Dear Families of Chisholm,

A warm welcome is extended to all our children and families and to our staff – those returning and those who join our learning community for the first time this year. We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing holiday! 2016 looks to be an exciting year for Chisholm.

Thank you to everyone for all that you have done to ensure the children have returned refreshed, enthusiastic, dressed immaculately and ready to learn in 2016.

The teachers have been meeting since mid January to plan the learning programmes for your children and have some wonderful opportunities organised for them. There will be many occasions throughout the year when you will be invited to participate in activities with the children and the teachers look forward to your involvement. As always, if you are unsure of something or have any concerns, please ask a member of staff who will be only too willing to assist you.

We look forward to catching up with many of you during the upcoming weeks and encourage each of you to take up the opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher. Everyone is invited to join our community next Wednesday 10th February for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy and again on Friday 12th February for our Opening School Mass where we will welcome our new Kindergarten students, commission our school leaders, welcome new staff and celebrate the new school year.

A special thank you to all families who brought their child(ren) into school last week for the Mathematics Assessment Interviews. These days commenced our goal of interviewing individually every child in the school as quickly as possible. The response was absolutely overwhelming and shows your support and commitment to your children’s education.

We pray for God’s blessing on each member of our community for the year ahead.

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our community be willing to begin anew. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

May the year ahead bring you many blessings.

God Bless

Keiran Byrnes
Sunday Mass at Chisholm
Mass is held here at Chisholm every Sunday at 9:30am. Each Sunday, a small community gathers together in the school MPA to celebrate Mass, followed by a light morning tea.

World Youth Day 2016
Each family has received raffle tickets to help Ms Fizely, our Chisholm community representative, to go to World Youth Day in Poland this year. We are asking your help to raise money to support Ms Fizely by selling and returning these raffle tickets. Your help in this venture is greatly appreciated.

This term there are four celebrations in which we worship God as a school community in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. All parents are invited to these celebrations. The times vary a little so please check them below.

Ash Wednesday is 10th February and we will begin the journey through Lent to Easter with Mass at 9.00 am. You are invited to join us and begin the Lenten journey.

Our Beginning Year Mass is on 12th February at 9.00 am in the MPA. Please join us to celebrate the start of a new school year. Kinders are particularly welcomed as they begin their formal education at Chisholm.

The week beginning March 4th is Catholic Schools' Week and we celebrate with all Catholic schools in New South Wales and the ACT. We remember our Catholic Schools' contribution to all the educational success in our state. On Friday, 4th March, not only do we celebrate Catholic Schools' Week but also the contribution grandparents make to our lives. Mass will be at 9.00 am in the MPA. Please join us.

Every term, Chisholm prepares a Parish Mass, at which our choir sings and our students take an active part. This will also be a Commitment Mass for those students preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. This term it will be on 13th March at 9.30 am. There is usually morning tea after this Mass. Please note that Mass is held every Sunday in the MPA at 9.30 am.

First Eucharist: Our Year 4 students will begin preparation for First Eucharist this term. The Parent Meeting is on Tuesday, 1st March at 7.30 pm in the MPA here at Chisholm. If you are unable to attend this meeting there is also one on 2nd March at 7.30 pm at St Matthew’s. The Year 4 students will receive the Sacrament on either 22nd May or 29th May.

Merilyn Hancock - Religious Education Co-ordinator

Welcome to New Staff
Welcome to new staff members Miss Natalie Colburt, Miss Samantha Brimfield, Ms Michelle Sztelma, Ms Christine Cassin and Mr Liam Naaman. We wish you all the best for 2016 and hope you have a rewarding year at Chisholm.

Student School Leaders 2016
Congratulations to our 2016 student school leaders. These children were chosen as leaders as they are excellent role models and for being consistently safe honest and respectful learners. These students will be commissioned and presented with their school leader badges at our Opening School Mass.

Liam Saba, Ashleigh Vanderburg, Brady Jones, Michael Lansdowne, Sherina Cauchi & Talisha Masini

Congratulations to our 2016 Kindergarten Children
Our youngest children commenced their schooling at Chisholm so beautifully. Congratulations to the children and their parents. A big thank you to our Kindergarten parents and families who have been assisting their little ones to transition to school. It was also great to see so many parents join us for “Cheers and Tears” this morning to share a ‘cuppa’ and meet new people.

School Attendance
School attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in schools. Every day of attendance adds to a student’s academic achievement and success at school. Parents are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the ultimate responsibility to ensure that their child attends school every day arriving punctually to begin lessons promptly at 8.45am. With this newsletter is an information letter regarding school attendance. Please read this carefully and help your child establish and consolidate a good attendance habit.

A Great Start – Thanks
Congratulations to all parents on the way the children were presented for the start of the school year.

In particular the children looked fantastic in their school uniforms and the sense of pride was very obvious as class rooms were visited last week.

Wearing the correct uniform encourages self-respect, respect for others and respect for our school.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting the Chisholm uniform policy.

For your convenience details of the uniform & grooming policy are outlined here, from the parent handbook:

Grooming and Hair
Students are to be neatly and cleanly dressed at all times. Shoes should be clean and well presented.

Hair is to be kept neat and tidy, off the collar, of consistent natural colour, of gradual even grade and all extremes of fashion are to be avoided. Some examples of “styles” that are unacceptable include: ridges, lines, undercuts, steps, bowl cuts, any excessive shaping with gel, and any shaving cuts.

Girls hair that is longer than shoulder length is to be tied back from the face. Hair is to be off the face and out of the eyes.

Ribbons, hair slides etc, if worn should be in the uniform fabric or maroon. Scrunchies are sold from the Uniform Shop.

Wet Weather Protection
Protective wet weather clothing may be worn to and from school. It is not to be worn during school.

Jewellery and Accessories
Apart from one pair of sleepers or small plain studs and a wrist watch, jewellery is not permitted for safety reasons. A chain with cross or religious medallion may be worn under shirt line. No rings (birth/baptismal rings excepted), make-up or nail varnish is allowed. Nails should be kept clean and neatly trimmed.

Boys may not under any circumstances wear earrings

Hats
Only the correct school hats (slouch) may be worn - purchased through the Uniform Shop. The school has a ‘no hat no play policy’.

School Bag
Books are to be carried to and from school in the correct maroon school bag, purchased from the Uniform Shop.

Lapses in the Wearing of Uniform
Parents will be notified and their co-operation sought for any lapses in this area. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Helpful Hints
Clothes dried inside out will prevent fading
Washing Instructions - wet paint can be washed out immediately in cold water. If paint has dried, soak garment overnight in cold soapy water then hand-wash in lukewarm water using ordinary soap. Do not use hot water, laundry detergents or spray-on stain removers. Do not machine wash.
DROP OFF AND COLLECTION OF STUDENTS
To assist in the safe drop off and collection of students’ parents are reminded that
- Supervision before school begins at 8.15am
- Children arriving before supervision begins sit and wait in the designated paved playground until supervision starts
- Classes begin at 8.45am
- Parents using the kiss and drop area need to exercise caution and assist traffic flow by moving to the closest available space at the front of the line
- Parents meet their children in one of three designated areas in the afternoons (3.00pm)
1. Parent retreat
2. Silver seats – Paved playground
3. Silver seats – Undercover area
Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – TERM 1
Parent teacher interviews will be held this term in week 4, Wednesday 17th February and Thursday 18th February. These interviews are a great way for you to meet with your child’s teacher, to discuss their needs, ask any questions that you may have and to work in partnership. The interview times will be made online. Login details and booking arrangements will be sent home soon so you can secure a suitable time.
We look forward to meeting with you and sharing information that will help us understand the children as learners at Chisholm.

WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE TICKETS
A sincere thank you to the families of Chisholm for your support for the schools in the Philippines as well as for World Youth Day.
Just a reminder that the raffle booklets are due back by Friday 19th February (Friday Week 4). It would be greatly appreciated if they could be returned by then.
Thank you again for your support.

CCG – CHISHOLM COMMUNITY GROUP
The Chisholm Community Group will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 10th February at 1.45pm in the Learning Centre: CCG meetings occur once each term and are a great way to keep informed about our school community and to be involved in the life of the school. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to catching up with familiar faces and getting to know our new families. Hope to see you there!

NUT ALLERGIES – ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK
Chisholm has children within the school who suffer from anaphylaxis. This is a severe allergy to certain foods – in this case, peanuts and other nut products. The allergy is so severe that the smallest exposure to nuts can have life threatening consequences. Even a trace amount of peanut oil residue transferred from a child’s hands when they flush the toilet, use a tap or open a door is enough to cause a severe reaction. The school, therefore, treats this extremely seriously.
We ask that you support us by not sending any food items that contain nuts to school with your children. Our school canteen does not stock any items containing nuts.
Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

SPORT
Diocesan Sports Trials
The Parramatta Diocesan Sports trials are fast approaching this term. These are not school trials for sports teams but rather representative standard trials run by the Parramatta Diocesan Sports Council to represent Parramatta at MacKillop trials. If your child is in Years 5 or 6 and is playing representative sport (or in the case of no reps in a well placed Division 1 team), please contact Mrs Baxter in writing with an expression of interest by this Thursday as the registration process for this closes this week.

AFL After School Clinic
This term from 17th February each Wednesday afternoon AFL NSW will be running an after school AFL clinic on the grounds. Details regarding the clinic will come home next week when the organisers come out to do some promotion classes with the students during sport. This program is run by AFL NSW a with qualified coaching staff, all payments and enquires go through AFLNSW however Chisholm does support the program. Please look out for the details next week if you are interested.

Parent Coaches
We are currently looking for a number of new coaches to run our sports at Chisholm this year, especially in the areas of netball, touch football, rugby league, indoor cricket and soccer. If you are will or able please contact Mrs Baxter through the school office. Many of our long time coaches left last year so we are looking for a new breed of parents to take over the reigns. If we are unable to find coaches certain competitions may not be available for the children this year.

Zone Swimming Team
The Zone Swimming team will be announced in the next two weeks please ask your children to listen out for any messages.
Karen Baxter – Sport Co-ordinator

CANTEEN ROSTER

| TERM 1      | Wed   | Feb 3     | Suzanne Bosque, Michelle Kew          |
|            | Thurs | Feb 4     | Vicky Withers, HELP NEEDED            |
|            | Fri   | Feb 7     | Kristen Broadfoot, Kristina Anderson  |
|            | Mon   | Feb 8     | Coralie Livingstone, Kia Taylor       |
|            | Tue   | Feb 9     | Michelle Dimich, HELP NEEDED          |
|            | Wed   | Feb 10    | Bemadette Sciberras, Michelle Penza   |
|            | Thurs | Aug 11    | Nicky Spiter, Tanya Bias              |
|            | Fri   | Aug 12    | Carolyn Young, Nicole Bruce, HELP NEEDED |
|            | Mon   | Aug 15    | Nina Dimich, Kelly Williams           |
|            | Tue   | Aug 16    | Alexis Stothman, Verity Bugeja       |

Sandra Goldsbrough
Canteen Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks:
## Learning Matters!

**TERM 1, 2016 ~ PARENT PLANNER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SAT/SUN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>23rd Jan</td>
<td>28th Jan</td>
<td>27th Jan Teachers Commence MAI's</td>
<td>28th Jan MAI's</td>
<td>29th Jan Yr 1 to 6 return</td>
<td>30th/31st Jan</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
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<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
<td>QCS</td>
<td>Lent Assembly – 9am</td>
<td>Open Day for New Prospective Families 9:30-10:30am &amp; 1:45-2:45pm</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Parish Commitment Mass for First Eucharist 9:30am</td>
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<td>QCS</td>
<td>Lent Assembly – 9am</td>
<td>9:00am Being Brave – K2 Incursion</td>
<td>St Patrick 3-6 Cross Country</td>
<td>CCG – Disco, K-6</td>
<td>St Joseph</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>HOLY WEEK</td>
<td>21st</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Lent ends</td>
<td>Good Friday Ammunition – April 4th</td>
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<td>26th/27th</td>
<td>EASTER SUNDAY</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>28th</td>
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<td>Easter Celebration 9am</td>
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**St 3 ~ Collaroy Camp/Excursion**

AFL 3:15-4:15pm

**Holly Week Assemblies – 9am**

**We are safe, honest, respectful learners!**