Dear Parents and Carers,

With many staff pregnant and taking maternity leave this year, I thought it was an opportune time to briefly discuss a teachers leave entitlements.

Like any industry or workplace, teachers are entitled to long service leave, maternity leave, leave without pay, sick leave, bereavement leave, carers leave, parental leave, etc - just like anyone else. These entitlements are bound by industrial agreements and state and federal laws.

Given the nature of working with children, teachers are very much aware of limiting the impact leave has on their students. However, this is obviously not always possible, they are permitted to take leave and they have their own families and personal situations to consider as well.

So, what message am I trying to convey? Basically teachers take leave and we all have to deal with it. I have to look for suitable replacements, which is not easy during the year, parents have to accept it and students have to manage the changes. There isn’t much we can do about it.

When a teacher takes extended leave or short term leave, I believe students will develop greater resilience, learn new skills and gain valuable new experiences.

How a child deals with changes in teachers largely depends on the attitude of the parent. Whether you are satisfied or not, you need to be positive and encouraging. If your child sees that you are upbeat, then they will be confident and optimistic about the changes.

If a teacher takes leave for less than a week, parents will not be personally notified. However, if the leave extends for longer than a week I will always inform parents in writing with as much advance notice as possible. I am currently conducting the recruitment process this week for the 3 teachers we need to replace for Term 2 and will advise the particular classes before the end of the term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

ENGLISH INITIATIVES

This year we are embarking on a whole school writing program which encourages free writing and writing purely for enjoyment. The program is taken and modified from the work of Professor Kaye Lowe from Canberra University who is working with us and supporting the staff. The program aims to motivate students to express their idea freely, write for self identified and authentic purposes and to create a community of writers. The students will then regularly select a piece of their own writing for publishing. The students will proofread and edit (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc) this work for publication.

Just a reminder that when you are leaving the school carpark between 8.45 - 9.15am and 2.45 -3.15pm you MUST turn left. When you sit there and wait for a break to turn right, you add to the congestion of the traffic. We have had many phonecalls so please do the right thing.

We have also had numerous complaints about illegally parked cars on Box Hill Avenue and parents with children walking on the road. Our childrens safety is paramount and we ask that you set a good example.
The published writing is the only work that teachers will correct and conference on with the student. So please do not be alarmed if you see their writing book with pages unmarked. Teachers are still monitoring students’ writing and focusing on the importance of spelling, grammar and punctuation, but in a new way.

Please see further in the Newsletter for how parents can support this initiative.

DEALING WITH AN ISSUE

Last week I outlined the etiquette to remember when communicating via email with a teacher. I again encourage you to keep in regular contact with your child’s teacher/s throughout the year and inform them promptly of any concerns or positive moments in your child’s year. Teachers are your main contact for learning, pastoral care, student management, great achievements etc. The class teachers appreciate being informed of all issues well before you consult a specialist teacher or a member of the Leadership Team.

However, if you have met with your child’s class teacher and would like further information or additional support, please follow the protocols and contact the following staff:
1. Contact your child’s class teacher/s.
2. Consult with your child’s year level coordinator or staff with a specialist role or responsibility:
   - Kinder: Brad Gaynor
   - Year 1: Val Ciuffetelli
   - Year 2: Jo Thomson
   - Year 3: Damien Webb
   - Year 4: Alana Quirk
   - Year 5: Carmen Myles
   - Year 6: Annie McArthur
3. Consult with the Assistant Principal or Principal.

Some things to consider:
- Please do not approach a teacher at morning assembly or straight after school for a formal chat. Teachers are often on duty, have meetings or appointments scheduled;
- Teachers may take a few days to respond to your email;
- Teachers are always happy to meet with parents. However, appointments will usually be before school or straight after school. Like any specialist appointment, parents may need to rearrange their work schedule to make the appointment;
- 3 Way Conferences are scheduled for later this term. Parents also have the option of an interview at the end of Term 2 and Term 4 following written reports.

FETE 2016

It is hard to believe that we are starting to organise this year’s Fete already! We are calling for many parents, new and existing, to be involved with the organising committee. Please see Val Ciuffetelli or Karen Snowball in the Front Office if you are interested.
WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE
ANY PARENT who volunteers to assist in classrooms, with sporting teams, working in the canteen, uniform shop, walkathon, fete, etc MUST HAVE A WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE CARD on them at all times. As with your driver’s licence renewal, your photo will be taken at Canberra Connect Office Tuggeranong, and a card sent to you within two weeks. There is no fee for this. Many parents will find that their card is about to expire. Please ensure you renew your card on-line and when your new card arrives please bring it in to the school so it can be photocopied and a copy left at the school. Thank you.

PARENT NETWORK
We are seeking support for our Parent Network. If you are interested in being involved, existing and new parents are welcome to nominate to be the Parent Network Contact for their class/year level. It is good to share the role every year, so many parents get the opportunity to participate in this valuable role in our community. The Parent Network works with the Front Office staff to assist with communication, pastoral care and hospitality for our families. If you are interested please contact Taryn Vassallo or Karen Snowball in the Front Office.

CARE MEALS
We have a number of families in our community who would benefit from a care meal and our freezer is empty. It would be much appreciated if you could provide a clearly labelled care meal with ingredients in a disposable container for our freezer. Thank you in anticipation!

SCHOOL FEES
School Fees have been sent home or emailed, if you have not received your fees please contact Jo McCarthy on 6294 1860.

School fees are due by the 15th March 2016
If you require a fee remission please also contact Jo McCarthy for the necessary paperwork.

Have a good week.

Brad Gaynor
Principal
brad.gaynor@cg.catholic.edu.au

MORNING ASSEMBLY
We love parents to join us at morning assembly each day, however, we do ask that you stand over near the library side of the hayshed and not on the Kinder side, as it impedes student access to class and causes too much congestion.
We have introduced a new writing program right across the school, and an important part of the process is that the children regularly publish a selection of their written work. This can be quite time consuming, especially in the upper grades. The teachers would be very grateful if we could set up a typing pool to assist them.

We are asking for any parents, carers, grandparents or friends that would be willing to assist with the typing of stories. At this stage we would be looking at Wednesdays and Thursdays, during the morning session. We could accommodate other days and times if necessary.

There is no time limit as any help you could offer would be very much appreciated. If you are interested, could you please fill in the slip below and return it to Mrs McGrath, c/- the front office, as soon as possible.

Thank you
Mary-Anne McGrath

Attention: Mrs McGrath

TYPING POOL VOLUNTEER:

I am interested in being part of the typing pool.

I am available on............................................................(suitable day)

From.................................................................(times)

Name.................................................................

Phone.................................................................

Eldest child......................................................... Class.............
Religious Education

Be the Light of... Faith
Catholic, Identity, Prayer and Tradition

Confirmation

There will be an enrolment evening for Parents of our Year 6 students who will be celebrating their confirmation this year to be held in Week 4, this term.

Where: Holy Family Church, Gowrie
Date: Thursday 25th February
Time: 6pm

If you wish for your child to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in 2016 you must attend this session. If you are unable to attend please call Lisa-marie Ciuffetelli, the Sacramental Coordinator at the Parish Office on: 6291 6688

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion with the theme “Learning more, creating change”, by demonstrating how education, training and sharing knowledge is empowering individuals and communities in six countries around the world to transform their futures and create lasting change.

Our Year 6 Faith Leaders will be spending time this week, visiting each class and sharing the message and importance of Project Compassion. In the coming weeks we will begin our fundraising initiatives at school to help this worthy cause.

Class mass 9:30am this Friday 19th February:
5 Blue and 1 Blue
Two EASY tips for achieving goals
from Bernard Roth, author of ‘The Achievement Habit’

As we know, language shapes the way you approach your goals. This is why the way you speak not only affects how others perceive you; it also has the potential to shape your behavior. Swapping one word for another could make all the difference in how you approach your goals.

1. **Swap “but” for “and.”**

   You might be tempted to say, “I want to go to the movies, but I have work to do.”
   Instead, Roth suggests saying, “I want to go to the movies, and I have work to do.”

   He writes: “When you use the word but, you create a conflict (and sometimes a reason) for yourself that does not really exist.” In other words, it’s possible to go to the movies as well as do your work - you just need to find a solution. Meanwhile, when you use the word and, “your brain gets to consider how it can deal with both parts of the sentence,” Roth writes. Maybe you’ll see a shorter movie; maybe you’ll delegate some of your work.

2. **Swap “have to” for “want to.”**

   Roth recommends a simple exercise: The next few times you say “I have to” in your mind, change have to want.
   “This exercise is very effective in getting people to realize that what they do in their lives - even the things they find unpleasant - are in fact what they have chosen,” he says.

   For example, one of Roth’s students felt he had to take the math courses required for his graduate program, even though he hated them. At some point after completing the exercise, he realized that he really did want to take the classes because the benefit of completing the requirement outweighed the discomfort of sitting through classes he didn’t enjoy.

   Both of these tweaks are based on a key component of a problem-solving strategy called “design thinking.” When you employ this strategy, you try to challenge your automatic thinking and see things as they really are. When you experiment with different language, you may realize that a problem isn’t as unsolvable as it seems, and that you have more control over your life than you previously believed.

   Have fun practicing these tips and see what you notice.
   Jacqueline Hogan
   Student and Family Counsellor

---

Community Council had their 1st meeting last night and we welcomed new representatives:
- Melinda Nicol (Parent) and Leanne Lowe (Teacher).

We realigned roles to the CC structure with the following assignments:
- OHSC - Simon Hill
- Canteen Committee - Anne Lahey
- Special Projects – Ryan Breen
- Parent Network Committee – Melinda Nicol
- Treasurer – Yvette Alcock
- Fete – Ben Davis / Val Ciuffetelli
- Sport Committee – Kate Warren/Leanne Lowe
- Chair Person – Pat Barrenger

We will continue to have open meetings throughout this year and welcome any parent to attend our meeting and if interested join the council as a parent representative.

Pat Barrenger
School Notices

SCA WALKING CLUB

We will walk Friday 19th February. We will meet at Coffee Guru at 9.15am then walk around Gordon Pond & on our way back stop at Coffee Guru. You are most welcome to meet up with us at Gordon Park or we will be back at Coffee Guru at 10am. We look forward to seeing some new faces!!

The Parent Network
For further information please contact:
Lisa Brussow: 0431 078 555 or
Taryn Vassallo: 0419 942 024

White Card Recipients
Week 3 Term 1

Congratulations to the following students:

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dyson Alchin
Tyson Banchit
Annica Barber
Kiana Chick
Alisha Crowle
Hayden Crocker
Mahi Gaur
Evalina Lee
Ronan Milne
Zoe Paull
Zara Pearce
Nate Pfitzner
Tristan Santiago
Jaslin Sujeevan
Phoebe Vassallo
Cady Woodfield

White cards are given out at Friday Morning Assembly at 8.50am

SCA Athletic Carnival

Friday 8th April 2016
(Last Day Term 1)

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Wednesday 30th March
Full Summer Uniform
More information to follow

Reminder:
Netball registrations are due by the 26th of February

Parent Program
Supporting your child following separation and divorce

Tuesday 10th May & Tuesday 17th May
For more information contact:
Karen Snowball
6249 1860
karen.snowball@cg.catholic.edu.au

Year 2 Children

Any children in Year 2, turning 8 years old this year, who are squad swimmers and would like to attend the Swimming Carnival to compete - can access the Swimming note on the website (if they haven’t already received one) and return it to school asap.

Save the Date

Seasons For Growth

Parent Program
Supporting your child following separation and divorce

Tuesday 10th May & Tuesday 17th May
For more information contact:
Karen Snowball
6249 1860
karen.snowball@cg.catholic.edu.au
**Community Notices**

**Friday 19 February**

- **HELP NEEDED**

**Monday 22 February**

- E. Mowlam
- A. Bryant

**Tuesday 23 February**

- S. O'Connor
- K. Filipovic
- C. Davis
- N. Muir
- J. Price
- M. Haynes

**Wednesday 24 February**

- HELP NEEDED

---

**Footy’s Back!!!**

- **Thursday 26 February**
  - GWS Giants vs Western Bulldogs
  - NAB Challenge
  - Star Track Oval
  - Fan Zone at Telopea Park

Contact: Luke Martin – luke.martin@aflnswact.com.au

---

**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thursday 18 February</th>
<th>Friday 19 February</th>
<th>Monday 22 February</th>
<th>Tuesday 23 February</th>
<th>Wednesday 24 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>E. Mowlam</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>S. O'Connor</td>
<td>N. Muir</td>
<td>J. Price M. Haynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Bryant</td>
<td></td>
<td>K. Filipovic C. Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>N. Muir</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Jayz Dance Company**

**FIRST CLASS IS FREE!!!**

Dance Styles: Jazz/Hip-Hop, Tap

**Classes Held at Lanyon High School**

**Tuesday Afternoons**

- Junior Jazz/ Hip-Hop 4pm – 4.45pm
- Tap 4.45pm – 5.15pm
- Intermediate Jazz 5.15pm – 6pm

**Ages from 5 - 15yrs**

Contact: Jackie Hepburn 0403 175 349
jayzdance@gmail.com
www.jayzdance.com

**Hockey Come & Try**

**Registration Days**

- Saturday 19th March
  - TTM National Hockey Centre
- Saturday 19th March
  - Blundell Park, Queanbeyan
- Sunday 20th March
  - Tuggeranong Hockey Park

**9:00AM – 12:00PM**

New & current players welcome | Registration available on the day | Local clubs involved | 6-17 year olds welcome | Come & go at anytime!