Dear Parents and Carers,

We certainly were blessed with beautiful weather at last Friday’s Swimming Carnival. I must admit to much procrastination before making the decision on Friday morning to take a punt and go ahead. Congratulations to the children who participated so well in their chosen events.

Thank you to Matt Aquilina, Marty Capon and Luke Mooney who jointly organised such a great day. Thank you also to the many parents who acted as officials throughout the day.

A squad of children will now be selected to represent Good Shepherd at the district carnival later this term.

Congratulations also to Patterson House who were declared the winning house at yesterday’s Morning Assembly.

Community Council Meeting - What a fabulous response!
Our staffroom was full of enthusiastic, committed parents on Tuesday evening as our Community Council met for the first time this year. The meeting’s agenda covered summaries of last year’s initiatives and plans, as well as ideas and discussions for this year.

During the next few weeks we would like to finalise all positions for this year’s Council membership. It is anticipated that several committee positions will become available and parents will be invited to nominate themselves for these roles. We will endeavour to provide role descriptions in an effort to make the commitment clear to any interested parents.

In summary, I think our whole community owes a debt of gratitude to the members of our Community Council. By any measure this group of people add value to our school through their good will and generosity. Further updates and occasional requests for help will be provided in the newsletter on a regular basis throughout this year.

Parent Information Night Expo:
Our staff, in combination with the Community Council are reviewing last week’s Expo. This year’s approach was our first attempt to combine classroom information with school support services. Thank you to those parents who provided feedback on the evening, this will assist us to link our next year’s model.

Catholic Education Director Visit:
Mrs Moira Najdecki, the Director of Catholic Education in this Archdiocese visited our school yesterday. Her visit included meetings with students, staff, parents and Father Mark. A highlight of the morning was the presentation of certificates of continued service to several staff members during morning tea.

Sympathy:
I would like to extend our sympathy to Mr Brett King whose mother passed away last week. Our school was represented by several staff members at Friday’s funeral.
Making an Appointment with Your Child’s Teacher:
Parents who wish to make a more formal appointment with a teacher are asked to email the teacher directly. Teacher emails are 

firstname.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au

Some things to consider:
- Please do not approach a teacher at morning assembly or straight after school for a formal chat. Teachers are often on duty, have meetings or appointments scheduled;
- Teachers may take a few days to respond to your email;
- Appointments will usually be before school or straight after school. Like any specialist appointment, parents make need to rearrange their work schedule to make the appointment;
- Formal interviews are scheduled for all year levels in early Term 2. Parents also have the option of a formal interview at the end of Term 2 and Term 4 following written reports.

Duty of Care: It has been noticed that some parents are continuing to drop their children off before 8.30am and collecting them after 3.30pm. Please be aware that the school does not have ‘duty of care’ before 8.30am and after 3.30pm. If you do drop your children off before 8.30am you need to remain with them until the teacher commences duty at 8.30am. Camp Australia is available from 7.30am until 8.50am and from 3.10pm until 6pm. Parents are encouraged to use this facility in the morning and afternoon.

Cheerleading - Poms Coach Needed: If any parents or friends have some dance background and would be interested in coaching Good Shepherd’s Youth Squad in Poms we are looking for a coach. Training is Mondays nights 6pm - 7.30pm. For more information please contact Leanne Shea Langdown shealang@bigpond.net.au

Graham Pollard
Principal.
To be together the Heart of God

Our Whole School Focus for 2014, “To be together the Heart of God” is designed to help us explore and refresh the mission statement and vision of Good Shepherd. We began our journey last year as we explored our focus for the year, “On the Road to the Heart of God”.

The Prayer Focus Celebrations for 2014 will be grounded in scripture and developed under the headings of:

To Be..., To be Together..., To be together the Heart... and To be together the Heart of God.

Term 1: To Be- How are we called to encounter God in our life each day?

Our first Prayer Celebration will be held tomorrow, Friday 21 February.
6Kolek and 1Pfeiffer will be leading our prayer.
Their prayer is based on the Scripture of “The Creation”.
Our Prayer Focus will begin at 9:15am after morning assembly.
We warmly invite all parents, family and community members to join us tomorrow.

We have many new students and families who have joined our school community this year.
Each morning we start our day with Morning Assembly and our School Prayer.
We would like all children and parents to learn our prayer so you can join with us each morning welcoming our school day.

God who loves us all.
Help us to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd
May we be your hands, eyes, voice and feet to all we meet
Guide us each day to live the Golden Rule,
So together we are “The Heart of God in Amaroo”
Bless our school community with your love
Amen.
General Information:

School Fees: Thank you to those families who have paid Term 1 School Fees. Payment is due Friday, 7 March. Fees may be paid by cash, Cheque, BPay or Eftpos. If you pay by direct debit please do not pay the account, it is sent home for your information only.

If you are having trouble meeting your financial commitment please contact the front office to arrange an appointment with Graham.

Sale 20% Discount: Savvy School Wear (our preferred uniform supplier) is having 20% off all summer and winter school uniforms until Friday, 28th February. If you would like more information please just drop into the shop at 5/83 Lysaght Street, Mitchell or contact them 6162 1032 or www.savvyschoolwear.com.au

Playground Equipment: Parents please help us to keep all children off the playground equipment after school each day. We know that the playground is very appealing to children straight after school. However, we would like to remind everyone that school and pre-school children should NOT be on the playground equipment between 3.10 and 3.30pm. It is too difficult for the teacher on the playground duty to know which children are being supervised by their parents, and those who are still waiting to be picked up. Thank you for your help with this request.

Lost Property: Last Friday after the swimming carnival we had a few unclaimed items. If your child owns any of the following unloved items they may collect them from Mrs Jones at the front office.

- Size 10 sports shorts.
- Size 8 shorts.
- Pair of blue/lime green crocs.
- Dark green speedo goggles.
- Size 12 bikini bottom - navy blue with white polka dots.

Book Club Orders: Book Club order forms were sent home earlier this week. If your child would like to order a book, all orders must be returned no later than tomorrow, 21st February.

School App: To install the App, just look for our school name “Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School Amaroo” in the Apple App Store and install it on your phone.

Canteen Special
Friday, 21 February

Chicken Burger $4.50
Chicken Burger Pack $7.00
Pack includes: Burger, drink, piece of fruit and a snack

Boys size 10 Uniform for Sale
- Short Sleeve Summer Polo $15 x 2
- Polar Fleece Top $20
- School Bag $30
- Hat $2
- Short Sleeve Sport Polo (Old Style) $10
- Sport Tracksuit Jacket $28

These uniforms have never been worn.
For more information please contact 0417010410

We endeavour to be a nut free school
Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls
YOUR HELP NEEDED

My name is Alison. For the past several years, I have been the coordinator of the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls at Good Shepherd. It has been a very rewarding role, and I have loved every minute of it.

But time is marching on. My son, Will, is in year 6 this year.

Last year two crucial members of our stall team left the school.

That means, in order for these wonderful events to be able to continue, we need your help.

The Stalls give the children a great opportunity to select a gift for their parent or care giver in a fun and independent environment. Each child is asked to donate a gift valued at no more than $5. Those gifts then go to the stall, which is usually held on the Thursday before the Big Day itself. Each class comes through the stall to browse, with their teacher, during school time, and is able to select and purchase a gift for their special person for just $2.

Both Kindergarten and Year 1 particularly light the room up when they come to the stalls, and the joy and pride in their faces when they have personally selected and bought a gift for a very important person in their lives is all the reward I have ever needed for doing the job.

However, in order for these stalls to happen, there is work behind the scenes that needs to be done. The gifts need to be received, sorted, and if necessary, wrapped. The gifts then need to be counted and organized ready for the day itself. This task is usually undertaken in the mornings after assembly in the two weeks leading up to the stall itself (for this year’s Mother’s Day Stall, that will be week 1 and 2 of Term 2).

On the day itself we also need 4-6 people to manage the stall in each school session (you don’t have to be able to do all three sessions). A couple of parents are still able to assist who have helped out at the stall itself in the past, but our team is 3 members down for that role this year.

Unfortunately, if I do not have sufficient offers of help prior to the end of this term (11 April), I will not be able to run the stalls this year.

If you would like to assist, please let me know by emailing me at a.smith@bigpond.net.au.

Thank you for your time.

Alison Smith