Dear Parents and Carers

**FRONT CAR PARK CLOSED MONDAY**

Due to the pouring of the courtyard concrete, the Front Carpark will be closed on Monday 18th November. Please use the Church carpark for drop off and pick up.

**WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE (WWVP)**

As highlighted through school communication this year, last Friday 8 November 2013, new requirements came into place for employees and volunteers Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) ie. children in regulated school activities. This new legislation affects everyone working and supporting children across Australia such as schools, sports clubs, interest clubs, community clubs, childcare, performance shows etc. Regulated activities at school include, but are not limited to, assisting in a classroom or learning environment, coaching sports teams, canteen assistance, library assistance, attending school excursions, helping at school sports carnivals, school discos, walkathon, fete, working bees, working on school stalls and BBQs etc.

You do not need to have these special requirements if you are attending parent meetings, interviews, school assemblies, school events, only visiting classrooms etc. Our school encourages and values the assistance and involvement of parents and other volunteers in the school.

The safety and wellbeing of students in our care is also important. I hope that the new legislated requirements do not hinder the ability for you to volunteer to help in the school. Provided there are no legal reasons that would prevent you from working with children there are two ways for you to register to volunteer at the school. The way which is best for you will depend on the frequency you intend to volunteer.

The *Working With Vulnerable People* (WWVP) Card is available through a formal application process through the Office of Regulatory Services A.C.T. or A.C.T. Shopfront. The card is free for volunteers and is current for 3 years. The card may take a number of days to obtain. This card covers you for unlimited volunteer work in a variety of settings. This card suits volunteers who are regularly involved in the school and is in fact the only way for people who volunteer frequently to meet the requirements to volunteer in the school. A photocopy of your card must be kept in the Front Office and you should carry your card on you to produce if requested.

A *Statutory Declaration*. This method will suit people volunteering at school on a less regular basis. A separate Statutory Declaration must be completed at the Front Office each day you help at school and must be signed by a full-time teacher at the school. The total number of days you can volunteer using this method is limited to 3 days in a four week period or seven days in any 12 month period. This method is more time consuming to register, but does allow people to help with less regular events like the annual fetes, walkathons, sports carnivals, working bees and the odd day on the canteen or a BBQ.

For safety reasons, visitors to the school have always been asked to sign in at the Front Office before entering the school at times outside pick up times, drop-off times and school assemblies. Thank you for your support in this matter.
YEAR 4 CAMP
Our Year 4 students and their teachers return today after a 2 day camp in Mogo. By all reports everyone has had a great time! Special thanks to Jess Dittmar, Matt Aquilina, Kate Whackett, Scott Suitor and Anne Gilfelt for giving up their time to be with the students for 2 days.

PARISH FETE 2014
Good Shepherd will be coordinating the 2014 Parish Fete. Plans are already underway and we have a team of people, led by Sara Henden beginning to organise the date, book rides and coordinate activities. As you know Fetes take a great deal of work and are a team effort. If you would like to assist, please let us know. In the meantime, as it is Fete season at the moment, start gathering ideas from the Fetes you attend.

UNSW ASSESSMENTS
Congratulations to the many students who participated in the UNSW Mathematics and English Competitions recently. In Mathematics we had 28 Participation, 9 Credit and 7 Distinction Certificates. In English we 26 Participation, 13 Credit and 6 Distinction Certificates. Well done.

LEAVING EARLY
If you are heading off on holidays before the end of the school year, will you please let the Front Office and classroom teacher know. This will allow us to make arrangements for School Reports and other end of year information.

STAFF NEWS
Staffing for 2014 is close to being finalised with the majority of staff remaining at Good Shepherd in 2014.
- We have appointed Mr Luke Mooney, currently at St Bede’s in Red Hill, as our new Coordinator replacing Craig Hart.
- Sally Hanrahan is moving to the Gold Coast and has been appointed to a school in Maroochydore, Queensland.
- Scott Suitor has been appointed to the staff of Canberra Grammar School in 2014.

I know you join me congratulating all of them on their achievements. Teacher and class placements will be shared in a few weeks.

Brad Gaynor
Principal
brad.gaynor@cg.catholic.edu.au

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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 Prayer Celebrations will focus on Scripture under the headings of Identity, Relationships and Connections. These being the core principles of Good Shepherd. Through Scripture we will reflect on our mission, as disciples of Jesus, to bring God’s love to others in the world.

**PRAYER CELEBRATIONS**

**Week 6** - 6 Morrell and 2 Jones - The Walk to Emmaus (22 November).

**Week 7** - 4 Dittmar and 3 Zarb - The Promise of the Holy Spirit (29 November).

**Week 9** - Kindergarten - The Nativity (13 December).

**SCHOOL OF HOPE UPDATE**

**CAN YOU PURCHASE A BRICK?**

Thank you all so far for your support of our ‘Raise the Roof’ initiative for the School of Hope. We only have a few days before Simon from Global School Partners comes back to celebrate our appeal. At the moment we have raised approximately $1000 towards the project with an aim to reach $2000 to enable the classroom to be built. 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.

**MINI VINNIES SLEEPOUT**

Tomorrow night the Good Shepherd Mini Vinnies Team will be hosting their very first ‘sleep-out’, Friday 15th November 2013 - 16th November 2013 to raise awareness and funds for the St Vincent de Paul Street to Home Program.

A rough sleeper is anyone who does not have a continued or fixed residential address, resulting in the person sleeping rough on the streets, the bush, in a tent, an outdoor shelter or in a car, or other unsafe environment for an extended period. The Street to Home program provides flexible case management, in an assertive outreach model to assist chronically homeless individuals with a focus on health, housing and legal issues.

This event will allow our Mini Vinnies students to gain a meaningful understanding of the concept of a ‘rough sleeper’. We are extremely proud of our Good Shepherd Mini Vinnies students and the good works that they do within our school, our parish, and the broader community. We are also very grateful of the support that our Mini Vinnies students’ families have provided to keep this valuable program growing within our school. We hope that this event will be a success and continue to develop our Mini Vinnies...
General Information:

**School Fees** are due tomorrow Friday, 15 November. Payment may be paid by Cash/Cheque/BPay/Eftpos or Direct Debit. If you are having difficulty meeting your financial commitment please contact Anne or Brad. 2014 School Fees have not yet been finalised. Information will be sent home later this month via the newsletter.

**Canteen:** Tomorrow, Friday 15 November is a special lunch order day. All lunch orders had to be returned on Wednesday. **There will be no other lunch orders on the day.**

**Congratulations:** Two of our former Good Shepherd students Alysha Swan and Taylah Sherd-Lawler have obtained Leadership positions at St Francis Xavier College. Alysha has been named 2014 College Vice Captain and Taylah, Koorilla House Captain.

**Position Vacant:** A Finance/Admin Officer is required for a Mortgage Broker, located Nicholls. MYOB experience preferred but not essential. Training will be provided before Christmas for start in the New Year. Part-time school hours, days and hours negotiable. For more information please ring Glen 6242 5938.

**Found:** A green/blue/white check picnic rug was handed in at the front office last Friday after the Combined School’s Day. If this rug belongs to you please contact Joan 6255 7888.

**Year 6 Graduation:** A letter will be sent home today via the note bag. If you do not receive this letter please contact Joan.

**Book Fair:** Thank-you for coming to the book Fair last week. I know that it resembled the Myer Boxing Day sales at some points during the day rather than a library. We sold just over $8 500 worth of stock. We will get 20 percent of this total to go towards the library.

If you are waiting on a re-order to come home - fear not! I have been in touch with Scholastic and our order has been dispatched. We are only waiting for the Postie. I hope to have the books sent home tomorrow. Please let me know if there is a problem with your order when it arrives home.

Your support was appreciated. Especially those who were able to lend a hand at the cashiers tables.

**Departing Families:** If your children will not be returning to Good Shepherd next year please contact Joan at the front office as soon as possible.

**Sport:**

**Sports Clinic:** Tomorrow, each class will be participating in a one-off Sports in Schools Australia Clinic. All children must wear their sports uniform.

**Swimming Lessons:** Aquatots have advised that they will be holding a makeup lesson for the swimming lessons that 3Tokich, 3House, KVanzwol, KHuleatt and KManenica missed due to the bus strike. The lessons will be held on Wednesday 18 December and the timetable will run as usual.

**Cheerleading:** Good luck to the Years 3-6 Good Shepherd Cheerleaders who will be participating in the Australian National Cheerleading Championships next week, 22-24 November in Melbourne.

**Congratulations:** Sarah Smith will be representing the ACT at the NSW age Championship to be held in January at the Homebush Olympic pool. Sarah will be participating in the 50 m freestyle. Well done!