Dear Parents and Carers,

I am hoping that you received the news last week that Mr David Austin has been appointed as Principal of Good Shepherd from the beginning of the 2017 school year. David is an experienced Principal having led the communities of St Francis Assisi Calwell and St Michael’s Kaleen prior to this appointment. David is a “people person” with a strong work ethic and a great sense of humour. I know he will lead this community very well.

David will visit Good Shepherd later this term for the first of several handover meetings. During this visit he will take the opportunity to meet staff and children.

Second Language

I have received word from the Catholic Education Office that Good Shepherd has been accepted as a trial school for an online offering of a second language in 2017. The language being offered is Japanese. All costs for the program will be met by Catholic Education.

The program will initially be offered as a 30-minute lesson per week and will be transmitted via a video link up.

Catholic Education has suggested that our school treat the program next year as a trial and limit our offering to a single year level. Our Leadership Team will make a decision as to which year level will be chosen later this year. The lesson will be supervised and followed up by the classroom teacher.

This is an excellent outcome for our school, which will allow the continuation of our current extra curricula offerings such as Science and the Arts. I believe this trial program will meet the needs of our school by offering the expertise of a qualified, native speaking Language Teacher who will be supported by the classroom teacher.

Children’s Week

Thank you to those parents who have provided such great support for tomorrow’s symposium. I know Penny Vanzwol, who has been the leader of this initiative, is delighted with the response from parents willing to join in the creative art and media display and mirror book competition.

I think you will agree that this is an excellent way of combining the opportunities presented through our association with the School of Hope and recognising Rights of Children as identified by the United Nations.

A reminder that families are welcome to join us for as much of the day as they choose.

A father, a parent of three boys, once told me:

“Howver bad it gets, never cut off, never stop talking. My sons have done most things. Keep Listening, that’s what I do.”

And listening usually achieves more than giving advice.

To be together ... 

Netball
A large group of children will represent Good Shepherd at this Sunday’s Catholic Schools Netball Carnival. This is a huge carnival which attracts entries from most Catholic Schools in the ACT and surrounding districts. Many of our parents would have clear memories of organising this carnival in 2011 and they can attest to the size of this undertaking.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing the players and organisers, Sacred Heart School Pearce every success on the day.

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal

School Fees: Thank you to those families who have already paid their Term 4 fees. Payment is due next Friday, 4 November. If you are having trouble meeting your financial commitments please contact the Office to arrange an interview with Graham.

Cheerleading: Good Shepherd Cheerleading had the most fantastic day last weekend at the AASCF Scholastic Nationals. Thirty one of our cheerleaders travelled to Sydney for the competition where we were joined by schools from all over Australia.

We came 2nd in Cheer, 4th in Pom, 1st in Level 2 Group Stunt, and Rory Grummett came 1st in Best Male School Tumbler. Then........“the icing on the cake” and something that makes us very proud is that Good Shepherd received the overall “Spirit Award” for outstanding sportsmanship and encouragement.

Hayfever: Since we have returned to school this term we have been inundated with children suffering with hayfever. If your child suffers with hayfever could you please send in their eye drops or medication. An Authorisation to Dispense Medicine form must be completed. This form is available at the Front Office or email office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Religious Education News

Prayer Celebrations
Each Prayer Celebration commences at 9.15am unless stated below:

Friday, 4 November: 3Donnelly & 4 Steele (Mary, Mother of Mercy).
Friday, 11 November: Remembrance Day prayer.
Friday, 25 November: Review of the Year of Mercy (whole school) at 2.00pm followed by afternoon tea for our wonderful volunteers.
Friday, 9 December: Kinder Nativity

All are invited to join us in prayer as we near the end of this extraordinary Year of Mercy.

Catholic Mission Children’s Mass
Yesterday, some of our Mini Vinnies team visited St Christopher’s Cathedral to celebrate a Children’s Mass run by Catholic Mission.

It was a fantastic event where many schools across the Archdiocese came together to pray about mercy and forgiveness and how we can show these values to those close to us as well as abroad. Fr Tony Percy, the Vicar-General, was the celebrant and challenged those present to forgive because to forgive is the greatest thing Christians can do.

Many thanks to those students who represented Good Shepherd wonderfully.

In our often busy lives Pope Francis asks us to take a step back and focus on what’s really important in life.

‘Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.’

Pope Francis

Class Masses
3 November: 9.15am - Kinder and Year 6
10 November: 12.00pm - Year 4 and Year 5
1 December: 9.15am - Year 1
12 December: 9.15am - Year 2
Leaving 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.

Please email: office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Day for Daniel will be held tomorrow, 28 October.

Children are invited to include something red in their clothing tomorrow, in support of the “Day for Daniel”. Teachers will be involving children during the day, in an activity focussed on children being safe.

More information and things families can do at home can be found on the Website http://www.danielmorcombe.com.au

...the heart of God.
To be together ......

ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN HIGH SCHOOL?

The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with financial support for students in Years 7 – 10.

Eligibility: Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card with means tested ‘payment codes’
- see application form for more details

APPLY ONLINE NOW

ACT EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
Secondary Bursary Scheme
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning
GPO Box 158 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Application forms are available at all high schools, colleges, Centrelink Regional Offices and online at http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/
financial_assistance_for_families

Enquiries: 6205 8262