. It is a wonderful opportunity to be child free and get to know your classroom teacher. We will be running two sessions the first session will begin at 5.00pm and the second session will be held at 6.00pm, they are identical sessions to allow for parents who have more than one child in our school.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your son/daughter’s schooling in detail, please arrange an interview with the respective teacher at an alternative time.

**Board AGM**

The Board Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 February at 7.00pm in the Library. We invite all members of our school community to attend the meeting; it is a wonderful way to learn about all that has been achieved in 2009. After the AGM there will be a board meeting for all the elected members of the board. If you have any questions in relation to being a member of the School Board, please do not hesitate to contact me. A nomination slip has been included in this Newsletter.

**Book club**

We have been extremely fortunate to have had Annette McLean running our book club over the last few years. It has been extremely successful and I know the children look forward to ordering and receiving their books. At this time Annette has taken on a new job and will need to hand over the book club to another wonderful parent or parents. If you would like to volunteer to run Book Club we would be very grateful, please talk to Hilary in the front office.

**Canteen**

Cathy McLaughlin has been called to England at the end of the school holidays due to her Mother being gravely ill. We ask that you keep Cathy and her family in your prayers. We hope that Cathy will be able to return by 23 February, until that time a huge thank you to Sonja Gobel for stepping in once again to keep our canteen running. There have been a few changes to the canteen. Firstly the canteen will be closed on a Wednesday for the next three weeks. Secondly there will be no salad plates until Cathy returns. It would be wonderful if some Mothers or Fathers could volunteer to help out in the canteen.

**Uniform Shop & Book List Orders**

It has been wonderful to see our families begin the new school year, full of enthusiasm and joy. Before school started there was much to do and to have wonderful parents come in and volunteer their time to help out is great. A special thank you to Sally Mellberg for her untried help and support in running the uniform shop so that our children can be out fitted for the start of the year. Thank you also to Maria Britcliffe who came in and volunteered her time to run the book collection for our families. It is fantastic to have so much support from our parents.

**Signing In During School Hours**

Just a reminder that if you are in the school grounds between 8.45am and 2.15pm you need to sign in at the front office. I have noticed a number of parents coming into the school and forgetting to sign in. It is important that we know who is on school grounds and we ask that you follow the guidelines for the safety of your children.

**Unforms**

Thank you to all the parents who have sent their children in the correct uniforms for the start of the year. I am still noticing a few children that need to sort out the correct shoes, please be advised that black sneakers or joggers are not the correct shoes for school. We have asked for black leather lace up shoes or black leather Mary Jane shoes for girls. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

**Website**

Our new web site is being finalised and I will look forward to its release. I will advise you once it is up and ready. You will be able to download the newsletter and look at the calendar as well as check out what is happening in your child’s classroom. It is very exciting and we look forward to seeing it active. A special thank you to Allyson Pedley who has been instrumental with designing our site and Hilary Rozario for providing so much information.

**Sacramental Program**

The Parish based Sacramental Program for 2010 is ready to begin. This week you will be receiving a letter from Father Tom and Father Mark our Parish Priests for Port and South Hedland inviting your family to be part of the program. If your child is Catholic and in Year 3, Year 4, Year 6, Year 7 you will receive the invitation. If your child is Catholic and has missed out receiving the Sacraments due to unforeseen circumstances please contact Father Mark, Father Tom, or Amanda Ramshaw the Assistant Principal of St Cecilia’s to make sure that your child is included.
World’s Greatest Shave
Ruby Esmonde one of our Year Five students has entered this year’s World’s Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation after losing two of her friends to Leukaemia. Ruby will be raising money for the foundation to provide practical care and support for patients and families living with this and other blood related disorders. We would all like to show our support for Ruby and let her know how proud we are of her. This takes real courage and it is amazing to think a child is willing to take on something so big to show her love and support for her friends. Ruby is an inspiration to us all.

There will be a collection tin in the office for any donations. If you require a receipt please place your donation in an envelope with your name and address and request for receipt written on the envelope.

Car Park
Please remember that when dropping off or picking up your child/ren you have two options. One option is to park your car and walk/pick up your child/ren. The other option is to use the drive through. When choosing this option it is important to remember not to leave the car but wait and allow your child/ren to walk to the car. Please remember also not to overtake in the drive through lane but wait patiently for your child/ren. We seem to have a few impatient parents that are trying to rush the process and are endangering others. In the afternoon we have a teacher on duty to help move the cars along and make sure your children hop into the cars safely.

Termite Parish Centre
Our Parish Centre has been found to be harbouring termites and so it is with regret that the Parish centre will be closed for one week to all the spraying of the area and to rid the Parish of the termites. Therefore during week 2 the Parish centre will be closed it will be able to be used from Monday 15 February. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Parish AGM will be held on Thursday 18 February at 7.00pm in the school library we hope that many of our parishioners will be able to come and support the Parish and be involved with the running of the Parish as a whole.

Staff of St Cecilia’s
Principal: Paula MacKenzie
Assistant Principal: Amanda Ramshaw

Kindy:
Pre-Primary: Mandy Sheen
Year 1: Melinda Coleman
Year 2: Kirsty Hocking
Year 3: Nicola Roderick
Year 4: Bridget McGlinchey
Year 5: Sean Sta Maria
Year 6: Renae Sweeney
Year 7: Lyn Poharama
Year 8: Emily Fox

Sport:
Science: Amanda Ramshaw
Library: Simone Ikin
Reading Recovery: Julia Rahman
Aboriginal Teaching Asst: Rosemary Vranci
Teacher Assistants:

Administrative Officer: Paul Mathieson
Secretary: Lizzie Walker
Cleaner: Robyn Southon

Pupil Free Day
On Monday 15 February we will be holding a Pupil Free Day as staff are involved in a Professional Development Day, we hope this does not inconvenience any parents. Last year we notified all parents about the two Professional Development Days for staff that will be held in Term One. The days were 15 February and the 15 March. Please keep these dates in your calendar.

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 many things can affect your child’s sleep patterns. 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 fuss:

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, swimming?) 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.
• Make sure that homework and reading books are in your school bag ready to hand in.

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. Children 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
We will be having our first School Mass on Friday, 12 February at 8.45am, to celebrate the beginning of the school year. We have had a wonderful start to 2010 and we would love to see lots of parents join in this celebration.

Mrs Ramshaw
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Accompanying the newsletter this week:
- Term One Planner
- Board Nomination Form

**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

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

- 01 Jan  Levi Bellette (Year Two)
- 03 Jan  Max Moore (Kindergarten)
- 04 Jan  Jesse Battle (Year Two)
- 04 Jan  Damian Mathews (Year Four)
- 06 Jan  Alexander Harrington (Pre-Primary)
- 06 Jan  Alleirah Taylor (Year One)
- 06 Jan  Tyson McDonnell (Year Five)
- 07 Jan  Nicholas Galovic (Kindergarten)
- 07 Jan  Tyrah Kelly (Year Three)
- 07 Jan  Jack Barker (Year Six)
- 08 Jan  Brody Mellberg (Year Six)
- 08 Jan  Harrison Scott (Year Six)
- 09 Jan  Kaitlyn Cavey (Year Six)
- 11 Jan  Matilda Boyd (Kindergarten)
- 11 Jan  Elsie Mbenjele (Kindergarten)
- 11 Jan  Phoebe-Cate Mouat (Year Two)
- 12 Jan  Jordan Lewis (Year Pre-Primary)
- 13 Jan  Antonio Gonzalez (Year Four)
- 15 Jan  Tara Mellberg (Year Two)
- 17 Jan  Natasha Greipel (Year One)
- 17 Feb  Shay Matthews (Year One)
- 20 Feb  Angelique Leopardi (Year Two)
- 21 Feb  Joel Nun (Year Five)
- 24 Feb  Brendon Cowley (Year One)
- 24 Feb  Ashley Pascoe (Year Four)
- 26 Feb  Ryan Aspland (Pre-Primary)
- 30 Jan  Charlotte Emmitt (Kindergarten)
- 01 Feb  Kahi Poharama (Year Five)
- 03 Feb  Roselyn Ochigbo (Pre-Primary)

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking will start in week two.

**COMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08 Feb</td>
<td>PIPS Assessments start Pre-Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Feb 5-6pm</td>
<td>Parent Evening – session one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Feb 6-7pm</td>
<td>Parent Evening – session two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Feb 9.15am</td>
<td>P&amp;F Welcome morning tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY – NO SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This year we have included the coloured faction shirts on the uniform list. Students are to wear their faction shirts on both allocated sports day each week during Terms One and Two. Lots of our students are wearing the shirts and they look great!

We have begun our Swimming Programme. We had a very successful day yesterday. The students were very enthusiastic and excited and their behaviour was excellent. Well done! We are taking the students to the swimming pool on Wednesdays to increase their fitness for the swimming carnivals and also to increase their confidence when swimming 25m or 50m lengths. Most of our families have paid their swimming fees and I would like to thank you for your prompt payment, it is really appreciated.

Students may bring along a pair of thongs to wear to and from the pool but must have their runners in their bag to put on whilst at school. I will also remind students during their Sports lessons what they are to bring and wear on Wednesdays.

Mrs Ramshaw
Physical Education Teacher

**LIBRARY NEWS**

To all the St Cecilia families, welcome back or welcome to our wonderful school. Over the school holidays we had many dedicated parents who covered library books. Thank you so much for your time and effort. We are lucky to have your support. Our library program has started this week and a big congratulations to those families who were ready with their booklists and library bags. It is very difficult to start work and ‘borrowing’ if children are not prepared with their stationery.

Borrowing Days are: Wednesday -Years 1, 2, 6 and 7, Thursday- Years PP, 3, 4 and 5

Each student is expected to have a library bag (plastic bags not acceptable) and are asked to return their books weekly. In the upper years the children borrow larger texts but are still asked to bring their books back weekly. They will be allowed to borrow the same text if they are not finished. Please come and see me if you would like to help in the library, sorting shelves, putting books away or covering. There is always plenty to do. Enjoy your week.

Mrs Rahman
Library Teacher

**OLD COMPUTERS**

We want to get rid of our old school computers. Computer cases – make us an offer.

Hard drives removed, no monitors. Great for parts or tinkering with. Can be put together again if you need a second computer at home.

Contact Mr Santa Maria, Year Four Teacher, at school during normal hours for more information.
MERIT AWARDS

Thursday 04 February
KG:
PP:
Yr 1:
Yr 2:
Yr 3:
Yr 4:
Yr 5:
Yr 6:
Yr 7:

COMMUNITY NEWS