Dear Parents and Carers,

I think it is fair to say that there are some tell-tale signs that the end of year is fast approaching; the Melbourne Cup has been run and won, the sick bay is overflowing with children suffering the effects of hay fever, teachers have their heads down writing reports, and Remembrance Day is almost upon us.

Good Shepherd has a significant proportion of Defence Force families as evidenced by the fact that we are eligible to have a Defence Force Transition Aide on staff.

As you can appreciate the last two and the next two years are significant because they mark the one hundredth anniversary of the First World War. During this time the battles fought in France and Belgium were devastating in their loss of life not to mention the after effects experienced by traumatised soldiers returning home to their families.

I have been fortunate enough to visit many of these battle fields, and to say that it is a sobering experience is a huge understatement. Visitors are immediately struck both by the age of those fallen soldiers, many of whom were barely teenagers, and their place of origin. Places such as Tumut, Braidwood, Gundagai and Yass were among those inscribed on the thousands of gravestones which are so beautifully maintained in these war cemeteries.

I have to admit that it is hard to visualise the countryside as it appeared during those awful battles. Nowadays the battlefields are mostly picture perfect pastures, the only reminders of the past are the unexploded bombs which are occasionally dug up by the farmers. The other reminder of course is the poppies which adorn the countryside.

I hope you can join us this Friday to commemorate Remembrance Day and in so doing pay some measure of gratitude to those young Australians who died one hundred years ago.

Please note our ceremony begins at 9.15am tomorrow.

Graham Pollard
Principal

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

Composer at the battlefront on May 3, 1915 during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium
To be together ......

Traffic Alert

During the week we received a disturbing email from a very upset parent. She was crossing the road at the Pedestrian Crossing and she was just past halfway across the road with her two children and then another Good Shepherd parent (on two occasions) drove through quite fast and impatiently.

There was an incident in Canberra last year where a child was halfway across the pedestrian crossing and ran back to school and unfortunately the child was hit.

Please, please, please parents it only takes 10 seconds to stop and wait until all pedestrians are on the footpath.

Thankyou Assembly

Do you help out in your child’s class?
Are you a regular helper for Cheerleading, Netball, Banking, Handy Helpers?
Have you helped at one of our carnivals this year?
If so, we would like to thank you.
Good Shepherd School and Community Council would like to invite you to our Volunteers Appreciation Assembly.

When: Friday, 18 November @ 2.00 pm
Where: Good Shepherd School Hall
Followed by afternoon tea.

Please RSVP: gscouncil1@gmail.com
no later than Wednesday, 16 November

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. This information is needed for our census details.

Congratulations to Angel and Danny Callaghan on the birth of their beautiful little girl Sophia. Mum and bub are doing well.
Religious Education News

Mini Vinnies Sleep Out

On Tuesday 1 November Jaime from St Vincent de Paul joined us for morning assembly where our Mini Vinnies Sleep Out participants presented her with a cheque for $1236! This money, raised by the Sleep Out students, will go towards the Street to Home program that helps homeless people in Canberra into safe and secure accommodation.

huge congratulations to the students who did a marvellous job raising all that money for such a worthy cause. Well done!

Remembrance Day Prayer Celebration

Tomorrow, Friday 11 November is Remembrance Day and Good Shepherd’s DSTA, Mrs Mandy Woodhall and the Defence students will lead the school in prayer and reflection.

The prayer celebration will begin at 9:15am in the hall and all families are welcome to come and join us in remembering all those who have died during war and conflict.

Advent and Christmas

The end of the year is fast approaching and with it the season of Advent leading up to Christmas. Advent is a time where we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the newborn Jesus at Christmas, but more importantly to prepare us to have Jesus present in our daily lives.

During this season you may like to reflect with your children about the true meaning of Christmas and how Advent prepares us to be open to receive Jesus.

Class Masses

Thursday, 1 December: Year 1
Thursday, 15 December: Year 2

All parents and members of our School Community are invited to attend and celebrate Mass with the Children

“What can we do to keep our heart from going numb?
GO FORTH and PROCLAIM the Joy of the Gospel.”

Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel
A Sibling discount of 20% will apply next year to the CEO Tuition Fee for the eldest child attending an ACT system primary school where they have an elder sibling in a system secondary school.

The five CEO systemic secondary schools are:

St Francis Xavier    Merici    St Clare’s    St Mary MacKillop College    St John Paul College

(St Edmunds, Marist and Daramalan are not systemic schools.)

With the introduction of a sibling discount it is important that the following information be completed showing where all school age children will be attending in 2017.

**Failure to advise the school means you will miss out on the discount.**

This will also be used to determine where the building fund contribution will be billed.

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<th>Child’s Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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Discounts that will apply for the CEO Tuition Fee in 2017 are:

- 20% for the 1st child with an elder sibling attending an Archdiocesan Secondary School
- 70% for the 2nd child attending an Archdiocesan Primary School
- 80% for the 3rd child attending an Archdiocesan Primary School
- No charge for the 4th or subsequent child/children attending an Archdiocesan Primary or Secondary School.

**Last day of Term 4 is Friday, 16 December**

*If your child is interested in doing Yoga please contact Kaye 0409 329 887.*