Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful celebration for Canberra’s 100th birthday last weekend. The city certainly turned on some brilliant weather that enabled the celebrations to take place as planned. This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week at all our schools across NSW and the ACT. The theme for this week is “Every Child Counts” and that is so important at Mother Teresa School. Every child is unique and a reminder that we are made in the image of God. We are blessed at MTS to have so many wonderful children. At times all children do not do as they should however we are able to learn from our mistakes in a caring environment to become better people.

The celebration yesterday was wonderful. The children enjoyed showing off their school to our many visitors, parents and grandparents alike. We thought by splitting the celebrations we would be able to have smaller groups however the afternoon crowd was huge and will need a rethink for 2014. My thanks to all the staff for their work with the children and for catering for the morning and afternoon teas.

Working Bee

This Saturday we shall have our working bee to rid the school gardens of so many weeds. We shall work from 8.00 until 11.00am and finish with a sausage sizzle for the workers. The children are most welcome to help. Wheel barrows and trailers and digging tools would be helpful.

School Photos

Monday morning will see the school photographers at MTS to take individual, class and family photographs. Please ensure that you have returned the envelope that was sent home last week.

Ride 2 School day

Next Friday 22 March is ride ‘2 school day.’ Children are encouraged to ride their bikes from Mullion park and from the park on Moonlight Ave in convoy to school. Teachers will be there to help with supervision and we shall leave the two meeting points at 8.15am. Parents are most welcome to join us for the ride.

Easter

This most important celebration is almost upon us. As a school community we celebrate Easter on Holy Thursday March 28 with a retelling of the Easter story. On this day children are asked to come dressed in Jesus clothes. Please use simple costumes including dressing gowns, old material and tea towels for head dress.

Children’s Safety

We work at MTS to ensure the safety of all our students. Sometimes children forget the school rules of hands off and feet off. We will continue to work with all children reminding them of the school rules. If you witness any inappropriate actions by the children please report it to the nearest teacher on duty. As parents, we are not permitted to discipline children who are not our own children.

Thankyou for your understanding.

Math Activity

With each newsletter for the coming weeks you will be able to find a maths challenge for all families to enjoy. The first activity can be played by a range of ability levels. It is called “Number of the Day” count. Enjoy!
Happy birthday to everyone celebrating their birthday this week including Penelope Voudiotis, Joshua Lee, Lavinia Vardanega and Kayla Lemmon-Young. Have a great day.

Next week you will receive a log on for each student for LIFE. To access the site you can click on the LIFE link on the front page of our school’s website or save the following link as a shortcut on your computer


We are very excited about this new learning platform.

**Preschool**
Ruby Budd (Yellow Seahorses)
Mia Rezo (Blue Whales)
Luka Radic (Purple Starfish)
Evan Ball (Red Jellyfish)

**Kinder**
Anastasia Economos (Aqua)
Kobe Wood (Sapphire)
Hamish Dwyer (Teal)
Jordan Moustakis (Turquoise)

**Year One:**
Josip Ujdur (Amber)
Lily Nutt (Ochre)
Nathan Griffiths (Orange)
William Davies (Tangerine)

**Year Two**
Dom Pelle (Emerald)
Olivia Thorpe (Jade)
Joel Bird (Lime)

**Year Three**
Austin Talyforth (Lilac)
Tiana Hoare (Violet)

**Year Four/Five**
Jasmine Kelley (Crimson)
Angus Paton (Magenta)
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:

The Journey

The value we are focusing on for the next two weeks is: FREEDOM

At Mother Teresa we show freedom when we make the right choices.

FOCUS ASSEMBLY

Next Wednesday, 20th March, Year 2 Jade will be presenting their Focus Assembly on ‘Fairness’. All family and friends are welcome to attend. Assembly starts at 2pm.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA’S 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.

We aim to raise over $2000 to help people living in poverty throughout the world.

Thank you to those families who have already generously sent in donations for Project Compassion. We have raised $1433.25 so far. Each class has a Project Compassion box available for the children’s donations. Please continue to bring in your project compassion boxes as you fill them. They all need to be back by the 28th of March ‘Jesus Day’ when we will celebrate the events of Holy Week.

KINDER FAMILY MASS

All families, especially our Kinder families are invited to attend the first Family Mass for this year. Mass will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church this Sunday 24th March @ 9:30am. There will be a morning tea held after the 9:30 Sunday Mass. Kinder families are invited to bring plate of food if they wish and meet some of the other families. We look forward to seeing you all there!

St Patrick’s Day

March 17th

St Patrick -(385-461)

Patrick was born a Roman citizen of wealthy parents in the British Isles. When he was sixteen, he was captured by pirates and sold as a slave to Ireland. There he spent his days as a shepherd for six years, during this time; he was transformed by a spiritual experience which became a source of energy for the rest of his life. After his escape from France he was reunited with his family. Soon after his return home, his spiritual search led him to be ordained a deacon.

Patrick felt called to return to Ireland. In his dreams, voices spoke to him … ‘we beg you to come and walk with us again.’ He was consecrated bishop by Pope Celestine I and sailed to Ireland with a small group of missionaries to begin the work of evangelisation.

Patrick’s plan for evangelisation was to convert the chief of each clan. Once the chieftain had accepted Christianity, the people of the clan would follow their chiefs’ example. Patrick met fierce opposition from the religious leaders, the Druids and the sorcerers. In one dramatic encounter with the Druids and the pagan King of Tara, Patrick lit a paschal fire on top of the Hill of Slane in county Meath and dared them to do their worst.

Shortly after his death in 461, and as a result of his extraordinary methods and approach to preaching the gospel, much of Ireland had embraced the Christian faith.

adapted from Stories and Seasons @ Kevin Treston - Creation Enterprises 2000

Prayer of St Patrick

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
Amen

Peace and Best Wishes
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
HOLY WEEK LITURGY
Thursday 28th March & Tuesday 2nd April

This year the students at Mother Teresa will be presenting their interpretation of various aspects of the Holy Week Celebrations which will be enacted by the children. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to come along and view the various liturgies. Everyone is required to come dressed in clothes appropriate for their liturgy. Parents please ensure your child has the appropriate costume or ‘Jesus’ clothes to wear. Students will not be required to ‘dress-up’ on the Tuesday to present the Resurrection Liturgy.

Who: - Kinder /ELC
What: - Palm Sunday
When: - 9:10
Where: - Hall

Who: - Year 3
What: - Washing Feet & Last Supper
When: - 10:15 before lunch
Where: - Hall

Who: - Year 2
What: - The Garden & The Arrest
When: - 12:15
Where: - Hall

Who: - Year 4/5
What: - Crucifixion
When: - 12:50
Where: - Hall

Tuesday 2nd April

Who: - Year 1
What: - Resurrection
When: - 10:30
Where: - Hall
As I sit and write this newsletter update, I am thinking about all the precious moments that I witnessed today. It was amazing the number of people who came to our Preschool assembly, and enjoyed the liturgy, and the video interviews of the children. As I said at the time, for all the priming the teaching staff and I did, the children played their parts beautifully with their impromptu replies to my questions! As the children guided their Grandparents, parents and special friends around their classrooms and the outdoor area the pride and enthusiasm was wonderful to see. Their thrill at showing off their learning environment really showed their feeling of belonging to the ELC, which is fantastic in such a short time. The staff captured some of these wonderful memories, and a selection of these photos will be uploaded to our LIFE page, which will be going live next week. Also check out your class big book for more of the photos.

So what have the children been doing in the classroom this week as well as preparing for Grandparents day?

The Green Turtles have now taken delivery of their new turtle aquarium. After the visit from the Reptile man last week, he discussed with the children how they should look after their new pet, the best place for it to live, and what they needed to do to make sure that it would stay happy and healthy. Now they are just waiting for the new addition to arrive in the class.

The Purple Starfish are still working on their cubby house project. Much discussion has gone into the best way to make different types of cubby houses. They are now in need of someone who is good with knots, who might be able to help them learn how to tie recognised knots when they make their cubby houses. Please contact the class staff if you may be able to help in area.

The Red Jellyfish have been talking about celebrations and gatherings with lots of buzz around the Canberra Day festivities. They have also made a Canberra Flag to put up with their display of flags from around the world.

The Blue Whales have started to talk about ‘Our World’, and the children have decided they would like to ‘visit’ New Zealand, and find out a little more about the country. If you have any heritage or information you can share with the class please contact the class staff.

Finally in the Yellow Seahorses the discussions have moved on to Canberra and it’s 100th birthday celebrations. They have looked at the different attractions found in and around Canberra, and discussed who has visited what. The children also decided that they would like to make a cake to celebrate Canberra’s birthday. They voted and choose to make a chocolate cake and decorated it like the Canberra flag. They sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to Canberra and ate the cake for afternoon tea.

The hay bales finally arrived at the end of last week, so the Yellow Seahorses were finally able to finish the sunflower shed with some tubes for the uprights and a curtain for the roof. The sunflowers are now in the shed and being watered regularly by the children.

For a short week the children have certainly managed to fit a lot in!

Thank you for your continued support.

Clare Addinell and the ELC Team
We are in our final week of learning about sharing. I would like to say a big thank you to all of the Mother Teresa School Community for embracing this new program. Also a huge thank you to all of the parents who interviewed their child and completed last week’s challenge. Here are the responses from the interviews.

**Jordan Whittaker (Year 2)**

**What have you learnt about sharing?**
Sharing is caring and being kind to everyone. It also makes people happier.

**What can you share at school and at home?**
I can share my pencils and toys with other people. I can share my kind heart and help other people.

**Why is it important to share?**
It is important to share because it makes people smile and gets things done a lot easier and quicker.

**Kaidan Whittaker (Year 2)**

**What have you learnt about sharing?**
Sharing means to me that you show your kind heart. You treat people fairly.

**What can you share at school and at home?**
I can help someone out if they are hurt or sad by sharing my love.

**Why is it important to share?**
Because sharing is caring and it helps people to get along.

**Isabella Watson (Year 2)**

**What have you learnt about sharing?**
If you share you will make people happy. If you share something and it gets broken, it is not nice to make the person who broke it feel bad about it.

**What can you share at school and at home?**
Your kind heart, your gifts and talents, you can share paper at home if you are drawing, you can share your hugs.

**Why is it important to share?**
If you don’t share something, you can hurt someone's feelings.

**William & Harriet Stubbs (Pre-School & Year 2)**

**What have you learnt about sharing?**

**William** – “Sharing is not taking things from your friends”
Harriet – “You can share your heart at school and at home. If you don’t share your heart you mightn’t have many friends”

Why is it important to share?

William – “Because if you share it makes people happy”

Harriet – “Because you’ll grow up to be a nice person and so have more friends”

Talish Sture (Year 2)

What have you learnt about sharing?
Sharing can make your games fun. You can make more friends by sharing

What can you share at school and at home?
You can share toys, your bike, scooter, skateboard, the lounge with your family, your clothes and shoes with your brothers and sisters, you can share friends, you can share your smile and kindness.

Why is it important to share?
If we don’t share there will be lots of fights in the world. No one will have any friends if they don’t share and everyone will be sad.

Emma Howse (Year 5)

If someone is kind enough to share their stuff/toys with you, it is important to take care of the toy and treat the toy like it’s yours. If you RESPECT the toy like it was yours, it will be likely they will share with you again. And always say thank you when someone shares with you.

Gabriel (Year 3), Lucian (Year 2) & Dante (Year 1) Comacchio

What have you learnt about sharing?
Gabriel- "I've learnt that if you don't want to share something then don't bring it out in front of other people or show it off"

Lucian- "When you share it makes you feel happy on the inside, and you get a lot more friends and people like you."

Dante- "If you ask someone for something nicely then they might share with you."

What can you share at school and at home?
Gabriel- "At school, your pencil or scrap paper if you have lots. At home, your toys or the Wii if you have one."

Lucian-"Your caring heart; your friendships; school property and your property."

Dante-"At home, that's a tricky one. Maybe toys, paper, sticky tape. At school, equipment, pencils and crayons."

Why is it important to share?
Gabriel-"Because your friends will like you more and you can get lots more friends because if people see you sharing then they might think you're a nice person."
Dante: "Because God asked us to."
Tani Hamilton (Year 2)

What have you learnt about sharing?
That it’s fair to share.

It is really good because if someone falls over and you share your kind heart by helping them, that can make them happy!

What can you share at school and at home?
At home you can share a toy, at school you can share equipment and you can share a ball.

Why is it important to share?
It is a good thing to do, because it makes people happy.

Madeleine Christie (Year 2)

What have you learnt about sharing?
‘That it is fair and good to share, what would the world be like if we didn’t share? Everyone would be angry’

What can you share at school and at home?
‘At school I can share a ball, skipping rope and equipment. At home, toys, gifts, talents and my caring heart’

Why is it important to share?
‘Because people feel happy if you do and it is how you make friends. If you don’t your friends may stop playing with you and make new friends of their own.

Jazz Kelley (Year 5)

What have you learnt about sharing?
It’s good to share, I feel good in myself when I share, It’s about taking turns

What can you share at school and at home?
I can share conversations with my family, balls, sports equipment, including people in games, share my talents

Why is it important to share?
So other people are not left out, it’s about giving people a fair go, using good manners

Remember

“It’s Fair to Share”

If you have any feedback, ideas or success stories about our whole school social skills program, please come and see me or send me an email. Next week we begin explicitly teaching our next social skills “Playing Fairly”.

Many Thanks
Brendon Pye
brendon.pye@cg.catholic.edu.au

Social Skills Raffle Winners

Caitlin Rous (Yellow Seahorses)
Georgia Mormanis (3 Lilac)
SAMS – CHEEKY CHALLENGE
Number of the Day

Well girls and boys, dads and mums…
Are you ready for the next Maths Cheeky Challenge?!
Here it is…

Can you masterfully identify many, many different ways to represent one number? Can you find more ways than someone else in your family?? Who is the Mathematics champion who can come up with the most ways or the most creative ways??

MATERIALS
- Coloured pencils or crayons or similar
- Pieces of paper

PROCEDURE
- Choose the number for the day.
- Write it in the centre of a piece of paper.
- Write down as many different ways to represent the number as you can.
- Next have a competition with members of your family to see who can come up with the most representations or the most creative representations.
- you and all your family members can write or draw as many different ways to represent the number as possible.
- Write down your starting number at the top of your paper strip e.g. 20

Keep going you are well on your way to being **Masterful Mathematician!!!**

PARENTS
The idea is that your child feels confident to have “a red hot go” and not be too worried about getting it wrong.

This activity also helps your child develop their Green Hat thinking (De Bono’s Thinking Hats) as they are encouraged to be as creative as possible and continually look at the number from different angles, coming up with as many different possibilities and solutions as possible.
HOT CROSS BUN ORDERS

Tomorrow, Friday, 15 March is your last chance to put in an order to get your delicious hot cross buns. For every 6 pack ordered the school receives $2. So hurry to put your orders in and don’t forget to ask family and friends..

Any enquiries please email mtsfundraising@gmail.com or see your class teacher for order forms.
Easter Raffle

Purchase your tickets outside the Hall
Monday, Wednesday & Friday’s
between 8:15am ~ 9:00am
commencing the 13th of March
or at the Front Office

Tickets are
$1.00 each or 3 for $2.00

1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes
will be drawn at assembly on
Wednesday the 27th of March

Good Luck!
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
CALLING ALL COWBOYS & COWGIRLS
MOSEY ON DOWN TO THE MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL FOR OUR
WILD, WILD, WEST PARTY!
Saturday the 6th of April, 2013
Saddle up at 6:30pm & Giddy Up till Sunrise!

Give us a Holler if you can join us for:
Great Grub ‘n’ Grog, plus Games ‘n’ Entertainment
All for $65.00 per head ($50.00 non alcohol)
So dig out those boots ‘n’ dust off your clobber!

Tickets on sale NOW at the front office

REWARD

Enquire: mtsfundraising@gmail.com