Dear Families of Chisholm,

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain”

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John challenges us to look deep within ourselves so that we may transform ourselves to be more loving people.

Jesus

We give thanks for all life that comes from God
All life starts small – even as a tiny seed, a very insignificant thing.
But when it is planted in the earth, something amazing happens.
The seed seems to die underneath the dark and damp soil. It splits open and the new life bursts out. A shoot is formed which can grow and become a huge tree.

When I do something kind or unselfish, a part of me dies to give life to someone else. My seed of faith breaks open and a new branch is formed.

Lord, help us to make many branches of love that reach out over all the people we meet.
Be with us this Lent as we forget ourselves to others.

This week our student leaders have planned to challenge us all to look within ourselves as they challenge us to be more loving people through the celebration of Harmony Day and fundraising for Project Compassion.

Harmony Day is a day when all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. It is also about community participation, inclusiveness and respect. These themes are closely aligned with the values of our school community.

Each year Project Compassion runs during Lent. In 2015 Project Compassion carries a simple message “Food for Life” – it throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world’s poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life.

I encourage you to embrace the children’s efforts to work for peace and justice by supporting them this week and joining us for prayer on Friday morning at assembly. The children are encouraged to wear mufti on Friday in exchange for a gold coin donation. As part of the celebrations of the day the children will be involved in games from around the world. For safety reasons children need to wear sports shoes appropriate for running.

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.

Our Year 4 students are preparing for their First Eucharist and are meeting each week in family groups. Please pray for these students during this preparation time.

As this is the Lenten season, each week we have Staff Prayer for the teachers on a Friday morning and an assembly prayer for the students on a Monday morning. The Monday morning assemblies are prepared by a different grade each week and based on the Sunday Gospel.

**UNIFORM & GROOMING**

A big thank you to all of our parents who are very supportive and continue to send their child/children to school dressed in the correct school uniform and with appropriate grooming, especially haircuts. This is a great way to instill self-respect and respect for the school community to which they belong. Recently a number of boys came to school with haircuts that; were not even in length, were layered or sculptured. In addition some girls are neglecting to tie their hair back.

Parents are reminded of the following grooming requirements regarding hair.

**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.

The theme for the day is bright, comfy shoes. Jana Fizey

We thank you for your ongoing understanding in not sending mixed messages to the children and supporting us in being consistent.

**PBS - EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER ACTION**

Bystanders have the power to play a part in helping to identify bullying and helping to minimize how long it goes on for. Bystanders do not need to take responsibility for the Bullies actions – they need to make their own actions count.

There is strength in numbers; Bystanders can combat bullying issues by showing their disapproval towards bullying behaviours by

**Direct action** –

- Take the victim away from the bully – just walk up and walk away together
- Tell the bully to stop – and remember asking for help is a right you have in our school and any school
- Don’t laugh – the bully will see this as you agreeing with their behaviour

**Get help** – this can be getting support from your peers to stand up against the bullying

Sometimes Bystanders think that what is happening is funny and they laugh, encourage or accept what is happening. This can lead to feeling powerless, guilty or anxious about what is going on – we can activate our children to make their actions count.

http://www.eyesonbullying.org/bystander.html this website aims to assist in Bully prevention.

**PARENT ONLINE RESOURCE**

**LEARNING DIFFICULTIES COALITION NSW**

A number of terrific resources and services related to parenting, mental health and wellbeing have come to my attention recently and I’d like to pass on the information for those of you who might be interested.

**Learning Difficulties Coalition NSW**

The Learning Difficulties Coalition NSW provides support and information about school-age children (5-17years) with learning difficulties and related conditions. They provide free telephone assistance for parents, teachers and health professionals via the Learning Difficulties Helpline, phone 9806 9960. The helpline is open school days during school term. Parents in NSW can access free advice about issues including literacy, numeracy, autism, ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia, anxiety, social skills and behaviour problems. For more information, visit the LDC NSW website www.ldc.org.au

**Preventing Depression and Anxiety in Children and Teenagers**

A team of researchers from Monash University and The University of Melbourne have published a website designed to help parents manage some challenging issues they may face with their children, including depression and anxiety. The information on the website is based on research evidence and the consensus of international experts in the field of parenting and youth mental health. Parents can learn practical strategies to help protect their children and/or teenagers from mental health problems. The website can be found at http://www.parentingstrategies.net/depression

**HARMONY DAY - MUFTI**

Harmony Day is this week, on Friday 20th March. The theme for the day is bright colours. Students are asked to bring in a gold coin donation for project compassion. All classes will be participating in sports from around the world. Children are advised to wear suitable comfy shoes. Jana Fizey

Merilyn Hancock – Religious Education Co-ordinator
**BIKE SAFETY**

At Chisholm we have an increasing number of children riding bikes or scooters to school.

If your child rides to school parents are asked to remind their child/children about the follow safety rules.

- Helmets must be worn while riding at all times.
- Bikes and scooters may only be pushed in the school grounds and on the footpath outside the school, especially in the afternoons during bus duty and Kiss and drop duty.
- Bikes and scooters are to be parked in the designated area. Between the Year 3 and Year 4 buildings
- Children only have permission to use their own bike or scooter.

Parents are also asked to discuss appropriate road rules while riding to and from school in the interest of keeping everyone safe. Thank you for your assistance.

**CCG – CHISHOLM COMMUNITY GROUP**

CCG’s first event of the year “The Chisholm School Disco” and “Twilight Markets” is fast approaching. To be held on Friday 27th March, see the flyers for more details of each event, we would love to see you there.

Our next event will be Mother’s Day Liturgy & Morning Tea along with the Mother’s Day Stall Friday 8th May.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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*The Canteen Roster for Term 2 is now available from the schools front office or on the schools website.*

**UNIFORM**

Winter school uniforms are now available for purchase from the uniform shop. Uniform shop is open Mondays 8:15am - 9:15am & Fridays 8:15am - 9:15am & 2:30pm – 3:30pm. All students are required to be in full winter school uniform by Term 2, week 3 (4th May 2015).

Also any year 6 students who still want to purchase a “Class of 2015” sport shirt. Please send your orders to school before Friday 27th March. Thanks

Belinda Ross - Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

**PARENT HANDBOOK**

The school’s Parent Handbook has recently been updated and is now available from the schools front office.

**BEDE POLDING COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2016**

Applications for Enrolment to Bede Polding College for Year 7 2016 are now available from BPC front office.

Acceptances will be mailed along with a Confirmation of Enrolment form by the beginning of Term 3 2015. The acceptance is conditional until the Confirmation of Enrolment form is fully completed & signed at a short meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 August 2015 at 7:30pm at the College. All parents and students are expected to attend.

Any further enquiries please phone the College on 4577 6455

**THANKYOU PARKLEA SAND & SOIL**

The Environment Leadership team wish to say a huge thankyou to Parklea Sand & Soil, at Bligh Park for their generous support and donation of garden mix (soil) for our vegetable garden.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**KINDERGATEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2016**

Parents wishing to enroll their child in Kindergarten for 2016 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 2016, now is the time to remind them to place their applications at the school office.
Grandparents Day and Catholic Schools Week

Last week Chisholm celebrated Catholic Schools Week and Grandparents Day. It was a fantastic day with an amazing number of Grandparents and families attending to help celebrate this important event.

We began the day by joining together for Mass and sharing all the things that make Chisholm a wonderful Catholic community.

We then invited our grandparents and families into our classrooms to share our learning and a story before morning tea.

Our spectacular series of events concluded with one special grandparent from each class either sharing a short story or talking about what life was like when they went to school. It was amazing to hear what some of our grandparents had to do when they were little and how they didn’t even have iPads.

We’d like to thank everyone who made this day special and send out a particular thank you to our grandparents who play such an important part in our lives.

We are safe, honest, respectful learners!