Dear Parents,

Yesterday our children received the ashes as a reminder that the season of Lent for this year has now commenced. The ritual of “wearing” ashes is probably the one time of the year that your personal beliefs are so clearly on display to everyone you pass by.

I can recall working in a shop as a teenager and feeling very awkward when every second customer would let me know I had a smudge on my forehead. They in turn feel equally awkward when I let them know the background of the custom.

Our children, however, relate very well to the practice; they understand the simplicity of the message and unlike the awkward teenager they don’t get too bothered about looking a little unusual for one day of the year. They wear the ashes as a badge of honour. We can learn a lot from our children.

A thought for this Lent…

“It is one of the most beautiful compensations in this life that no person can sincerely try to help another without helping themselves” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Catholic Schools Week Celebrations:

Next week every Catholic school in our Archdiocese will celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week. The aim of the week is to raise awareness and celebrate the achievements of Catholic education. To mark this occasion our Community Council will host a breakfast next Friday (March 14th) morning commencing at 8.00 am. Thank you to those generous people from the Council who have agreed to assist with the logistics of the morning. Following breakfast all families are invited to a Catholic Schools Week Prayer Celebration which will be held in our hall at 9.10 am.

Included in today’s newsletter is an invitation to become involved in the creation of a banner which, when completed, will represent every family in our school. Thank you to Hayley Stadtmiller who has volunteered to coordinate this initiative. This will provide our school with a lasting memory of Catholic Schools Week in 2014.

Uniform:

Please support the school by ensuring that your child is dressed in full school uniform every day. Even at this early stage of the year some children are being regularly reminded to wear the correct uniform. This is embarrassing for your child and tedious for the teachers.
To be together …..

Carpark Courtesy:
Thank you to those parents and carers who regularly demonstrate good manners in our car park. You send a powerful message to the children about your personal values.

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal.

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School Fees: Thank you to those parents who have finalized their Term 1 Fees. Payment is due tomorrow, 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.

Canteen News: Our Special Lunch Order is tomorrow, Friday 7 March. All lunch orders should have been returned Wednesday. There will be no other lunches served on the day.

Community Council News: Have you considered joining our school’s Community Council this year? The Council is seeking nominations for several Office Bearers for this school year. If you would like to nominate to join our Council please contact our Chairperson, Mike Dunbar mrdunbar@optusnet.com.au or Principal, Graham Pollard graham.pollard@cg.catholic.edu.au. Mike or Graham would be happy to outline the roles if you are unsure of the required commitment. Nominations will be announced at our next Community Council meeting on Tuesday, 25 March. All Office Bearers will then be confirmed for the 2014 year.

School Photos: Our Year 5 student and family photos will be held on Tuesday, 18 March. Kindergarten, Years 1, 2 and 6 will be having their photos taken Monday, 24 March and Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday, 26 March. Family photos not involving Yr 5 students will be on either Monday or Wednesday. All children must wear full summer uniform (not sports uniform). Photo envelopes will be sent home next week to each child.

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.

School Spy
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".

Please join us next Friday, March 14 at 9:10am to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

As always, we invite all family members and friends of the Good Shepherd Community.

**Confirmation**

If your child is in Year 6 (or older) and would like to make their Confirmation, The 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.

**Project Compassion 2014**

Good Shepherd will be supporting Project Compassion in each and every classroom throughout Lent and we invite all families to join in.

A new resource that we will be using, you can access at home, is the Lent Calendar. It is a free app for the iPad or IPhone. You can find it by searching for Project Compassion in your app store. It delivers an action, reflection and prayer for each day of Lent.

**Mini Vinnies**

Mini Vinnies is a program of the St Vincent de Paul Society and creates awareness among young students about issues that exist around them, whether that is in their community or beyond. It reinforces the mission of Vinnies and instils in them the opportunity be compassionate and run simple, yet effective initiatives with their school peers so together they can make a difference.

Last week we celebrated our 2014 Commissioning Ceremony at which we inducted 109 members to our team. One of the projects they will begin working on is the collection of the food donations. St Vincent de Paul do a wonderful job providing assistance, but their resources are now stretched to the limit.

But We Can Help!

Every week, we are asking each family to bring just one item of non-perishable food to school to distribute to these people in need. For example, a can of soup, a bag of pasta or a bottle of pasta sauce. There will be a collection box in your child’s classroom where you can send your gift of food.
To be together ..... 

Catholic Schools Week

March 9 - 15

Next week 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. Please complete the slip below and return to school Tuesday March 11 so we can order the food needed. Cost will be a gold coin donation. There will be a coffee van 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.

Celebration Breakfast

The _________________________________ family will be attending the Catholic Schools Week Breakfast on Friday, March 14.

We would like to order _______ bacon and egg rolls and juice boxes.
Hi Parents/Carers,

In the beginning weeks of the term, we have experienced a positive increase in numbers here at our service, in particular After School Care. This is fantastic to see so many families using our service, and we enjoy providing care and interacting with each and every child who comes along.

However with so many new bookings, at After School Care in particular, it is very important that we have an accurate figure for the number of children attending each day. It is for this reason, that I ask that any ‘on the day’ bookings be rung through to our service mobile phone (0450 776 540) just to help us confirm our numbers for the day.

sincerely appreciate your time and cooperation in this matter.

Thanks in advance,

Paul & The Camp Australia team.

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**Good Shepherd Family Wall Hanging:** As part of our Catholic Schools Week activities we are going to create a wall hanging depicting all our families in 2014. The oldest member of each family will be bringing home a square of material 15cm x 15cm. We would like each family to write/draw/sew... on this square anything they choose to represent their family. You may have the family name, or a crest. There are some printers that let you print onto fabric and so you might choose a family photo. The choices are endless. Please make sure a border of 1.5cm is left all the way around so that there is enough room for a seam to join all the squares. The completed squares must be returned no later than **Friday, 14 March.**

**Toys and Mobile Phones:** Children should never bring toys, ipods or their own sporting gear to school. These things are too easily lost or damaged.

If a child needs to have a mobile phone at school, the phone must be switched off and kept in their school bag. If any child is caught with their mobile phone during school hours the phone will be confiscated and locked in the school safe. The child’s parent or guardian will need to collect the phone from the school office at 3.10 pm.

**Lost Property:** We have had a number of frustrated parents coming into the front office looking for their child/ren’s **labelled** lost item of clothing. Parents over the weekend could you please take the time to check your child/ren’s possessions to make sure they have brought home the correct hat, jumper, lunch-box, etc. If you have any item that does not belong to your child could you please return it to school as soon as possible. Thank you for taking the time to assist us with this matter.

**Shhhhhhhhhhhhh ... please!** We ask you, as parents at morning assembly, to help us instil in the children good listening habits. It is very difficult to ask the children to sit quietly and to listen while people nearby are talking! It is also important to ensure that toddlers are not distracting the school assembly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Burdekin Avenue:** It has come to our attention there are a number of parents parking illegally along Burdekin Avenue. Parents please be aware of the road rules of parking near a pedestrian crossing and in bus bays. The safety of our children and families is our number one concern. We do have a number of children and parents who catch the bus to and from school and if a car is parked in the bus bay the buses will not stop for passengers. So please be considerate of others.
Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

What is Skoolbag?

- Skoolbag is the ultimate school to parent communication tool. It provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications. No more lost paper in school bags!

- Skoolbag is a great alternative to School SMS Alerts, and is much more flexible with the type of communication parents need.

- School newsletters, school notices, school alerts, school permission notes and other documents are communicated directly to parents smartphones via the Skoolbag App.

- It’s also perfect for consolidating your school Twitter, Facebook, Wiki, and other RSS feeds, making one easy single point for parent communication.

- Skoolbag is an iPhone and Android based school communication app that delivers school notices and information direct to parents mobile phones.

- Students can also use the Skoolbag app to access school information about event dates, cancellations, school requirements, newsletters, timetables, equipment requirements, etc.

How does it work?

Once a school has registered with Skoolbag, we will configure their app. This process happens very quickly, and the school is then able to create their content categories and upload their notifications and/or documents.

After that, parents add the app to their phone, and can view the schools documents and notifications.

Take a 30 Day FREE Trial!
Phone: 1300 661 031 | Visit: www.skoolbag.com.au
Skoolbag Features & Benefits:

Australia’s most popular School Mobile App just got even better.
V2.0 is here, and features this new awesome stuff!

Social Media Sharing
School Administrators now have the option to enable content entries to be shared by parent’s Facebook and Twitter Accounts. This is great for promoting school events like Fetes and Musicals.

Password Protected Content
School administrators can now password protect any content category as required. This is great for adding a dedicated staff content category, or for any content you don’t want the general public to see.

Keyword Search
You can now search for content using the Keyword search tool, making it even easier to find what you are looking for.

SMS and Email reply options
School Administrators now have the option to enable content entries to be replied to by the parent/student community. Any content can have an Email and SMS reply option added to it. This is great for events requiring RSVP’s or just any entry requiring some form of reply.

Photo Gallery option on any entry
Multiple photos can now be added to any content entry showing as a “slide your finger show” on your Skoolbag App.

Embedded Maps with GPS Directions
School administrators can now embed maps in any content entry, and enable the user to get GPS directions. This is great for providing directions to sporting venues, or theatres for musical events etc.

Change of details eForm
Now includes embedded change of details eForm enabling parents/students to submit changes to their contact details back to the school.

Absentee Note eForm
Now includes embedded absentee or sick note eForm enabling parents/students to submit details of absence back to the school.

Skoolbag Feed
Now you can view a feed of all content that has been added in chronological order regardless of which categories the content is in. This is great to scroll through to see what has been updated during a day, or week etc.

Take a 30 Day FREE Trial!
Phone: 1300 661 031 | Visit: www.skoolbag.com.au
To be together .....
...the heart of God.

Skoolbag website integration

Now you can easily embed the Skoolbag Communication Centre straight on your website. Update your site, and Skoolbag mobile school app all at once.

Publishing content to your Skoolbag Communication Centre, will populate your website and Skoolbag mobile Web & Mobile Native school App seamlessly.

Easily plug the Skoolbag Communication Centre embed code into your website and let Skoolbag maintain your events, news, newsletters, alerts and documents.

The Skoolbag Communication Center will also enable your school to distribute the newsletter to your parents via email.