Dear Parents

Welcome or Welcome back.

We have experienced a very smooth start to the new school year possibly due in part to the unseasonal cool weather. The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, happy to renew their friendships.

Many new families have joined our school community this year including almost 100 beautiful Kindergarten children who commenced school on Tuesday. On behalf of everyone at Good Shepherd I would like to welcome all newcomers and wish them a happy and fruitful time at our school.

Staffing:
I would like to welcome Mrs Andrea Abbott who has joined the Year 4 team this year. Andrea has spent time in Sydney after arriving from her homeland in South Africa. We are delighted to welcome her to our 2015 staff.

Welcome Evening:
Our Welcome Evening will be held next Wednesday evening, 11 February.

In addition, an ‘expo’ of organisations which have a connection to our school will exhibit in the central courtyard from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Cheese, dips, bread and bickies will be situated in the middle of the courtyard with stalls located around the edges.

Why come? This will be an excellent opportunity to learn both what will be happening in your child’s class this year, and what the various organisations that operate in the local and wider community are able to offer.

The teachers will have a written summary of class routines and activities for you to collect at the end of the session.

I am looking forward to seeing you there.
To be together ...

Thank you:
Special thanks to Dean Bankovic for his continued efforts to repaint our pergolas. Dean spent several days during the holidays accompanied by a work mate putting the finishing touches to the areas they painted last year. The result is that the pergolas look fabulous. Well done Dean!

Information Technology at Good Shepherd:
Parents of our senior children would be aware that our school commenced a Bring Your Own Device Program this year in Years 5 and 6. I would like to thank those families for their support in the venture, I fully appreciate that this involved a significant financial commitment.

The school and the Community Council have also financially supported this venture by assisting with the additional replenishment of devices throughout the school.

We are excited by the opportunities that this initiative will present to our children. Research shows increased levels of engagement and the capacity for teachers to tailor their lessons to better meet the individual needs of the children.

Our staff members will continue to receive Professional Development aimed at skilling them to use this technology in their classrooms. Last Thursday, Mr Jeff Vard from Apple focussed on strategies which embed technology into our curriculum, focussing on the effective use of apps in our Teaching and Learning.

We will continue to provide updates on these initiatives as the year progresses. Information about the BYOD journey thus far can be viewed on our school website under the BYOD tab.

Newsletter:
Next week our newsletter will take the form of a more concise publication limited to two pages. The purpose is to provide updates rather than extended reports. This publication which will be known as Shepherd Shorts will be published every second week hopefully complementing the more extended Shepherd Spy which will be published on the alternative weeks.

Later this year, our Community Council will be seeking your thoughts about the formatting, accessibility and purpose of the newsletter.

May God bless you and your family

Graham Pollard
Principal

The children are required to wear their sports uniform this term on the following days

Kinder: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3: Wednesday and Friday
Year 4: Wednesday and Friday
Year 5: Tuesday and Friday
Year 6: Tuesday and Friday

Community Council Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th February at 7 pm in the School Staff Room.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to come together as a School Community to discuss how we can improve the school environment for our children.
Our Whole School Focus for 2015, “Walk with Me” is designed to help us explore our faith through the saints who have inspired generations of disciples. The saints are described in many ways; companions, guides, servants of God, models of holiness. The saints can help us find the path we are to take in our own lives. They walk with us and show us how to love and serve God in our own way.

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 that you can join with us each morning as we pray for the 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.

Term 1 Important Dates

- **Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 18
- **Confirmation Information Session** - Tuesday, 24 February 1:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Confirmation Commitment Mass** - Saturday, 28 February 6pm or Sunday, 1 March 9:30am or 5:30pm
- **Holy Week Prayer Celebration** - Thursday, 2 April 9:15am
- **ANZAC Day 100th Anniversary Commemorations** - Friday, 10 April
To be together ...

General Information:

Cheerleading: All new and returning cheerleaders interested in signing up for the 2015 Cheer Season, please attend our Cheer Registration Day tomorrow **Friday, 6th February** at 6pm in the school hall.

Medication: If your child was administered medication last year for ADHD, asthma or allergies and the medication needs to continue for 2015, you are required to complete a new 'Request to Dispense Medication' form which is available from the front office. If you have any questions please contact Joan at the office.

School Fees: Term 1 School Fees will be sent home next week via your child’s note bag. Fees are due to be paid no later than Friday, 6 March. Payment may be made by Qkr, cash/cheque/eftpos or BPAY. All direct debits should have been altered to cover your school fee debt for 2015.

Swimming Carnival: Our school swimming carnival for Years 3 to 6 will be held Friday, 20 February at the Gunghalin Leisure Centre. Information was sent home earlier this week. All permission notes and participation forms must be returned no later than tomorrow, Friday 6th February.

School Banking: The Commonwealth Bank offers a School Banking program here at Good Shepherd on Thursday mornings. All that is required is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account, simply drop into any branch to apply or through NetBank (for existing customers). If your child has an existing Youthsaver account they are ready to start School Banking.

This is a fun and easy way for your child to develop the knowledge and confidence to handle their money, whilst offering an exciting rewards program for children as well as ongoing fund raising for your school.

Calendar: The 2015 School Calendar is available online through the School Website. Having it online will ensure that it is current and always up to date. The Newsletter will continue to highlight upcoming events too to ensure that parents and families are fully aware of what is on.

School Uniform: Thank you to the many parents who have made that extra effort to send their children to school with the correct uniform. It is great to see the students wearing their uniform with pride.

Wet Weather Pick Up: During wet weather there will be no drive-through pick up. Children need to be collected from their classroom.

Good Shepherd School App: All school communication is sent home via the App eg. Newsletter. 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.

A couple of tips:

- Make sure you have allowed for push notifications in your iPhone settings.
- You can subscribe to various push categories (eg Year Levels) by clicking "more" then "setup" in the App.
Email Etiquette: Communication via email is an excellent way for parents and teachers to correspond, however it is essential that appropriate email etiquette is observed by all users. The correct use of email enables parents and teachers to give and receive information, arrange appointment times and also resolve small issues quickly. When used in this way it is an effective communication tool between school and home.

Unfortunately in the past, the use of email as a form of communication between home and school has been misused by some parents. Emailing is not an avenue for venting anger or at its worst, abusing teachers. While this has only happened on a few occasions, the effect it has had on the teachers receiving these emails has been profound.

If a parent is concerned or upset about an issue, it is preferable to speak to the teacher face to face. An email to a teacher to organise a meeting produces a far better outcome in these situations. Good and effective communication between home and school is of paramount importance to us here at Good Shepherd. We embrace email as an effective communication tool and we aim to ensure that we all use it in a courteous and respectful way.

Counselling Service: Good Shepherd provides a counselling service to all students and families within the school. The school counsellor is employed by CatholicCare and attends the school weekly, to provide one-on-one assessments and therapies with children, support to families and carers, consultation to the school, and resources and referrals to outside services.

What are common issues that the school counsellor can help with?
- Improving mood and mental health, such as anxiety or depression
- Difficulties with friendships or social skills
- Self-esteem or resilience
- Family situations such as parental separation or health issues
- Grief and loss
- Managing behavioural difficulties or developmental issues
- Providing support for parenting

How can I contact the school counsellor?
Parents and carers can speak to the counsellor directly by phoning the school, or ask your child’s teacher or the school Principal to make a referral. In some cases, teachers may make a referral directly or older children may initiate contact. However, parental consent is always gained before the school counsellor has any contact with children.

How does the counselling service work?
The school counsellor works in collaboration with families and carers, teaching staff, learning support, and if necessary outside services, to ensure a holistic approach to children’s wellbeing. However, contact is carried out in a way that ensures as much privacy for children and families as possible, and information is kept confidential unless permission is given or there are serious concerns about the safety of the child.

After a referral has been made, there can be a waiting period of up to two weeks, although the counsellor endeavours to make contact as soon as possible and prioritises urgent cases. The school counsellor starts with discussing what is happening with your child to make an assessment about how to best provide therapy or support.

The school counsellor at Good Shepherd is Laura Pound, who works at the school every Tuesday and every second Thursday. To make contact please phone the school.
A Few Reminders:

- Starting time is **8.55am sharp**. Students arriving late will need to be signed in at the Front Office.

- Supervision commences at **8.30am** and **NO STUDENT** should be at school before 8.30am. Students arriving before 8.30am are unsupervised. All children must be collected no later than 3.30pm. Please use before/after school care if necessary.

- A student’s hair should be cut off their face and, if longer than shoulder length, it must be **tied back** in an appropriate school coloured band. Hair should also be of **natural colour** and **extreme haircuts are not encouraged**.

- **No jewellery** should be worn to school and only **plain studs, small sleepers and watches** are acceptable. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly earrings, nail polish, make-up, etc is allowed.

- Good Shepherd is a **NUT FREE** School.

- Good Shepherd has a **NO HAT NO PLAY** Policy. Students without a correct school hat will be asked to sit in the Gazebos.

- Black ‘**jogger**’ type school shoes and boots are **not part** of the school uniform. The only school shoes allowed at Good Shepherd are the **traditional or formal leather school shoes**.

- Students with **Mobile Phones** are asked to switch the phone off and leave it in their bags. If mobile phones are heard or sighted during school time they will be confiscated. The School takes no responsibility for mobile phones.

- Students who are collected by their parents during the day for appointments must be **signed out/in** at the Front Office before and after the appointment.

- Parents visiting the school to assist are also asked to sign in at Front Office and receive a **Visitors Badge**.

- Please ensure that the School always has **up to date contact and emergency details** for your children.

- Please drive slowly and be vigilant in the **carparks**.

- **Drive Thru Pick Up** does not **commence** until 3.20pm. This allows parents who park & Pick Up to vacate the carparks. The aim is to ease traffic congestions in our carparks and ensure the safety of our community members. Please **DO NOT** arrive earlier and start queuing up in the carpark.

- **Families with 2 or more children** use Drive Thru in the **front carpark**.

- **1 child families** use Drive Thru in the **Church carpark**.

- **Disabled parking** - please leave the disabled car spaces free for those who need them.

- **Walkers/Bike Riders** - Students are to wait at the exit near the Kindergarten block until the teacher on road crossing/bus duty collects them and walks them across the roads. No student should be walking their bikes across the road in the afternoon without supervision.

- **Toys** and personal sporting gear should not be brought to school. Accidental damage and loss is too common in schools.
STAFF 2015

Principal - Graham Pollard
Assistant Principal - Ursula Jamieson
RE Education Coordinator - Luke Maher
Coordinators - Lisa MacMahon, Luke Mooney and Penny Vanzwol
Front Office - Joan Jones
Finance Manager - Anne McKenna

Kindergarten
Ana Manenica
Nicole Rous
Penny Vanzwol
Natalie Wright

Year 1
Sarah Corkhill
Yoland Kolek
Kirsty Price

Year 2
Christine Donnelly
Sonya Huleatt
Susan Metcalfe

Year 3
Angela Callaghan
Erika Tokich/Tess Roche
Kate Whackett
Liz Zaja

Year 4
Andrea Abbott
Matt Aquilina
Tracey Kenna

Year 5
Marty Capon
Jessica Dittmar
Jacinta Housler
Hayley Stadtmiller

Year 6
Stephen Bent
Lisa MacMahon
Luke Mooney
Toni Pfeiffer

Learning Support Team
Melanie Shannon
Ursula Jamieson
Anne Smart
Maria Goleby
Tania Fleming

Teacher Librarian
Bernadette Aitken

Library Assistant
Sue Hall

Defence Services Transition Aide
Libby Willemsen

Leadership Team Release
Diana Jones

Arts Release
Sally Taurasi

Science
Michelle Weier
Brooke Thompson
Di Jones

Student Welfare Office
Anne Gilfelt

School Counsellor
Laura Pound
(Every Tuesday and 2nd Thursday)

Grounds and Maintenance
Brett King

House Colours
Brescia - Blue or Purple
Cavanagh - Green or White
Noolup - Yellow or Orange
Patterson - Red or Black

All families of Parish Schools are warmly invited to join us at the Commissioning Mass for Teachers and Staff of Parish Schools.
Saturday, 7 February at Holy Spirit Church
commencing 6.00pm

We Endeavour To Be ... Nut Free!

Please remember that a number of our students have serious allergies to peanuts. We have agreed as a community we will take care of these children and work together for their safety. Therefore, peanut butter, peanuts and peanut related products should not come to school as part of the children’s lunches and snacks. This includes Nutella and all hazelnut-based spreads. Thank you for your support in this matter.