Dear Parents & Carers

I read with great interest the information provided by John Paul College last week on their innovative curriculum approaches. Their work on self directed learning is innovative and really sparked my interest as it aligns well with the work we hope to do with our Year 5 and 6 students in the future. Self-directed learning is a philosophy, grounded in research, which recognises that learning is significantly improved when individuals take control over their own learning. Research has shown that students’ level of engagement, motivation and learning are greatly enhanced by self directed learning.

Using self-directed learning approaches has been shown to have the following benefits:

- Students demonstrate a greater awareness of their responsibility in making learning meaningful and monitoring themselves; (Garrison 1997)
- Students develop curiosity and are more willing to try new things; (Lyman 1998)
- Students view problems as challenges, desire change and enjoy learning; (Taylor 1995)
- Students are more motivated, persistent, independent, self-disciplined, self-confident and goal orientated;
- Self-directed learners are more effective learners, employing a range of strategies to problem solve.

With research showing these results, it is a ‘no brainer’ to examine the research and different approaches and see how we could develop and implement a program that suits the needs of our students at Good Shepherd.

WINTER COLDS

At this time of the year many of the staff and students are not well with cold and flu symptoms. If students are not well in the morning please do not send them to school. There is nothing worse than being at school when you are ill and there is always the possibility of spreading the illness to others. A reminder that the school does not hold children’s Panadol. Panadol will not be administered to children unless sent into school with an authorisation note from a parent. With the onset of winter I would like to remind parents of the need for students to:

- Eat nourishing food for breakfast, recess and lunch to fuel their bodies and to guard against winter ‘bugs’ and germs.
- Wear appropriate clothing to school to match the cold conditions - students may wear a navy beanie, coat, gloves and scarf in the cold weather.
- Not arrive at school before the teacher is on duty at 8.30am. It is too cold for them to be sitting on the outdoor seats or concrete so early in the morning.

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Urgent - Working with Vulnerable People Approval Date Fast Approaching: As mentioned earlier in the year, from November 8 2013 no staff or volunteers can work with children unless they have the new ‘Working With Vulnerable People Card’ (WWVPC). APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS ARE FREE AND VALID FOR THREE YEARS. There is already a backlog of about 8 weeks in processing applications and this will get worse closer to the November deadline. If you are one of our valued volunteers please register as soon as possible to ensure you receive your card before the deadline. Application forms are available from the school office or online at www.ors.act.gov.au.
ENROLMENT PERIOD
A reminder to parents that the Catholic schools’ enrolment period has officially closed. However, if you have a younger child who is commencing school in 2014, or have friends at preschool and childcare who are interested in enrolling in Good Shepherd, please let them know to get their application in ASAP.

LEAVING GOOD SHEPHERD
If you anticipate that your child will leave Good Shepherd at the end of this year, could you please notify the Front Office. We need to begin planning for staffing and class configurations for 2014. Thank you to those who have let us know already, this is very much appreciated. Naturally Year 6 parents need not respond to this request.

I wish you all best for the last week of autumn. Winter hits us all next week!

Brad Gaynor
Principal

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 in Amaroo’. 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.

Our next Prayer Celebration will be tomorrow being lead by Five Graeber and One Kenna. They will be sharing the gospel reading, ‘Jesus Blesses the Children’.

MINI VINNIES
Every week, we are asking each family to bring just one item of non-perishable food to school to distribute to the needy people in our Gungahlin Community. For example

•Pasta and Pasta Sauce: •Noodles: •Soup: •Tinned Food: •Rice: •Crackers: •Tuna: •Long Life Milk:
•Cereal:•Pet Food:•Beans:•Sugar:•Flour:•Dried Fruit:•Dried Biscuits: •Muesli Bars

When you sit down to your dinner at night, you will know that you have helped others in our community to be able to do the same.

TERM 2 PRAYER CELEBRATIONS

Week 7 - The Good Samaritan - 4 Whackett and 3 Zaja
To be together....

SCHOOL OF HOPE UPDATE
We received these pictures from our Global School Partners school, School of Hope. The pictures show the children with resources that have been received thanks to the support of the Good Shepherd community.

Confirmation Candidates
We ask that you keep our candidates in your prayers this week as they celebrate their Confirmation.

‘Come Holy Spirit...Be there helper and their guide’

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS
Just a reminder that anyone who bought a 2012/2013 Entertainment Book last year it expires mid June. If you would like to replace it with a current one please use the link below. Stocks are running low so get in quick to avoid disappointment. https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/27832s

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP
Thank you to all the parents who have been using the new order form we have had a wonderful response. To the parents who have yet to collect and pay for their orders can you please do so before Tuesday 4 June as some items are in high demand and short supply.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
Many thanks to the families who have already dropped off their stickers and cards. We are well short of last year's number of cards so please keep shopping and keep sending them in. If you need any more cards please call into the front office and collect as many as you need. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL FEES
School fees will be due for payment by Friday, 31 May 2013. Please contact Anne McKenna if you can foresee any difficulties in paying the fees by the due date.
SUN SMART POLICY UPDATE

To keep with our Sun Smart Policy, children are not required to wear a hat at school during June and July. This is to enable adequate sun exposure to promote Vitamin D production in the body, something that is often lacking during the winter months. Of course, children can wear beanies to keep themselves warm.

Last day of May... hats off day! First day of August.... Hats on for all of us!

Library News

CANBERRA - OUR REGION, OUR HISTORY

CANBERRA REGION
1914 Land at Jervis Bay was added to the Federal Capital Territory.
10 February 1915 The Royal Australian Navy’s Jervis Bay naval college, HMAS Creswell, was officially opened. The Royal Australian Navy had been established in 1911.
3 September 1915 The funeral of Major General Sir William Bridges, commander of the first AIF and founding commandant of RMC, Duntroon who was killed on Gallipoli. Bridges is buried on the slopes of Mount Pleasant. His grave is the only Walter Burley Griffin designed edifice in Canberra.
1918 The Molonglo Internment Camp is built to house German nationals. After the war it is used as accommodation for workers and their families. It later becomes the industrial suburb of Fyshwick.
December 1918 Plans to establish a township of 10 000 people at Tuggeranong are put on hold due to the end of World War I.

GUNGAHLIN AREA
One of the early survey “trig” points can be found I Roderick Street, Amaroo. Trigs were built on high ground with good visibility so that the surveyors could sight back to it as they measured and calculated their way across the landscape. Once the whole valley could be seen from here, but now there is just a glimpse of Yerrabi Pond through the town houses. This trig point, the Palmer Trig, is a stone calm, wooden pole and metal circular vanes, originally erected in 1875 and recently restored by the Institution of Engineers.

Early survey “trigs” formed a network across New South Wales and were used by surveyors during the course of original land grant surveys and mapping projects. As land selections were made ahead of the survey, when the official lines were drawn on maps it was revealed that some of the landholders had laid claim to parts of the land which were not officially theirs. This lead to some fierce discussions between landholders, surveyors and each other.

WHAT’S ON IN TOWN?

100°C – Stories of 100 Canberra Scientists: Stories of 100 Canberra Scientists is a 12-month program featuring lectures, talks, debates, events and video conferences with scientists who call, or have called, Canberra home. This weekend’s presentations include: Below the ice, Mysterious rocks from the deep and Under the sea. For more information go to www.questacon.edu.au

SHILLING’S YEAR - A COIN’S EYE VIEW OF THE YEAR 1913 Royal Australian Mint, Denison Street, Deakin. 6 Mar, 2013 — 14 Oct, 2013. At the Royal Australian Mint, you can meet the 1913 Shilling and coin cousins Florin and Halfpenny, and follow their adventures in a Shilling’s Year—a coin’s eye view through purchases in 1913.
29th May 1913. The parcel.

Dear diary,

Today when we got home from school there was a parcel sitting on the kitchen table. It was from Aunt Margaret and it was unopened. Joe, Henry and I stared at it for a bit and then we all asked if we could open it? Ma said no as it was addressed to Pa and that it was wrong to open someone else's mail. We all know what sort of things will be in it, so we couldn't see why we had to wait for Pa. It is not as though he gets excited by a parcel from Sydney.

It sat on the table torturing us all afternoon. It was silent temptation all through afternoon tea, homework and dinner preparation. Finally, when it was getting close to the time to set the table Pa arrived home. He saw the parcel and asked Ma if there was a cup of tea on offer. Honestly! We had been waiting so very long and he was wasting time with a cup of tea! We could tell from the twinkle in his eyes that he knew we were desperate to open the parcel. Pa can be such a tease at times!

We get parcels from Sydney every so often. Aunt Margaret lives there and so did Ma before she came here. Ma came down from Sydney to help out her Aunt who lives in Queanbeyan. Ma lived with Aunty Agnes and worked in her dressmaker's store. Ma mostly worked on the hats and bonnets that the store sold. To this day, she and I have the best looking hats around.

Aunt Margaret sends us some of the clothes our cousins have grown out of. She knows that Ma can alter the clothes to fit or re-invent the garment to suit our needs. It is so much fun to see what she has put in. The best part though, is that Aunt Margaret puts in lots of little unexpected gifts. Sometimes there are ribbons, buttons, hair pins, tobacco (for Pa), coloured pencils, paint boxes or pretty embroidery threads. We just never know. That is half the delight in getting a parcel from Sydney.

Pa was really set on teasing us tonight. He picked up the parcel and moved it to the sideboard, then announced that we would have dinner before he opened it. We all groaned and pleaded with him. We even asked Ma to convince him to open it, but nothing would change his mind. To make things worse he kept coming up with silly ideas about what was in the parcel. I was getting all knotted up inside with excitement and frustration.

Eventually dinner was cleared up and the parcel was placed back on the table. Pa took his time opening it. Every piece of string was wound up and every piece of brown paper was flattened and folded before the next one was removed. We kept telling Pa to rip off the wrapping, but all he said was, "Waste not, want not."  Looking back now I'm sure he knew what was in it before the parcel arrived, he was too calm about it.

The parcel did have some clothes from my cousins. There were a couple of dresses, some pants and some shirts. There was a lovely dress for Ma and a few things for Pa. There was also some sweets and an envelope. That contained an invitation to our Grandmother’s sixtieth birthday. It was to be in Sydney in two months. The question was could we go?

Getting to Sydney takes a long time and costs a lot of money. We really wanted to go, but we knew it might not be possible. Then the best bit came out of the envelope. It was a letter from Grandmama. She said that she was getting too old to travel and she wanted to see us for her birthday. She also included some money to go towards our travel to get there. From the unsurprised looks on the faces of our parents, it was obvious that they knew all about this before we did! Pa said that he couldn't go, but that he insisted that Ma, Joe, Henry and I should.

I've never been to Sydney, or even on a train! I'm excited and nervous at the same time. How can that be? It will be the first time I've been away from Pa. How will he get on without us?

I need to talk this over with Amelia.

Mary
GOOD SHEPHERD NETBALL

This is what the Good Shepherd netball coaches had to say about their teams’ performances in Week 4 of the competition.

Yr 5/6 SNOW: Another fantastic win by Snow on the weekend. The girls are really beginning to work well as a team and are starting to own their positions. Thanks to all the family and friends who are braving the cold to support our team. Keep up the great effort girls!

Yr 4 CYCLONES: The Cyclones played well as a team this week and finished the game with a well deserved win. There was both great attack and defense from all girls. A great team effort.

Yr 4 STORMS: Two well-matched teams took the courts in the fog at Lyneham on Saturday. Quick passes and fabulous defense were the stand out plays (the other team’s coach even congratulated our girls on their defense). A friendly, fun game (and a win) left us with happy Storm-ers. Great work girls.

Yr 2 LIGHTNING: Lightning team had a tough game this week but the girls persevered and they had a great game. The girls pulled together and showed some awesome team work. Well done girls!

YR 1 HURRICANES: Hurricanes fronted up to the very foggy start on Saturday morning and with freezing little fingers managed to score the first two goals of the game. It was a great reward for the cold. Thanks to the amazing Hurricane parents who encouraged the girls to get on and do their best. Xanthe did some great umpiring as well.