Dear Parents

Congratulations to all the children, parents and staff who attended the Catholic Schools Netball Carnival last Sunday. The exciting news is that we have the opportunity to organise and run the day in 2014. This day is a huge fundraiser for the school doing the organising and only comes around once every 15 years. By all reports our children conducted themselves in true Mother Teresa spirit and enjoyed the day. We had a great day yesterday at the athletics carnival. My thanks to the staff, children and parents for their involvement in the day. Special thanks to My Pye for his outstanding organisation of the day. For the record the carnival was won by the Well Station team (Gold).

Car Park
We will have the new car park completed by the end of this week and we hope this will help to alleviate the parking congestion of the last couple of weeks. When collecting children in the afternoon, please try to approach the school from the Mapleton Avenue and of Wimmera Street rather than the Harrison Primary end of the street. Cars attempting to turn right into MTS are holding up traffic up beyond the child care centre. This means that during the busy pick up time cars are turning left into our school.

School Fees
A reminder that school fees went home with the children this week and if you pay by direct debit then this becomes a statement of where you are up to with payments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are experiencing financial difficulty at this time so we can make suitable arrangements.

Disco
Tomorrow night we have the school disco with a fancy dress theme of bling. The children in the ELC, Kinder and Year 1 come along at 5.30pm and finish with a sausage sandwich at 6.15pm. The children from Year 2 – 5 come along at 6.00pm for a sausage sandwich and their disco begins at 6.30 and ends at 7.30. The cost is $5 per head and glo sticks will be available for purchase at $1 each on the night. Please let Donna know by e-mail by COB today so we can cater appropriately.

WWVP
All staff at MTS have their Working With Vulnerable People Card and it is now a requirement that parents working as a volunteer with the children need to have a WWVP card. As you get your free card please present it to Donna at the front office who will take a photocopy and record the name and number on your card for our records. If you already have your card please present it to the front office for copying.

Kindergarten 2014 Meeting
Parents of children attending MTS for Kindergarten in 2014 are invited to come along to an information evening on Wednesday November 20 in the school hall at 7.00pm. This is an important meeting to inform parents of the workings of MTS and some of our strategic directions for 2014.

Leaving Families
Thank you to the families who have contacted Donna to let us know that they will be leaving MTS at the end of the school year. We need this confirmation in writing so we can complete the appropriate paperwork. If there are families who are leaving at the end of the year and have yet to let us know, please do so as soon as possible.
Happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including: Bryanna Vanderzil, Michaela Knight, Ashley Cremin, Sienna Di Iulio, George McGoram, Brianna Cremin, Harriet Stubbs, CJ McAviney and Mackai Reedy.

ALTAR SERVERS...First Eucharist Children

Any children who received First Eucharist this year who are interested in sharing their gifts as an Altar server are asked to email Fiona in the Parish Office - fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au or place your name on the list in the Church foyer. An Altar Server training session will be held on Saturday 2 November at 4.30pm.
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:
The Journey

The value we are focussing on for the next week is: Resilience
This means that whatever bad times you go through you can always bounce back again and be yourself.

Remember: if you have worries or you don't feel ok, tell an adult you can trust. There is nothing too bad to tell and everybody needs help sometimes.

ALL SAINTS DAY 1ST NOVEMBER

There is a rather cute story about a small boy who stumbled across the life of a saint called Simon Stylites, who lived in Syria in about 450A.D. This strange gentleman lived for 37 years on top of a sixty-foot pillar. For an equally strange reason, the little boy decided that he, too, was called to perform a similar act of saintly heroism. This led him into the kitchen where he climbed up onto a kitchen cabinet and stayed there all morning. When his mother came into the kitchen and prepared a rather attractive lunch, he decided to get down.

His mother, who had caught onto what was happening, said to her son, “Now, you mustn’t feel bad about this.” (Good advice.) You have at least made the attempt, which is more than most people have ever done. (True.) But you must remember that it is almost impossible to be a saint in your own kitchen” (False. Bad advice.) Actually, this is what we are called to be, saints in our own kitchens, saints wherever we are. This is who saints are, people who put their faith into action and lived out their trust in God in their everyday lives.

One of the most popular modern day saints was St Therese of Liseux, who was declared a saint only 28 years after her death. This came about because of the astonishing number of favours, cures and reconversions given to those who prayed for her intercession. During her lifetime, it appeared that she had done so little that her Carmelite Community could find nothing to put in her obituary. Later, they uncovered her writings and discovered the amazing closeness she had to God during her brief life; she was only 24 when she died. St Therese is the female Patron Saint of Australia.

During the English Civil Wars of the 1600’s, Winchester Cathedral, amongst others, was pillaged by the Protestant Roundheads. Much damage was inflicted including to the huge, round stained glass window which majestically dominated the long Cathedral. With love and care, the people picked up the pieces and unable to restore the original scene, leaded the pieces together in abstract form. The sun still shines through the colours of the fine stained glass, though somewhat differently.

The window is a symbol of all who enter the Cathedral for we all have had broken lives at some time, have picked up the pieces with the help of the Spirit within us and put our lives together again. On All Saints Day, we are celebrating what Christ has done in and through us, the saints through the ages. Far from living perfect lives, saints have faults and failings like us so that we can identify with them. Nathan Soderblom was rather insightful when he said, “Saints are persons who make it easier for us to believe in God.”

We remember the lives of the Saints on the day of their death, sometimes called their “heavenly birthday”. Interestingly, there is no occupation or group or endeavour that does not have a Patron Saint. Some of the more famous saints are “naturals” for a match up: St Francis of Assisi – animals; St Gabriel the Archangel – broadcasters, postal workers; St Peter – fishermen; St Francis Xavier – missionaries. Some less known Patron Saints are: St Elmo – explosive workers; St Herbert – drought relief; St Polycarp – earaches; St Roch – dogs and dog lovers. The following verse by Marnie Barrell offers this little summary of Saints:

“Sisters and brothers in endless variety,
Each with a marvellous story to share,
Reach their full stature in Heaven’s society,
Grown from seed by God’s infinite care.”

God, our Father, help us to be aware of the promptings of the Spirit that call us to goodness and saintliness. Amen.

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet (Religious Education Co-ordinator)
This week has been a very busy but really fascinating week. Tuesday saw the return of Richie Allen to some of our classrooms. You may remember that Richie visited us in Term 2. He is an Indigenous Australian employed by the Catholic Education Office to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are engendered throughout our curriculum. This week Richie brought some Indigenous artefacts to show and discuss with the children. Some fabulous discussions took place when he showed them the artefacts which included emu feathers, pieces of stringy bark, rocks and sticks. One class had been awaiting his return to the school so that he could show them how to throw a boomerang. After discussing the different symbols that boomerangs could be decorated with, they all had a go at throwing before decorating their own boomerang.

Wednesday was the whole school Athletics Carnival. As we approached the track a number of the adults looked at the distance and commented on how far it was. Yet, when the racing began every child ran with such enthusiasm, never stopping and always smiling. It just shows you should never underestimate the courage and determination of a preschool child!

Now what else has been happening in the classrooms:

The Blue Whales have been continuing to make their fossils. They added chalk to the surface of the fossils to make them look more authentic. They are also really looking forward to their visit to the Dentist on Friday.

The Green Turtles were excited when they arrived this morning to find that their ‘dinosaur’ egg had hatched over the weekend. It is an Australian dinosaur with a long name, but they call him 'Buster'! They are looking forward to making dinosaur biscuits and playing some dinosaur memory games. They continue to enjoy playing alphabet, number and shape games, and made some delicious spider biscuits and painted a spider with a woven web. They really enjoyed making their Rosary beads with Mrs Buckley last week and have been using them to help us pray the Rosary.

The Red Jellyfish have continued looking at boats this week. They set up the boat canal set and had some wonderful boat play outside. The children have drawn pictures of boats of all shapes, sizes and uses. Miss Watts also found out what the children already know about hot air balloons and will investigate them further next week.

The Purple Starfish have hardly had time to catch their breath this week. They went on a nature walk with their Kindy friends, where they explored the little creek and made their own fishing lines. On Tuesday they had a wonderful excursion to the Botanic Gardens. They heard about the seeds of different plants and planted their own seed, which they took home to look after. They also found out about a worm farm and how good they are for our gardens. Mrs Newth and Mrs Monoja would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents helpers who joined them on their excursion.

And finally the Yellow Seahorses have been having great fun with the Reading Eggs, getting very excited when they manage to hatch an egg. They have also been having some wonderful water play. The boat canals allow the children to create dams and locks and enables the children to explore the properties of water. They have also been having great fun in the river and have been painting with water.

Wow, what a full week we have had, thank you for your continued support.
Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
I would like to congratulate all of the children who participated in our school athletics carnival. It was great to see all of the children putting our new social skills into action. I saw lots of children encouraging each other and having fun. There were lots of children who didn’t win a race and still had a grin on their face.

“Lose or win, do it with a grin”

**Being a good winner**

**Do’s**

- Keep your smiles and excitement low key.
- Comment on what the other players did well (but don’t overdo it).
- Keep trying hard even if you are a long way ahead.
- Thank the other players for a good game.
- Be a fun player that encourages other players.
- Be a gracious winner.
- Be aware of other people’s feelings.
- Be a good team player.
- Help pack up and put equipment away.

**Don’ts**

- Don’t boast about how well you are doing or how well you played.
- Don’t comment on how far behind the other team is.
- Don’t show off.
- Don’t say that the other team or the other players were easy to beat.
- Don’t point out what others did badly.
- Don’t act happy about other players’ bad luck eg. Don’t clap if they miss their shot, don’t laugh if they drop the ball.

**You don’t always have to win**

**Do’s**

- Accept that you lost or are losing, and put on a “good face”.
- Congratulate the winner, smile and shake hands.
- Say you enjoyed the game and would like to play again another time.
- Comment on what the winning team or winning player did well.
- Help pack up and put equipment away.
- Remember all of the times you have won before.
- Say to yourself “someone has to lose this time, maybe next time I’ll win”
- Take timeout out if you are feeling frustrated
- Remember to be a good team player.

**Don’ts**

- If you are not doing well, don’t give up or stop trying.
- Don’t use a whinging or grumpy tone if your team is not playing well.
- Don’t suggest that the winning team cheated.
- Don’t stamp off in a bad mood if you lose.
- Don’t make silly choices and ruin the game if your team is not winning.
- Don’t blame your team mates if you lose.

Weekly Challenge– Let’s celebrate the good sports at Mother Teresa. Interview your child/children and ask them to nominate a class mate or a student in their year level who always plays sport for fun, does not get upset when they lose and is a good winner. Send your response to brendon.pye@cg.catholic.edu.au
Here is the next Maths Cheeky Challenge... Go for it Mathematicians!!

Your Challenge:
Your next mathematical challenge is to investigate capacity. You will need an adult for this challenge because .... you are going to explore the capacity of different household containers by doing some cooking!!

Together with an adult discuss the capacity of various containers as you bake some cookies or a cake or something that you decide to make or bake.

Key Language to use:
Full, empty, more less, larger, smaller, holds enough, will not hold enough...

PROCEDURE:
1. Talk with mum or dad (or an adult) about capacity and cooking.
2. Investigate and choose a recipe.
3. Cook or make your food item.
4. Take a picture of your cooking masterpiece and write a few sentences about your experience.
5. Enjoy!!!

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

PARENTS — This challenge helps your children to:
- Use maths skills in real life situations.
- Understand volume and capacity.
- 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
Congratulations and thank you to those children who have completed the Cheeky Challenge. Check out their masterful ideas!!