Principal’s Column

Dear Parents,

Happy Australia Day to all for yesterday.

A very warm welcome to the 2015 school year. Today all of our students returned from Year 2 - 6 with our Year 1 and Prep boys. Tomorrow our Year 1 and Prep girls will have their first day, with the whole school being here Thursday.

A special welcome to all of our new students across the year levels, who begin their educational journey here at Good Counsel Primary School. We hope that you find Good Counsel Primary School a welcoming and caring school where you will be educationally challenged. To new parents, make yourself known to your child’s teachers and to our parents of existing students, please extend a warm welcome to our new families.

Over the Christmas break we have had some staff changes. We welcome Mr George Taifalos who will be our new Groundsman. Miss Alison finished up just prior to Christmas and we thank her and wish her well. Mrs Gillian Marmara will be working 2 days in Prep FD and 2 days in Year 1 replacing Mrs Deb Castles who is only working 3 days this year in Prep C. Mrs Joanne O’Brien begins this week as our Finance Officer one day a fortnight replacing Mrs Liz Clarke who is this year full time at Good Counsel College. We welcome to Prep Miss Amanda Cardillo who has transferred from St Gerard Majella in Cairns; Mrs Amy McElhinney who returns to Year 4 (Wed/Thur) and Mrs Michelle Ham to Year 2 (Thur/Fri). Both Mrs McElhinney and Mrs Ham have worked here in the past and are known to many of the classes.

During the past few weeks several maintenance tasks have been completed including retiling the front steps and painting around the school. Teachers and School Officers have been back at school completing Professional Development since last Tuesday. We have been in-serviced in the areas of English, Indigenous Studies, Religion and Classroom ‘best practice’. These are all areas for our school to focus on this year and we look forward to implementing our new learnings.

We look forward to working with you in the Education of your children.

Regards,
Liam

SMOKE-FREE SCHOOLS—NEW LEGISLATION

From January 1 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries. The law applies at all times during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

School land is defined as land on which a:
- state school provides education programs under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the Education (Accreditation of Non-state schools) Act 2011
- State or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example, sports grounds and including land that is owned or leased by the school

FIVE METRE BUFFER - The buffer is a 5 metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land.

Thankyou for complying with this new legislation.
Welcome to the life of the school for 2015... And here we are again! Welcome from to the newbies and all the familiar faces. It’s so good to be back.

Beginning School Mass...
Keep this date in mind—Friday 6 February 9:00—Mother of Good Counsel Church. We will celebrate the commencement of the school year, as well as welcome our Preps and all the new to the school staff and students. The Student Leadership will be receiving their badges during this celebration too. Parents and extended family are invited to join with us in this special celebration of Eucharist.

Sacramental News...
If your child is not baptised and is asking questions about God and the Catholic faith, then perhaps having your child/children baptised is something you would like to discuss as a family, with our Parish Priest Father Kerry. From Year 4, the Parish offers a Sacramental Program where children commence instructions to prepare them to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. So if your primary school age child/children would like to be baptised into the Catholic Faith, a program is being developed to assist in this process.

Expressions of interest need to be registered with the Parish Office Ph: 40616633

Congratulations.....
To the Surha Family (Akeesha 6B) and (Shaelah 1G) on the recent birth of a baby girl Aneekah.

Prayer for the day...
God of our journey, God of hope, we your children give you thanks and praise, as we begin a new journey together. May all who are part of this community, here at Good Counsel Primary especially all those who are new to our school, find a welcome space to grow and be. May we be grateful for each day, as you give us the grace to begin our journey, with hope and joy. Amen.

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

2015 TERM DATES...
TERM ONE
Tue 27 Jan - Thu 2 April (10 weeks)
Fri 30.01 Prayer Assembly—Student Council—Australia Day
Mon 02.02 Parent Tr Meetings
3Y Rm 5  3:15pm
3/4K Rm 7  3:15pm
Tue 03.02 Parent Tr Meeting
5GH Rm 12  5:00pm
P & F AGM 7:30pm Theatrette
Wed 04.02 Parent Tr Meetings
2AL & 2WH Rm 4  3:15pm
6B & 6H Theatrette 5:30pm
Thu 05.02 Parent Tr Meetings
4PM Rm 8  3:15pm
4/5H Rm 9  5:00pm
Fri 06.02 Beginning School Mass
Mother of Good Counsel Church 9:00am
Tue 10.02 ARTS COUNCIL Auditorium
Wed11.02 Parent Tr Meeting 5:30pm
Prep C & Prep FD Theatrette
Fri 13.02 Mini Vinnies Induction 8:40am
Wed 18.02 Ash Wednesday Liturgies
9:00am Prep—2
10:00am Yr 3—6
Development Cup
Sat 21.02 Mini Vinnies at Mass 6:30pm
Fri 27.02 Colour Captains Assembly
Fri 06.03 3/4K Prayer Assembly
Tue 11.03 School Photos
Fri 13.03 6H St Patrick’s Prayer Assemb.
Tue 17.03 St Patrick’s Green Dress Day
Fri 20.03 4/5H Good Samaritan Charism
Sat 21.03 Mini Vinnies at Mass 6:30pm
Fri 27.03 3Y Palm Sunday Assembly
Tue 31.03 6B Last Supper Assembly
Wed 01.04 CROSS COUNTRY
Thu 02.04 5GH Stations of the Cross
Fri 03.04 Good Friday
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Easter Mon 6 April

TERM TWO
Mon 20 April - Fri 26 June (10 weeks)
Sat 25 April ANZAC Day
Mon 8 June Queens Birthday

TERM THREE
Mon 13 July - Fri 18 Sept (10 weeks)

TERM FOUR
Mon 5 Oct Labour Day
Tue 6 Oct - Fri 4 Sept (9 weeks)

With Deepest Sympathy...
We pray for Jeremy Baldi (6H) and his family for the recent loss of his maternal grandmother.
TUCKSHOP

LINDA IS LOOKING FOR HELPERS FROM
9AM—11.00AM

PLEASE SIGN IN AT FRONT OFFICE

WED 28 JAN  LINDA
FRI 30 JAN  LINDA
MON 02 FEB  LINDA

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 and
11.00am—12.30pm

ARTS COUNCIL

Last Tree in the City

Last Tree in the City is the story of a boy who lives in the city. Edward's city is a place of concrete and cars, a world without colour, so every day he visits the last tree in the city and forgets the dull world around him. Then one day the tree is gone. Edward thinks of a clever way to revive his fallen tree, inspiring the entire city to follow his lead and understand that life is better with trees.

TUESDAY 10 FEB

Term fees will be issued in due course.

Those families seeking a remission for 2015 must make an appointment to see the Principal ASAP.

As we are now operating with the new system, your Term Fee invoice will be emailed to you each term.

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.

PAYMENTS OVER THE INTERNET

NEED TO USE OF FAMILY CODE AND EMAIL/FAX CONFIRMATION OF PAYMENT TO OUR OFFICE ON 40612271.

ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please advise Administration should there be a change in any of your personal details e.g.; address, phone number, place of work, visa number or Citizenship etc. Should there be a change please contact the office to complete the paperwork.

MEDICATION

Please also note that should your child require medication whilst at school a medication form must be completed and given to the Teacher with the medication in a zip-lock bag. Medication must not be left in school bags for safety reasons.

ABSENCES

Should your child be unwell please contact the office in the morning. If they are absent for more than 2 consecutive days please send a note/medical certificate on their return.

DIRECT DEBIT OF FEES

IT IS A TIMELY REMINDER FOR THOSE PARENTS WHO HAVE A DIRECT DEBIT IN PLACE TO PLEASE CHECK THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE NOMINATED AS FEES DO RISE SLIGHTLY EACH YEAR AND YOUR PREVIOUS DIRECT DEBIT MAY NOT COVER THIS INCREASE.

BELL TIMES

8.35AM—SCHOOL STARTS
2.55PM—FOR P3 BUS/PICK-UP STUDENTS
3.00PM—SCHOOL FINISHES