Dear Parents,

I saw the quote “Waste Time with Your Children” recently and thought it spoke volumes about the values held by the Pope and our roles as parents. We live in such a time poor society it is almost considered a sin to “waste” your leisure time. The implication in the quote is that any time spent with your children will always bear fruit. One of my friends refers to time spent with his children as “money in the bank”. This expression sends a great message, that like money in the bank, children-parent time will pay dividends into the future. Speaking as a parent of children who are entering adulthood, my only advice is to bank that money sooner rather than later. As children become older and more independent they are less inclined and less able to spend time with their parents. Don’t delay start wasting your time….

Canberra Show

I thought you might appreciate this photograph showing one of our prize winning entries at this year’s Canberra Show. Thank you to our staff members who care for our garden so wonderfully, especially Mr Brett King who placed our entry in the competition.

Award Winning Efforts

Congratulations to our wonderful staff and former Principal, Mr Brad Gaynor who are receiving awards at the Catholic Education Catholic Schools Week Celebrations. Our staff will be receiving an Excellence in Education Award for a professional development program which promotes peer mentoring amongst staff. Brad is being recognised for his contribution to Good Shepherd during his period as Acting Principal.

This is an outstanding effort by our staff and one that our entire community should celebrate.

Principal’s Retreat

I will be attending the Archdiocesan Principals Retreat from next Wednesday afternoon to Friday afternoon. The leader of the retreat is Father Peter Day who is best known for his inspirational work establishing a refuge in Queanbeyan for people suffering with mental health issues. The institution in called Home and is entirely independently funded. I hope to be able to share some of Father Peter’s thoughts during the coming weeks.

During my absence Mrs Jamieson will be Acting Principal.

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal.
Emergency Contact List: During the week a Student Information Form was sent home via your child’s note bag. It is essential that you check the information on the sheet and correct any errors and return the signed form to the front office via your child’s note bag no later than tomorrow, Friday 28 February.

It is very frustrating for the front office staff when children are either sick or injured and they cannot contact parents because they have the wrong contact details.

To allow us to keep updated records, please let us know if your details are correct or incorrect. If you have not received the Information Form please contact Joan as soon as possible.

School Fees: Thank you to those parents who have finalized their Term 1 Fees. Payment is due next week, Friday 7 March. Fees may be paid by cash/cheque/EFTPOS or BPay. If you need to speak to Graham in relation to payment, please contact the front office to arrange an appointment.

Green Team Meeting: The Good Shepherd Green Team is a small group of staff and parents who are working towards many short term and long term Improvements in the school grounds. Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, 5 March at 3:30pm in the Conference Room. (We aim to be done in half an hour). All interested parents are welcome to come along and participate.

Head Lice: There has been a case of head lice reported to the school. Please check your child’s hair regularly and treat accordingly. If you are unsure how to treat nits, please consult your local chemist. We must remind all parents that hair longer than the shoulders must be tied back securely at school. This means ponytails, pigtails or plaits. Headbands are not enough to secure the hair and prevent the spreading of lice.

Punctuality: It has come to our attention there are a number of children are arriving late in the morning and some children are arriving after classes have commenced. Students need to be at school before the warning bell at 8.53 am. We have assembly each morning so that announcements and messages can be given to the whole school. These messages are either half heard or missed all together.

Parents we realise that there are days when things are beyond your control, but please do try to be on time. If assembly has finished and your child is late, please sign them in at the front office. Your child must take the late note to their class teacher.

Playground Equipment: 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 3.30 pm each afternoon. It is too difficult for the teacher on afternoon supervision 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.

Bike Safety: Yesterday we had a phone call from a motorist who nearly hit one of our children who was riding across the entry way to the front carpark. The child did not look. Parents could you please remind your children they must get off their bikes and walk their bikes across the road.

Congratulations: Kye, Miki, Tommy, Lachlan, Blake, Charlie, Beau and Jack on winning your Oztag grand final. Well done boys!

Remember: No Hat, No Play
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”.

Thank you to the students and teachers of 6Kolek and 1Pfeiffer for the beautiful and thoughtful way they presented the Prayer Celebration on the reading from the Book of Genesis ‘The Creation’.

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.

Confirmation

If your child is in Year 6 (or older) and would like to make their Confirmation, a Parent and Child Information Sessions will be held on Thursday, 13 March at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm at Holy Spirit Church.

The Commitment and Enrolment Masses will be held on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 March.

Mini-Vinnies Commissioning Ceremony

The Mini-Vinnies Commissioning Ceremony will be held tomorrow, Friday 28 February.

At this ceremony the Mini-Vinnie students will take their pledge and the leaders will be announced. We warmly welcome all parents and friends to join us in the hall for the ceremony at 9:30am.

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.
Week 6 of this term is “Catholic Schools Week” and the theme across the ACT and NSW is...

"More than a great education!"

We as a school have thought about this and believe that one of our greatest assets are our wonderful families. To celebrate this week we have decided on our own subtheme of

"How great it is “TO BE” a family in the Good Shepherd Community"

This complements our “TO BE” focus for Term 1.

To celebrate Catholic Schools week, **Friday March 14**, we are having a family morning. This will include a breakfast at school with all families invited from 8 am to enjoy a bacon and egg roll and juice.

There should also be (if we can arrange it) a coffee van to be present, where parents can purchase coffee if they wish.

After breakfast, all families are invited to our

"Catholic Schools Week Prayer Celebration”

This will be in the hall at 9.10 am.

We hope to see all our wonderful families enjoy this celebration