Dear Parents

I had the great honour of representing Mother Teresa School at the installation of our new Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Sophie Rodda attended the ceremony as our school student representative. Sophie has written an account of the ceremony in this newsletter. Archbishop Christopher spoke of his name patron and the fact that the Cathedral is also called St Christopher’s. St Christopher is the Christ bearer and our new Archbishop spoke of his willingness to bring Christ to all members of the Archdiocese.

CC Vacancy
Two members of our Community Council have completed 4 years in their positions and according to the Constitution their positions now become vacant. I am calling for nominations from the parent community to fill these two positions on our Community Council. The nomination process is easy and will require you to nominate yourself. If we have too many nominations then a vote would be required. The commitment is to 8 meetings each year in addition to heading up a subcommittee as determined by the Council. Please contact the front office putting your name forward.

I wish to publicly thank the retiring members of the Council Danielle Mugridge and Damien Howse for their guidance and advice and hard work over the last four year.

End of Year Concert
Our end of year concert will be presented to parents on Wednesday December 11 at Harrison School Hall. The hall will hold 1000 people seated and hence there will be no need to purchase tickets for this night. Allocation of tickets to families will be advised closer to the event.

Kinder Orientation
My thanks to the staff who gave freely of their time to assist on the Kinder Orientation last Wednesday evening. I hope the evening proved informative to parents as we used a different format this year. I thank the parents who came along to the hall for their attendance and engagement with the process.

School Fees
The payment of school fees is now due. Please attend to the payment of fees as soon as possible to ease the transition into the end of the year. Parents who use direct debit facilities need to maintain their arrangements. Families experiencing financial difficulties are urged to contact the Principal for a confidential discussion.

Classes for 2014
Teachers are beginning the process of placing children into class groups for the coming 2014 school year. This is an extensive process when a number of factors are considered before placing children into classes. The teachers look at academic performance, gender balance, social issues among other factors. I offer parents the opportunity to have input into this process by requesting a class placement for your child for the 2014 school year. Requests must be in writing and addressed to the Principal. Parents are able to request placement of their child with a friend. We will do our best to comply with parent requests but all requests may not be possible. As class teachers have yet to appointed, it is not possible to request particular teachers for your child. Class lists will be sent home with the children in the last week of school.

School Start Time
There seems to have been a marked improvement in the on time arrival of children at MTS. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Remember that children can be dropped off at school from 8.15am and school begins at 8.45am.
Happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including: Mia Taylor, Imogen Zimmer, Oliver Hawkins, Alana Haining, Georgia Abbott, Blake Eggerton, Owen Craft, Ellie Rodda, Tiana Hoare, Dante Comacchio, Alex Rose, Will Craig, Alex Marek and Caitlin Greenberger.

Are you a Defence Family posting out at the end of the year?

As the end of the year approaches, it is getting to that time when postings may be coming up. It would be appreciated if you could let our DSTA know if your family is leaving the Canberra area. Where possible Mrs Stubbs will try to put you in contact with the DSTA and or REDLO at your new location.

Please email her at sarah.stubbs@cg.catholic.edu.au
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS: The Journey

The value we are focussing on for the next two weeks is: Service

Over the next few weeks in the lead up to Christmas we will be looking at ways in which we can reach out to those who are less fortunate.

At Mother Teresa School that means:
- Accepts responsibility
- Is reliable
- Displays humility
- Follows school rules
- Recognises the needs of others
- Gets involved in service initiatives
- Offers assistance and support to others
- Offers and accepts appreciation

THANK YOU

On Wednesday Mrs Haydon and the Blue Whales as well as Mrs Blyth and the Green Turtles students did a great job in presenting our Focus Assembly. The theme was on ‘Service’ and they shared the gospel story of the ‘Widows Mite’ and sang the song ‘These Hands’ which helps us understand how we can reach out to others and give generously. Thank you to all the families and friends who came along to lend their support.

ELC FAMILY MASS

All families, especially our ELC families are invited to attend a family Mass this weekend of Sunday 24th November @ 9:30am it is the feast of Christ the King. Mass will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church. There will be a morning tea held after the 9:30 Sunday Mass. ELC families are invited to bring plate of food if they wish and meet some of the other families.

Please claim the date in your diaries. We look forward to seeing you all there!

2013 Christmas Appeal

A message from the St Vincent de Paul Society:

Every day the St Vincent de Paul Society receives thousands of calls for help, and the added pressure at Christmas time sees this increase significantly. This Christmas, you can help the St Vincent de Paul Society make tomorrow a better day for people in need. Your support will enable us to continue to provide material and financial assistance, essential support services, advocacy and friendship to Australians experiencing disadvantage.

How can our community help?

We recognise the wonderful work that St Vincent de Paul does in providing vital and ongoing support to people in need. As part of the Holy Spirit Parish we will support this appeal annually as an important link to help our local community.

The Christmas Appeal also provides a tangible way for children to be involved in helping others; and to see that Christmas is not just a time for receiving, but a time for reaching out and giving too!

This week your child will bring home a gift tag with the item for you to purchase. Eg (please ensure that items have not passed the used by date and are non-perishable items)

We hope you can support this appeal in some way. The donations will be collected by each class next week in readiness for the

‘Giving Focus Assembly’

Wednesday 4th December.
What a fantastic focus assembly the Blue Whales and Green Turtles presented yesterday on Service. Thank you to all the parents and friends who supported the children at the assembly.

A few dates for everyone to remember. Firstly This Sunday 24th November there will be an ELC family Mass at 9.30am held at Holy Spirit Church, Amroo. The children will be performing a song at the end of the service. There will be morning tea held after the Mass and families are invited to bring a plate of food if they wish and meet some of the other families. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Our Christmas concert this year will be held on Wednesday 11th December at Harrison school 6pm-7:30pm, every child will be involved and expected to attend.

Now what has been happening in the classrooms?

Mrs Blyth is so proud of the Green Turtles after their beautiful behaviour and singing at our Assembly on Wednesday. She can’t wait to hear us sing “These hands” again at Mass on Sunday. We are all excited as we have just started practicing for our Christmas concert.

The Yellow Seahorses have been busy playing with lots of new experiences that our Prac student Miss Coghlan has set up for us. These have included paper mache, ice play and a natural resource table. We have been looking at measuring and graphs. We measured the children’s heights with blocks and then transferred that information into a bar graph and pie chart.

The Red Jellyfish have been busy exploring colour changes and mixing while making printed paper. They have also been working on creating a placemat of all the experiences they have enjoyed this year in preschool. We have been practicing the song for mass on Sunday and have had a sneak preview of our song for the Christmas concert. Our news and sharing times have now finished for this year. Thank you to the families for helping the children present relevant news items!

The Purple Starfish decided to take a closer look at spiders and insects. We found they have different characteristics, spiders have 8 legs and insects have 6. We went on a search in our vegie patch for any and found some flies. We have also continued with our small groups on a Tuesday morning, the children have enjoyed playing the little numeracy and literacy games, discussion about rhyme in particular has filtered throughout our day.

The Blue Whales had a fabulous spa day last Friday. All children commented that “it was the best day ever”. A big thank you to all of the parents who came in and assisted us with the day. Mrs Haydon was very proud of all the Blue Whales for the way they sang and lead our beautiful assembly yesterday.

Thank you for your continued support.
Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
See the Value in Social Skills

**Being a good winner + You don’t always have to win**

**Weekly Challenge**—Interview you mum and dad and find out who their sporting hero was when they were growing up. Ask them to tell you how this athlete modelled good sportsmanship skills. Email your response to brendon.pye@cg.catholic.edu.au

Teaching your child to be a good sport (online article Part 1)

1. **Don't Pressure them to Perform a Certain Way**

   Children are striving to be accepted by the adults they look up to, especially their parents. If the parent is putting pressure or conditions of acceptance on performance in competition, children will take every loss twice as hard. Encourage your child's passions and interests but do not pressure them to win every time. Praise them for their efforts in the competition. Tell them you are proud of them for playing the game well. If you nag or criticize every move the child made during the game, you are telling them, "You have to win to get my approval." Take the time to give them genuine praise for the efforts and let them know you appreciated it. If you feel like they need to improve on certain aspects, now is not the time to have that conversation. Instead tuck it away in the back of your mind. When they go out to practice shooting hoops that week, go along. Give them some pointers in a helpful way when they are not already feeling down about themselves. If children know that you appreciate and are proud of them, they are able to smile and give a pat on the back to the winner much easier.

2. **Mind your Words With Others**

   "But I never put my child down, they are great! It's the stupid coach's fault for sitting them on the bench."

   If this sounds like you, look at what your words are saying to your children. You are saying that they do not have to take responsibility for the loss. They were cheated. Life wasn't fair. This not only does not encourage them to strive to improve their abilities, this feeds into why they should be angry they lost. Especially if you get vocal or loud with other parents, teams, coaches, or referee's during the competition. If you feel you have a legitimate complaint, approach the person out of earshot of the children. Remain calm and discuss the situation. Accept the final decision. Save the venting of your frustrations for your spouse or best friend. A negative attitude or view on the situation is only going to make your child feel even worse about the loss. Just like you feel a "traveling" rule in basketball has been violated, if you cause a huge scene or embarrass your child you are also teaching them it is okay to be a bad sport.

3. **Be a Gracious Loser Yourself**

   Children learn best through observing adults. Next time that someone else plays better than you at the game, congratulate them. Laugh and show them that it wasn't the win or loss that made the game fun. Try not to let them see your negative reactions. Children watch their parents closely. They want to learn from your behavior how to be a good sport. So show them.

Here is the next Maths Cheeky Challenge... Go for it Mathematicians!!

**Your Challenge:**

Your next mathematical challenge is to investigate probability. You are to find examples of the following types of events happening at your house:

**IMPOSSIBLE**  **POSSIBLE**  **LIKELY**  **UNLIKELY**  **DEFINITE**

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Explore and find examples of different chance events in your home or daily life.
2. Write down these chance events.
3. Illustrate these chance events, or take a photo of them.
4. Email them, or bring them in.

**HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:**

- Pigs flying over my house is impossible.
- It is possible that it will rain this week.
- I will definitely go to sleep tonight.

**PARENTS — This challenge helps your children to:**

- Understand and use the language of chance in everyday events.
- Understand concepts such as impossible, possible, likely, unlikely and definite.
- Use chance in real life practical situations.
- Understand language such as full, empty, holds more, holds less.

Remember to keep sending in those challenge solutions to be published!
Email Miss Jeffries: brooke.jeffries@cg.catholic.edu.au
Installation Mass

On the 19th of November, Mr. Lowe and I attended the solemn mass of The Most Reverend Christopher Charles Prowse, at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Forrest. During this mass, Christopher Prowse became the seventh archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn. Each school was invited to bring their principal and one student representative. Father Mark and Fiona also attended. It was a very long mass, which went for 2 hours and 15 minutes. I feel very honoured to have represented MTS and to have been part of this celebration.

Sophie Rodda

Music Lessons

Aron Lyon is a previous faculty member of the ANU school of music. Teaching tertiary and pre-tertiary guitar for many years he has the experience and knowledge to help build anyone’s ability on either guitar or bass. Teaching all styles of music, Aron has a wealth of industry experience and has played alongside national and international recording artists. He can work with students at any level of ability and help them reach their goals on their chosen instrument. Aron is conducting half hourly lessons this term on both guitar and bass, please contact him if your child is interested. Please contact him in regard to booking lessons for 2013 and Term 1 2014.

Aron Lyon
0401 242 974
aronlyon@hotmail.com
www.aronlyon.com
www.facebook.com/aronlyon.guitar

Uniform Shop

The Uniform shop will now operate on a Friday morning between 8:30am - 9:00am in the school hall.

Guinea Pigs

Guinea pig babies to give away. Currently 1 week old, will be ready to leave mum at 4 weeks. Please phone Carolyn O’Mahoney 6242 0582.
Join the
Friends of Brain
Injured Children

Lakewalk 2013

A gentle walkathon
to help raise funds
for therapies to
assist children
with brain injuries

Lakewalk 2013 is a sponsored
5km walk commencing at
the BBQ area at Regatta Point,
Commonwealth Park and
following a loop circuit
towards Aspen Island
and back. Enjoy a BBQ,
refreshments, activities
& prize draws.

sunday
24 november
10am - 1pm

Start:
Regatta Point BBQ, Commonwealth Park
Time:
10:00am for 10:30am start
Cost:
$7 adult $3 child/concession or $20 family
Info:
Jim 0409 660 745 or jimsharrock@internode.on.net
Register:
10:00am on the day or
www.fbbc.org.au

Give your child
a head start
GKR Karate classes for all the family
- Build confidence
- Improve fitness
- Gain self discipline
- Learn self defence
At Mother Teresa gym:
Wed 6:30 – 7:40 pm
Sun 10:30 – noon
other classes all around Canberra

Grandparents Xmas Special:
Give the kids a 4 karate class pass
for the school holidays

contact Wendy 0406 375 091