Dear Parents and Carers

If you have been around the school in the last couple of weeks you would have seen that it has been busy, busy, busy! We have 3 major work projects going on at the same time and in the very near future, we will have; a new front entrance rock wall and garden; a fantastic sandpit and a revamped whizz-bang courtyard. Progress has been swift and the children are enthralled watching the goings on each day. Here are some ‘work in progress’ shots.

The Sandpit  The Front Entrance  The Courtyard

School Front Office Closure:
Next Wednesday, the contractors will be pouring the concrete in the courtyard area. For this to happen safely, the front of the school will be closed off for the whole of the day. This will mean that drop off and pick up will only be at the church carpark area. The morning should be fine, but to ease congestion in the afternoon we will have teachers on pick up duty until 3:40. If you are using pick up on Wednesday afternoon we would ask that you hold off coming through until 3:25 at the earliest. We will send out a reminder on Tuesday via the school app.

Arriving Late to School:
Punctuality is an ongoing problem with some of our students. It is important that students are at school by the first bell at 8:55 each morning. This is when the school assembles together, prays together, celebrates birthdays and achievements and important information is given to the students from the principal. Not only do the children miss out on this when they arrive late, but it is very disruptive to have children coming into class after the mornings activities have commenced. We do understand that there are the rare occasions when circumstances dictate a child being late, but for some, it happens on a very regular basis.

Change to the Good Shepherd Sports Shirt:
Since the beginning of 2013, the Community Council has been working hard with the school leadership team and our preferred uniform supplier Savvy, exploring options for a change to the sports polo shirt. Details of this upcoming change are explained further on in the newsletter.

All Saints Day—1 November
Father, All-Powerful and ever-living God, today we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place. May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Families leaving Good Shepherd:
For the past 5 weeks we have included a slip in the newsletter requesting families that are leaving Good Shepherd during this term or at the end of the year, to inform the school of this. Most have done so, but there have been a few cases where the children have told their teacher they are leaving but as yet, the front office has not been notified. If you are leaving at the end of the year and haven’t let us know officially, would you please inform Joan or Anne ASAP. Although we hate to see any of our beautiful families departing, it is important for our planning of classes for 2014 that we do have this information.

Pick up of an afternoon:
We are having terrible congestion problems in the front car park of an afternoon. This is mainly due to parents who use the drive through pick up service arriving before 3:20, lining up and then blocking the cars that are trying to back out. There is a simple solution. If you are using drive through pick up, please do not come before 3:20.

Only one more month of this glorious spring weather! I hope you are getting a chance to enjoy the longer daylight hours in the evenings with your families.

God bless

Ursula Jamieson
Assistant Principal

DO YOU KNOW THE STATUS OF YOUR SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNT?

I am in the process of looking at the school fee accounts of the families who pay by Direct Credit. There are quite a few families whose payments are not sufficient to cover their school fees. It is the families’ responsibility to ensure that the payments will cover all the outstanding school fees by the end of December, unless previous arrangements have been made. It is also the families’ responsibility to stop the Direct Credit at the end of the year if you are leaving the school and your fees are up to date.

Direct Credit is a service that is facilitated by the school for the ease of paying the fees. It is not the school’s responsibility to continually monitor that the payments are correct.

The school is relying on all the fees being paid within the year when we set our annual budget. If there are families who are not meeting their agreement, it means that the school does not have the funds to cover all the expenses incurred.

Each statement that is sent out requests that you double check the amount you are paying with the balance outstanding. Please check your bank statements against the fee statement to ensure that you are, in fact, paying enough to cover the fees.

Some families, I’m pleased to say, are paying more than is required and are in credit.

If you have any inquiries please contact Anne McKenna, Finance Manager.

Please remember that a number of our students have serious allergies to peanuts. We have agreed as a community we will take care of these children and work together for their safety. Therefore, peanut butter, peanuts and peanut related products should not come to school as part of the children’s lunches and snacks. This includes Nutella and all hazelnut based spreads.
...God in Amaroo.

OUR FOCUS

In 2013 our theme for the year is “On the Road to the Heart of God”.
In every aspect of our lives at Good Shepherd we aim, ‘to be together the Heart of God’.

Our next Prayer Celebration is on **tomorrow** Friday 1 November and will be lead by 6 Kolek and 1 Metcalfe. They will be sharing the gospel reading, ‘Jesus, the Way to the Father.

Our Prayer Focus will begin at 9:15am after morning assembly. We warmly invite all parents, family and community members to join us on Friday.

PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

**Week 4** - Parish Schools Community Day (November 8, 2013)
**Week 5** - Faith and Justice Crew - Remembrance Day (November 11, 2013)
**Week 6** - 6 Morell and 2 Jones - The Walk to Emmaus (November 22, 2013)
**Week 7** - 4 Dittmar and 3 Zarb - The Promise of the Holy Spirit (November 29, 2013)
**Week 9** - Kindergarten - The Nativity (December 13, 2013)

SCHOOL OF HOPE UPDATE

We thank you all so far for your support of our ‘Raise the Roof’ initiative for the School of Hope. We have two more weeks before Simon from Global School Partners comes back to celebrate our appeal. If you have not yet participated, and you are able to, we remind you that just $5 will purchase a brick and help us to achieve our goal of building a secured classroom for the School of Hope. Since we began our fundraising this year some people have asked me if there are other ways they are able to support our partner school. The information below is from the Global School Partners website and relates to individual child sponsorship. You can contact the school or Global School Partners for more information.

We have 26 students who are currently able to attend school only because of our Child Sponsorship program. We carefully assess each applicant to ensure that their poverty circumstances are genuine and have been correctly conveyed to Global School Partners. We then seek to find them a sponsor and ensure that their school fees are paid direct to the school bank account, we receive an official school receipt and regular school reports on the student. We keep our sponsors informed on the progress of their student and we personally visit each student on our trips to Africa.

Individual student sponsorship is a way in which we ‘stop for the one’ by enabling a child, who would otherwise not be at school, to attend school. For as little as $250 a year we enable a child to attend school, have a uniform and receive lunch each day (often the only real meal the child receives each day). We do not lock you into years of support but rather invite you annually to renew. You will receive your student's picture and profile, their school reports and we encourage you to write as often as you like - you will get letters back in reply.

In next week’s newsletter we will provide for you the information sheets for Child Sponsorship. As always please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time of you have any questions.
General Information:

Our book fair will be held next Friday, 8 November from 8.30am to 6.00pm. Get in some early Christmas shopping and bag a bargain! Please come in and browse. All proceeds will go to purchasing new books for the library! If anyone could assist Bernadette as Cashier from 8.30 - 9.10 am and in the afternoon from 3.00 - 4.00 pm please email Bernadette.aitken@cg.catholic.edu.au or Joan 62557888. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

School Fees will be sent home today via the note bag. Fees may be paid by Cash/Cheque/BPay/Eftpos or Direct Debit. Payment is due Friday, November 15.

Seasons For Growth: Thank you to all the students who participated in Seasons For Growth this year. They will celebrate the completion of the program with their guests and companions on Friday, 1 November from 12.30 - 1.20pm in Building H (the portable near the courts).

A special thankyou to Sonya Huleatt, Tracey Kenna, Ursula Jamieson and Anne Giffelt who have shared their time and expertise as wonderful Companions to the students who Journeyed through the program.

Disco: Will be held tomorrow evening Friday, 1 November. Tickets will be distributed this afternoon. If your child has paid and has not received a ticket please contact Kylie 04174 676 440. Entry is ticket only.

Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
4 Term 4 | November 4 | November 5 | November 6 | November 7 | November 8 | November 9 | November 10

7:00 pm Community Council Meeting

K - Yr 3 Swimming Lessons

Year 4 Camp Mogo

K - Yr 3 Swimming Lessons

Congratulations: Kaylee (3T/D) and Luke (4S) will be representing the ACT Oztag Team in Wollongong during February. Well done!

Departing Families

We are aware that some families will be moving out of the area at the end of this year. To help us with staffing and class structure for 2014, we would really appreciate knowing which children (apart from Year 6) will not be returning to Good Shepherd next year. If your child/ren will not be returning, please fill out the slip and return it to school as soon as possible.

To be together the heart of...
COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

Good Shepherd Skoolbag App:
We hope you are all enjoying the communication benefits that the Apps has given us. It’s so convenient to be able to have such a quick reference to the latest happenings at school.

A few people have mentioned that they aren’t receiving notifications. If you find this is occurring, we suggest that you delete your current app and reload it. We have found that this seems to sort out that hiccup. Don’t forget to let other Good Shepherd parents or new families know that we are able to access this clever App.

Quad and Sandpit Upgrades:
All the yard works are well and truly underway and moving along as scheduled.

Please note that in Week 4, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th the concrete will be poured for the Quad. There will be an extended area that is out of bounds during this time. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience during this disruption.

We have had a range of questions since this project has commenced so I will answer some of these for you.

1) Will the children fit for assembly in the quad?
Yes, we had a trial assembly in the quad prior to contracting the work out and we all fit nicely. It has the added benefit of simplifying traffic flow to classrooms after assembly.

2) Why are we using cement on the quad area?
The Green Team, School Management and your Community Council has spent a great deal of time this year investigating the best, long term material for use in this area. Turf has been laid in this area, several times without any success, mainly due to the intense traffic in the quad. As we now intend to use this area as our assembly area, and for school functions, we needed to ensure that we were using as cost effective, durable product that required little to no maintenance over many years. We will have a textured logo in the centre of the quad as well as decks for assembly that will soften the area. Over time we will consider large planter boxes and wooden seating to soften the quad space. Of course all of this costs $$$ so we are dealing with the immediate issues of function and drainage at this stage. This project has been approved by the head of Building Services within the Catholic Education Office.

3) Why start the quad work now instead of doing the works over school holidays?
We were lucky enough to pick up a great time slot with Urban Constructions and they are working with us to ensure that we can use this lovely new space for the end of year BBQ and Christmas celebrations. In addition, Brad Gaynor & the School Council were keen to see this project through to completion prior to Brad moving to his new school in 2014.

4) When will it all be finished?
Our Goal time frame is Week 8

5) What’s the big hole behind the Kinder buildings?
Our new, fantastic sand pit. We have added a picture below that will give you an indication of what our super duper sand pit will look like. And YES, the sand for the sand pit will be beach or river sand which should not stain your children’s clothes at all.

6) Where did the trees go from the quad and sandpit area?
These have been relocated to in front of the Year 5 Building and along the fence line. Once the landscaping work around the admin building is complete we will place new commemorative trees in the area in front of the play equipment. The sand pit will have a custom made cover that can be secured.
7) What's happening between the admin building and gazebos?
We will be placing our flag poles across this strip with pavers with some lovely plants and bushes.

8) What about covered walkways?
This project is definitely on the Committee's agenda. As you can imagine it is also a large project for us to take on and we have started the quoting process for the covered walkways. The time frame for this will largely be determined by budget and fundraising efforts. As council has dramatically reduced the number of fundraising activities during the course of the year and we anticipate that the installation will be a few years off. The walkathon is now our only annual fundraiser. The fete that is hosted and run by Good Shepherd every four years is our only other source of fundraising.

New Sports Shirt: Since the start of 2013, the Community Council has been working hard with the school leadership team and our preferred uniform supplier Savvy looking into proposed changes to the sports polo shirt.

We are happy to announce that it's out with the white and in with the navy blue....I can hear the gasp from all the washing machines & soaking buckets already!

Good Shepherd has decided that from Term 1, 2014, the current Yr 6 leadership shirt will now become the sports polo shirt for all K-5 students, with a new leadership top to be introduced in 2014.

The new sports polo shirt retails at Savvy for the same price as the current shirt and Savvy will continue to sell the white sports polo shirt until stock is exhausted.

It is proposed that by the start of the 2015 school year, all students have transitioned to the new sports top.

Please feel free to contact either Mr Gaynor or the Community Council Uniform contact Deb McCarthy (0405 330 529 or deb1212@optusnet.com.au) if you have any questions.

Catholic Schools Netball Carnival
The carnival was a really lovely day. All children played fun lighthearted netball! We were so pleased to see all those children who don't normally play netball or have never played before have a go. They were so gorgeous. St Vincent's did a fabulous job for the tiny school it is and it was very cool to see some of the things we implemented a few years ago were still being used / done.

A huge thank you to the ex Good Shepherd girls who gave up their Sunday to come and umpire for us and did an excellent job; Claire Hanscombe, Ruby Carey, Sophie New and Katie Kozjak. These girls are absolutely awesome.

Finally, a massive congratulations goes to the year 6 Div 1 team who were undefeated all day and took out the trophy for first place again and in their last year playing for Good Shepherd.

Belinda Hammond
This week and next week classes will be talking about trying to reduce landfill. We are encouraging a discussion at how about grocery shopping and how we can ‘Shop Smart’ to reduce our waste.

Don’t Forget, Get Your Fancy On!
Waste Free Food = Uniform Free on Tuesday, Melbourne Cup Day.

reduce reuse recycle...
rethink

Did you know?
Coles has introduced soft plastic recycling. The program is aimed at collecting the soft plastics you can’t put in your kerbside recycling bin. The processed materials will be converted into outdoor furniture and signage for schools and communities. You can find the bin outside Coles Gungahlin!

Find out more about the soft plastic recycling initiative:
29th October. The brewing shed.

Dear diary,

Over the last few weeks Pa, Joe and Henry have been working on a new shed. Ma calls it the man shed and Pa calls it the brewing shed. Pa and the boys say that it is a girl free space. Ma says she has no desire to go into the shed. I went in yesterday.

Ma was busy sewing and Pa and the boys were out getting supplies for the farm. I took the chance to sneak into the shed to see what it was for myself. Henry has been having a great time teasing me about not being allowed in, well I showed him! The door opened easily and silently. The shed is built on the side of the barn. It has a sloping roof, a door and one window. All of the materials were old pieces that we had or that our neighbours were getting rid of. As a result there are about four or five different colours of wood everywhere.

Inside there were shelves from floor to ceiling along the barn wall. Some of the lower shelves had bottles lined up on them. At the narrow end, under the window, an old trough had been scrubbed and set into a table. The wall opposite the barn wall had wooden crates along the floor. I looked into these, but they were all empty at the moment. You could use them for storage or to sit on. The wall at the other end had the old pot belly stove which has been in the barn for as long as I can remember. There was a big pot sitting on it. Stacked on the floor near it were some large clay jars. It was all set up for brewing.

After I'd had a look I closed the door and went back to the house. Pa and the boys had done a really good job. At least we wouldn't have to worry about exploding bottles under the house any more. Pa has his shed because last year one batch of his home brew popped their corks and sprayed the contents all over the floor boards under the verandah. The warm yeasty smell soaked into the wood and rose into the air whenever the boards warmed up in the sun.

When they went off it sounded like large hail slamming against the fence. We were all still in bed when the banging started. Both Ma and Pa flew out of bed, in their night clothes, calling to us. Ma wanted to know if we were alright and Pa was telling us to stay put. We were standing at the bedroom door, half awake and trying to figure out what was going on. Pa went for the shotgun and Ma shouted, "It's your brew again." That stopped Pa. He opened the door, listened and sniffed. It was the home brew! The house smelt! After an early breakfast Pa went under the house to clean up and Ma started to scrub from the top. Between the two of them most of the smell had gone by the end of the day. They had washed everything with both vinegar and lemon. Pa was banned from brewing again until he built a shed. Apparently it was not the first time this had happened. The bottles that didn't burst were moved to the barn and stored in there while the search for materials for the brewing shed began.

So now Pa has his new shed and he is getting ready to brew his first batch. He makes beer, cider and ginger beer, depending on the season. He likes to make different things so that there is something for everyone to drink. I like the taste of the cider and ginger beer, but I don't know how anyone can drink beer. I've sipped Pa's before and it is awful. He seems to like it. Maybe you have to be an adult to like it?

I think of brewing as being a bit like bottling. You follow a recipe, let it cook, boil the containers and fill them when the mixture cools a bit. Then you store then until you want to use them. I know there is more to it than that (brewing takes days, not hours), but I still think of it as cooking.

I'd never tell Pa that, he says men don't cook.

Mary