DATES TO REMEMBER

Focus Assembly: Cooperation
2 Lime
Friday, 22 February
Year 4/5 Return from camp
Wednesday, 27 February
2:00pm Focus Assembly
Monday, 11 March
Canberra Day Holiday
11—15 March
Catholic Schools Week
Saturday, 16 March
Working Bee 8am—11am
Monday, 18 March
School Photos
Thursday, 21 March
PSSA Swimming Carnival
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

… Just For Fun (Or Another Dad Joke)
Q. What did the grape do when it got stepped on?
A. It let out a little wine!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are approaching the end of week 3 and children and teachers have been engaged in lots of learning and fun.

Mick has set off on camp with the Year 4/5 children and teachers. This is another first for Mother Teresa School. They are all sure to have a fabulous time at ‘Camp Cooba’ and return on Friday afternoon exhausted, but with many stories to tell of their adventures (and of course a bag full of washing).

Swimming Carnival
Last Friday the children from Years 1-5 participated in our annual swimming carnival at CISAC. The carnival began with our competitive swimming races for children from Years 2-5 who nominated to compete and then moved into a series of rotations where all children (and many teachers and parents) were able to be involved in a variety of activities. It was a terrific day. Thank you to Brendon Pye and his team of helpers for their organisation and to the army of parents who helped at the pool and at the BBQ at school. The children from the ELC and Kinder had their own water fun day at school and this was a great success also – enormous thanks to the staff for their organisation and to the many parents who helped and supported at these events.

Social Skills Program
The focus of our social skills program continues to be on sharing. The children have been working in their classes and across the school on this skill. You may hear them use our mantra for sharing, “It’s fair to share.” Perhaps you can have a chat at home about the different ways we can share at home and at school.

Working Bee
The date of our next working bee is Saturday 16 March. 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. If you are able to spare a little time to help out that would be great!

Working with Vulnerable People Checks
As mentioned in information that came home from our Parent Information Nights, all those who wish to volunteer and help at school will be required to complete a working with Vulnerable People Check and be issued with a card. This is a new requirement from the Office of Regulatory Services and will need to be completed by the end of October 2013. Forms and further information are available from the school office or by visiting the website www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people

Community Council
The Community Council executive will meet this Tuesday, 26 February, at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

School Fees
School fee statements will come home this week.

Every blessing for the week ahead,

Cherie Kelly
Assistant Principal
**REMINDERS**

A reminder that the licencing requirements of our after school programs require the use of both playground spaces. The YMCA uses the primary playground outside the hall after school until 6pm and the ELC before and after school care program requires the use of the ELC playground before school from 7.30am – 9am and after school until 6pm. Children not enrolled in these programs are not able to use the playground equipment during these times. We appreciate your assistance in supervising your children when you pick them up as this alleviates any confusion and assists our groups enrolled in outside school hours care.

Also parents please refrain from using the disabled toilet adjoining the student’s toilets in the concrete area (next to the Canteen). This toilet is reserved for use by a student with particular needs and should NOT be accessed by parents or siblings.

**Preschool**
Blake Eggerton (Yellow Seahorses)
Oscar Uphill (Blue Whales)
Ella Santamaria (Purple Starfish)
Charlotte Taylor (Green Turtles)

**Kinder**
William Craig (Aqua)
Claudia Polegubic (Sapphire)
Luke Quinn (Teal)
Sienna Di Iulio (Turquoise)

**Year One:**
Ruby Horn (Amber)
(Magenta)
William Cooper (Ochre)
Joshua McIntyre (Orange)

**Year Two**
Chiara Nunes (Emerald)
Alena Prendja (Jade)
Amelia Gaspari (Lime)

**Year Three**
Georgia Mormanis (Lilac)
Jack French (Violet)

**Year Four/Five**
Jessica Cousins (Crimson)
Leanne Evans

**Happy birthday** to everyone having a birthday this week including Jack Fraser, Brodi Newton-McCullough, Noah Batten, Frankie Cappello, Sam Laria, Julia Fernandes, Trystan Colwill, Grace O’Mahoney, Grace Dwyer, Max Markeziec, Michael Thurgar, Tommy Connolly and Oliver Stepanek. Have a lovely day.
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...’

John 14:6

PROJECT COMPASSION

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. 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.

FOCUS ASSEMBLY

Next Wednesday the 27th February, at 2pm, 2 Lime will be hosting the Focus Assembly. All parents and friends are welcome to come along and lend their support to the children during these special occasions.

Dear Parents

“A recent survey of 1000 Australian parents found that the basics of good old-fashioned courtesy were rarely used by children. Words such as ‘please’, ‘thank you’, ‘may I?’ and ‘excuse me’ were replaced by grunts and demands. The survey commissioned by the Disney Entertainment Group to mark the release of a new DVD edition of Beauty and the Beast, indicated that three out of four parents thought that children were less well-mannered than in previous generations.” Heather Zubek

There is no doubt that our earliest relationships provide a model for all our future relationships, and learning to trust other people as feeling, thoughtful human beings, will form the basis for having happy, satisfying relationships. To develop these happy, satisfying relationships, we will need good manners and basic courtesy.

Good manners need to be taught for they are important skills that our children should develop when they are young, so they can enjoy the benefit of them for the rest of their lives. It is in the family home that children learn to be considerate, tolerant and respectful; this learning comes through parental guidance and example.

Actions really do speak louder than words:

“I can’t move it, you can’t move it.
It won’t move an inch.
But if we work together,
Moving it’s a cinch.” Author Unknown.

When children are polite, kind, honest and cooperative, they develop character and exhibit social skills that help others feel comfortable. These relationship building skills, also help children -and adults- to get on with friends and neighbours and, if the occasion arises, to resolve differences of opinion in a courteous and healthy way.

It has been said that “Rudeness is the weak person’s imitation of strength”. Author Unknown. It is also an expression of ignorance of courteous behaviour and children who do not have social skills can have a difficult time making lasting friendships with their peers and being accepted generally. They have missed out on learning the “Golden Rule”: Treat others as you yourself would like to be treated.

“I have super manners. Yes I do.
I can say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’, too.
When I play with my friends, I like to share. That’s the way I show I care.” Author Unknown.

Manners are respect in action and should be learnt and taught through the experiences of daily living. “Mind your manners” often used to come from the lips of parents and indicated that their children knew what it was that needed to be “minded”. In a society that rarely offers example or support for parents, teaching manners to our children can be lonely and tedious. However, to see our children grow in respect and consideration for themselves and others will be a rich reward for effort.

“Grandma says I shouldn’t lie,
The truth is always better.
I just hope she doesn’t ask,
If I like my birthday sweater.” Judith Lalli.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
What a great day we had on Friday at the water fun day. Despite the weather being slightly cooler than expected, the children had a fantastic time on the slip and slide and running through the sprinklers to name a few activities.

Some parents have asked for copies of some of the photos that I emailed out, all photos that we take of your children over the year will be downloaded on to a CD at the end of the year and given to you with your child’s portfolio.

Meanwhile, what’s happening in the classrooms; the Red Jellyfish have been designing and making kites. The children had the opportunity to test out their flying skills, and saw which design worked best. They will continue their kite project next, looking at different designs, making stronger kites that they can hopefully fly on the oval. They have also been talking about the world, creating a mind map showing what they already know and what they would like to learn. They have been greeting each other in different languages, and painted still life pictures of their class globe.

The Purple Starfish have been ‘in the garden this week’. They compared a variety of seeds and predicted what they may grow into. They then planted the seeds and are watching them grow with anticipation. In the Yellow Seahorses the river project is continuing, the children have been talking about the colour of water and why it differs in different situations. Another question that was asked was, “how are waves created?” They will be carrying out some science experiments next week to try to explore this concept. Their sunflower shed project has been put on hold until next week, after making their models they brainstormed what materials they could use for the real shed. They decided that hay bales would be good for the walls, these have now been ordered and they are awaiting delivery next week.

In the Blue Whales Alex chose the story of the Gingerbread Man to read. This lead to many discussions and the children decided that they would like to make gingerbread. They made the mixture, cut out various shapes and then decorated them. They have also been investigating a Venus Fly Trap! Mrs J brought hers in and the children looked at it with magnifying glasses. Mrs J also brought in a Praying Mantis, which really peaked the children’s interest.

And finally the Green Turtles have been learning more about turtles. They looked at a YouTube clip that gave them lots of information about them. Mrs Blyth is investigating the possibility of having their own turtle in the classroom. Watch this space for more information.

We are currently in the process of redesigning parts of our outdoor area, and we would like some of your ideas! We are setting up our Inspirational Walls (one in the foyer of the ELC, the other in the breakout space) and we would like your input through comments and photos. We are focussing on natural materials, all ideas are welcome.

Thank you for your continued support.

Clare Addinell and the ELC team
This week we begin explicitly teaching our first social skill for the year - SHARING. In each class the children have been learning about the different forms of sharing eg sharing our gifts and talents, sharing our friends, sharing school property. The children all should be able to memorise the slogan for sharing “It’s Fair to Share”

In each class there is a sharing poster displayed and the children should be familiar with the “Do’s and Don’ts” of Sharing.

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**Do’s**

Put away or use privately anything that you can’t share or really don’t want to share because it’s special to you eg. one icy pole, something special a relative bought you back from a holiday.

Offer to share your things when you feel other people would enjoy them too.

If someone asks to use something of yours, say “yes” and show them how to use and take care of it properly, and tell them where you want it to be used.

If you and another person both want to use something that neither of you own, take turns at using it for an equal amount of time.

Remember to tell people that you allow to use your things if there are special ways to care for these things.

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**Don’ts**

Don’t show off things that you are not willing to share with others.

Don’t refuse to share any of your things which you show in public.

Don’t hog things which don’t belong to you and which other people are wanting to have a turn at.

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Many Thanks

Brendon Pye
Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following swimmers who have been selected to represent Mother Teresa School at the Gungahlin PSSA Swimming Carnival on Thursday 21 March. More information will be sent home next week.

Boys-
- U 11’s Freestyle: Jake Thrope & Jere Cobanov
- U 10’s Freestyle: Aiden Dooley & Jacob Saunders
- U 9’s Freestyle: Sam Barac & Dom Marek
- U 8’s Freestyle: Angus Neslon & Ryan Dooley
- U 11’s Breastroke: Jake Thorpe & Byron Graham
- 10 Years and Under Breastroke: Aiden Dooley & Jacob Saunders
- U 11’s Backstroke: Jere Cobanov & Byron Graham
- 10 Years and Under Backstroke: Aiden Dooley & Jordan Wilson

Girls-
- U 11’s Freestyle: Madi Dooley & Payton Askew
- U 10’s Freestyle: Jordan Sarri & Larni Bush
- U 9’s Freestyle: Taryn Addinell & Sophie Yang
- U 8’s Freestyle: Abbie Thrope & O’Mahoney
- U 11’s Breastroke: Madi Dooley & Payton Askew
- 10 Years and Under Breastroke: Taryn Addinell & Jordan Sarri
- U 11’s Backstroke: Madi Dooley & Payton Askew
- 10 Years and Under Backstroke: Larni Bush & Anika Von B

On the 15th of February Mother Teresa School had their 3rd Swimming Carnival. The first bus to CISAC at Belconnen arrived at 9:30am. Year One to Five students then spent the day competing in both novelty and competitive races.

In the competitive races 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th would get a certain amount of points - 1st would get 20 points, 2nd would get 15 points, 3rd would get 10 points, 4th would get 5 points. After competitive races we went on to novelty games such as jumping pillow, whirl pool, water slide, egg and spoon races, noodle races, collect the corks game and much more.

We thank all the teachers and especially the parent helpers for making this wonderful day happen.

THE HOUSE POINTS SCORE FROM THE DAY

BLUE = 180  RED = 185  GOLD = 245

AND THE WINNING TEAM IS ......................... GREEN WITH 290 POINTS!!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!! JJJ

By Jake Thorpe and Emma Howse
Wednesday Afternoon Training
3:15pm till 4:30pm
Year 1 Breakout space
$80 per term
(uniforms and poms extra)
All Enquires
Kelly Ciampa
0431489884
t.ciampa@bigpond.com
Step into Life Gungahlin launched in Forde on the 11th February 2013, and I’m really excited to be running this new Group Outdoor Personal Training business.

At Step into Life, we specialise in Group Outdoor Personal Training and with over 164 franchises throughout Australia, we are the leading provider of group outdoor fitness programs. We aim to improve the wellbeing of every community through fun, fresh air, encouragement and inspiration in personal fitness and we do this in a fun, healthy, and non-threatening group personal training environment.

Step into Life Gungahlin is currently offering two superb programs, Cardiomax which will build maximum fitness, burn calories and increase endurance and our popular Toneup program which is the ideal body strengthening and sculpting session working all muscle groups to create the ultimate firm body.

I am a qualified personal trainer and fully trained in the Step into Life program and we offer a flexible timetable of 11 x one hour sessions per week, held at the Burgmann Anglican School and Heritage Park, both in Forde. We cater for all fitness levels, from the first time exerciser to the super fit and marathon runner.

I will be working personally with you and look forward to helping you achieve your fitness goals, be it, weight loss, toning up muscle groups, strengthening your core, improved posture or fitting into your favourite clothes which will lead you to a healthier and happier you. Contact me on 0458 476 550 for further details as well as a FREE trial session.

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