Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. The coming weeks will be busy here at school as we finalise reports to parents, prepare for our Christmas concert and get our classes ready for the 2014 school year. At this time as we wait for the birth of Christ people tend to get so busy they miss the meaning of Advent. Please be mindful to slow down at this time and treat one another with patience and kindness.

Christmas Hampers
Few things speak to me so strongly of our motto than our appeal for hamper goods to support local families this Christmas. By each family donating a small item then we can fill our hampers and donate them to St Vincent de Paul this Christmas. Thank you for your generous donations as we do small things with great love.

Orientation
We have had two orientations for children beginning at MTS Early Learning Centre this week. We look forward to welcoming new families into our community in 2014. Next Thursday December 5 we will have an orientation for new students and Kindergarten 2014. Parents who attend our information session last week do not need to attend the information session and for all other parents there will be a short meeting in the hall at 9.30am as children go to visit their classrooms until 10.30am.

Bus Service
Please contact the front office if you would consider using a school bus service (if available) from Forde and Bonner. If there is sufficient interest then we would be able to mount a case through the Catholic Education Office to have a bus service for families at MTS.

Afternoon Pick Up
Thank you to all our families who are using the car line in the afternoon so efficiently. Please remember that teachers are on duty in the afternoon until 3.30pm so not everyone has to come right on 3.00pm. It is fine to come along at 3.10 or 3.20pm to avoid long queues. Children have been reminded that they are not to be on the play equipment at school from 3.00pm until 3.15pm as we had children playing instead of going to their pick up lines.

Bikes at School
It is wonderful to see more children riding to and from school on bikes and scooters. Please ensure that children are wearing a correctly fitted helmet when travelling to and from school on bikes and scooters.

Concert 2014
A reminder that our Christmas concert for 2014 will be held in the Harrison school hall on Wednesday 11 December commencing at 6.00pm. We hope to keep costumes simple for families. Parking will be at a premium so please walk if you can, car pool or use our parking at MTS and walk down to Harrison school.

Staffing
Mrs Janet Bruce is away until the end of the school year following minor surgery yesterday. Jodie Tanchevski has been away this week following a death in the family. Please keep these staff members in your prayers and any MTS families who are experiencing sickness or loss at this time.

Thank you Morning Tea
There will be a special thank you morning tea for all our parent helpers who have done so much this year, on Wednesday 18 December at 11.00am. Teachers are sending home invitations to parent helpers in the next week.
Happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including:
Ruby Horn, Mackenzie Birrell, Jordan Burgess, Willem Hudson Tielens and
Oscar Harrison.

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 next week 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:

- Accepting responsibility
- Being reliable
- Displaying humility
- Following school rules
- Recognising the needs of others
- Getting involved in service initiatives
- Offering assistance and support to others
- Offering and accepting appreciation

Advent heralds in the church’s New Year. This year it begins on Sunday, December 1.

Advent is a season of waiting. Many of the words we pray and sing are full of desire, hope and expectation. One of our Advent companions is Mary, and during these weeks we remember her as she waited for the birth of her child. We know what waiting is like, especially at this time of the year. We wait as the days are getting warmer, as the school year is coming to an end and as we look forward to the summer holidays. This ‘waiting’ can help us to celebrate Advent well.

Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming is remembered. We know that the first coming of Jesus at Bethlehem will not happen again, so during Advent, we prepare and long for a new coming of Jesus into our lives. We take this time every year to practise how to receive Jesus every day of our lives! We remember the call of Jesus to his followers to make our world a peaceful and loving place, and so, during Advent, we make special efforts to be signs that God is with us. This is what the word ‘Emmanuel’ means - God is with us.

Advent is a season with its own special mood, colours, sounds, words and joys. Sometimes it can be swamped by Christmas and we can be tempted to celebrate Christmas too early. At Mother Teresa School we are trying to make the school look and feel like Advent right up until the day that school breaks up. During Advent we can try to wait, as the world waited long ago for the coming of Jesus, the ‘Light of the world.’

The beautiful custom of the Advent wreath focuses on the theme of light coming into darkness. The first week, a candle is lit in anticipation of the coming of Christ. As each week passes, another candle is lit, until four candles are burning brightly just before Christmas.

2013 Christmas Appeal

As we begin the Season of Advent next week, we are reminded of the need to be people who wait in joyful hope and expectation for the Lord. It is easy in our world to lose that wonderful sense of hope that this season offers us. Our community in Canberra is obviously full of wonderfully kind and generous people who must surely renew our sense of hope for the future.

We too, as a community, are called to be hope for those in need and our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is up and running. As part of our response to this need could every child please bring in their gift for the food hampers in the classrooms.

All donations raised in the area stay in the area and go directly to help local people in need.

I know that once again the Mother Teresa School community will be the source of hope for those who so need our generosity.

The donations will be collected by each class this week and next in readiness for the:

Giving Focus Assembly
Wednesday 4th December.

Many thanks for your support and generosity.

Christmas Concert
Wednesday 11th December

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
It was fantastic to see some many children at Mass on Sunday morning. The ELC staff were overwhelmed by the numbers. The children behaved beautifully and we were all very proud of them as they performed their final song. Fr. Mark and Fiona were amazed at the wonderful children we have at the Preschool.

This week has been a very hectic week in the ELC as Tuesday saw the first of our two orientations for next years children. Our current children had a fun morning playing on the Primary equipment, and practising their ball skills on the oval, some of the children commented ‘it was the best day ever!’ Our second orientation took place today, and it was great to meet all the new children, and catch up with returning families. Some of our current children have also been attending Kindergarten orientations at different schools. They have all come back very positive and really looking forward to the next step in their educational journey, which is great to see.

Meanwhile what has been happening in the classrooms?

This week in the Purple Starfish the children have been busy preparing for their focus assembly next week. They are really looking forward to dressing up and travelling back in time. Outside the children also spotted their miniature peas growing and a few of them even tried them straight from the vine with comments of "not so bad" and "yummy!"

With only 8 preschool days left, the Red Jellyfish have been learning about the Christmas Story. They have been making Christmas stars and Christmas greeting cards. They listened to the story of the Nutcracker and made dancing finger puppets of the characters in the story. Some of the children requested that we watch a nutcracker ballet and then recreated this including lifts, pirouettes and all! They have been discussing advent too, making wreaths from hand prints. They will continue to decorate these next week.

The Blue whales have been finding bugs this week. They found a 'ladybug' in our play area and a wood louse on one of the sticks we collected on our nature walk. They decided to make a 'playground' for ladybirds and have also started to make rock ladybirds. The wood louse escaped, but they were able to observe it with magnifying glasses for some time. It was great fun watching it climbing up and down the table leg!

A group of children have designed robots and we are collecting recyclable materials to make them. If you have any boxes, cartons, containers, lids, etc that you think may be useful please can you bring them in.

The Yellow Seahorses have been busy with Miss Coghlin’s activities. They have been playing eye spy with some beautiful rice bottles, playing with animals in shaving cream, making ice balloons and lots more. They also made 'White Christmas', and the children were excited to help mix all the ingredients, some were even excited to eat it!

And finally in the Green Turtles Christmas activities have already started! They have started to talk about the Nativity and Advent and have been making Christmas decorations. They have also been practising their song for the Christmas concert.

Thank you for you continued support.

Clare Addinell and the ELC Team.
Being a good winner + You don’t always have to win

We are getting close to the end of the year and it is hard to believe how quick this year has gone. Next week there will be a parent questionnaire to evaluate our whole school social skills program. We value the partnership between parents and school and see this as a key link to increasing student wellbeing. Below is part 2 of the article that was in last week’s newsletter.

Teaching your child to be a good sport (online article Part 2)

4. Leave the Negativity at Home
While much of this focuses on negative behaviour, it is important to remember there are other negative behaviours we haven't discussed. Such as "trash-talking" on the other players, team, coach in front of your child. Even on the ride home your child is listening to everything you say. They are absorbing your reaction to the situation. Don't let them see any negative behaviours. Even if you just lost a bet with your co-worker who’s child was on the winning little league team, smile and say, "We'll get you next time!" Another thing of interest to add about negativity is make sure that your child's coach or teacher are on the same page about winning and losing as you are.

You don't want a coach that belittles the students efforts every time they have a bad day on the field. If you suspect this is going on, talk to the adult. Point out that they are the role model in the children's lives. Ask them to focus more on the positive and less on the negative in the heat of the moment. There is always time to gently correct things later, during practices. Correcting right after the loss only places blame on the child and impacts their self esteem. If this coach or adult is unreasonable, consider if you really want this type of person as a role model in your child's life. Sometimes, parenting requires tough choices. If the coach is a tyrant to the children, then no matter how much the child loves the sport, are they really in a healthy environment?

5. Focus on the Positive and Fun of the Sport
Focus on the things your child handled well. Praise them for those things. Remind them how much fun it was to play the game. Ask them if they learned anything during the game. Give them an opportunity to tell you what new tricks or tips they observed while they played. Explain life isn't always about winning, that sometimes it is how you play the game. If they went out and played the best they could and showed integrity, let them know they won in your eyes.

6. Correct them for Bad Sportsmanship
No this doesn't mean correct them for every play by play they made during the game. This means when they throw a tantrum because they lost, you can tell them to stop. You can tell them it isn't acceptable to call names at the other team. You can give them a lecture about how to win with style. Do not let it become acceptable to you that they behave negatively. If you let it become appropriate, it is the same as saying it is okay. Yes, you feel bad for your child for losing. No, you shouldn't let this affect the behavior you reprimand. If you were taking the child out for ice cream regardless of the outcome, and they throw a terrible tantrum or embarrass you in front of others, do not reward them with the ice cream. You need to make the values of sportsmanship a priority. Make it an idea you will stand behind and support.

Children show us through their behaviours what they have learned as accepted. If you are accepting their bad behaviour because you feel guilty, they will never learn how to lose with a smile. If you pressure them to succeed or risk alienation of your affections, they will feel backed in a corner when they lose. If you badmouth the other players or leaders, they will absorb this and begin to do this as well.

Children are like sponges, they soak up what they are taught. **Teach them how to be a good sport early in life and the lesson will last for a lifetime!**
Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to share the news that Mother Teresa School has been accepted to be a national partnership school for Tennis Australia (Hot Shots Program). The MLC Tennis Hot Shots in Schools program provides primary school students with their first experience of tennis. Regardless of age, gender or skill level, tennis is a sport that can be enjoyed by all. Tennis helps develop students’ fundamental motor skills and is fun for both the teacher and students.

The focus of this program is to create partnerships that will ensure a pathway for all children at Mother Teresa School to experience tennis as part of the curriculum and then continue their involvement directly through their local MLCTHS coach and/or community club venue. This pathway is vital so children and parents can see how they can get involved in tennis at the local community level after a quality first experience at their school.

Tennis Australia has provided us with over $6000 worth of tennis equipment to get the program started at our school. During this term the students will have opportunities to play tennis at lunchtime on our new blacktop court area. In 2014 we will begin teaching the program as part of our Physical Education program.

The first step in supporting this school initiative is to register your child online. Every child that registers receives a free “Hot Shots” t-shirt and other free gifts. Mother Teresa School also receives a $2 rebate for every child that signs up.

**How to register:** type web address- hotshots.tennis.com.au/claim

**Step 1:** type 2914 in venue postcode and click search

**Step 2:** Click the select button on the Mother Teresa PS icon

**Step 3:** Fill in your child’s details and click continue. After this page you will be asked to click on a t-shirt colour and size. There is also a section down the bottom where a parent/guardian will need to type their name.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to the fun and excitement, this tennis program will offer.

Brendon Pye and Craig Hart
Your Challenge:

Your next mathematical challenge is to apply the knowledge and skills you have learnt about number and money. You are to help your family with the grocery shopping.

Investigate things like:
- How much money each item costs?
- How many of the same item you can purchase with a certain amount of money e.g. with $1, $5, $20, $150 or $240?
- How many different items you can purchase with a certain amount of money?
- The total cost of the groceries?
- How much money you should hand over?
- How much change you should receive?

PROCEDURE:
1. Go shopping with your family and pay attention to prices.
2. Practise your addition, subtraction and multiplication skills while calculating the different investigation points.
3. Write a recount about your shopping trip. Please include drawings or photos.

PARENTS — This challenge helps your children to:
- Develop greater understanding of skills such as addition, subtraction and multiplication.
- Understand and apply mathematical skills to real life situations.
- Develop their understanding of money.
MATHS – CHEEKY CHALLENGE

Student Responses

Congratulations and thank you to those children who have completed the Cheeky Challenge. Check out their masterful ideas!!

Sophie Rodda 4/5 Magenta :)
1. I will **definitely** brush my teeth before bed.
2. It is very **unlikely** that I will eat ice cream for dinner.
3. It is very **likely** that I'll read before bed.
4. It is **possible** that I'll go on a bike ride today.
5. It is **impossible** to sleep on the moon tonight.
6. I will **definitely** have a shower in the morning.
7. It is **unlikely** that I'll go to the shops today.
8. It is **likely** that I'll watch television after I do my homework.
9. It is **possible** that I'll run out of milk today.
10. It is **impossible** for me to drive the car today.

Christina Mormonis
1. When you have a cup of water it is impossible to hold it in your hand and turn it into ice.
2. It is possible to get a cold bottle of water left on the dinner table to get warmer.
3. It is likely my mum will make me clean my room today.
4. I've just been told I definitely have to clean my room.
5. It is unlikely I will finish cleaning my room in the hour.

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**GKR**

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**
Mass Times For Christmas

7:00pm       Christmas Vigil (children)
10:00pm       (carols 9:30pm)
9:00am        Christmas Day

Please Note: There will be no 8:00am or 5:30pm on Christmas Day.

HALL:         Christmas vigil at 7:00pm

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.