Dear Parents and Carers,

Wakakiri

Congratulations to the staff and children for their fabulous efforts on Tuesday evening. Over ninety children from Years Five and Six performed at the annual Wakakiri Festival. They were well supported by a group of staff members who have been instrumental in directing the children.

At the end of the evening our school was recognised with awards for Best Stage Crew and Creative Use of the Signature Item. We will now await the results from the other performances this week to see if Good Shepherd progresses to the next stage.

I would particularly like to thank Miss Jessica Dittmar and Mrs Kirsty Price who were central to the coordination of this initiative. They were well supported by Mrs Tracey Kenna and her Props Committee, Mrs Bernadette Aitken and the Costume Committee and Mr King and his team for the construction of the backdrops.

Finally, a big thank you to Mr Adam Greenwood whose help in moving the props and backdrops to and from the Canberra Theatre was invaluable.

Satisfaction Surveys

Satisfaction surveys of parents, students and staff are currently being conducted on behalf of all Catholic schools in the Diocese this term. The surveys are designed to gather feedback from parents, staff and students about their school and will be used to inform school improvement. Responses are confidential and individuals can not be identified.

The surveys were launched via email on August 1 and will close on Friday, 12 August using the email addresses supplied to the school. If you did not receive an email with a link to the survey on 1 August, you can access and complete the survey at the following link: https://www.research.net/r/goodshepherdParentf2016

We welcome your feedback.
Hats On
Given the dreary wet weather that we have been experiencing during the past month we have decided to lengthen the Hats Off period by one week. Next Monday, 8 August will be the day for children to recommence wearing their hats. Hopefully this will enable everyone to get some good doses of Vitamin D.

Principal Review Process
It is the policy of Catholic Education (CECG) to provide a process for the review of all Principals’ performance towards the end of each contract period. Mr Graham Pollard, Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo will participate in this review process during September this year. A review panel has been appointed by Moira Najdecki, Director Catholic Education, comprising of Helen Casey, Deputy Director and Head of Human Resource Services and Dr William (Bill) Maiden, a former school Principal with 23 years’ experience working across all sectors.

Your assistance with the community consultation part of this process would be appreciated by completing a short survey by Friday, 19 August 2016. Please click on the following link to complete the survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9Z5VPQF.

Thank you for being part of this process.

Graham Pollard
Principal

School Fees: Thank you to our families who have already paid their Term 3 school fees. The fees are due for payment no later than Friday, 19 August 2016. You can pay your fees by our school app QKrl!, BPay, Eftpos, cheque or cash.

Seasons for Growth: This week the groups acknowledged the reality of Change and Loss. They related the changes we see in the season of Autumn to changes they have experienced in life.

Term 3 School Banking Competition – The Dollamites have discovered Prize Lights in the Outback sky: School bankers who make 3 or more deposits in Term 3 have a chance to win one of the Star saver prizes, including camping kits, instant cameras and magazine packs. See the poster in the Front office area or look out for a flyer in your bank book. There is also an additional entry for bankers online at: commbank.com.au/prizelights. Good luck from the Dollamites.

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.

Departing Families
We are aware that some families will be moving out of the area at the end of this year. To help us with staffing and class structure for 2017, we would really appreciate knowing which children (apart from Year 6) will not be returning to Good Shepherd next year. If your child/ren will not be returning, please fill out the slip and return it to school as soon as possible.
Religious News

Next time you walk through Good Shepherd’s front entrance you may like to look to your left and right where you will see this Year of Mercy’s logo and our school motto. When you pass through the doors, our wish is that you are blessed with the unconditional love and mercy from God and when you leave, that you may bring God’s love and mercy to those you meet during the day.

A big thank you to Kylie Greenwood who made this front door display possible.

One way you can receive God’s mercy in a real and tangible way is by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The sacrament is celebrated each Saturday before Mass from 5:15 - 5:45pm.

Changes: There have been a few changes to the Prayer Celebrations this term. The new dates are below and in the school calendar.

- St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - Monday, 8 August (Week 4)
- 6P, 4A & 2P Prayer Celebration - Friday, 9 September (Week 8)

Mass of the Assumption: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an important feast in the Catholic Church’s calendar. On Monday 15 August Good Shepherd will celebrate a whole school Mass in the school hall at 10.00am to celebrate this feast. All families are invited to join us for this celebration.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist: A reminder to parents and their children that celebrating Mass each weekend is a big part of the preparation for the Sacraments. When students who are receiving these sacraments attend Mass, they can receive a puzzle piece to add to their placemat. We hope to see you at Mass this weekend!

Pope’s Quote of the Week

‘In the family, the “kerygma” must resound. This means that the family members should remind one another constantly that “God loves us; Jesus offers us his self-giving love on the cross; he now walks with us in the Spirit in our daily lives; and we are also called to walk with one another in love.”’

The Joy of Love
...the heart of God.