I would like to warmly welcome you and your families back for the 2013 school year. I would like to also offer a very special welcome to all of our new students and families. It has been wonderful to see the students return to school and meet their teachers, staff and fellow students. The excited buzz from the students under the hayshed each morning is quite infectious! I hope that you, as parents and carers, are also excited about the new school year and that this year is very rewarding, happy and successful for your children as they strive to reach their goals.

Welcomes and Staff News
There are three new teachers joining our staff for 2013.
• Welcome to Miss Jasmin Clark who is teaching Year One. Miss Clark joins our staff after teaching at St Edmund's College last year.
• Welcome to Miss Kate Warren who is teaching Year Four. Miss Warren is an Australian Catholic University graduate who is very excited about joining our community.
• Welcome to Mrs Alana Quirk who joins our school executive as a coordinator and the Year Two team as a teacher. Mrs Quirk joins us from Narrandera Public school, Narrandera.

Other staff changes:
• Congratulations to Mrs Carmen Myles who is the Acting Assistant Principal for 2013. Mrs Myles will be working two days per week in the classrooms of early career teachers and school executive members.
• Congratulations to Mrs Theresa Terry who is the Religious Education Coordinator for 2013. Mrs Terry will also be sharing a class with Mrs Belinda Breen.
• Congratulations to Miss Jo Lawler who has taken on a coordinator role on the school executive for 2013.

Staff News:
• Congratulations to Miss Laura Newcombe (now Mrs Adams) and her husband Sam who were married in mid-January. We wish you well for a life of happiness together.
• Congratulations to Miss Jasmin Clark on her engagement to David. All the best as you plan for your wedding and your life together.

Online Newsletter
Thank you for the way you have embraced the change to the online newsletter. The response has been overwhelmingly supportive and in favour of this new change. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the front office to make other arrangements.

New Library Open
In week 3 our students will begin classes in the new refurbished library. The new modern library, is very open and light, providing a contemporary and collaborative learning environment for students and staff. I invite you to visit this new space next week at our ‘Meet-the-Staff’ Night.

Changes to the Child Protection Forms
In previous years, in order to ensure the safety of our students all parents, grandparents, carers etc who wished to volunteer at school to work with children had to sign a child protection form prior to working at the school. This is no longer the case. All volunteers will now need to register with the ACT Government a “Working with Vulnerable People” form. Tomorrow we will be sending home with your child a detailed note explaining this new process to you. Please look out for it.

2013 ‘Meet-the-Staff’ Evening
There has been a change of date to this important school event. Our 2013 ‘Meet-the-Staff’ evening is on next Tuesday 12 February 5:30pm - 7pm (Week2).
All teachers and staff will be available to talk briefly with you if you wish and all school classrooms and areas of the school will be open to visit. After the success of last year, we have continued with the same format, with the purpose being to meet staff and gain relevant information from a variety of locations.
Dear Parents and Carers,

A school BBQ will be available under the hayshed from 6:30pm. This is a family orientated occasion and allows for parents and siblings to visit classrooms and other areas anytime between 5:30pm and 7:00pm. I will ask everyone to come to the hayshed for dinner/refreshments and classrooms will be closed. This still allows time for everyone to informally meet under the hayshed.

School Uniforms and Appearance Policy

Thank you for the wonderful way in which you have prepared your children for their return to school. In particular how great they look in their school uniforms. Our uniform policy, as the name highlights, is to ensure the students dress and present uniformly. Each child is unique and treasured for this, but individual students must not use their uniform or appearance to make them stand out.

You may not be aware that the school policy also includes appearance.

In 2011 our school aligned our policies in this area with Catholic feeder secondary schools as 98% of families enrol their children in a Catholic school for Year 7. This means a clearer focus for our students and families on haircuts, jewellery etc. It is often the student appearance section of the policy that causes most confusion, so an excerpt from the policy is included below:

- Student's hair should be clean and neat; fashionable extremes are not permitted. Examples of hair styles not permitted include rat’s tails, dreadlocks, and geometric shapes cut into hair and Mohawks. Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back. The Principal or Assistant Principal will contact you if other hair styles are of concern.
- Accessories are to match school colours (maroon, royal/navy blue and white). Only natural, all-over hair colour or subtle highlights can be used to dye or highlight hair.
- No jewellery may be worn other than small, plain (silver or gold, no colour) ear studs, a watch and medical alert identification. In some cases the wearing of small, plain sleepers may be permitted if there is a health reason. Only one stud or sleeper per ear (i.e. earlobe)
- Nail polish and make-up in any form are not part of the school uniform.

Thank you for your support in this regard and the full policy is available from the school website.

All School Visitors Must Sign In

I remind you that to ensure the safety of all students at the school, all visitors, at all times in school hours, must sign in and out of at the front office and wear a fluro sticker during the visit (the current exceptions being before school, after school and Friday assembly).

During school hours you should not be in the main areas of the school without signing in and taking a sticker. If visitors are not wearing a sticker they will be asked by members of staff for their identity and purpose for being on the school grounds. If applicable, they will be asked to return to the front office to follow the procedure mentioned above or leave if unidentified or suspicious.

We Are A Nut Free School

As you may be aware, some of our students are highly allergic to nut products. Many of them may suffer life-threatening reactions when in contact with these products. Please remember this when preparing recess and lunch, including peanut butter, Nutella, nut cakes etc.

School Fees

A reminder that School Fee statements will be sent home in week 1 of each term. A letter outlining the School Fee Collection policy will accompany all Term 1 school fees and payment is requested by 4:00pm on Friday of week 5 unless alternate arrangements are in place i.e. Direct Debit, regular BPAY payments or a Fee Remission.

Any families that have outstanding accounts should arrange payment of these fees immediately. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card, BPAY, EFTPOS or Direct Debit. Should any families be experiencing difficulty in paying the school fees please contact the office as soon as possible to discuss.

I look forward to the opportunity to outline many of our 2013 events and priorities over the coming weeks in our newsletters.

Again, a warm welcome back for the new school year.

May the gift of grace be with you and your family.

Rachel Smith
Principal
Pro Multis (Parish Magazine) – a reminder that articles are needed by Friday 8th Feb please. Please note that any photographs of people accompanying your article must have their permission from them for it to be published on the internet.

Lenten Retreat with the Catholic Guy
presenting a week’s Lenten Mission on 20, 21, 22 & 25, 26 February in HFC
The idea of going on retreat may seem a dream that we will be able to achieve one day when we are not so busy. This Lent we will all have the opportunity to experience becoming closer to God through the ministry of Bruce Downes and his team. This promises to be an exciting opportunity to renew our faith. For more information about his ministry you can look up his website: www.thecatholicguy.com. While the event is free to attend a collection will be taken up at each of the sessions to help provide for the ministry of the retreat team. Only 4 weeks to go.

DATES WORTH NOTING:
1) World Day of the Sick, Monday 11 February.
2) Parish School of Religion commences Tuesday 12 February at 6:30pm HFC
3) Ash Wednesday 13 February Masses: 7am SHC; 9:30am SFA hall; 12noon HFC; 6:30pm HFC.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times, 13 February at Corpus Christi Parish:
7am Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
9:30am St Francis of Assisi School Hall, Calwell
12noon and 6:30pm Holy Family Church, Gowrie

SACRAMENT INFORMATION for 2013:
If your child is eligible for
Reconciliation (usually Year 2),
First Eucharist (Communion) (usually Year 3) or
Confirmation (Year 6) in 2013

Sacramental enrolment will take place at 6pm at HFC on:
Monday 4/3,
Tuesday 5/3 &
Wednesday 6/3 only.

For more information:
For information regarding the above please email: sacrament@ccparish.org.au
Library Notices

**THANKS**
A big thank you to everyone that has helped set up the library this week.

**BOOK CLUB** is going home this week. Please return all orders by Friday 15th February. Thanks to all our wonderful Book Club mums who have volunteered for this year.

Health & Sport

**SCA CARNIVAL DATES**

All 3 carnivals are in Term 1.

- **Swimming** - Friday 1st March - week 4
- **Athletics** - Thursday 28th March - week 8
- **Cross Country** - Thursday 3rd May - week 10

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL YR 3-6**

Notes went home on Tuesday for the annual swimming carnival at Queanbeyan Pool. It would be appreciated if the permission form, the event nomination form and the money could be returned ASAP to assist with the organisation. If you are able to assist the carnival for a few hours as a timekeeper or another job, please indicate this as well. Carnivals do not work without the wonderful assistance of the St Clare of Assisi Community.

General Notices

Last year a letter went home regarding the sibling discount that applies to the CEO tuition Fee for the eldest child attending an ACT systemic primary school.

This form needs to be returned to the school by Thursday 7th February, in order to be billed correctly. If you have misplaced the form please go to the school website www.sca.act.edu.au

Banking News

School Banking is Back for 2013 !!!

School banking will start again this Friday the 8th February. Just give your bank books to the teacher on Friday morning to pop into the blue bag and start to reap the rewards! For every deposit you make you will get one Dollarmite token, once you have 10 tokens you can redeem them for a reward!

**Rewards for 2013 include:**

Knuckles game, Money boxes, Torch, Wallet, Handball, Calculator and Headphones

More information regarding how to redeem the rewards and to open an account (if you don’t already have one) will be coming out in the next few days so keep an eye out for it!!

If you have any questions at all regarding school banking please contact the school banking coordinator - Robyn Baker on 0402 449 291.
By striving to ‘Be the Light’, the community of Saint Clare of Assisi believes that Jesus Christ challenges us to excellence, in a united and caring environment.

### Canteen Roster

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To order your child’s lunch online, please visit the flexischools website by clicking here.

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**SIMPSON DANCE ACADEMY**

Simpson Dance Academy holds classes at the Tuggeranong Community Centre every Saturday.

For more information click here: [http://www.simpsondanceacademy.com/](http://www.simpsondanceacademy.com/)

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**FAMILY OPEN DAY**

**TENNIS CLINIC**

**FREE TRIAL TENNIS LESSONS**

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Book a place at our Open Day by Emailing: csot@hotmail.com.au or call: Head Coach: Robert Jamieson: 0432 118 204 or 6241 3705