Dear Parents,

My apologies for late notification of the date for our Christmas Carols night which is next Tuesday November 27th. I am so used to dates being in the calendar that I had forgotten this one wasn’t. The children have been practising Carols with their buddy classes. Carols is held in the Church at 6.00 pm and is usually about an hour so it isn’t a late night. The children are asked to arrive by 5.45 and to wear a Christmas type tee shirt with school pants or shorts. The tee shirt can have a Christmas design or be red, green or white. Children can also get into the Christmas theme by wearing coloured ribbons in their hair or a Santa hat. No tall hats or reindeer ears please, as these block the children standing behind your child. Also no tinsel as it ends up all over the floor and we then need to sweep the church. Advent and our preparation for Christmas begins with the first Sunday of Advent on December 2nd and our Carols evening is a good lead into this.

Next week the Christmas tree will be up in the school foyer and the focus for our support for the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Appeal. You can support St Vinnies by taking a gift tag from the tree and purchasing a gift for the aged child indicated on the tag or by contributing a food item to help make up hampers for families. These will be distributed by the parish St Vinnies group. If you are struggling for ideas for older children gift cards from Kmart, Target, JB Hifi and iTunes cards may be an idea. If you get a tag that says Oznam House suggestions are shaving gear and basic toiletries. Many families involve the children in the process of discussion and purchase. It a great opportunity to support their understanding of Social Justice and supporting others. All gifts would need to be under the tree by December 14th so they could be distributed that week end. Today a new item has been added to our foyer. After much searching we have located a flag supplier so we can represent the multicultural dimension of our school community and display the flags as a symbol of welcome to all. By my calculation the students and parents of our current and next year’s enrolments were born in 46 different countries and so we have the flags of each of those countries now hanging in the foyer. If we have missed yours please let us know.

You will have noticed that our junior classrooms have timber floors with a mat rather than wall to wall carpet. This is for two reasons, one being due to allergies in younger children but one major issue relates to being able to keep the rooms more hygienic with food, drink and toilet accidents that are more common in the early years at school. With timber floors being noisier than carpeted ones we have felts on the bottom of chairs and require all junior students to wear soft soled indoor shoes.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

I want to teach my students how to live this life on earth To face its struggles and its strife And to improve their worth Not just the lesson in a book or how the rivers flow But how to choose the proper path wherever they may go To understand eternal truth and Know the right from wrong And gather all the beauty of a flower and a song for if I help the world to grow in wisdom and in grace then I shall feel that I have won and I have filled my place and so I ask Your guidance, God that I may do my part for character and confidence and happiness of Heart.

A TEACHER’S PRAYER

I want to teach my students how to live this life on earth To face its struggles and its strife And to improve their worth Not just the lesson in a book or how the rivers flow But how to choose the proper path wherever they may go To understand eternal truth and Know the right from wrong And gather all the beauty of a flower and a song for if I help the world to grow in wisdom and in grace then I shall feel that I have won and I have filled my place and so I ask Your guidance, God that I may do my part for character and confidence and happiness of Heart.
I realise that not all rooms have been vigilant in this practice this year but all will be next year. Children will need to change out of their school shoes and into indoor shoes as they arrive at school and change to go outside. If your child cannot do up laces, practice may be needed over the holidays or you may decide to buy Velcro fastening shoes. This is an early reminder about the need to supply all junior students with the CORRECT indoor footwear for 2013. We are using the term indoor shoes rather than slippers because many slippers are just not suitable, particularly when you remember that the boys need to wear them to the toilets. Slippers which have fluffy parts that touch the floor are certainly not hygienic if worn to the toilets. Scuffs are not suited because children drag their feet which adds to noise. All indoor shoes need to have the moulded style rubber sole which is found on some basic elastic sided slippers and summer canvas shoes like those pictured below. All these can be found at Kmart. The two canvas shoes are currently $6 and the slippers normally $5 but reduced to $2. During summer months the canvas shoes will be easy to find at a range of stores and during winter the slippers will be available. Croc styled shoes which have a back strap are also suitable. We find that sheep skin boots like Ugg boots become sloppy and hard to walk in so the children end up dragging their feet as these get older.

Last week’s orientation sessions for 2013 Beginners was a very settled activity. The next orientation session is Thursday 29 November 9.30 – 10.30.

Condolences to Judy Harris on the death of her sister, Elizabeth, yesterday. During the past week Judy has been spending time with Elizabeth while she has been in palliative care. Condolences to Ted (Room 12) and his family on the death of his Grandfather in China. Ted and his father have recently returned from visiting him.

Many thanks to everyone involved in planning, preparing, working at, cleaning up and supporting the Market night last Friday evening. Those who set up and worked on the night were pretty exhausted when we finished cleaning up. The support for the cake stall was amazing. We are awaiting final profit figures but I would expect them to be close to $2,000.

Have a great week!

Maria McIntyre

BIKE EDUCATION SESSIONS FOUR, FIVE AND SIX
The senior students have continued to develop their cycling skills and road safety knowledge through the weekly Bike Education Program. We are extremely grateful to our parent helpers. They have guided the children through the activities and last week the cyclists were able to venture onto the road for the first time. They completed a circuit of the school block in each direction, under the direction of Michael and Evy.

The students and teachers extend a very big thank you to Jenny, Ling, Evy, Olimpia, Amanda, Lorraine, Michael, Dani and Susan.

If you are able to help with the remaining sessions of Bike Education please contact the office. They will be held on: Friday 23rd November.

Thursday 29th November (please note the change of day and refer to the letter sent home today)

Helen Kalac and Ben Higgins

END OF BOOK AMNESTY 2012
We’ve come to the end of our Book Amnesty and so we would like to thank each and every one of you who looked for and returned books to our library and classrooms.

We are happy to report that over 40 books have been found and the classroom returning most of these books was Room 9!

Congratulations Room 9! This week you’ll be treated to 15 mins extra play time for your efforts.

Thank you everyone, a job well done!

Claudia Bortolin
The next **P&F Meeting** is on TOMORROW Weds 21st Nov at 9:10 am in the staff room. All are welcome, including your toddlers!

**Scholastic Book Club** issue 8 is due tomorrow... Weds 21st November to ensure delivery before school finishes. Who will win the free book for this final book club catalogue???

**Toy catalogue** the second round of orders will be sent tomorrow Weds 21st November we’ll let you know when everything arrives!

**ICE UPDATE**
Congratulations to our year 6 ICE Committee and students for reaching their goal and earning their $500 P&F Bonus to put towards their graduation activities... Planning is well underway for their day out and formal graduation evening.

Last week we announced the new ICE Committee for 2013 and are pleased to advise that Pop Corn stocks have been sold and Icy Poles are back in stock! Icy Poles are 50c each and sold for the first 20 minutes of lunch only. Students should go and get their Icy Pole before they play and for safety reasons, finish it before heading to the playground.

We’ll let you know the date for formal handover between ICE Committees at assembly shortly, and thank you for your support!

The **Christmas Raffle** is just around the corner… On offer are 2 book & snack prize packs for each classroom for summer reading fun! Major prizes include $60 in Masters Gift Vouchers, Palace Movie Tickets, Wine pack and more!!! Keep an eye out for tickets which will be sent home soon…

The **2013 Calendar** will be ready for printing, collating & distribution soon! We’ll be looking for 4 people to help out for 2 – 3 hours. We’ll confirm the date in next week’s newsletter.

**2013 Calendar Cover** suggest a theme for this year’s cover design competition below... Get your ideas in by Friday and sharpen your colouring pencils – we’ll announce the theme next week!

**Second Hand Uniform** items in good condition that you no longer need, are welcomed anytime via the office.

**Market Night** was on Friday and what a wonderful night we had. The night was well attended by families and local community and feedback on the night has been very positive!

We are still collecting names to thank the many helpers in the lead up to and on the night and double checking we have the names of all businesses who donated items in support of the Night.

Next week we’ll have a full report and wrap up to share, if you would like to offer any feedback, please feel free to email us.

**Paul’s Collect-a-Cap** promotion continues until the end of the year; please drop your caps in the box in the foyer, so we can make your milk dollars go further... We have earned $1200 from this promotion so far – lets’ see what our final tally will be!

**Coming Soon:**
- Annual wrap up... 2012 in review...
- **That's mine or Stuck on You Name Label** fundraisers
- Aussie Farmers Direct & Rebel Sports
- Bakers Delight new loyalty programm
- Good Guys new loyalty programm

**2013 Calendar Cover**
My Idea for the theme for this years’ School Calendar Cover design is:

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
Submitted by: ____________________________
Room: ____________________________

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