Dear Parents

We are now over the half-way point of the first term. I am assuming your child’s work habits and relationships are well established in their new class. It might be timely to do a quick audit:

- Drag out last year’s Semester Two Report and remind your child about their successes and challenges as outlined in the report.
- Our older children have set individual Smart Goals to guide their learning. Do your child’s goals reflect what you perceive to be the areas where improvement is required? Does your child appear to be making an effort to achieve their goals?
- Is your child making good choices in the classroom and playground and showing respect and support for the teacher?
- Have they made friends in the class group, have you met their new friends?

Despite their protests as they grow older I firmly believe that primary-aged children are genuinely delighted when their parents show a keen interest in their progress. Children want you to know their teacher and establish a working relationship with them. They want you to set boundaries and have high expectations for their behaviour. They want you to meet their friends and the parents of their friends.

This is an opportune time to reharness that optimism and energy which was in evidence five weeks ago before the more formal contacts and assessments are made towards the end of this term.

**Catholic Schools Week Celebrations:**

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, this Friday our school will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with breakfast in the courtyard followed by a special liturgy at 9.30 am in the hall.

During the day Mrs Dianna Jones will represent Good Shepherd at an expo of Catholic Schools at which our school will showcase their award winning mentoring program. The Expo will be held at the Rheinberger Centre in Weston Street Yarralumla.

At the conclusion of the day our staff will receive an award at Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral Manuka celebrating special achievement across our system. Included amongst the award winners will be Mr Luke Mooney who will receive an award for his ground breaking work introducing ipads at his previous school. Congratulations Luke.

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal.
School Fees: Thank you to those parents who have finalized their Term 1 Fees. Reminders will be sent home this week. If you are having meeting your financial commitment please contact the front office to organize a meeting with Graham.

School Photos: Our Year 5 student and family photos will be held on Tuesday, 18 March. Kindergarten, Years 1, 2 and 6 will be having their photos taken Monday, 24 March and Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday, 26 March. Family photos not involving Yr 5 students will be on either Monday or Wednesday. All children must wear full summer uniform (not sports uniform). Photo envelopes were sent home earlier this week.

A discount applies for families with 3 or more children. After purchasing individual packs for EACH child a Siblings Presentation Pack of your choice will be free. Only children who present a Siblings Presentation Order Form to the photographer on photo day will have their Family/Siblings photo taken. Sibling envelopes are available at the Front Office.

Only one envelope has been printed per child. If you would like extra photos, spare envelopes are available at the Front Office. Or you can contact MSP Photography direct and place your order and they are more than happy to post the photos to you.

Carpark Incident: Last Thursday afternoon a Red Misubishi was hit in our church carpark. If you witnessed this incident could you please contact the front office 6255788. It is very sad that this incident was not reported at the time of the accident.

Good Shepherd Family Wall Hanging: As part of our Catholic Schools Week activities we are going to create a wall hanging depicting all our families in 2014. The oldest member of each family was given a square of material 15cm x 15cm. We would like each family to write/draw/sew... on this square anything they choose to represent their family. You may have the family name, or a crest. There are some printers that let you print onto fabric and so you might choose a family photo. The choices are endless. Please make sure a border of 1.5cm is left all the way around so that there is enough room for a seam to join all the squares. The completed squares must be returned no later than tomorrow Friday, 14 March.

Working With Vulnerable People: DO YOU ASSIST IN ANY WAY AT GOOD SHEPHERD? Do you help in the classroom, library or assist with sporting events or excursions? If so, it is compulsory for you to have your Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) volunteer card. Unless you have this card, you will not be able to help in the school or at school events unless you are assisting ONLY your own child. When you receive your card please present it to the Front Office and Joan will photocopy it and put you on our database. We can have a government official turn up at any time to do a random spot check and we need to be able to show the official that all those on site have the appropriate documentation. Application forms are available at the Front Office.

Sports Shorts: Cricket ACT will be running an after school cricket program for 4 weeks every Thursday from the 20 March-10 April at the oval beside the school (Amaroo 2) from 3.15 - 4.15pm. The program is open to girls and boys from K- Yr 6 and will involve actual and modified cricket games. The cost of the program is $40 which includes a mini pack. To register:

1) visit www.in2CRICKET.com.au
2) Enter postcode 2914
3) Select Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School.

For more information please contact Matthew on 0416 531 998 or matthew.william@cricket.com.au.

Emergency Contact Lists: Thank you to the families who have returned the Student Information Checklist. If you have not yet returned your form could you please do so as soon as possible. If you did not receive this information please contact Joan 6255788.

Reminder: Front pickup is for families with 2 or more children. Church pick up is for families with 1 child. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Our Whole School Focus for 2014, “To be together the Heart of God” is designed to help us explore and refresh the mission statement and vision of Good Shepherd. We began our journey last year as we explored our focus for the year, "On the Road to the Heart of God".

Please join us tomorrow, Friday March 14 at 9:10am to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We will be sharing a special Prayer Celebration. We invite all family members and friends of the Good Shepherd Community to join us.

Confession
If your child is in Year 6 (or older) and would like to make their Confirmation, a Parent and Child Information Session will be held tonight at 7.00pm at Holy Spirit Church. The Commitment and Enrolment Masses will be held next Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 March.

Project Compassion
Good Shepherd will be supporting Project Compassion in each and every classroom throughout Lent and we invite all families to join in. A new resource that we will be using, you can access at home, is the Lent Calendar. It is a free app for the IPad or IPhone. You can find it by searching for Project Compassion in your app store. It delivers an action, reflection and prayer for each day of Lent.

Mini Vinnies
Mini Vinnies is a program of the St Vincent de Paul Society and creates awareness among young students about issues that exist around them, whether that is in their community or beyond. It reinforces the mission of Vinnies and instils in them the opportunity to be compassionate and run simple, yet effective initiatives with their school peers so together they can make a difference.

Last week we celebrated our 2014 Commissioning Ceremony at which we inducted 109 members to our team. One of the projects they will begin working on is the collection of the food donations. St Vincent de Paul do a wonderful job providing assistance, but their resources are now stretched to the limit.

But We Can Help!
Every week, we are asking each family to bring just one item of non-perishable food to school to distribute to these people in need. For example, a can of soup, a bag of pasta or a bottle of pasta sauce. There will be a collection box in your child’s classroom where you can send your gift of food.
Dear Parents

The Good Shepherd Community Council has approved two fundraising organisations that we will be supporting throughout this year, Saint Vincent de Paul and the School of Hope, Kenya. We will be supporting these organisations as our major school focus in alternate school terms. This week is the beginning of our first fundraising initiative for the year.

Last year as the major School of Hope fundraiser, we were encouraged to ‘buy a brick’ to go towards the building of a new classroom for the school. This was a wonderful success with the completion of the classroom that is now being used for lessons. As you can see from the photo below, a weather-proof room that will allow students to learn all year round is a huge asset for the school.

This year we will begin our support by collecting classroom equipment to supply the School of Hope. On March 31st, Global School Partners, our liaison organisation, will be filling a container to send over to Kenya to coincide with their arrival in the country to distribute the items personally to the school.

We are asking for your help to fill the container! We ask that each child contributes one item that has been allocated for their grade level. This will ensure we are sending over enough resources to cater for each child in the school.
Each grade will be responsible for the collection of individual items. These are as follows:

Kinder – coloured pencils
Year 1 – exercise books
Year 2 – children’s scissors
Year 3 – small pack of writing pencils with erasers (grey lead)
Year 4 – crayons
Year 5 – glue stick
Year 6 - stickers or coloured paper

It would be greatly appreciated if your child could bring their item to contribute to school throughout Week 6 and 7. They will be collected in your child’s class.

We thank you most sincerely for your generosity and for being a part of such a rewarding experience for your children.
To be together ..... 

**World’s Greatest Shave:** Ben McFarlane (Yr 6 Walker) is getting his 29.5cm rat’s tail cut off and shaving his head tomorrow morning after our Prayer Celebration for the World’s Greatest Shave. He is doing this to help cancer research and in particular to support those with blood cancers and Leukaemia. If you would like to donate please go www.worldsgreatestshave.com

Thank you to the families who supported Good Shepherd last year in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Promotion. We received our prizes during the week which included garden, sports and science equipment. The children are going to thoroughly enjoy these gifts. Thank you once again for your continued support.

**Bugs:** Last week our Year 1 had a visit from Jacqui Love (the bug lady). The children and teachers had a wonderful time exploring and touching the bugs and insects.

**Lost Clothing:** We have received a number of items of clothing and hats with no names. The unloved items of clothing will be sent to the Used Uniform Shop and resold $5 per item. Clothing and hats with names are returned to the child’s classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 4 7</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>March 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Yr 5 School and Family Photos</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
<td>Confirmation Commitment Mass 6 pm</td>
<td>Confirmation Commitment Mass 9.30 am and 5.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4 8</td>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>March 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>7pm Community Council</td>
<td>Prayer Celebration 4W &amp; 2C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“Catholic School’s Week” Prayer**

Dear Lord,

Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our Catholic schools. It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place each day in every classroom.

We acknowledge and thank all who work in the service of Catholic education to create the opportunities for students that allow them to grow and thrive.

We thank you for
- the wisdom and understanding of teachers
- the enthusiasm and energy of students
- the leadership of school Principals and executive staff
- the skill, care and commitment of administrative and support staff
- the guidance of our pastors and religious leaders
- the support and partnership of parents, carers and local communities.

We pray that each student’s learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth.

We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that we have all been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask that we use what we have learnt to create a better world for all people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen
...the heart of God.

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones.

What is Skoolbag?

- Skoolbag is the ultimate school to parent communication tool. It provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications. No more lost paper in school bags!
- Skoolbag is a great alternative to School SMS Alerts, and is much more flexible with the type of communication parents need.
- School newsletters, school notices, school alerts, school permission notes and other documents are communicated directly to parents smartphones via the Skoolbag App.
- It's also perfect for consolidating your school Twitter, Facebook, Wiki, and other RSS feeds, making one easy single point for parent communication.
- Skoolbag is an iPhone and Android based school communication app that delivers school notices and information direct to parents mobile phones.
- Students can also use the Skoolbag app to access school information about event dates, cancellations, school requirements, newsletters, timetables, equipment requirements, etc.

How does it work?

Once a school has registered with Skoolbag, we will configure their app. This process happens very quickly, and the school is then able to create their content categories and upload their notifications and/or documents.

After that, parents add the app to their phone, and can view the schools documents and notifications.

Take a 30 Day FREE Trial!

Phone: 1300 661 031 | Visit: www.skoolbag.com.au

Skoolbag Smartphone school to parent communication
To be together ......
...the heart of God.