Dear Parents
Welcome back for another wonderful year at Mother Teresa School. During the last week the members of staff have been on a retreat, attended in-service courses on LIFE, Maths and the Quality Teaching Framework. We have welcomed our new members of staff and hope they enjoy working with the parents, children and staff at Mother Teresa School. The children look well rested and are fit and ready for lots of learning this year. I welcome all our new families to MTS and remind you that we enrol families here not just children. Please involve yourself in the life of the school as you will find the children benefit from your involvement as they love to see you here at school.

**Parent Information Night**

**ELC**
This Monday evening 11th February at 6.30 all parents of children in the ELC are invited to a meeting in the hall to introduce staff and to find out a little more about what happens in the ELC. The meeting should be over in about 45 minutes to an hour. The meeting is for parents only and if it is possible to come along without the children it would be appreciated.

**Primary Classes**
For parents of children in Kindergarten and Year 1, your night is Tuesday 12th February starting in the hall at 6.30pm before moving off to the classrooms at 6.45pm. At 7.30pm parents of children in Year 2 -5 will meet with the teachers in the classrooms before coming to the hall at 8.00pm for a repeat of the talk that I will give at 6.30pm. We hope this allows all parents to meet with their child’s teacher. The teachers will provide handouts to all families and those unable to attend will have the information sent home with their children. Once again the meeting is for parents only and if it is possible to come along without the children it would be appreciated.

**Swimming Carnival**
Next Friday is our swimming carnival and fun water day for Kindergarten. Children in Years 1 -5 will go to the CISAC Pool and Mr Pye has sent home information about this day. Due to safety restrictions the ELC and Kinders will stay at school and have lots of fun water play. K—5 children can enjoy the sausage sizzle, drink and paddle pop upon our return to school.

**Janet’s Pancake Recipe**

**Ingredients**
- 100 ml Vegetable Oil
- 3 cups of Milk
- 6 Eggs
- 4 ½ cups of Self-Raising Flour
- ¾ cups of caster sugar

**Method**
Combine wet ingredients in a separate bowl then add to dry ingredients. Whisk until smooth. Try not to over beat or pancakes will become tough.

**Ash Wednesday**
Mass will be celebrated here at 10.00am on Ash Wednesday and parents are welcome to attend. This marks the beginning of Lent and Project Compassion Boxes have been sent home to all families as we attempt to assist those families less fortunate than ourselves.

On Tuesday we will cook pancakes for all the children in the canteen. The recipe is below and if your child has any allergic reactions to the ingredients or to honey or maple syrup please send along an alternative pancake or spread so they will feel included with their class mates. Please let me know if you are able to help with the cooking or serving next Tuesday between 9 and 11.00am.

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*A policeman on his rounds saw a man walking a crocodile. “You ought to take that animal to the zoo.” The next day he saw the same man with the crocodile again. “I thought I told you to take that animal to the zoo” said the policeman. “I did” came the reply “and now I’m taking him to the pictures”.*

And birthday wishes to those having a birthday this week including Tristan Huang, Aiesha Tetreault, Nicholas Bodo, Liesbeth Fittler-Van Tilburg, Zac Howarth, Kailey Bush, Addison Reid, Mackenzie Dugdale and Kristian Zilic.
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

At Mother Teresa we will journey and follow in God’s way. And the values we will be focussing on this term are: Cooperation, Freedom, Fairness, Tolerance.

Dear Parents
“Welcome to the New School Year!” We do hope that all members of our school community return happy and eager to resume old friendships and be introduced to new ones.

Now, here’s a little parable of sorts: “One day as the Buddha was sitting under a tree, a young, trim soldier walked by, looked at the Buddha, noticed his weight and fat and said, ‘You look like a pig!’ The Buddha looked up calmly at the soldier and said, ‘And you look like God.’ Surprised by this comment, the soldier asked the Buddha, ‘Why do you say that I look like God?’ The Buddha replied, ‘Well, we don’t really see what’s outside of ourselves, we see what’s inside and we project it out. I sit under this tree all day and I think about God, so that when I look out, that’s what I see. And you, you must be thinking about other things.’”

It is our sincerest hope that all students, as they gather to commence the new school year, will regard their opportunity for education as a privilege rather than an obligation and so embrace this new school year with enthusiasm, determination and a positive mind set. The great St Thomas Aquinas made the comment that, “Whatever is received is received according to the mode of its receiver”.

Again, we hope that all students return in goodwill and with an attitude to do the best they can for themselves and for their fellow students.

In a sense, our school has a double staff; the staff that performs within the school and that very important “staff” that performs within the home. Your Child’s education can be greatly enhanced by your involvement at home, in particular, but also through involvement in school activities. It is parents’ enthusiasm, support and involvement that will inspire children to do their best. Children frequently adopt attitudes and opinions held by the adults they look up to; and enthusiasm for learning is no exception. If children sense that parents consider their education to be a high priority, they are likely to view it in a more positive manner themselves. Positive reinforcement will help children to adopt a more enthusiastic attitude towards their learning processes.

When the Gospels described Jesus’ Baptism, they told how the heavens opened and God’s voice was heard to say, “This is the blessed one in whom I take delight”. It seems that for the rest of His life, Jesus was always in some way conscious of His Father’s words. His actions were always positive and supportive of others and His words were always gentle, encouraging and forgiving. As we all teach in Jesus’ name, we all have Him as a wonderful example from whom to draw inspiration and confidence as we, the staff at school and the “staff” at home, work together to create the best possible learning environment for all the students in our school.

Once again, “Welcome everyone, to the New School Year!”

FOCUS ASSEMBLY
Thank you to Mr Montesin and 3 Violet for introducing the Whole School Focus for the year and presenting a wonderful assembly on ‘The Journey’. The students did a great job dramatizing the Emmaus Story, singing ‘In the Footsteps of Jesus’ and incorporating the footprints from each of the classes and putting it into meaningful context for the children at Mother Teresa School. Thank you to the family and friends who came along to support the students.

IMPORTANT DATES
Pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
Wow, what a great start to the year! All 5 classes have now had their first day, and after the inevitable apprehension on arrival the children have all settled well, and are now starting to get to know the routines.

A big thanks to those of you who brought in your sunflowers, it started some great conversations in the classrooms. The children have been discussing, the different sizes of the plants, which has lead to some great mathematical conversations, how they all look different, which is a fantastic lead into conversations on how we as people are all the same yet all very different. There has also been wonderful discussions regarding how the children grew their seeds, what helped them grow and how they should continue to look after them.

Those children attending the Rainbow Fish before and after school are also settling well. These times at preschool can be hard for the children, especially at the beginning of the year as it does extend the day, but they are showing such enthusiasm, particularly in the afternoon, and really look forward to the activities. I left them this afternoon drawing some amazing self portraits.

One small reminder to ensure that your child has a sheet for rest time. The sheet is needed for hygiene reasons so the children are not laying directly on to the plastic mattress, which especially in the warm weather, can be very uncomfortable. The sheet ideally needs to be a fitted cot sheet, however any sheet that will fit round and underneath the mattress is fine.

And lastly, don’t forget the Parent Information Night on Monday, 11 February at 6:30pm in the school hall.

Thank you for your support,

Clare Addinell and the ELC Team
Welcome to 2013!

I hope everyone has had a fantastic break, even if it has involved the mind numbing task of unpacking yet another Toll Transitions box!

For those families who are new to Mother Teresa School, Welcome! I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks, in particular, those from within the Defence community.

Here at Mother Teresa School, the establishment of the role of the Defence School Transition Aide is a Defence initiative aimed at assisting Defence Families and supporting children of Australian Defence Force (ADF) families during their time with the school.

The DSTA is responsible for assisting families by:

- Helping newly posted families to settle into Mother Teresa School.
- Supporting children within the school environment.
- Being a point of contact to provide information and assistance during the Defence family’s time at the school.
- Providing transition assistance to those ADF families who, due to postings, need to move to other schools.
- Monitoring ADF children’s personal issues such as friendship, peer groups and classroom difficulties.
- Providing opportunities for ADF families to meet other ADF families within the school community.
- Support students to develop their self confidence and resilience.
- Assist young people to manage the challenges of transitions.

To assist us in maintaining our register of ADF families at Mother Teresa School, would you please take some time to fill out the attached form and return it to the school. If you have already registered and need to update your details, please also use this form.

As the DSTA at MTS I provide support such as:

- Weekly lunch time craft/activity groups.
- One –on-one assistance, as requested, from Kindergarten to year 5.
- Individual support for children experiencing deployment or other extended absence of a parent.

I work at the school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and have an office located within the primary school, between the year 1 and year two classrooms. With the understanding that assistance may be needed outside these days, I am available on my mobile number during all other school days or parents may leave a message with the school.
ADF Family Information

Member Surname ____________________  Member Given Name________________________

Spouse Surname ____________________  Spouse Given Name________________________

Contact email address __________________________________________________________

Contact phone Home _________________  Mobile ____________________________

Branch (please circle)  ARMY   NAVY   AIRFORCE

Child 1 Name _____________________  Year & Class________________________

Child 2 Name _____________________  Year & Class________________________

Child 3 Name _____________________  Year & Class________________________

Child 4 Name _____________________  Year & Class________________________

Other important information i.e.: Is the family currently experiencing separation due to deployment, courses etc.? Is the member due to deploy soon? Is the member due to return home in the near future? Are both parents members of the ADF? If you recently arrived, where was your last posting?

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