Dear Parents

Today marks the feast of the Assumption for all Catholics in Australia. Today is a Holy Day of Obligation and is only one of two days of Obligation in Australia. We will speak to the children about the role Mary played in the life of Jesus and how she was chosen above all women in the world to be the Mother of God. The idea of Mary being taken into heaven is the meaning behind the special feast day but this idea may be too complicated for the children’s understanding.

Tomorrow is the launch of the Walkathon and we are having a mad bad hair day being organised by the hospitality leaders in Year 4/5. Children need to bring a gold coin tomorrow to support a village in Vietnam that needs our financial support. Two members of our staff will be going over to the village to assist the children and villagers during the school holidays.

Healthy Bones Breakfast
Wednesday from 7.00am all families are invited to come along to the school for a healthy bones breakfast. There is no charge for this breakfast. Children need to bring a plastic bag with a bowl and spoon for their cereal and there will be juice and fruit provided. The idea is to promote the importance of eating a healthy breakfast for children each day. Tea and coffee and Milo will be available.

Parish Trivia Night
Saturday night will see the annual trivia night for the parish. If you would still like to attend this night please phone the parish office for a spot on a table.

Book Week
To celebrate Book Week, next Friday the children come to school dressed in the costume of a book character. There will be parade of characters in the hall at 9.00am followed by activities in line with the shortlisted books of the year.

Tupperware
Tomorrow Friday is the last date for orders of Tupperware to be handed into the front office. No more orders will be accepted after tomorrow.

Legal Issues
On Monday I attended a legal issues day run by the Catholic Education Office. An area I need to remind families about concerns drop off times in the morning. The duty teacher is on duty from 8.15am. Any child coming to school before this time needs to be accompanied by their parent and sit while waiting for the teacher to begin duty. Parents are able to leave after the teacher has taken up their duty. In the afternoon children should not be on the play equipment. Once children have been collected from the courtyard they are in the care of parents and need to be closely supervised. The undercover play area is licensed to the YMCA every afternoon from 3.05pm and we should not be using this equipment.

When collecting children in the afternoon please wait for them in the courtyard area unless the weather is inclement. The breakout spaces are becoming too congested in the afternoons with children heading to different places for dismissal.
Walkathon
The children are excited about the walkathon that is coming up in a few weeks. Each Wednesday we will have money collection day. If there are a couple of parents who are able to assist with money counting on these Wednesdays we would love to hear from you. Please let Donna know if you are able to assist. We will need some parental help on the day of the walkathon with supervision and cooking the many sausages for the children.

Hats On
The Cancer Council has advised all schools that, hats on while outside, are required. We will give families two weeks to find the hats and all children need to be wearing their hats by Monday September 2. Beanies are not substitutes for sun protecting school hats.

Parking in the Morning
The kiss and go morning drop off is running smoothly on most days. The only time the system breaks down is when a car parks in the drop off zone and the occupants walk into the school. This sometimes happens when we have different carers dropping children off in the morning. Please assist us by reminding drivers not to leave their cars parked in the drop off zone in the morning.

Fire Drill
Last Friday we had a smoke detector alert the evacuation system at 3.05pm. The children were all safe and evacuated as per our drills. What we discovered was that the car park is not the safest place for assembly following evacuation. From now on the big tree in the playground will be the assembly point. All notices in the classrooms will be changed to reflect the changes.

Mother Teresa School Family Mass
On Sunday August 25 all families are invited and welcome to come along to Mass at Holy Spirit Church at 9.30am to celebrate with the parish our unique identity. Please make an effort to come along for Mass on this Sunday.
Happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including: Mikayla Nutt, Evan Ball, Bianca Di Lulio, Murray Elias, Thomas Kuminek and Harry Sawyer.

Last week: Alena Prendja, Zac Milczarek, Olivia Thorpe, Hannah Freire, Gerladine Motha, Amelia Gaspari and Luke Zamoyta. (These children were on an excursion last week).

**SCHOOL AWARDS**

**Preschool**
- Ella McCarroll (Yellow Seahorses)
- Laura Diskordia (Blue Whales)
- Mikayla Keller (Purple Starfish)
- Kristen Zilic (Red Jellyfish)
- Evie Hawkes (Red Jellyfish)

**Kinder**
- Sophie Davidson (Aqua)
- Noah Freire (Sapphire)
- Luke Priestley (Teal)
- David Thurgar (Turquoise)

**Year One**
- Tanvi Vunnam (Amber)
- Lauren Ivancic (Ochre)
- Thomas Kuminek (Orange)
- Tara Fennell (Tangerine)

**Year Two**
- Jules Cappello (Emerald)
- Tani Hamilton (Jade)
- Isabella Condemi (Lime)

**Year Three**
- Dominik Marek (Lilac)
- Alex Williamson (Violet)

**Year Four/Five**
- Amelia Machin (Crimson)
- Jordan Sarri (Magenta)

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT**

**17 AUGUST**

**DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

We are after donations of fantastic prizes for our upcoming Parish Trivia Night.

All prize donations are gratefully accepted and can be delivered to the school or Parish Office.

For more details email office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:
The Journey

At Mother Teresa we will journey and follow in God’s way by living our life in a true and authentic way. The value we are focussing on for the next two weeks is: Peace

Ways in which we show this at Mother Teresa School are:
- Reflecting on our behaviour
- Christian Meditation
- Identifying peaceful practices
- Positive relationships
- Effective communication
- Managing conflict

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Today, 15th August.
This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Good and loving God,
You are faithful to those you love.
As we celebrate the mystery of Mary’s Assumption,
May her faith in you and your promise to her
Help us to trust in you more deeply.
This we pray in the name of Jesus your Son.
Amen

Mother Teresa School Family Mass
25th August, 9:30am
Holy Spirit Church
Burdekin Avenue, Amaroo

All families and friend are welcome to come along and celebrate together.
Born: August 26, 1910,
Died: September 5, 1997

FIRST RECONCILIATION & EUCHARIST

Please pray for our Year 3 students who are currently preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Next Tuesday and Wednesday our students will be making their First Reconciliation.

Dear Parents
You might not have been a fan of Reggae Music but Bob Marley had a point when he sang, “You just can’t live that negative way. Make way for the positive day.”

Positive Vibration. Here’s a little story about a donkey and at the end you will understand why the story is titled, “The Wise Donkey”.

“One day a farmer’s donkey fell into a well. The animal cried miserably for hours as the farmer tried to work out what to do. Finally, the farmer decided that the donkey was old and the well had to be filled in anyway; it just wasn’t worth the effort to retrieve the old donkey. The farmer invited his neighbours to come over and help him. Each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. When the donkey realised what was happening, it cried horribly, then, to everyone’s amazement it quietened down. When the farmer looked into the well, he was astonished to see the donkey shake each shovel of dirt off its back and take a step upwards. This sequence continued until the donkey began to appear. Before long, it stepped over the edge of the well and trotted off.”

Author unknown.

And the moral? Well, use each of your problems as stepping stones. We will never get out of our “deepest wells” by doing nothing. We need to shake off the negatives and “Make way for a positive day”. Additionally, acting in a positive way does not mean that we ignore life’s less pleasant situations but that we approach the unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. What a Wise Donkey!

So, how do we teach our children to be wise and positive in the decisions and choices they will have to make?

Ron Disney gives good advice when he says, “It is not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.” St. Paul, when he wrote to his church at Philippi, suggested some great values: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is excellent or worthy of praise, think of these things.” Phil, 4: 8.

As Christians, we believe in a positive outcome in life by our faith in a loving God. Through prayer, Christians believe that we can make use of what Jesus called, “the Kingdom of God within you.” Luke 17:21.

When we are tempted to give in and say we can’t do something, St. Paul has this encouragement, “I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.” Phil. 4: 8.

Christians realise that optimistic, positive thinking needs to be tempered with realism, which is not the same as being negative. A favourite saying is to “Act as if everything depended on you, pray as if everything depended on God.” In other words we should not use faith in God as a substitute for living in positive ways that will likely improve our chances of having positive outcomes; the two go hand in hand. St. Paul again: “There is no limit to the blessings which God can send you; He will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance and still have something to spare for all sorts of good work.” 2 Cor. 9:8.

No wonder Christians are such a positive lot! And if we aren’t, we should be!

Peace and best wishes
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
You may have noticed that now the weather has started to fair up a little our outdoor area is a hive of activity. The boardwalk has now been completed, and the seating and outdoor chimes in the sensory area are now in place. The plants have been delivered and are ready to be planted and we even have a boat ready to go in place. We are all getting very excited as the progress continues.

The children have all been really busy in the classrooms working on their artworks for the Art Show and they are looking great. The Green Turtles have also been continuing with their space project. They have been discussing what they think aliens might look like. They hope to draw their own designs and then make their own aliens.

The Blue Whales have had a science focus this week, after the children discussed what they would like to do. The children have been exploring circuits and how to use wires and a battery to light a bulb. Another idea was to race cars and the children have been making ramps to race them down. They discussed how we could make our cars go faster. They have also been talking about God's creation, they watched a PowerPoint about how God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th.

The Red Jellyfish have been getting very excited about their excursion on Monday. Class discussions have included 'how we sense God' and 'public transport'. The children have also been bringing in pictures of their family for news times. There have been some beautiful baby photo's.

The Yellow Seahorses have been looking at airports. They have watched videos of aeroplanes taking off and landing and have read many books. Plans for their excursion are almost complete, and part of it will include a visit to the airport, which is very exciting. The children have voted on the Father's Day present they would like to make and will start it the next few days. They have also been busy with music, playing the tapping sticks, singing and playing musical games.

And finally the Purple Starfish have been exploring a variety of experiments this week to help us celebrate science week. To begin they asked the question what material would be best for a pirate ship for it to float? We predicted what each item would do, then experimented. They decided wood may be the best material. The next day they explored melting crayons with a heat sauce. It was very interesting watching how the crayons melted very quickly and how they splattered everywhere. Lastly they looked at the mechanics of their bodies. From cartwheels through skipping with high knees to somersaults. The somersaults were a little tricky and much discussion was had after watching others. They were interested in how their head nearly needed to go between our knees...that was tricky, but with support most of us managed to tumble over remembering to tuck our head right down.

Next week we are all gearing up for book week, we will have an author coming in during the week to read her book, and Mrs Bruce has organised some great activities related to the short listed books. We are all really looking forward to seeing the children's dress ups on Wednesday or Friday.

Thank you for your continued support,

Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
This term we will be having our school Walkathon on **Friday 6th September**. This will be the major fundraising drive for this term to purchase resources for the school. The walk will begin at 9.45am and will be followed by a free sausage sizzle and drink.

For every $10 raised, the children will receive a ticket to go into the monster prize draw (this will happen on the afternoon of the walkathon). **Major prize this year is an i pad!!!**
There will also be a weekly class prize and an overall prize for the class who has raised the most money. Please encourage your child to bring in their sponsorship cards and any money raised each Wednesday.

Parents are welcome to come and walk and we will be looking for parent helpers to assist on the day. More information regarding this will come home closer to the date.

To kick start the walkathon campaign, the Year 4/5 hospitality hosts have organised **“CRAZY HAIR DAY”** for this **Friday 16th August**. The children are asked to bring a gold coin donation and come to school with CRAZY HAIR (the kids can wear a wig or make their hair look crazy). The Year 4/5 hospitality hosts will have some sparkle spray if there are any children who don’t have a wig or forget.

Last year we raised $18 000. This year we have a few brave members of staff who have offered to lose something if we raise lots of money. The male teachers will shave their heads if we raise $20 000 or more and Mr Lowe will shave his moustache (he has had it for 40 years) if we raise more than $25 000. Let’s get behind this community event and raise as much money as we can.

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to this wonderful community event.

Many Thanks
Brendon Pye
Walkathon Coordinator
Mother Teresa School in conjunction with Arthritis ACT and Capitol Chilled Foods are proud to host...

The Healthy Bones Breakfast

This event will be held in the Mother Teresa School Hall on Wednesday 21st August from 7am to 8:30am. Cereal, milk and fruit will be provided along with tea and coffee for the parents. This celebration is being held to remind our students about the benefits of starting the day with a healthy breakfast.

The students are asked to bring their own bowl, spoon and a plastic bag please.

The Canberra Darters netball Team will also be making an appearance!
Week 5, Term 3 (19th-23rd of Aug) is Book Week all across Australia!
A time when we Celebrate the wonderful shortlisted books, and of course dress up. This year’s theme is ‘Read Across the Universe’. We would love the children to dress up and would also like to give you plenty of notice. Be creative and come dressed as your favourite space related character or simply come dressed as a character from a book. Enjoy planning your costume.

We have lots of things planned during this week including craft activities, parades, 2 special performances, and a book fair! More detailed information will come soon……..
MRS HUESTON IS STARRING IN MOTHER TERESA BOOK WEEK!

During Book Week Mrs Hueston, author of Bipolar Bears will be talking to the children about the writing process; drafting, illustrations, printing and then publishing. See below if you would like to order a copy of the book or visit the website Bipolar Bears

This beautifully illustrated children’s book, finished in watercolour provides wonderful pictures aimed at children from 5 years old. The book follows the story of Daddy Bear and his family as he has a bipolar episode. His children are dragged along on his rollercoaster ride where he starts many activities—but before they are finished, he moves onto the next. Daddy Bear receives special pills and is told by a doctor that he has Bipolar Disorder and needs to rest as his brain has been very busy. This wonderful story helps children understand mental illness and behaviours of Bipolar Disorder.

To order a signed copy of the book please follow these steps:

1. Write your name and class on an envelope
2. Place $15 (correct money please) in the envelope
   Send it to the office in weeks 5 & 6.

Orders will be collected by Mrs Hueston and your book will then be delivered to your class. ORDERS TAKEN IN WEEKS 5 & 6.
BOOK WEEK.....

.....is Next Week (Week 5)
Remember to dress up for our book week theme 'Read across the universe' in a space related costume or as a character from any book.

Dates:
On Wednesday the 21st Aug (Purple Starfish & Red Jellyfish)
On Friday the 23rd of August for the rest of the ELC and School. There will be a whole school parade at 9:15.

BOOK FAIR
We are also having a small scholastic Book Fair during book week. The book fair will be open at the following times:
Wednesday 21st August from 8am– 9:30
Thursday the 22nd of August from 3-4 pm — CASH ONLY, there is no eftpos machine for this fair
See the Value in Social Skills

Negotiating— We are coming to the end of our current social skill “Negotiating”. Here is one of the negotiating activities some of the children have worked on in class:

Children work in groups of 3 to plan a mock birthday party. It teaches the importance of compromise and negotiation. Firstly the children work as individuals and fill out the “Birthday Party Ideas” sheet. On this sheet they need to choose a location, 3 types of party food and 1 type of drink for the party. Once each of the children have filled out their “Birthday Party Ideas” sheet, they join with their group to see what they agree on and what needs to be discussed. The game continues until the group has compromised on a complete birthday party.

**Do’s**

- Decide what we need (What would you like… I would like…).
- Think about what the other person might want too.
- Pick a good time to talk.
- Make your request, pointing out how the other person will get something that they want too.
- Compromise: getting partly what you want is better than not getting anything.
- Use kind words and a friendly tone of voice.
- If the other person won’t agree to what you want, accept that. You won’t always get what you want.
- Keep your side of the bargain.
- Follow these simple steps:
  - What would you like…
  - I would like…
  - What is your idea… listen to what they say.
  - My idea is… The person listens to what you say.
  - Agree on a win-win solution.

**Don’ts**

- Don’t ask at an inconvenient time (e.g. when the other person is busy or talking to someone else).
- Don’t use grizzly, whingeing, or demanding voice.
- Don’t threaten, sulk, insult or get angry if you don’t get what you want.
- Don’t take it out on others (eg. don’t yell, don’t put your hands on your hips and don’t pull faces)

**Play it straight, Negotiate!**

Negotiating in action at Mother Teresa: Three best friends in Year Two (Madeleine Christie, Isabella Watson and Tess Muldoon) wanted to play with each other but had different ideas of what they wanted to play. The girls decided to negotiate a playground roster and created a timetable. On the timetable it had Monday-Friday with blank spaces for lunch and recess. Together they compromised and filled in the blank spaces with different games (some of these activities included: playing on the playground, going to the library and playing on the oval). This is a very impressive act of negotiating and the girls are to be congratulated on their mature approach to working out a positive solution.

If you have any “Negotiating” stories from home or from school please email them to me brendon.pye@cg.catholic.edu.au

Below is an article that has negotiating strategies for parents.
http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/negotiate_2.html

Once again thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing and hearing more positive stories about the wonderful children at Mother Teresa using the social skills they have learnt in class.

Kind Regards

Brendon Pye
Here is the next Maths Cheeky Challenge... Go for it Mathematicians!!

Your Challenge:
♦ Your next mathematical challenge is to create some fantastic tessellations using two dimensional shapes.
♦ You could also make some tessellations using blocks or other two dimensional shapes and then take a picture of your tessellation.
♦ Alternatively you could take pictures or draw pictures of the tessellations you see in your environment. Remember to label your pictures.

Cheeky Challenge:
♦ Put your Green Thinking Hat on and try to create as many different shapes as you can to make your tessellation. Have a look at a few examples below for some ideas.

PROCEDURE:
1. Draw, create or find tessellations.

2. Take a picture of your creation, or of the tessellations you find in your house garden (or wherever you may spot them).

3. Email in your tessellations or bring in your creations so they can be displayed.

Mr Lowe and I would love to see and share your hard work!!! We will publish your Maths Cheeky Challenge answers in next week’s newsletter!!

Remember to keep sending in those challenge solutions.
Email Miss Jeffries: brooke.jeffries@cg.catholic.edu.au
Congratulations and thank you to those children who have completed the Cheeky Challenge. Check out their masterful ideas!!

Student Responses

Isabella Hodge

Sophia Zamoyta

Madeline Dooley
Year One’s Maths Challenge

After Mr Lowe visited Year One Amber for some Maths learning we were inspired to set you these Maths cheeky challenges. We would love to check out your answers!!! Email our teacher Miss Jeffries brooke.jeffries@cg.catholic.edu.au and she will give them to us. THANKS.

On my farm I have some horses and some chickens. There are 20 legs altogether. What are three possible combinations of animals? List them.

On Saturday I went to my farm to visit my animals. I have some bulls and some roosters. There are 36 legs altogether. How many possible combinations of animals can you work out? What are they?

Good Luck!!

LIFE update

If anyone is experiencing difficulties logging on to LIFE it is related to the browser you are using. LIFE works very well with Firefox and Google Chrome. Both of these browsers are free to download and we have had no issues when these browsers are used. Life has particular difficulties when being accessed on Internet Explorer.

The annual CMAG on Sunday in celebration of Book Week. Join us for an afternoon of activities based on the books shortlisted for the Picture Book and Early Childhood Book of the Year by the Children’s Book Council of Australia.