Dear Parents,

So much of our daily news on the television, radio, print or online is negative that when a ‘good news story’ is given airplay it sticks in your mind. This was certainly the case two weeks ago when the announcement of the Senior Australian of the Year was made on Australia Day.

Sister Anne Gardiner received the Award from the Prime Minister at an Award Ceremony in Canberra - a long way from her home on the Tiwi Islands in Northern Australia. Sr. Gardiner belongs to the Order - Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who have been working with Indigenous Communities for over 100 years. Sr. Anne now 85 has dedicated her life to the Indigenous people of the Tiwi Islands for the past 63 years. During her passionate speech she explained her daily work in health clinics, business administration, the running of schools and securing funding to build the Patakijyali Museum. Her message was simple but certainly hit home to me. “I pray that all people in our wonderful country Australia - regardless of language, culture, skin colour or religious belief - may stand tall as proud Australians.” Thought provoking for us all.

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Tonight our Parents & Friends AGM will be held in the Theatrette. The P&F Executive and a small but willing band of workers offer their time in a special way for all at Good Counsel Primary. The role of P&F has changed over the years and now supports the school financially by resourcing projects; assists with parent engagement activities and participates in social events such as catering at discos and sporting carnivals.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those from the P&F who help out in any way and thank them for their efforts over the past 12 months.

PLAYGROUP

Our new playgroup building was constructed in the Good Samaritan Hall over the Christmas break. Last Friday saw an influx of prams, baby bags and toddlers. Twenty-four children and their parents joined in activities and some social interaction for the morning. Thanks to Amy McElhinney and Rosanne Mifsud for their work co-ordinating the Good Counsel Playgroup which will operate each Friday morning from 9am - 11am. For more information contact Amy at amcelhinne@cns.catholic.edu.au or Rosanne rmifsud@cns.catholic.edu.au.

Royal Commission Hearings focusing on the Catholic Church

From Monday 6 February, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will begin a three-week hearing focused on the Catholic Church. In particular, the hearings will focus on the current child protection practices within Catholic Church authorities in Australia, factors that contributed to the occurrence of abuse in the past, and past and present responses to reports of abuse. It is expected the Commission will examine what the Church has learned from the evidence given at the inquiry so far and what cultural factors need to be addressed to best protect young people in the future.


Regards Liam
Welcome to Week 3...

Friday’s beginning of the school year celebration allowed us to welcome our Preps and all the newcomers to GCPS—staff and students. Thank you Fr Kerry for presiding over the mass and sharing your interesting ‘beans as fruits of your garden’ story with us during the Homily.

Prayer for the day...

St Scholastica, like her twin brother Saint Benedict, lived a holy life in a monastery. Let us pray that we will give ourselves to God in prayer, work and study.

God, our life and our joy, may everything we do turn our minds and hearts to you. Amen.

L is for Laughter:...Enjoy some!

Laughter is the best medicine. Remember though, laugh at yourself, never at others.

Who Am I? Week 2 Winners...

Zacchaeus was the correct answer—congratulations to:
Lewis Roger 2AL, Meg Hurney 3B and Grace Wone 3B

Who Am I? Competition Week 3...

Answer the question correctly and add your name and class. Drop off to Mrs C’s Office before Friday 3pm to be in the Draw for a frozie: Who am I? I was Adam and Eve’s son. I was the son who worked the soil. I said, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Mini Vinnies Friday Ceremony...

Please join with us as the Year 6 students pledge their membership of the GCPS Mini Vinnies and commence their journey for 2017 at Friday’s Prayer Assembly. They will be welcomed by members of the St Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Good Counsel Conference.

The joy of giving...

Once a beggar came to me and said: “Everybody is giving you something. I also want to give you something.”

And he offered me a ten-paisa coin. If I accepted the money, he would go hungry, but if I didn’t, he would be unhappy. I accepted it.

And I felt within me, that his gift was greater than the Nobel Prize because he gave all that he had. I could see in his face the joy of giving.

St Teresa of Calcutta

Yours in Catholic Education—Maria Caltabiano—Mrs C.
Assistant Principal Religious Education, Administration, SEL.

TERM 1 DATES 2017

Tue 07.02 P & F AGM 7:30pm Theatrette
Wed 08.02 Parent Tr Meeting Theatrette 3:30pm Prep C & Prep FD
Fri 10.02 Mini Vinnies Ceremony 8:40am
Fri 17.02 5T Good Samaritan Charism
Fri 24.02 4PD Project Compassion
Sat 25.02 Mini Vinnies at Mass 6:30pm
Wed 01.03 Ash Wednesday Liturgies 9:00am Prep—2 10:00am Yr 3—6
Fri 03.03 3WH Prayer Assembly Arts Council—Too Cool for Bullies
Tue 07.03 Caritas Just Leadership Day
Fri 10.03 Colour Captains Prayer Assembly
Fri 17.03 6H St Patrick’s Prayer Assembly
Sun & Mon 29/30.03 RL Peninsula Trials
Fri 24.03 3Y Palm Sunday Assembly Netball Peninsula Trials
Tue 28.03 6B Last Supper Assembly
Wed 29.03 CROSS COUNTRY
Thu 30.03 5GS Stations of the Cross
Fri 31.03 Brief Friday Assembly
Fri 31.03 Term 1 ends

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Easter Mon 17 April

TERM TWO

Tue 18 April - Fri 30 June (10 weeks)
Tue 25 April ANZAC Day
Mon 01 May Qld Labour Day Holiday

TERM THREE

Mon 10 July - Fri 15 Sept (10 weeks)
**Tuckshop**

**PLEASE SIGN IN AT FRONT OFFICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>08 FEB</td>
<td>SONJA BUDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>10 FEB</td>
<td>CATHY HITCHINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON</td>
<td>13 FEB</td>
<td>VICKY KIPPIN-O’CONNOR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you can help out at any time even for an hour during the busy time please let the tuckshop know.

Regular times for sale of uniforms are:
- **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY**
  - 8.00—8.30am
  - 11.00am—12.30pm

**TERM FEES**

Term 1 fees will be issued this week via your email on file. Please check your emails for fee statements. **Should you not receive your Invoice please advise the office immediately.**

A reminder that every family will receive a fee statement eg: direct debit, families on remissions etc to keep you informed of your current balance.

A reminder for direct deposits please use your Reference No 973……….. (ask at office or note on bottom of invoice) to ensure that monies are paid against correct family.

**SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**

**THUR 23 FEB 2017**


**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school.
- Don’t forget to order your sibling photos now.
- Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day.
- Photos will be returned to school for distribution six weeks after photos are taken.
- Past years’ photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school’s advancedlife & you advancedyou photo sites (follow the link above).

Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at the school.

We offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure peace of mind. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your advancedlife experience please contact us at:

enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

**ONLINE ORDER CODE:** TGB9TD7P1

**CASUAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR**

We are seeking interested persons for a casual position, approximately 1.15 hours per day, on a rotating roster, school days only. Positions available throughout the Innisfail area.

Approved applicants will be required to undergo a medical assessment and pass a blue card application.

Pay rate starts at $28.18 per hour. Please call 07 4045 8515 for an application package.

**PAYMENTS OVER THE INTERNET**

Need to ensure use of family code and email/fax confirmation of payment to our office on 40612271.

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS**

Please let the office know if you have recently changed any enrolment details eg – change of address, phone numbers or additional contacts that you have given us in case of emergency.

**TERM FEES**

Please note that the cut-off for both HCC and Special Concessions for Term 1 has now closed.

Any new concessions will not be applied until Term 2 with the relevant completed paperwork.