Dear Parents

I thought you might be interested in some excerpts from a recent article. I have brought this to your attention not to blame or point the finger but merely to raise your awareness of a worrying trend.

**Reading at Home on the Decline**

Last month, according to research undertaken by a Galaxy poll of more than 1200 parents nationwide, 83% of parents with children aged between one and four read to them once a week.

But when children start school, the figure drops to 36%.

In Britain, just 2% of parents are still reading to their children by the time they are in their last primary year.

Mega-selling Australian children’s author Paul Jennings said in his book for parents, “The Reading Bug…How You Can Help Your Children To Catch It: “Reading aloud to your children gives them an incredibly strong message. Without words you are saying, I am not washing the car or watching the news. You are the centre of my world.”

Literacy will improve with more reading. It starts at home.

**Open Day:**

We were delighted with the response to our Open Day last Tuesday. The visiting parents were most impressed with our Year 6 children who acted as guides during the morning and later after school had finished. This activity was a part of their leadership role in our school and they received special training beforehand in order to prepare them for the role.

We have already received a steady flow of enrolments for next year’s intake into our Kindergarten class. Thank you to those parents who have returned their form at this early stage. The official enrolment period ends next Friday, 23 May and it is crucial that completed forms are returned before this time.

Please remind any friends or relatives who intend to enrol their child at Good Shepherd that the closing date is only one week away. We have found in past years that the timing of the enrolment period catches many parents by surprise, sometimes limiting their options for a choice of school.

**Fete Committee**

The next meeting of this committee will take place on Wednesday, 4 June. If you are new to our school and looking to make connections this is an excellent opportunity to become involved.

The role of the Committee is to establish what entertainment and stalls the fete will offer. Your views and support would be greatly appreciated and you will make some great friends in the process.
NAPLAN:
Our Year 3 and 5 children have been busy this week sitting the annual NAPLAN tests. The children have been well prepared for this experience. Despite our very best efforts to keep the importance of the tests in context, some children understandably still experience a degree of anxiety before sitting these tests. In reality of course, the NAPLAN tests are one of many forms of assessment which the children will undertake this year and throughout their Primary schooling.

From my point of view, the real value in these test results lies in our capacity to diagnose from the results areas of strength, weakness (and in the case of Year 5 children who have sat the Year 3 tests, growth) both for individuals and as a school.

Staffing:
Welcome to Mrs Hoda Farhadi who is the Acting Librarian for four weeks whilst Mrs Aitkin is on Long Service Leave.

May God bless you and your family.

Graham Pollard
Principal

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The Good Shepherd Cheerleaders are hosting this term’s School Disco

The disco will be held on Friday, 23 May.
Music will be supplied by the “Footsteps” Program!
Cost $5 (includes entry, drink, chips and glow stick).
Extra glow sticks will be available on the night for $1.00.

Kinder to Yr 2:  6.15pm - 7.15pm
Yr 3 to Yr 6:  7.30pm - 8.45pm
No tickets will be issued.
Entry will be at the door.
Please be prompt in collecting your child.

Food Revolution Day
Parents let’s get children excited about food.
Tomorrow, Friday 16 May
between 3 pm - 5pm join Woolies Bonner in preparing fresh healthy treat with your kids.
Everyone is welcome.

Woolworths
Australia’s fresh food people

We are in desperate need for parents to help collate the school banking.
We currently only have 2 mums handling the workload. If we do not get any more volunteers we will have to cancel school banking.

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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. Last term we focused on ‘To be’, reminding ourselves that we are called to encounter God in our life each day by simply “being present”.

This term we will focus on ‘To be together’, reflecting on how we are called to live each day as a member of a faith community.

Thank you to the students and teachers of 5 Stadtmiller, 4 Aquilina and 2 Metcalfe for the thoughtful way in which they presented The Beatitudes last week.

Our next Prayer Celebration will be held next Friday, 23 May commencing at 9.15am. 5 Morrell and 2 Huleatt will be leading our prayer on Jesus Blesses the Children. We warmly invite all parents, family and community members to join us.

Mini Vinnies

Weekly Collection: Every week, we are asking each family to bring just one item of non-perishable food to school to distribute to people in need. There is a collection box in your child’s classroom where you can send your gift of food. We need more...baby food, taco kits, flour, sugar, curry sauce, tomato and barbeque sauce, salad dressings, cooking oil, vinegar, tea and coffee.

Winter Woollies Appeal Week 8: Start collecting adult size beanies, scarves, blankets, sleeping bags. New socks and gloves are also needed. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Thank You to the families who supported our Mother’s Day Stall last week. The children had a wonderful time selecting a gift for that special person in their life. We made approximately $1,170. Well done everyone.

Year 1 Sports Days

Have been changed due to their tennis clinic schedule. Year 1 sports days will now be Mondays and Thursdays.

Coles

Many thanks goes to Coles Supermarket Gungahlin for donating almost 100 styrofoam trays to the school for use in the arts area. It’s great to know we are supported by local supermarkets.

Confirmation News

Ministry Masses will be held next weekend

Saturday, 24 May at 6pm and
Sunday, 25 May at 9:30am and 5:30pm

Have you “LIKED” our Parish Facebook page? For information on upcoming Parish events visit us at Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Gungahlin.
THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK IS HERE

Last year we ran this initiative as a service to our families and friends who wanted access to the Entertainment Book easily. We do receive money from each sale but this is not our primary reason for offering the service. We do not send books home with everyone and only provide them to those who order. This year the Entertainment Book has the additional feature of being available in digital form saving you time and negating the wait for your book as it is downloaded virtually immediately. For those who wish to receive the traditional book I will send it in your child’s note bag following receipt of payment (select the collection option). The link to the payment page is below and payment is only available online. If you have difficulty with this but want a book please contact shenden@mail.com

Entertainment(tm) Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

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Order your new 2014 | 2015 Canberra Entertainment(tm) Membership from Good Shepherd School and 20% of your Membership purchase contributes to our school resources, and receive the great savings available in the book.

CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/27832s>

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Musicorp News

My name is Sophie and I am one of the Musicorp teachers at Good Shepherd. Musicorp is an external tuition company which aims to help children to learn music in fun and exiting ways.

The good news is that a school band is starting next week. Our aims are to develop our musical and collaborative skills whilst learning a number of great pieces of music to perform at various events.

YOU CAN HELP US! We are looking to increase our number and to be an important part of the school community. If your child is interested in learning an instrument or would like to use their existing skills in a band setting, please get in contact with us!

Parents and teachers - we want your help too! If you play an instrument or know how to read music, feel free to come along and join us as we learn and grow together.

Please email the Assistant Principal ursula.jamieson@catholic.edu.au to register your interest.

Regards

Sophie Masselos
Musicorp Head Office: 1300 858 911

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To be together ......