Harrison Herald Newsletter

Dear Parents

It was very pleasing to see so many parent attend the Parent Information Night this week. My thanks to the teachers who prepared the information for each family and generously gave of their time. The children have settled into routine quickly after the holidays and we have had a smooth start to the year. Next week the children in Kinder will begin full weeks as the assessment has almost been completed.

**Health Concern**

As we have children with low immunity due to ongoing treatment, I ask that, if your child contracts measles or chickenpox, you contact the school immediately so we can inform our families.

**Date Change**

Last week I placed the wrong date in the newsletter for the working bee. The correct date is Saturday 16 March so as to avoid the long weekend. The aim is to pull weeds from the gardens in preparation for mulching and a weed free garden. We will begin at 8.00am and finish at 11.00am.

**School Banking**

Just a reminder that Bendigo Banking will recommence next week. Please send your child’s banking to school every Tuesday.

**The Catholic Guy**

The Catholic Guy Team will be running a session for parents on Tuesday 19 February at 11:30am at Holy Spirit Church. Morning tea will be held before the session at 11:15am.

This session will be repeated in the evening. The sessions run for 45mins-1hr. Children are able to attend the session with the parents.

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**... Just For Fun**

(Or Another Dad Joke)

Two fishermen were out in their boat when a hand appeared out of the water and moved from side to side.

“Did you think someone was drowning?”

“No,” said his friend, “it was just a little wave.”

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Assembly**  
  2 Emerald  
  Friday, 15 February  
  MTS Swimming Carnival  
  Yr 1-5 @ CISAC  
  ELC/Kinder @ MTS

- **Wed, 20 February**  
  Year 4/5 Depart for Camp Cooba

- **Friday, 22 February**  
  Year 4/5 Return from camp

- **Monday, 11 March**  
  Canberra Day Holiday

- **11—15 March**  
  Catholic Schools Week

- **Saturday, 16 March**  
  Working Bee 8am—11am

- **Monday, 18 March**  
  School Photos

- **Friday, 29 March**  
  Good Friday

- **Sunday, 31 March**  
  Easter Sunday

- **Monday, 1 April**  
  Easter Monday

- **Friday, 12 April**  
  * MTS Cross Country  
  * Last Day of Term 1

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**SEE THE VALUE IN SOCIAL SKILLS**

This year we are going to be explicitly teaching the children social skills from Pre-School to Year 5. Last year I completed some study and with the support of the “Friendly Kids Friendly Classrooms” resource, I created a new program called “See the Value in Social Skills”. This new program captures the goal of linking our existing values program with a relevant whole school social skills program. Every week in the newsletter there will be information and tips about the social skill each class is learning. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing the Mother Teresa School Community enriched even further with this new program.

**Term 1**

Weeks 3—6  Social Skill: Sharing  

Weeks 7—10  Social Skill: Playing Fairly

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**IT'S FAIR TO SHARE**

**FAIR PLAYERS GET TO PLAY MORE GAMES**

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Brendon Pye

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**Kinder**
Jessika Barac (Aqua)
Lucy Shelley (Sapphire)
CJ McAviney (Teal)
Harry Sawyer (Turquoise)

**Year One:**
Vincent Fabjanowski (Amber)
Kurt Zimmer (Ochre)
Klara Cates (Orange)
Cadel Evans (Tangerine)

**Year Two**
Alexandra Voudiotis (Emerald)
Ruby Causer (Jade)
Lindsay Tran (Lime)

**Year Three:**
Brendan Skein (Lilac)
Madison Briese (Violet)

**Year Four/Five**
Michael McAviney (Crimson)
Grace Howse (Magenta)

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**Happy birthday** to everyone having a birthday this week including Tiarna Ruberto, Angus Paton, Allira Sarris, Jessica Cousins, Ryleigh Barton, Natalie Sture, Jake Thorpe, Josephine Cooper and Lucas Korab.
Whole School Focus:
The Journey

The Whole school focus theme for this year is ‘The Journey’ and the Bible reference that supports our theme is:

‘I am the way. The truth and the life: no man comes to the Father but by me.’
John 14:6

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
Thank you to all those parents and friends who attended our Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday. The children participated well and sang beautifully. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students and staff at John Paul college to celebrate with us. During Lent we will be looking at ways we can follow the beautiful example Jesus showed us.

An important aspect of our Catholic faith is to attend Mass on a regular basis. This Lent would be a great opportunity to take your children along to Sunday Mass and model the reverence that we should be demonstrating with our children.

I found this simple prayer a thoughtful way of reflecting on Lent:

Lent - What to Give Up

Give up complaining
focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism
become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments
think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry
trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement
be full of hope.

Give up bitterness
turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred
return good for evil.

Give up negativity
be positive.

Give up anger
be more patient.

Give up pettiness
become mature.

Give up gloom
enjoy the beauty that is
is all around you.

Give up jealousy
pray for trust.

Give up gossiping
control your tongue.

Give up sin
turn to virtue.

Give up giving up
hang in there!

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia is our official Catholic agency for international aid and works worldwide to help people in desperate need, regardless of race, gender or religion. Each class has a Project Compassion box available for the children’s donations. Please talk to your child/ren about this important project and aspect of Lent. Let us remember though that it is not how much we give, but the compassion that accompanies our giving. At Mother Teresa School, we are trying to reach out to others and bring hope to those who are less fortunate than ourselves during this time of Lent by raising money for Project Compassion.

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

Sacramental Program Dates for 2013

Confirmation (children in Year 6 or older):

Parent AND Child Information Session:
Tuesday 5 March at 1:00pm or 7:00pm

Commitment Mass followed by Enrolment:
Saturday 9 March at 6pm OR
Sunday 10 March at 9:30am OR 5:30pm

Celebration of the Sacrament:
At Masses on Tuesday 28 May, Wednesday 29 May and Thursday 30 May (times to be advised).

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation (children in Year 3 or older)

Please note the change in timing of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – now part of the preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

Parent Information Session:
Tuesday 18 June at 1:00pm or 7:00pm

Commitment Mass followed by Enrolment:
Saturday 22 June at 6pm OR
Sunday 23 June at 9:30am OR 5:30pm

Celebration of First Reconciliation:
At Liturgies on 6 and 7 August (times to be advised)

Celebration of the First Eucharist Sacrament:
On the weekends of 7/8 and 14/15 September.

Please stay in touch via our parish website www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

More details concerning the Sacramental Program are available in the foyer of the Church, Burdekin Ave, Amaroo
or contact Fiona via email fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
Week 2 has nearly come to an end, and the children are already embarking on some wonderful projects, and making many discoveries. There are still a few tears in the mornings, but these soon make way for huge smiles and lots of chatter.

The beginning of the week saw a pancake marathon, as each class made their pancake batter, following many different recipes. They then cooked and flipped until everyone had eaten their fill. It was obviously my job to try all the different pancakes to see which one was the best, but even after trying many pancakes, it was too difficult to decide!

Yesterday we also celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Although the Preschool didn’t attend the school Mass, we received the ashes and every child who chose to, was marked with a cross of ash on their forehead. The children talked about how much God loves us and how we can be like Him by helping others in the time of Lent. We also discussed the Project Compassion boxes which have been given to each family.

Meanwhile, what has been happening in the classrooms; the Yellow Seahorses have been discussing how to build a sunflower shed for their plants. After many discussions and voting they have decided to build their shed from hay bales and curtains. If anyone has access to any hay bales please let us know. The children have also been designing their own sheds from paddle pop sticks, these are displayed in the breakout space. They have also been talking about a ‘river’s journey’, where it starts and where it finishes. This has come about from the children playing in the river and discussing how the water comes out and where it goes.

The Blue Whales have been learning about the Chinese New year. So Yeon, Alex’s Mum, came in to talk to the children about how people in Korea celebrate the New Year. The children learnt how to bow, and they also received a special money pouch and card. They have also been learning how to play different games in class and discussing taking turns.

In the Purple Starfish class the children used voting to explore their favourite outside play area and choose the toys for outside, this is a wonderful way for the children to have ownership of their environment and have their voices heard even during this settling in time. They have started exploring ideas for our veggie garden .... From planting flowers, lettuce and tomatoes to creating some statues! If you have any great ideas or pictures please let us know. Thanks to those who have emailed in your family snap shot, they are adding some wonderful discussion points to their floor book.

The Green Turtles have been trying out some of the new games in their classroom and learning how to play them. They have also been talking about taking turns and sharing the Preschool toys.

The Red Jellyfish have been looking at the value, sharing, in line with the whole school social program. The children discussed what sharing meant to them, and what it looked like in the class room. They also talked about what made them happy.

Thank you for your support,

Clare Addinell and the ELC Team