Dear Parents and Carers

There could be no doubt in anyone’s mind that the Catholic Church has been in the news for all the wrong reasons during the past few years. Most of the accusations which have been made against the Church are accurate, shameful and indefensible. For many years the Church could rightly have been accused of being intolerant and uncaring towards any minority group which failed to comply with its regulations.

I was, as a consequence, delighted to attend a forum on the weekend where spokespeople gave voice to many of the wrongs which the Church has inflicted on them, and members of their family, during those awful years.

I have reprinted one such petition below which might give you some insight into the tone of the evening. It heartens me to report that, as evidenced by this prayer, there is a strong appetite for change, repentance and forgiveness in the Church. I believe Pope Francis has been a driving force behind such change and he would be quick to admit that there is still much to do.

I am the voice for those whose sexual orientation or identity have led to discrimination and a lack of understanding from members of the Catholic Church. I am a voice for those who long to find harmony between the way they experience their life and their desire to seek God as part of the Catholic Church.

Science Fair and STEM School

Tuesday’s Science Fair was an outstanding success and a credit to the children who supported this initiative. Over two hundred children entered an experiment/exhibit in the Fair, which was a clear vote of support for this idea.

Thank you to those parents who offered their support either in the development of the entry or by attending the Fair in person.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Michelle Weir for her faultless organisation of the event. Many visitors commented on the energy in the room during the morning. Michelle’s passion for this subject was obvious in her wonderful planning.
To be together ......

This passion was recognised this week when Michelle was invited to be a member of a group of schools which will investigate the possibilities of being a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Pilot School. This is an exciting venture for Good Shepherd and sits well within our emphasis on Science and Technology.

Early Literacy Initiative

Congratulations also to Mrs Penny Vanzwol who has been selected to provide additional support and expertise in the area of Early Literacy. This is a great achievement for Penny and one that recognises her capabilities in this area. Penny’s additional role will mean that she will be released from classroom duties for an extra day per week to provide assistance in our school and other Catholic schools in Canberra.

Year Four Camp

Our Year Four children and teachers left school this morning to attend Camp at Wombaroo (near the Wombeyan Caves via Mittagong), they will return tomorrow afternoon. Mr Payne and I will be accompanying the teachers and children during this time, Mrs Jamieson will be Acting Principal.

Graham Pollard
Principal
Dear Parents and Carers

As you would know, Good Shepherd are proud and privileged to be hosting an extraordinary guest speaker on Thursday, 1 September 2016. Mr David Price OBE is an education futurist and we are extremely lucky to have secured a private presentation by this world renowned international speaker.

Have you ever wondered why we have a BYOD program at Good Shepherd?
Have you ever wondered how the BYOD program is benefitting your child?

Many of the jobs that the children at Good Shepherd will be employed in when they are adults have not even been invented yet. What does this mean for the education that they are receiving today?

David is the author if bestselling book “OPEN: How we’ll work, learn and live in the future”.

This is a round table event and numbers are strictly limited.

Cost: $5 per person by QKt!
When: Thursday, 1 September 7.00pm
Where: Good Shepherd School Hall

Book your tickets now!

Please register by emailing the school office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Good Shepherd parents have an exclusive opportunity to secure prior to opening up the ticket sales up to our parish schools. Please book your place by Friday, 19 August to ensure your place.

Good Shepherd Community Council
To be together ......

Religious Education News

Enter through the Doors of Mercy

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.

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.

Pope Francis Quote of the Week

“At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him shows us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the Salve Regina, a prayer ever ancient and ever new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes upon us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.” Misericordiae Vultus, Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, 11 April 2015.

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!. Next week students from Year 3 will be receiving Reconciliation for the first time. Keep them in your prayers this week and next as they experience God’s loving forgiveness through this sacrament.

Mini Vinnies Sleep Out

Students from Years 4 to 6 will be sleeping out and fundraising for the St Vincent de Paul ‘Street to Home’ program. This will be happening on Friday, 2 September. We wish them all the best with their fundraising efforts!
...the heart of God.

St Vincent de Paul Class Collector

Congratulations to Kinder Vanzwol and 5Dittmar for being the classes to collect the most food for the St Vincent de Paul food pantry. They collected a whopping 28 items per class!

Who will be the next Class Collector?

Holy Spirit Parish events

This weekend the parish will have a morning tea after 8am and 9.30am Mass. If you are able to attend please bring a plate to share.

Over the weekend of 20/21 August, the parish are having a sacramental gift stall for First Eucharist gifts after each Mass time. If you would like to purchase a special gift for those receiving the Eucharist for the first time then please come along after Mass.

Parent Helper and Visitor Sign In/Out

The school has installed an iPad in the front office for signing in and out of the school. All parent helpers and visitors must sign in and wear the label that is printed.

It has been noted that some parent helpers have not been signing in at the front office when they come to work in the classroom. It is a school security and compliance matter that all visitors are accounted for when they are in the school.

School Fees: Term 3 School Fees are due for payment tomorrow, 19 August 2016.

Handy Helpers: You are invited to our Handy Helpers group on Monday mornings. So come along and help out our teachers while you meet a few new faces!

Wakakiri: Tickets for the ACT Awards night will be open for payment from Monday, 22 August by QKR! If you can’t access QKR on your device, you can use the iPad in the front office or you can also go through the following website: https://qkr.mastercard.com/for-everyone-australia/. Tickets are $35 each. The number of tickets you require should have been sent to the school by yesterday. If you have not sent through your ticket requirements, you will now need to contact the Canberra Theatre ticketing to purchase tickets.

Father’s Day: The Father’s Stall will be held on Friday, 2 September 2016. Children are asked to bring $5.00 to purchase a gift for dad. As per Mother’s Day, there is no need for children to bring in a gift. All gifts have been purchased by the School Community Council.

Father’s Day Helpers: Please email Maria at maria.goleby@cg.catholic.edu.au if you can help for an hour or so on Friday, 2 September 2016 to assist the children purchase a gift.