Dear Parents and Carers

This week is Confirmation Week at our school. Approximately 60 children from Good Shepherd joined with children from Mother Teresa and Holy Spirit schools along with children from other Government and Non-Government schools in Gungahlin to receive the sacrament of Confirmation over three evenings.

The celebrations are the end point in a significant preparation period which occurred both at home and school. The reception of sacraments at Good Shepherd involves close cooperation between the parish and the school. As a community we are indebted to our Parish Priest, Father Mark and the Pastoral Associate, Mrs Fiona Wilkinson both of whom offer wonderful support to the teachers and children during this preparation period.

I would especially like to thank the four classroom teachers, Mrs Macmahon, Mrs Pfeiffer, Mr Mooney and Mr Aquilina who in cooperation with our Religious Education Coordinator Mr O’Connell for their efforts at a school level.

Opening of Meeting Place

Next Monday morning the Meeting Place area which is located adjacent to the shipping containers and the oval will be officially opened. The area was developed last year as a joint project between our Community Council, Good Shepherd children and the local Bunnings store. Preparatory ground work was carried out by volunteers from our parent community and much of the material involved in this project was donated by Bunnings. The project was also financially supported through funding donated by the Community Council. The finished product is a landscaped seating area designed to promote indigenous understanding within our community. The area is enhanced by the planting of native plants and indigenous artwork.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who was involved in this initiative. The final result is a beautiful area which will no doubt be used to enhance our understanding of indigenous perspectives.

Carpark

I would once again like to encourage you to please supervise your child/ren as they cross either of our busy carparks. You don’t need to be told how congested these areas get at collection and drop off times. The rule pertains to all of our children even the “senior citizens” in Year Six, some of whom are quite short in stature and can be easily missed in traffic. We have too many worrying reports of children crossing carparks unattended!!!!

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal
Congratulations to those students in Year 6 who received the Holy Spirit in Confirmation this week. Archbishop Yllana, with Fr Mark, led the parish community in three inspiring Masses where many students from the parish were confirmed. Archbishop Yllana challenged the students to utilise the Holy Spirit to help them to fulfil their mission as young adult Christians. We congratulate and continue to pray for these students.

Next Thursday Year 6 will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass with the Holy Spirit parish. All are warmly invited to come and celebrate with us at 9:15 am in the church.

Pope Francis: Quote of the Week

“God is love.” His is not a sentimental, emotional kind of love but the love of the Father who is the origin of all life, the love of the Son who dies on the Cross and is raised, the love of the Spirit who renews human beings and the world. Thinking that God is love does us so much good, because it teaches us to love, to give ourselves to others as Jesus gave himself to us and walks with us. Jesus walks beside us on the road through life.”

Angelus, 26 May 2013
Winter Woolies: On Friday, 17 June Good Shepherd will be participating in Winter Woolies once again. Now is the perfect time to start pulling out those winter clothes you would like to donate. The Mini Vinnies students have been busy producing posters for this day and more information about how the day will run is coming. Start collecting those clothes ready for donating!

School Fees: Thank you to the families who have already paid their Term 2 school fees. This term’s school fees are payable no later than this Friday, 27 May 2015. If you need extra time to pay or need to make payment arrangements, please email finance@goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Hats Off Day-A Message from the ACT Cancer Council:
In Canberra, May is when we start to witness daily UV levels take a nose dive, to what is considered “low” levels (under 3). This generally occurs during the morning and afternoon periods. However by the end of May UV levels drop and remain low (under 3) all day for a few months and so End of May is Hats Off Day for Canberra schools. Cancer Council ACT does not generally recommend sun protection behaviour (i.e., hat wearing and sunscreen application) when UV levels are under 3 due to the low risk of potential UV skin damage.

In winter, by exposing some skin most days of the week during the middle of the day (when UVB will be present), students and workers should be able to maintain the bulk of their summer vitamin D. Of course there will be groups in the population that are at higher risk of having vitamin D deficiency.

Research also suggests that maintaining daily physical activity throughout the winter period, i.e., at lunch time, will also assist the body with its efforts to produce and maintain vitamin D.

Next Wednesday will be Hats Off Day at Good Shepherd.

Emergency Contact Details: Parents please if you have changed address or work contacts could you please contact Joan or office@goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au immediately. It is very frustrating for the Office Staff and especially for your child if you cannot contact you when your child is sick or injured.

Good Shepherd Handy Helpers: If you are free on a Monday morning and would like to meet some new people while helping out our teaching staff, then please come to the Staff Room after morning assembly. While we chat we can start to do any craft prep, laminating, contacting, or other general duties that the teachers need for upcoming classes. It’s an informal group so just come when you can. Younger children are also welcome to come along. Morning tea will be provided.

Extreme Hair Cuts: We would appreciate your support by abiding by our School Policy for Hair Cuts. Hair should be of natural colour and no extreme haircuts are permitted.