Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday Mick joined all Principals from the Catholic Education Office schools in our Archdiocese for their annual Principal’s Retreat. The retreat is an important and valuable opportunity each year for principals to gather, to network, to reflect on their vocation as leaders in Catholic schools and to develop common understandings and pathways for the shared priorities across our diocesan schools.

**Year 4/5 Camp**
The campers returned last Friday from a very successful 3 day camp. Camps such as these are tremendous opportunities for children to develop in their understanding of themselves and others, to bond as a grade group, to challenge themselves and to develop positive relationships with their teachers and peers. Congratulations to the children on making camp a positive experience and an enormous thank you to the teachers and parents who went with the children; without teachers who are willing to give of their time to attend camp they do not happen.

**Assembly Time**
Please note that weekly assembly time has changed this year. Assembly is held each week on **Wednesday at 2pm**. This new time allows set up time for the class presenting assembly, it ensures all classes from ELC to Year 4/5 are able to be seated and ready on time and very importantly it does not impact on morning prime learning time.

**Save the Date**
Our annual Grandparents Day is fast approaching and will take place on Wednesday March 13. Planning is under way. More information will follow soon.

**Reminders**

**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!

**Playground Equipment:** As mentioned in last week’s newsletter 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.

Every blessing for the week ahead,

Cherie Kelly 
Assistant Principal
**Dependants of ADF Members**

For funding purposes Mother Teresa School is required to annually report enrolment numbers of all ADF members’ children. This includes full time reservists and any dependants who are living away from the member if the child/ren are listed as dependants on PMKeys.

If you have not informed the school that you are a defence family or have children in your care who are dependants of a member, could you please email Sarah Stubbs (DSTA) sarah.stubbs@cg.catholic.edu.au or phone the school.

For families who prefer not to utilise the services of the DSTA it would be appreciated if you could make yourself and your wishes known.

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**Preschool**

Alexia Ryan (Yellow Seahorses)
Zali Hoare (Blue Whales)
Rhys Chapman (Purple Starfish)
Stella Gresham (Red Jellyfish)

**Kinder**

Jacqueline McLeod (Aqua)
Ashley Saunders (Sapphire)
Chloe Walters (Teal)
Samuel Moran (Turquoise)

**Year One:**

Sam Laria (Amber)
Anna Paton (Ochre)
Eddie Gillard (Orange)
Emma Brooker (Tangerine)

**Year Two**

Carly Pham (Emerald)
Kyal Wells (Jade)
Royce Brennan (Lime)

**Year Three**

Laura Trussler (Lilac)
(Violet)

**Year Four/Five**

James Cadiz (Crimson)
Dylan Hahn (Magenta)

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**Apologies to Danny Ivankovic (One Tangerine) whose award did not appear in last week’s newsletter. Congratulations Danny.**

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**Happy birthday** to everyone having a birthday this week including Vidun Singhabahu, Isabella Fitzsimon, Domenic Pelle, Jordan Wilson, Georgia Hancock, Macey Bush, Alicia Villena, Liam Moreland, Ryan Birrell, Ava Hahn, Alessia Parducci and Antea Uslebrka. Enjoy your special day.
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:
The Journey

The value we are focussing on for the next week is:

CO-OPERATION

At Mother Teresa we show co-operation when we:

* Be fair
* Encourage others
* Share our gifts and talents
* Treat everyone equally
* Communicate calmly

FOCUS ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Mr Pye and 2 Lime for presenting a wonderful focus assembly on ‘Co-operation’. The students did a great game show called 'MTS You’ve Got Skills!' It was a real pleasure to see how all the students participated with our slogan 'It’s fair to Share'. This has great meaning for the children at Mother Teresa School and shows how we can do 'Small things with great love'. Thank to the family and friends who came along to support the students.

The word "character" is used quite frequently in Australian conversation:

- "It took character for our team to win." - "She showed a lot of character to come back after the accident."
- "He’s a bit of a dodgy character."
- "It's a test of their character as a group of parents."
- "It was a true measure of the character of the person."

Somewhere this word fits well with our imagination and we are able to supply an expanded mental explanation as to its meaning according to its setting.

A recent conversation amongst a group of mums and dads, which momentarily focused on the inevitable topic - children, produced a result few of the mums and dads expected. One set of parents had come across the "Six Pillars of Character" and decided that this would be the solution to home discipline problems. The "Six Pillars" were given prime position on the fridge door and the relevant section was referred to, to identify the shortcoming in behaviour of any one of their three children.

The "Six Pillars of Character" turned out to be Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship and in case you were curious as to their detail, here it is.

Do you see any of your favourite pieces of advice to your children?

Trustworthiness:
Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat or steal. Be reliable - do what you say you'll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal - stand by your family, friends and country.

Respect:
Treat others with respect - do to others what you want done to you. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

Responsibility:

Fairness:
Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others. Don't blame others carelessly.

Caring:
Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

Citizenship:

Virtues and values are the core to building good character into a person, so that the person will make the correct choice, even when the stakes are high or when no one is watching. Of course, a piece of paper on a fridge door, of itself, will have little input into the development of character. However, it could be a useful reference point for parental expectations of behaviour, especially if the parents are good models for what they expect.

"God, I turn to You for guidance, I listen to Your wisdom already in my heart. I thank You for Your strength and peace that are within me. Help me to be a true guide to my children. Amen."

PROJECT COMPASSION

During Lent, let us make a special effort to think more about Jesus and how he lived his life. We can try to become more generous and thoughtful. This might mean giving part of our pocket money to people in need. We can use our Project Compassion boxes for this. Each year, Lent offers us the opportunity to think outside ourselves, to look upon 'the other', to share what we have with those who have less. Please give generously! Thank you to all those students and families who have contributed. So far we have raised $338. Great effort everyone.

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet (REC)
This week saw a few firsts for the preschool children. On Wednesday our dance program began. They started with some stretching and bending to make sure all their muscles were warmed up, then they listened to different music and Mrs Bird showed them some great moves to go along with it. At the end of the session they had another stretch and some relaxation. The children had a fantastic time, and we appear to have some real movers and groovers in our midst!

Also on Wednesday we attended our first assembly. 2 Lime were leading the assembly which was all about sharing. The children sat and listened beautifully, and their teachers were very proud of the way that they behaved. Great job children!

On Monday the Red Jellyfish and Purple Starfish attended a performance by the Magic Circle as part of our Canberra Centenary celebrations. The children had a great time and became really involved with the audience participation!

Meanwhile in the classrooms; the Green Turtles are making great plans for the arrival of their pet turtle! They have been discussing what they will need to make sure it is safe and happy in their classroom, and where it will go in the classroom, so it is not too noisy and it won’t get disturbed. They are hopefully taking delivery of their turtle next week.

The Purple Starfish arrived on Monday morning to find that all the rain over the weekend had helped their plants grow a little, however they also found a snail crawling around the garden bed. One of the children asked if it would help the flowers grow, so they are now planning more investigations to help them find the answer.

The Red Jellyfish have been looking at aspects of culture using special objects from Mrs Bird’s Talking Tub. The children have been practising saying ‘Hello’ in different languages and they made a fantastic 3D globe of their own. They also looked at some instructions to help them make some strong kites. The children experimented with putting some dowling rod together and attaching paper and string.

In the Blue Whale class, they have been looking at the sunflowers that they planted earlier in the term. The children have noticed that whilst some of their plants are flourishing, others appear to have been eaten by something. They are planning some investigations to try to discover what has been eating their plants. Following on from making their gingerbread men last week, this week they have made and decorated a gingerbread house. They are hoping to eat it later in the week! And finally Zali brought in some delicious home grown beans for Brain Boost during the week. She was very proud that she had helped grow them.

Lastly, in the Yellow Seahorses they spent a group time in the sandpit investigating how to make their own river. The children questioned why the water kept disappearing into the sand so they had to work together to solve the problem using some black plastic. They then had great fun building their own rivers. They also read a story about the journey of a raindrop which explored the water cycle. This has lead to lots of new questions, including how does the water get up the pipes into the houses? On Wednesday they made stress balls to use during rest time to encourage them to relax.

The Rainbow Fish took delivery of a fish tank and it’s accessories ready for their fish. The children read through the instructions with Miss Schroder so they knew what they had to do. Hopefully we will have some fish to put in it next week. A big thank you goes to Nate Walden and his parents from Petstock who have donated all the equipment.

Thank you for your continued support,

Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
See the Value in Social Skills

We are into our second week of learning about SHARING. Some of the classes have been learning sharing songs, reading books about sharing eg “The Rainbow Fish” and some classes have been role-playing different sharing scenarios. We have been emphasising to the children that sharing is more than just letting their friends play with their belongings. What can we share?

- Share a smile
- Share your love with family and friends
- Share your gifts and talents
- Share personal and school belongings
- Share our Faith
- Share our friends

All of the children should be able to memorise this slogan by now “It’s Fair to Share”. Here are some good questions to discuss with your children:

How does it feel when someone shares with you? How does it feel when you share with someone else? Is sharing a good way to build strong friendships? Do students who share make friends easily? How does it feel when someone does not share with you?

Set your child or children a challenge. They have to use the sharing skill at least 5 times during the day. This can be done at school and at home. Remind them of the list “What can we Share?” Before your child or children go to bed ask them to tell you all of the times they used the sharing skills throughout the day.

Each class continues to refer to our sharing poster and the children should be familiar with the “Do’s and Don’ts” of Sharing. These are the Do’s and Don’ts listed on the poster in each class.

**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.

**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.

Many Thanks
Brendon Pye
We are looking to kick start the year with some great and exciting fundraising ideas. Want to be involved but don't know how? Wondering where you could fit it in with everything else? You don't have to be involved in a big way. You say how and when you can help out and I am sure we can sort something out.

Some upcoming events this term will be an Easter raffle, Hot Cross Bun Drive and the annual ball.

Also, if you have any great ideas for fundraising that you think would work for our school, please send them through.

If you wish to be involved a meeting will be held on Thursday, 7 March at 10am—11am at Café Enjoy at Federation Square. Please email me if you are coming along. For those that can't make it but still would like to be involved just send through your details.

Contact Kelly Ciampa 0431 489 884 or mtsfundraising@gmail.com and let me know in what way and how you can help with fundraising this year.
Dear Parents/Guardians

School banking the Bendigo way. Whether its for the latest craze in computer games, for a new bike or just for a rainy day, we all know its never too early for our kids to start saving.

Bendigo Bank’s Jamison branch is please to announce that a school banking service for children is now available through Mother Teresa School.

Participants in the program will use a Bendigo Piggy Bank Passbook Account and moneybox to learn about the process, and benefits, of saving.

To open a Piggy Bank Account for your child please complete a Customer Application for (available from the office). This can be dropped off at the front office and ID for both yourself and your child can be sighted by Mr Lowe. A copy of your child’s birth certificate will be required as identification for your child, whilst as their parent or guardian, you may also be required to provide 100 points of identification. Of course, should you already bank with Bendigo Bank your identification will not be required.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the staff at Jamison branch on 02 6253 0088.

Yours sincerely

Chris Evans
Branch Manager

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**Bringing Up Great Kids**

Are looking for new ways to engage your children or new strategies to assist during those challenging times all parents have? If so then you may be interested in attending the Australian Childhood Foundation's Bringing Up Great Kids program for parents/carers of children aged between 2 and 10 years.

Catholic Care hope to offer greater flexibility to parents by running the program during school hours and in the Gungahlin area if we have enough interest. Dates and times TBA based on parent’s availability but will be in Term 2. If you are interested please email Helen.Gunter@catholiccare.cg.org.au