Dear Parents

I hope you enjoyed last night’s concert as much we enjoyed putting it on for you all. I wish to thank the staff and children for their hard work and preparation. The venue was great and the staff commented on the wonderful job people did in cleaning up the hall and stacking away the chairs.

We are now entering into the third week of Advent and we remind ourselves and our children of the importance of this time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Please find some time during the week to slow down and reflect.

There are a number of families leaving us this week to travel interstate and will not be returning to MTS next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to life at school and wish you and your children a safe and happy transition into your new school.

Reports 2013

All school reports will be posted to your nominated home address on Friday morning. In the envelope will be your child’s report, a letter from the principal and the class list for your child for 2014.

Class Teachers 2014

The following is a list of the teachers and their class groups for the 2014 school year. There are a number of new teachers to MTS and I have included a short bio on each of them. There will be ample opportunity to meet and welcome our new staff early next year. All new teachers have attended a staff meeting and met their 2014 working teams.

Early Learning Centre

Purple Starfish Bronwyn Newth & Carmen Buckley
Yellow Seahorses Janene Sadler & Vanessa Robinson
Blue Wales Hazel Haydon & Robyn Raward
Red Jellyfish Jill Lambert & Jacqui Watts
Green Turtles Carol Blyth & Norah Mears-Smith
Director Clare Addinell
Office Manager Angela Kelley

Kindergarten

Liana White (Monday – Thursday) Anne Leet (Friday)
Kate Higgins
Maria Radic (Monday – Wed) Anna Williams (Thurs & Friday)
Kari Sharp

Year 1

Brooke Jeffries Brendan Pye
Allica Leet Stacey Walters
Megan Daly Sarah Purcell
Stephanie Travers Chris Beerworth

Year 2

Justine Watt Hayley Shelley
Damien Montesin Brendan Roweth
Carly Snowden

Year 3

Justine Henshaw Katie O’Neill
Special Needs Education Teacher Karen Garrity
Executive release Sean Gourlay
Library Janet Bruce
Office Manager Donna Betts
Office Assistant Gayle Jeffries
Assistant Principal (executive release & RFF) Craig Hart
Religious Education Coordinator (RFF) Anne Leet
Learning Support Assistants: Margie McDonald, Iyesha Issac, Terri Rodda, Kate Kelly, Lucille Davenhage.
DSTA: Sarah Stubbs
Staff new to MTS

- Kate Higgins completed her final teaching practicum at MTS and we were impressed with her enthusiasm and professionalism. Kate has taken many relief teaching days at MTS this term.
- Maria Radic is an experienced teacher and is teaching for the first part of the week as she still has a young family at home.
- Kari Sharp is currently working at St Jude’s at Holder and will be in her second year of teaching full time next year.
- Megan Daly has recently graduated from ACU and has worked at MTS doing some relief teaching this term.
- Stacey Walters is returning to full time work this year after having her family. Stacey is an experienced teacher who has worked at MTS over the last two years.
- Chris Beerworth is currently at St Michael’s in Kaleen. He is an experienced teacher with a passion for IT Hayley Shelley is coming to MTS from Rosary school at Watson and is an experienced teacher having taught in NSW, England and the ACT.
- Justine Henshaw is currently teaching full time at St Monica’s Evatt and comes with wealth of experience in senior primary education.
- Katie O’Neill is an experienced senior primary teacher who is currently working at St Francis of Assisi in Calwell.

iPad Information Evening
All parents of students in Years 5 and 6 2014 are invited to attend an information session outlining our intended use of iPads for our senior students next year. The school will be introducing a ‘Bring Your Own Device’ option for students to effectively integrate today’s technology with our existing curriculum. The meeting will be held in the library commencing at 6pm.

School Closure
Mother Teresa School will close next Friday December 20 for the school holidays. The school will reopen the week beginning January 28. All students start on Monday February 3. Please help keep our school safe by checking as you drive past and reporting suspicious activities to the Police and by using the school courts and play areas during the holidays. During the break we will be putting in 1000 sq metres of artificial turf to enable safe play spaces for our children.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
You may have noticed in the media that the Royal Commission has turned its attention to the Catholic Church. I provide the following as our CEO response to the work of the Commission.
On 9 December, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will examine the Catholic Church’s protocols for addressing sexual abuse within the Church, Towards Healing.

“This will be the first time the Catholic Church will be the central focus of the Royal Commission,” according to Mr Francis Sullivan, Director of the Truth Justice and Healing Council. “Catholics around Australia need to know how Church leaders are approaching the issue of sexual abuse and the disposition we are taking to the Commission. This is succinctly outlined in the commitment statement.” Mr Sullivan concluded. You are encouraged to read the Commitment Statement from Leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia for the Royal Commission hearings into Towards Healing. The Commitment Statement can be read at: www.tjhcouncil.org.au/media/42284/131114-.

The Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn seeks to provide a safe learning environment for all staff, students and families via a culture of education and training on child protection issues. Therefore, the CEO is cooperating fully with the Royal Commission and seeks to be truly open to the wisdom that it will offer to ensure greater protection for Children. If you wish to stay educated about the proceeding beginning on 9 December, visit the Truth Justice and Healing Council (TJHC) website. www.tjhcouncil.org.au.

Friendly Reminder
Please return all Home Readers and Library books as soon as possible. There are a number of outstanding readers. Thank you.

Choir
Congratulations to the choir who sang so beautifully at Gungaderra Homestead yesterday. Thank you to Mrs White for her help with the choir yesterday.
Happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including: April Wickham, Lily Wickham, Zoe Holdsworth, Lucy Shelley, Samantha Rankin, Nataliya Vatavuk, Isabelle Muller, Joel Bird, Kaden Murray and Noah Milczarek.

Mass Times For Christmas

Christmas Vigil (Children’s Mass)  7:00pm
Christmas Eve Mass (carols at 9:30pm)  10:00pm
Christmas Day  9:00am

St Francis Xavier (Hall): Christmas Vigil at 7:00pm (with Carols)

Please Note: There will be no 8:00am or 5:30pm on Christmas Day.
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:

The Journey

The value we are focussing on this week is:

Giving

Giving is offering something without receiving anything in return.

Dear Parents

What a blessing Freeways are if you daily have to travel by vehicle and time is of great importance. Before we get to travel on a Freeway a lot of work has to be done. For months, even years, men and machinery push and shove earth to fill in gullies, cut through hills, tunnel through mountains, to take out comers and curves, to make the road flat, straight and smooth.

Nearly 2000 years ago John the Baptist echoed the words of the prophet, Isaiah, when he preached: "1 Luke 3: 4,5. John isn't talking about making a Freeway from one town to another, he is talking about a Freeway where all the obstacles have been removed for the coming of Christ into our lives. He is urging us to make smooth the rough places in our lives - greed, selfishness, unkindness, thoughtfulness? - fill in the hollows - anger, judgemental attitudes, untruthfulness? - make low the mountains and hills - spiritual laziness, materialism, exclusion of God? - that would prevent us from welcoming Jesus into our lives.

The Season of Advent, which is upon us, is a season for preparation, a time for attending to the disrepair of our Freeway to Christ that has occurred over the past year. As John Piper writes in A Hunger for God, "Our soul is stuffed with small things and there is no room for the great." Advent can be an opportunity to clean up the past and find new energy and commitment to our life as a Christian.

Advent is preparation time for the coming of Christ at Christmas, when we are invited to accept Christ, not only into the world, but into our personal lives. Journeying with Christ is a life-long journey that leads to joy and peace; and, like the Freeway, we might have to make changes to our lives before we can get started.

Sometimes change can be difficult for it can be hindered by past hurts and failures. To be an agent for change, we have to learn to let go of the past, for our life is to be lead now and "the future" quickly becomes "the now". It seems that humanity is forever saddled with change and the quality of our life, particularly our spiritual life, depends on how well we can prepare ourselves so that change can be possible and of benefit to our lives.

It's possible that complacency can allow us to move Get the road ready for the Lord, make a straight path for Him to travel. Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain levelled off. The winding roads must be made straight and the rough plains made smooth." through life comfortable with our quality of life and the fact that "we don't hurt anyone". We get the road ready for the Lord, make a straight path for Him to travel. Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain levelled off. The winding roads must be made straight and the rough plains made smooth." appear to be doing the right thing.

But, when we look at Jesus whom we are preparing to welcome, are we as good as we think?

"Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom." Luke8:1 His companions were his quarrelsome apostles as well as some women who were friends or had been healed or had been "sinners". Advent offers an opportunity for us to have a good look at how we are journeying: what's the state of repair of our Freeway? In what direction is it headed? Is it simply stretching off into the distance or is it going somewhere significant that indicates true purpose in our life.

"Lord, thank You for Advent and its insights into Your way of loving and for helping me to examine my own patterns.

Help me to support Your work,
Your way with those with whom
You invite me to journey.
Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet
(Religious Education Co-ordinator)
The hectic pace of the Preschool has not abated this week with the children being very busy starting all their Christmas craft, adding the finishing touches to their special presents, and enjoying the outdoor area in the lovely weather.

On Monday we had students from John Paul College in the classrooms helping the staff and children to start the end of year cleaning. They were a fantastic help, and we made a great start on our annual clean up.

We have also spent time practising for our Christmas concert this week. We walked to Harrison School for our technical rehearsal on Monday and managed to finish off all the costumes and masks that were needed for our acts.

Now on to the Christmas concert. The first word that sprung to mind when I watched the Preschool songs was, WOW! The children performed with such enthusiasm and enjoyment, and their beautiful smiles filled the stage with light. They had such courage to stand on the stage in front of nearly 1500 people and perform so well, and their costumes were lovely. A huge thank you must go out to all the families and friends that came to support the children, without that support the children would not be the amazing individuals we saw on stage last night.

The other aspect of the evening that I would like to mention was the way everyone helped with the tidy up after the concert had finished. It was wonderful to see everyone pitching in and helping, and it really showed what a great community spirit we have here at Mother Teresa. We truly do 'small things with great love'.

Thank you for your continued support,
Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
Dear Parents/Carers,

As the school year comes to end I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the wonderful parents/carers and friends of the Mother Teresa community for embracing the new whole school social skills program we implemented this year. As this is a home-school program I would love to get some feedback to assist with improving and planning the program for 2014. Next year we will keep some of the main social skills and re-teach them, also adding some new social skills. Below is the socials skills covered this year and evaluation questions. Please email any responses to brendon.pye@cg.catholic.edu.au or michael.lowe@cg.catholic.edu.au

Term 1
**Sharing:** Slogan—It’s Fair to Share!  **Playing fairly:** Slogan—Fair Players get to play more games!

Term 2
**Respect:** Slogan- Expect Respect!  **Peacefully Resolving Disagreements:** Slogan- At Mother Teresa we… Talk it out Together!

Term 3
**Negotiating:** Slogan- Play it Straight, Negotiate! **Including Others:** Slogan- More than one makes heaps of fun!

Term 4
**Being a Good Sport:** Slogan- Lose or win do it with a grin!

Evaluation questions:

1. What were some positive aspects of the social skills program?

2. What social skills from this year’s program would you like to see in next year’s program?

3. Were the weekly parent tips in the newsletter useful? Why or Why not?

4. Do you have any ideas or recommendations to improve the social skills program?

5. Other comments?
MATHS – CHEEKY CHALLENGE

Time and Position — It’s Christmas Time!

Your Challenge:
Your next mathematical challenge is to apply the knowledge and skills you have learnt about time and position to:

1. Map out the time taken and distance covered to travel by donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
2. Create a map and design a timetable to map out Santa Claus’ route and the estimated time it will take to deliver the presents. (Remember it is up to you how Santa will be travelling—by sleigh, by rusty Holden ute or by some other means. Remember also that this will affect how long it will take for Santa to make his round trip.)

Investigate things like:

For Question One:
♦ Will the donkey have to stop to rest along the way? If so, for how long?
♦ Will Mary and Joseph and the donkey need to stop for meal breaks? If so, for how long?
♦ What time would they leave? When would they arrive?
♦ How will you record the trip? What elements of a map must you consider?

For Question Two:
♦ Where will Santa go first, next, after that?
♦ How long will it take to get from place to place?
♦ As he delivers presents and the sleigh gets lighter will he be able to travel faster?
♦ What kind of map would you draw to record his trip?

PROCEDURE:
1. Investigate the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem as well as how long it would take to travel by donkey from one place to the other.
2. Record your answers as a map—feel free to include pictures or drawings.
3. Create a map and timetable of Santa’s travels around the world on Christmas Eve.
4. Draw a picture of your answers and email it in or hand it in.

PARENTS — This challenge helps your children to:
♦ Develop greater understanding of skills such as position, addition, subtraction and multiplication.
♦ Understand and apply mathematical skills to real life situations.
♦ Develop their understanding of mapping and timetables.

Remember to keep sending in those challenge solutions to be published! 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**

Grace Howse

Emma Howse

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Dear Parents

As some of you may not be aware Personally Yours is your school’s preferred uniform supplier and the level of uniform services we provide are as follows:

1. Provide support and display uniforms on parent information night
2. Provide extra discount for an early pre-ordering system
3. Provide an easy ordering for parents on line 24/7
4. Provide same day free delivery service for orders over $40.-
5. Provide three times a year a sizing kit in the front foyer
6. Provide a great showroom in Fyshwick with a play area for kids

Provide the most qualified and friendliest staff in all of Canberra

If these services are not being supported it makes it difficult for us to gauge the need and demand for new uniforms and come the beginning of the school year no doubt some of the parents will be disappointed if their child has got no uniform.

Please understand that without the level of support we cannot continue these great services and this is of great concern to us?

Your ideas and comments on how we can improve our service next year would be most appreciated. Please provide us with some ideas as to how we can assist and or improve our services by emailing us at admin@pyours.biz

From all of us at
Personally Yours
218 Gladstone Street
Fyshwick ACT 2609
www.pyours.biz

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you and your family a safe and Happy Christmas.
May the New Year bring you heaps of good health and love.