Dear Families of Chisholm,

These are the final days of preparation for the great feast of the Nativity. Usually our minds turn to the family celebrations that are approaching, or the various end of year celebrations. At this busy time of year, it is good to stop for a moment and imagine ourselves gathered up in the loving arms of God, holding us close and keeping us safe. Do we allow ourselves to feel the physicality of God? Are we aware that God is constantly watching us? Do we allow ourselves to nuzzle into the warmth of God’s embrace?

Each Advent we are invited to long for the coming of the Lord. We believe that, in the coming of Jesus, God’s promises began to come true. When he sent out the disciples, he began a mission that continues to this day. Renew in us the spirit of discipleship, so that like Jesus, our hearts may go out to those who are in need. May they recognize your coming to meet them in us. May our words and actions help them recognize you, the gracious God of us all.

Christmas is more than a time of music, merriment and mirth; it is a season of meditation, mangers and miracles. Christmas is more than a time of gaiety, greenery and gifts; it is a season of wonder, worship and wise men. Christmas is more than a time of tinsel, trees and toys; it is a season of preparation, prayers and peace. Christmas is more than a time of carols, cards and candy; it is a season of dedication, direction and decision. Christmas is more than Santa, stockings and surprises; it is Christ, care and concern.

William Arthur Ward

May the light of Christmas shine brightly and may peace fill your hearts and homes.
Merry Christmas

God Bless
Keiran Byrnes

Are you moving in 2015?

To estimate enrolments for 2015, it would be appreciated if the school could be notified in writing of any children who may be leaving Chisholm at the end of the year from grades other than Year 6. Please indicate the school that they will be attending for our records ASAP.

If your child is changing schools for 2015 it is important that you let us know. We have considerable pressure for enrolments in all grades and would like to offer positions to families new to the area.

Also put in writing if your child will be returning back to school late in 2015.
FROM THE REC

Our Advent journey in Australia is always heralded by the blooming of the mauve flowers of the jacarandas and agapanthus. Advent is getting ready for Christmas. Each Monday in Advent, we start the week with a special prayer at our assembly. At our Monday’s assembly this week, we celebrated the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Next Wednesday at the 8.45 assembly, we will celebrate the 4th week of Advent and our Kindergarten will present the Nativity to celebrate the joy of Christmas. The white candle in the middle of the Advent wreath is lit on Christmas Day.

Wishing all parents and students the peace and joy of the Christmas season. 

May God bless you in abundance in your family festivities.

Merilyn Hancock - Religious Education Co-ordinator

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2015

Parents still wishing to enroll their child in Kindergarten 2015 are urged to submit their enrolments promptly. If you have any relatives or friends considering enrolling their child at Chisholm, now is the time to remind them to place their applications at the school office.

FROM THE CCG

Thank You Parents

Through the wonderful and generous work of our CCG team and other supportive parents, the Chisholm Fair raised $18,000 towards school resources.

SCHOOL REPORTS ~ PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW

Last Thursday semester 2 reports were sent home to parents and you were invited to book an interview time online by following the enclosed instructions. Interviews will be held on Thursday 11th December and parents are reminded that online bookings close on Tuesday 9th at 3pm. These interviews are optional unless your child’s teacher has made a request for a meeting.

We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting with you.

Andrew Emanuel - Assistant Principal

SPORT

Chisholm Swimming Carnival/Fun Day

Last Friday students from Years 2-5 participated in the Chisholm Swimming Carnival. Well done to everyone who competed in events. It was a fun day with lots of activities and cheering to be done. The day was made all that more successful because of the wonderful way the students took part in the day. A huge thank you to the Bede Polding students, many of whom were ex Chisholm students who helped out in the pool as life savers. Hope you all enjoyed the day.

Results

Champion House - Green House
Team Spirit Award - Gold House

Blue - Holly Parsons, Cameron Bailey
Green - Paris Newport, Blake Hollis
Gold - Chloe Wilkinson, Shaun McKeon
Red - Emma Weller, Harrison Carstairs

Age champions

Junior boy - Joey Delle Coste
Junior girl - Olivia Dimech
10 years boy - Mikhael Andonian
10 years girl - Emma Merryful
Senior boy - David Windsor
Senior girl - Taleisha Lloyd

Western Sydney Wanders - school clinic

Last Thursday Year 4 participated in a school clinic with Western Sydney Wanders development officers. During the clinics they worked on game play, goal shooting, defence and various kicking drills. Thank you to Mrs Justine Lowe for organising the visit to Chisholm. The children thoroughly enjoyed it.

Parent Helpers

It’s that time of year when we thank the amazing parents of Chisholm for their time and support with sporting events. Without your expertise many children would miss out on the opportunity to take part in competitions. Thank you especially to the team coaches who gave up countless hours coaching teams in preparation for the gala days. We have had a very successful year in some new sports to Chisholm. To the parents leaving this year don’t underestimate the contribution you have given to sport over the years. You will be missed.

Parramatta Diocesan Softball Team

Congratulations to Spencer Williams 4W who was selected in the Diocesan Softball team to play in the Mackillop trials early next year.

Good luck!!

Karen Baxter and Belinda Barnes - Sports Coordinators
Gold and Platinum certificates for Primary students will be issued at this Friday’s assembly. We are having some technical glitches with the Reading Challenge website and have been unable to print out the rest of the certificates. We hope to have them printed and distributed as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

**Library Books:**

Borrowing has finished for 2014. All students are required to return their library books, especially Year 6 students. Many thanks,

Mrs Lark - Teacher Librarian

**PARENT HELPER MORNING TEA ~ YOUR INVITED**

The staff of Chisholm would like to thank the large number of parent helpers who generously give their time to help in the school, in so many different ways, throughout the year.

As a way of recognising this huge contribution we would like to invite all parents who have helped in any capacity in the classrooms, canteen, CCG, learning center, as a coach, or any other area, to a thank you morning tea on Monday 15th Dec. This celebration will follow the special awards assembly and include a performance by the school choir.

We hope to see you all there so we can say thank you!

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**UNIFORM SHOP – 2015 EXTRA HRS OPEN**

On Tuesday 27th January the uniform shop will be open from 10am till 12pm.

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**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday during the last weeks of December:


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**SCHOOL FEES - 2015**

Parents are advised that school based fees are as follows for 2015.

- **Resources**: $100 per student (unchanged)
- **Excursion**: $60 per student (unchanged)
- **Fundraising**: $60 per family (unchanged)
- **Technology**: $100 per family (increased)

Please note that the school has made no increase in school based fees for 6 years. The increase to the technology fee is to continue to improve access to technology to support the learning of children.

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**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

- **Wed 12 December**: Staff Development Day
- **Thurs 13 December**: Staff Development Day

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**2015 SCHOOL DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Wed 28 January – Thursday 2 April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 20 April – Friday 26 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 13 July – Friday 18 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 October – Friday 18 Dec</td>
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**SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY SANTA**

This is an alcohol free event.
Today we celebrated the graduation of our student leaders. Here are some words they shared with their families and peers.

Chisholm is a fantastic community and I am grateful that I was a part of it for seven years... It was a challenging but brilliant year and there are really no words to describe how happy and proud I am to represent Chisholm Catholic Primary School. (Heidi Heywood)

Leadership is all about taking risks, stepping out of your comfort zone and challenging yourself to become a better person. (Ashleigh Vickery)

This year I had the opportunity to be a Year Six student leader. When I found out, I scoffed at the idea. I’m one of the laziest and disorganised people ever to live but I was stuck with it. It turned out to be one of my best school experiences. (Riley Broadfoot)

I am appreciative that my parents sent me to a Catholic school so I can grow in my faith in God and Jesus, in a community of caring people. (Sean Russell)

Chisholm is a great school (that) teaches you skills you can use in the real world. (Ella Davey)

I am extremely honoured to be part of such a caring group of people...

I’m grateful for my seven years of great education; my seven years of meeting lifelong friends; my seven years of going on new adventures; my seven years of learning; and my seven years well spent at Chisholm Catholic Primary School. (Jade Allen)