Dear Families of Chisholm,

Pope Francis has called an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, commencing 8th December 2015 and concluding 20th November 2016. The theme of this Jubilee Year is “Merciful like the Father” and Pope Francis invites us all to grow deeper in awareness of the Father’s merciful and forgiving love, and bring that mercy to the world.

Last week we celebrated Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent and if we want to find the right tone and focus for this Lent, then we need not look any further than the scripture we listened to on this day. The Lord is gracious and merciful. He is calling out to us so he can bless us. The key to finding God this Lent is a soft heart. That’s why we are encouraged to fast, to pray and give to the poor so he can bless us. The key to finding God this Lent is a soft heart. That’s why we are encouraged to fast, to pray and give to the poor this season. These acts help prepare our hearts to receive God’s blessings. We do them because they help us feel God’s presence.

So let’s try our best to keep our hearts soft and open to the Lord, because that’s when changes really happen.

To do this in a practical way I offer three suggestions:

1. Support Caritas Australia and the annual Project Compassion appeal. The theme in this 50th year of this appeal is “Learning More Creating Change”. Project Compassion works to empower the world’s poorest communities through learning, to create real and lasting change. Your support can take the form of donations and through prayer. I particularly extend a welcome invitation to join our Lenten prayer each Monday for the next five weeks.

2. Support World Youth Day 2016. There have been 12 International World Youth Day celebrations, where the youth continue to answer the invitation of the Holy Father in staggering numbers and carry home the message received there to be Christ’s light to the world. Ms Fizely, our Chisholm community representative, will to go to World Youth Day in Poland this year. As part of this pilgrimage Ms Fizley will join many young Catholics working to demonstrate God's love and mercy by helping the poor and marginalised in the Philippines. We ask for your prayers of support, your support to help raise money by selling and returning the World Youth Day raffle tickets, and your support later in the term when we hold a World Youth Day fundraiser.

3. The School community prides itself on how our children learn and practice the skills of safe, honest and respectful learning, and put the Catholic values into practice by showing compassion, inclusion and fairness. Take the time to read the letter going home with this newsletter today that offers us practical ways in which we can celebrate and respect the diversity within our own community.

Loving God, thank you for inviting me to come to you this Lent. By your Spirit, help me to soften my heart toward you and the people around me.

God Bless

Keiran Byrnes
FROM THE REC

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.

Each Monday Assembly for Weeks 4–8 inclusive, will be a Lenten Prayer Assembly. This is an opportunity to pray with the school community on the journey to Easter. Lent is a time to PRAY, FAST and GIVE. Consequently, teachers and students support the work of Caritas who work to alleviate poverty in many parts of the world. This Lent will focus on the work of Caritas in Malawi, Laos, Cambodia, PNG and India. Children are encouraged to support Project Compassion with spare change. We are also supporting Ms Fizely who is going to do some missionary work in an impoverished parish in the Philippines on her way to World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow.

FIRST EUCHARIST: Our Year 4 students will begin preparation for First Eucharist this term. If your son/daughter did not bring home a letter from the Parish to enrol in this program and you require one, please notify me as soon as possible. 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.

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.

Marilyn Hancock – Religious Education Co-ordinator

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – TERM 1
This week on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th parent teacher interviews will be taking place.

These interviews allow teachers and parents to
• Work in partnership with the aim of knowing each child as a learner.
• Share information regarding particular strengths and needs.
• Establish a connection between home and school.

Parents are invited to share information about their child/children during the scheduled interview time. Interviews need to be kept to 10 min to allow for the large number of interviews being conducted.

If need be, a separate interview time can be made with individual teachers at another suitable time. We look forward to catching up and thank you for your ongoing support.

CHILD PROTECTION
A reminder for parents who are required to ‘UPDATE’ their child protection and for ‘NEW’ parents to the school. It is a Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at school must complete the CEO Online Child Protection Module. This training is available online at: http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au and MUST be completed every two years. All parents must have completed the above prior to helping in the classroom, on excursions, sport days, canteen, uniform shop or any help around the school.

As part of their ongoing work, the Positive Behaviour Support focus team have reviewed our current policy documentation. Below is an excerpt that outlines the foundation for our PBS approach. A full copy of the 2016 document is available at the school office.

At Chisholm Catholic Primary School, the Pastoral Care and Student Welfare Policy promotes the ongoing development of Safe, Honest, Respectful Learners.

The Pastoral Care / Student Welfare Policy focuses on developing a community culture of:
- Mutual respect
- Openness and honesty
- Ongoing Positive Support
- Community inclusiveness and belonging
- Engagement on learning

Positive Behaviour Support is underpinned by six key principles.
1. A common purpose and approach to discipline
2. A clear set of positive expectations and behaviours
3. Procedures for teaching expected behaviour
4. A continuum of procedures for encouraging expected behaviour
5. A continuum of procedures for discouraging inappropriate behaviours
6. Procedures for on-going monitoring and evaluation.

EARLY YEARS ASSESSMENT
All schools in the Parramatta Diocese will be conducting testing on the Kindergarten and Year One children this term. This is an important source of data for the Catholic Education Office and most importantly for our teachers as they prepare learning programmes for our children. The assessments provide information for the teachers about the starting points for the learning of each child. The Catholic Education Office provides release for the classroom teachers to do this testing.
INCURSION

K/1/2 will be attending a theatre production called ‘Being Brave’ on Tuesday 15th March in the School MPA at 9am.

‘Being Brave’ gives children strategies to deal with their emotions through good communication, persistence and positive self-talk making them more resilient. The show uses song, dance and drama to give children strategies to bounce back after dealing with bullying, loss and change.

2016 CHISHOLM FAIR PREPARATIONS

Fair preparations – Plant stall co-ordinator is looking for families to donate empty plant pots (any size), that you no longer need, if they could be brought into school and left outside the front office. Thank you.

SPORT

AFL After School Clinics

As you are aware most students participated in a promotion visit for the After School AFL Clinics that will start this Wednesday on the school oval from 3.20pm-4.20pm. These clinics are run by AFLNSW not by the school, however we do endorse and support the program. This means that parental supervision is required of an afternoon. It also crucial that students staying back that are not involved in the program are also supervised. Any money or questions regarding the program need to be directed to AFLNSW. Hope those involved enjoy the program again.

Zone Swimming Team

Good luck to our Zone Swimming Team that will compete next week 22nd February at Windsor Oasis. Notes are required back to school by Thursday 18/02/16. Any students needing a new note can down load them from the Chisholm website.

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 willing or able to help 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 reins. If we are unable to find coaches certain competitions may not be available for the children this year.

Karen Baxter – Sport Co-ordinator

SPORT UNIFORM DAYS 2016

Children are to wear their sports uniform & bring their Library bags on the following days:

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<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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The timetable requires that Year 1 children will need to wear their sports uniform on both Tuesdays & Thursdays to accommodate a rotation of sport lessons. Any specific changes will be notified in advance. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

OPEN DAY FOR 2017

Our Open Day for Kindergarten 2017 will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 9.30am to 10:30am and 1:45pm to 2:45pm in our multi purpose area. Prospective new families for Kindergarten in 2017 as well as students Years 1 to Year 6 are invited to attend our Open Day. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or from the school office. Our fee schedule for 2016 is available to download from our website.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS & EMAILS

A decision has been made to move away from printing the school newsletter each fortnight. This is both a cost effective practice and environmentally friendly. Sending home newsletters via email will commence at the beginning of Term 2. We will be using the email facility to notify parents more and more rather than via paper. All excursions and notes that require a reply slip will still continue to be sent home via your child. Other information notes ie: Grade overviews, CCG notices etc, will be sent via your nominated e-mail account setup on the school website in E-News Subscription.

E-News Subscription

Sign up now to receive our newsletters, with all the latest news and school events from Chisholm Catholic Primary School, straight to your email inbox. Below is an example of the subscription page found on the website, just complete with your details & click on the subscribe to E-News button, it’s that simple.

It is therefore important that you make sure that you submit your current email address and regularly check your emails for any information sent from the school. School newsletters are also available on the school website to download.

During the transition from paper to email some printed copies will be available for collection from the school office.

CANTEEN ROSTER

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**Lent ~ Fish Fridays**

4 Fish Fingers & Sauce $2.70
Fish Burger, Lettuce & Mayo $3.80

**Thank You!**

Sandra Goldsborough
Canteen Co-ordinator

**Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks:**


4 Fish Fingers & Sauce $2.70
Fish Burger, Lettuce & Mayo $3.80

**Thank You!**

Sandra Goldsborough
Canteen Co-ordinator

**Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks:**

Learning Matters!

KINDY WELCOME BBQ

Last Thursday, following a busy first 2 weeks of school, our enthusiastic kindergarten children and their parents celebrated the start of the year with an evening of fun activities, a sausage sizzle and a treasure hunt. It was a great opportunity for parents to meet and spend some time getting to know some of the other “Kindy “families as well as a time for the children to socialize and play together. The night was a great example of the strong Chisholm school spirit. A great night was had by all.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers who made the night special through their planning and hard work and to our ever-supportive Chisholm Community Group (CCG) parents.

Congratulations to our Kindy parents and children on a great start to the new school year.

We are safe, honest, respectful learners!