Dear Families of Chisholm,

This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the time of preparation for the Feast of Easter! Traditionally both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of ‘fasting’ and abstinence from meat, while every Friday of Lent is meant to challenge us to keep a significant focus on prayer, fasting and charity towards those in need as part of our ongoing penance. Whatever we decide to ‘do’ or ‘give up’ for Lent, the important thing is that in six weeks time we have grown in our relationship with Jesus as individuals and as a faith community.

In order to assist us in developing our relationship with Jesus I encourage you to join in with school opportunities for praying together as a faith community this Ash Wednesday at 9.00am and at assembly each week for our Lenten prayer.

The Parish is also offering an opportunity for people to connect with their faith through the “Catholic Guy Ministry”. The Catholic Guy Ministry is the result of a call to discover a “new voice and sound” that connects with people of our time and introduces them to Christ in a manner that is understandable, relevant and encourages people to respond. Chisholm will be hosting this event and included with today’s newsletter is a brochure with times and more information. I strongly encourage each of you to give deep consideration to participating.

Next week, Chisholm will join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from 9-15 March.

The theme for CSW 2014 is ‘more than a great education’ which encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness, and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community, by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

It is for this reason that I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to join us at Chisholm on Friday 14th March to celebrate with our school and parish community Catholic Schools Week 2014.

Our school will be celebrating in the following ways.

Tuesday 12th March Staff from Chisholm, St Matthew’s, St Monica’s and Bede Polding College will be joining together in prayer

Thursday 13th March Open Day information sessions for prospective new families looking to enrol their children at Chisholm. 9.30-10.30am and 2.00-3.00pm

Friday 14th March Catholic Schools Week and Grandparents Day. We will celebrate mass at 9.00am. Open classrooms from 10.15 – 11.00am. Morning tea from 11.00-11.45am.

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of Chisholm and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Regards

Keiran Byrnes
The week beginning March 10th 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 education in our state and all the successes we celebrate. The highlight of this week will be the Grandparents’ Day on Friday 14th at 9am in the MPA. This day gives us an opportunity to celebrate the contribution grandparents make to our lives. Grandparents are invited to the Mass (9.00am), to visit the classrooms (10.15am) and to enjoy morning tea (11.00am -11.45am) in the Learning Centre. Some grandparents will be invited to share their story with their children in their grandchild’s class (11.45 – 12.15).

Every term, Chisholm prepares a Parish Mass, at which our choir sings and our students take an active part. This term the Parish Mass will be on 16th March at 9.30 am. There is usually morning tea after this Mass. ALL PARISH MASSES AT CHISHOLM ARE AT 9.30 AM.

Be Changed … Be Renewed … Be Inspired …

This is a Parish initiative to have a Mission Event 27th -31st March presented by The Catholic Guy. These sessions will be at Chisholm in the MPA. There are 2 sessions each day and admission is free. Bruce Downes presents a program through music and the arts. It is at times both deeply powerful and profoundly funny. There will be brochures sent out today.

Merilyn Hancock – Religious Education Co-ordinator

* Parish Mass is Celebrated each Sunday morning at 9.30am in the Chisholm MPA. All families are welcome.

SAFETY REMINDER

In the interest of keeping all community members safe at all times, parents and visitors are reminded that they must not use the school car park and drive way for pedestrian use at any time.

This area must be left for STAFF & DISABILITY VEHICLES ONLY.

Please use either of the 2 pedestrian access gates near the main buildings when coming into or leaving the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping to maintain a high level of safety in the school community.

Dogs on school premises

In the interest of safety, parents are reminded that it is unsafe to bring dogs onto the school premises, even if they are on a leash. Please ensure that dogs are not brought onto the school grounds.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

This term the Chisholm staff will be continuing their professional development work in Literacy and Mathematics. As part of this ongoing work a Staff Development Day has been planned for Monday 17th March, 2014. This will be a pupil free day.

IPAD PROGRAM

We are excited to inform our Year 4 parents that our school has been selected as one of eight schools by the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta to implement a 1:1 iPad program funded by the diocese commencing 2014.

All Year 4 students (except those who currently have an iPad through the Diversity is the Norm project) will be provided with 1:1 access to an iPad Air and a select number of apps aimed at improving learning outcomes. The students will have 24/7 access to these devices for their remaining three years of primary school (Year 4 2014 - Year 6 2016) whilst they remain enrolled at Chisholm Catholic Primary School. The key focus of the program will be to increase the literacy and numeracy achievement of students with an emphasis on the development of the wider set of contemporary skills, knowledge and understandings that learners in today’s world need. There will also be a focus on the collaboration between teachers (and possibly students) in all participating schools.

Our school will be holding a parent information evening for all Year 4 parents and their child once iPads have been delivered. Delivery is expected to be within the next two weeks. The parent and child information evening will be on Thursday 20th March at 7.00pm.

We look forward to discussing this exciting initiative with you on the night.

Andrew Emanuel
Assistant Principal

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2014, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

As this is the third year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from previous year’s findings and included in our school planning.

From 17-21 March all staff, students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning.

If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Siegenthaler in the school office: 45878915 or msiegenthaler@parra.catholic.edu.au
KINDERGATEN ENROLLMENTS FOR 2015

Just a reminder to any parents wishing to enroll their child in Kindergarten for 2015 that applications are now being accepted. Interview times are being timetabled and conducted with the aim that they will be completed by the end of next term.

If you have any relatives or friends considering enrolling their child at Chisholm in 2015, now is the time to remind them to place their applications at the school office.

SPORT

Hills Zone Swimming Carnival

Well done to all of the children that attended the Hills Zone Swimming Carnival last Tuesday 25th February at Windsor. Your behaviour and sportsmanship are to be commended.

Thank you to the wonderful team of parents from Chisholm who worked as time keepers throughout the day. You greatly assisted with the smooth running of the day.

Coaches

Coaches are still required for sport teams at Chisholm 2014. I am currently looking for touch football coaches. Thank you to the parents who have already replied.

Mrs Baxter and Mrs Barnes ~ Sports Co ordinators

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks:
Jessica Padroth, Maxine Kaonga, Therese Tadrosse, Ashlee Hedges, Logan Gruppetta, Hayley Turner, Cameron Spiteri, Charlotte Hair, William Dimech, Talisha Masini, Christina Jounou, Jacob Tunks, Cameron Cox, Bianca Bird, Matilda Williams, Que Penza, Damian Young.

CAKENTE ROSTER

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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Rochelle Weller HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Vicky Withers, Bridget Walker</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Julie Lavender, Kelly Kuier, HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Kyle Handfield, HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Verity Bujeja, Allison Jones</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Michelle Penza, Karen Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Vassallo, Tammy Glazier</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Kirsty Collins, Rochelle Weller, Serena Tunks</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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Sandra Goldsbrough ~ Canteen Co-ordinator

The CCG announces the first exciting event of the year “The Chisholm School Disco” To be held on Friday 4th April. See the flyer for more details.

BEDE POLDING COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2015

Applications for Enrollment to Bede Polding College for Year 7 2015 are now available.

During Catholic Schools Week, school tours will be conducted on Wednesday 12 March 2014, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Each tour will start with a brief ten minute presentation by the Principal, Mr Kevin Jones. The tours are led by students of the College.

Please call the College to register for a school tour.
Any further enquiries please phone the College on 4577 6455.

ENVIRONMENT TEAM ~ TRASH FREE TUESDAY

The Environment team for 2014 would like to reintroduce TRASH FREE TUESDAY. Every Tuesday starting from week 7 a stage 3 student will be going into each classroom at lunch/eating time to count how much rubbish your class puts in the bin. The aim is to try and bring as little rubbish as possible, ways to reduce bringing rubbish are by bringing containers instead of cling wrap and drink bottles instead of poppers.
ASH WEDNESDAY marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of praying, fasting and doing works of love, which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. For us each year, this is a spiritual journey with Jesus.

HISTORY OF ASH WEDNESDAY
Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on earth.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts, which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days’ penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

THE ASHES are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

FACTS ABOUT LENT
- 40 days comes from the 40 days the Israelites wandered in the wilderness and the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert and was tempted by Satan.
- Shrove Tuesday is the evening before Ash Wednesday and is also called "Fat Tuesday". Rich foods are consumed as the faithful prepare for a time of fasting, abstinence, confession and penance. Customs and practices arose for Fat Tuesday where people would empty their pantries of many items restricted during Lent.
- The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving (works of love).
- While fasting takes the form of refraining from eating, it is primarily a spiritual discipline designed to allow us to concentrate on higher things.
- Abstinence from meat is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Abstinence and fasting is only for those between the ages of 18 and 60.
- Lent ends on Holy Thursday when the Triduum begins. The Triduum is Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- The colour in the Church during Lent is purple. There are not usually flowers in the Church except on Laetare Sunday, which is the 4th Sunday in Lent. The colour changes to rose for the 4th Sunday, which is a brief respite from Lent to encourage us to stay on our journey.
- The “Alleluia” before the Gospel is not sung as it is a joyous song and thus is replaced with “Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ”.

We are safe, honest, respectful learners!