Dear Families of Chisholm,

At this time of year our love, joy and hope culminate in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. This Christmas let us focus our minds and hearts on the love and joy He brings us and the hope we place in Him.

A Christmas Reflection

I BELIEVE that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God’s love in human flesh. I BELIEVE there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the things that teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we go about reshaping the world in our time. I BELIEVE that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices; from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season. I BELIEVE in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas – if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger for He lives today as surely as he lived then. I BELIEVE in going away from Christmas as the wise men went ‘another way’ I want to be different when the days are past – more centred, more thoughtful and more caring.

AND I BELIEVE GOD WILL HELP ME.

May the light of Christmas shine brightly and may peace fill your hearts and homes. We wish all our students and their families a very happy and Holy Christmas.

God Bless

Keiran Byrnes

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**UNIFORM SHOP**
Opening hours are
- **Mondays 8.15am-9.15am**
- **and Fridays 8.15am-9.15am**
- **and 2.30pm-3.30pm**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
**THIS WEEK…**
**Wednesday 9th December**
- Parent / Teacher interviews
- Bede Polding French Student visiting Yr 2, 1W & 1M 2pm

**Thursday 10th December**
- Parent / Teacher interviews
- Friday 11th December
  - Christmas Disco/BBQ
  - Transition day/meet the teacher 11.30am - 1pm

**SUNDAYS**
- Parish Mass 9:30am in the MPA

**FUTURE DATES…**
**Monday 14th December**
- Advent Week 3
- 8-45am Awards
- Assembly K-6
- Hamper Presentation

**Tuesday 15th December**
- School Choir Performance
- 10am K-2 & 11.30am 3-6 in the MPA

**Wednesday 16th December**
- Advent Assembly Week 4
- Nativity Play
- School Closes

**Thursday 17th December**
- SDD Implementation Plans

**Friday 18th December**
- SDD

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**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**
Monday to Friday
- 8.30am – 3.30pm

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**BEGINNING OF SCHOOL 2016**

**Term 1, Week 1**

**Wednesday 27th January**
- Teachers return, MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interviews) by appointment

**Thursday 28th January**
- MAI Interviews continue by appointment

**Friday 29th January**
- Classes resume for years 1 to 6 only
  - MAI’s by appointment – Kinder only

**Term 1, Week 2**

**Monday 1st February**
- Kindergarten commences / full day
  - Year 1-6 classes as usual

Please note: Kindergarten MAI’s times were booked at the Kindy Orientation, a reminder for this will be sent home.

MAI’s for years 1-6 are to be booked online details will be sent home in week 10. (Bookings open on December 11 from 3:00pm.)
As Advent begins and we wait in joyful expectation of the coming of Christ at Christmas, it is also a time of remembering those who have little or nothing.

Christmas is coming! We all have expectations – tinsel, presents, food, laughter.

We live in a world where our expectations are built up all the time – the computer we should have, the house we would like, the holiday we need. When we don’t get those things it hurts. We need better expectations. There are people in many parts of the world who have learned to expect nothing – not food, not shelter. Sometimes not love. They should be able to expect better. Remember Christ is coming! As we look forward to our Christmas celebrations we light our first candle on our Advent Wreath in expectation of the coming of Christ, who brings joy and justice to all people, everywhere.

Lord of all, remind us of the things that are truly important. Come to this world, come to us, come to all people and bring the joy and justice that few expect but all need. Amen.

With this newsletter is a copy of the Australian Catholic Bishops call for justice for refugees and asylum seekers. If we follow Christ, we must be a welcoming community and share bread with our neighbour whoever that neighbour might be.

Please join the school community for our final Assembly for 2015 on Wednesday 16
December 8.45am, when kindergarten will retell the story of the Birth of Jesus and we will give our contributions of food to St Vincent de Paul.

Merilyn Hancock – Religious Education Co-ordinator

AWARDS CEREMONY, DECEMBER 14th

CRITERIA – END OF YEAR AWARDS

Two categories of awards are presented to each class group at the end of each year. Each classroom teacher will nominate one student for these annual awards. Students may receive this award more than once during their time at Chisholm. Not every student will receive this award more than once during their time at Chisholm. Two categories are:

Christian Leadership
✓ Consistently displays a caring attitude towards others
✓ Reflects school expectations in attitude and action
✓ Exemplifies a safe, honest, respectful learner

Learning
✓ Demonstrates initiative in pursuit of excellence and independence
✓ Shows creative and critical thinking in response to tasks
✓ Exemplifies being a safe, honest, respectful learner

This year, our awards will be presented at our Assembly on Monday 14th December 8.45am.

2016 MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW (MAI) - ONLINE BOOKING REMINDER

This is a reminder that interview times for the 2016 MAIs will be conducted on the first two days of next year, on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January. To ensure your child is assessed on either of these Staff Development Days, please register through the online booking system at www.schoolinterviews.com.au. The online booking system will be open from 3pm Friday 11th December 2015. Please ensure you register early to secure a suitable time.

Simon Crothers

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 Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December online bookings closed on Monday 7th 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

BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2016

Parents, if you intend travelling overseas or interstate during the Christmas holidays and your child/children will be returning to school late in 2016 due to extended holidays or any other reason, could you please notify the office, in writing, that this will be happening and noting the date your child will be returning for the 2016 school year. This information impacts on the February Census and our funding.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

The Social Justice Team would like to thank Chisholm for your support of our St Vinnie Hamper Appeal.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the community for all of your support throughout the year with our fundraisers. We have raised a lot of funds and awareness for many worthy causes this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Social Justice Team

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. These funds enable quality resourcing in literacy, numeracy and technology’s across the school, and assist all children in accessing the curriculum.

TRANSITION DAY – MEET THE TEACHER

This Friday, 11th December the children will be meeting their class teachers and class members for 2016. Class lists have been finalised and are the result of many meetings, consultation and collaboration. Transition will occur between 11.30am – 1.00pm and is aimed at removing any anxiety over the holiday break regarding the start of the new school year. Thank you for your ongoing support.
ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL

On Monday the 23rd of November, years 3-6 of Chisholm Catholic Primary School visited St Patrick’s Cathedral at Parramatta to attend Mass and learn more about the Catholic faith. We learnt about the church’s history and the meaning behind the many symbols in the church. The best part was participating in Mass lead by Father John Paul Escarlan.

The church consisted of many symbols such as a giant crown of thorns that hovered above the altar, called a baldacchino and a metal bush with six candles on it to represent the burning bush of when God first spoke to Moses. We learnt that the new church was built in the shape of a boat that would have been used in Jesus’ time, by the disciples Peter and Andrew who were fishermen. Overall going to the cathedral was a great experience and helped us to enhance our knowledge of our faith.

Marcela Rizzuto & Elisha Vella

SPORT NEWS

House Captains

Congratulations to the 2015 Swimming House Captains. You all did a wonderful job of leading your houses at Fridays swimming carnival. Well done to:

- Blue House - Olivia Dimech and Mikhael Andonian
- Green House - Brady Jones and Will Exton
- Gold House - chantelle Buttigieg and Nicholas Magnisalis
- Red House - Charlotte Lane and Jaiden Caltabiano

Years 2 -5 Swimming Carnival

Well done to the students who last Friday attended our annual Years 2 - 5 Swimming Carnival. There was a great spirit on the day with all of the children willingly participating in competitive and non-competitive events. A huge thank you to the team of parents who assisted with the finish line, recording, ribbons and starting. Without your assistance at these days they would not be the success that they are in giving as many children as possible a chance to compete. Thank you to our outstanding staff that pitched in and did all that needed to be done. Thank you also to the Bede Polding students who made our students safer by being in the pool.

Congratulations to the 2015 Swimming Age Champions.

- Junior Boy - Toby Camilleri
- 10 Years Boy - Joey Delle Coste
- Senior Boy - David Windsor
- Junior Girl - Holly Merryful
- 10 Years Girl - Charlotte Brown
- Senior Girl - Ashleigh Vanderburg

House Points Results

- Champion House Trophy - Blue
- Team Spirit Trophy - Red

Zone team is to be announced early next year.

Parent Helpers Thank You

Once again thank you to all of the parents that have assisted throughout the year with sport whether it was at a carnival, gala day or coaching after school. Every bit has been appreciated by both the children and staff at Chisholm. To those that are leaving you will be missed at these days and those who will be here in 2016, I look forward to working with you again next year.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Return Competition

All Library books need to be returned. There will be a prize for students in the first class to return all of their Library books.

Please have a good look around at home for any Library Books and make sure they are returned. This is especially important for Year 6 students, so that overdue notes do not follow them to high school.

Fiona Lark
Teacher Librarian & LTST

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks & over the December school holidays:


UNIFORM SHOP 2016, OPEN EXTRA HRS

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

Parent Helpers Thank You

If you are able to help on any of these days, please contact me on 0421 907 442.

Sandra Goldsborough - Canteen Co-ordinator

Chisholm Community Group presents . . .

Chisholm Christmas DISCO

When: Friday December 11th 2015
Where: Chisholm’s MPA

Time: For the safety and enjoyment of all, the Disco will be run in 2 sessions.
4.45pm – Sausage Sizzle Served
5.15pm to 6.30pm – Infants Disco (Kindy, Years 1 & 2)
Special visit from Santa from 6.15pm
6.45pm to 8.00pm – Primary Disco (Years 3,4,5,6)

Sausage Sizzle available to all on the night.

Cost: $2.00 (includes sausage sizzle AND popper)

*No food or drink will be allowed into the disco – however water will be available in the MPA)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Children will remain in the MPA once they enter the disco. Whilst in the disco they will be supervised by teachers and parent helpers. Children will NOT be allowed to leave the MPA without a parent/guardian.

Happy Birthday
Dear Parents,

In the past few years our school has administered the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) with students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. This numeracy assessment identifies students’ mathematical knowledge and understanding and involves a teacher asking a series of questions within counting, place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. In 2016 we will continue to administer this assessment to all students attending Chisholm Catholic Primary School.

The one on one (teacher and student) Mathematics Assessment Interview takes approximately 30 minutes to administer. Administering this during learning time can be a complex situation. As a result, to complete as many interviews as possible, all staff will conduct the MAI’s on the first two days of the 2016 school year (Staff Development Days). We are seeking parents help by bringing their child(ren) to school on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January, 2016 for approximately 30 – 40 minutes. These assessments will take place with their child’s 2016 classroom teacher in their 2016 classroom. Tea and coffee will be available in the MPA during this time as it would be expected that parents would remain at school whilst the test is being administered. Please note Kinder interviews will continue by appointment on Friday 29th January.

To ensure your child is assessed on either of these Staff Development Days, an online booking system will be used to register and allocate a time for students. From the 11th December we are requesting that parents log into www.schoolinterviews.com.au and register your child(ren) online. A note will be coming home shortly with procedures on how to register your child(ren). This process is identical to the process used when registering a time for parent/teacher interviews. To ensure you register a time that is most suitable it is important parents log in quickly on or after 11th December.

Please note, all students will be assessed during Term 1. This information will be analysed and utilised by class teachers in the teaching and learning of Mathematics. The aim of conducting interviews on the first two days of the school year is to minimise interruptions to your child’s learning at the start of Term 1.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your anticipated support of this exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,

2016 Dates in Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th January</td>
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</table>
| Friday 29th January | MAI interviews by appointment Kindergarten only, and,  
|                    | Years 1 – 6 commence regular classes.         |
| Monday 1st February | Kindergarten commence regular classes.        |

Please note: If your child is starting Kindergarten in 2016, and you have already requested a time on the kindergarten orientation day, your child has already been registered.

We are safe, honest, respectful learners!