Dear Parents and Carers,

The following information is provided to assist you in understanding some of the key facts about Catholic schools in Australia and the key issues facing Catholic education in the lead up to the Federal election.

**Key facts about Catholic schools in Australia**
- More than 765,000 students attend 1,731 Catholic schools across Australia.
- With 91,000 staff in those schools, Catholic education is a significant Australian employer.
- Catholic schools receive government funding, which covers 65 per cent of the cost of schooling in the ACT. Fees and private income cover the rest.
- Catholic schools are welcoming and inclusive communities, with the number of students with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doubling over the past decade.
- Almost one-third of students in Catholic schools are non-Catholic.

**Key issues for Catholic schools**
1. Respect for religious freedom in Catholic schools. Catholic schools, respecting the rights and freedoms of parents and carers to choose schooling for their children in the Catholic tradition, should continue to be free to form and instruct students in the Catholic faith and celebrate the faith as an integral and inseparable activity of the Catholic school.
2. Government funding that keeps pace with school costs. Government policy to increase school funding at the rate of CPI from 2018 could see funding increases fail to keep pace with school costs. That could lead to even larger fee increases, affect school quality or lead to school closures.
3. Government funding that is needs-based. School funding should reflect students’ learning needs, with greater educational need attracting additional funding. Catholic schools’ commitment to meeting the learning needs of all students requires appropriate government funding.
4. Government funding to support the construction of new Catholic schools. More than 70 new Catholic schools are planned in the next five years to meet growing demand for school places. Without additional capital funding, these schools may not be built. Government funding is also needed to maintain and upgrade existing Catholic schools.
5. Respect for the autonomy of Catholic schools. The ability of Catholic schools and systems to meet the local needs of a school community is one of their strengths. Government funding arrangements should respect the identity, integrity and autonomy of Catholic school and education systems.

Source: My School funding data 2014. Note: Catholic sector includes both systemic and non-systemic Catholic schools. * Includes deductions for capital improvements.
WALKATHON
Well done to everyone for a great day last Friday! The weather held off and everyone had a great afternoon. Thank you to everyone for walking with students and helping with check points, first aid, encouragement, food and refreshments etc. The day was a success due to the wonderful assistance we received from so many parents and grandparents. Special thanks to Tracy Mowlam who coordinated the event. We ask that all money and cards please be sent into school by Friday.

LEAVING SCA
Don’t forget to let us know if you are planning to leave St Clare of Assisi at the end of the year. (Year 6 exempt of course!) We will soon commence the process of planning enrolments and class numbers for next year.

SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL
Please spend some time discussing with your children safety around the school. It is important that our students know how to walk or ride home correctly. It is important they understand road rules, know about stranger danger and the reasons for wearing helmets.

Related to this is the need for parents to drive and park extremely carefully in school car parks and on Heidelberg and Box Hill Avenues. This involves parking appropriately, following road signs, using drive thru correctly, being very patient and understanding and walking children to cars safely.

STAFF NEWS
• Congratulations to Lucy, Will and Teddy Sheppard on the birth last Thursday of Rupert Michael Morrisey Sheppard weighing 4.16kg and 51.5cm.

Have a good week,

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

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST CLARE OF ASSISI IN 2017 (Not Year 6)
• My child/children have an Enrolment Application pending at another school
• My child/children will not be returning to SCA in 2017

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Class: _________________________
Destination School: __________________________________________________________
Forwarding Address: __________________________________________________________
Parent’s Signature: ___________________________________________________________
Beginning early Term 3, we will be implementing a 9 session program called ‘Seasons for Growth’. Staff who are formally trained as ‘Companions’, spend time with a small group of students who are dealing with some aspect of change, separation, loss or grief. The sessions do not provide counselling or therapy. Instead, they:

- aim to support young people to understand and manage the grief that is experienced because of change, the loss of a parent or significant other through death, separation or divorce.
- assist in normalising the emotions associated with the loss
- encourage the expression of thoughts and emotions
- educate about the grief process
- develop a peer support network
- help restore self confidence and self esteem
- draw on extensive research in developing a sound educative response to loss and grief.

‘Seasons for Growth’ provides opportunities for students in Years 1 to 6 to integrate the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to understand and cope with change, loss and grief, using the symbolism of the four Seasons. It helps children to:

- accept the reality of loss
- work through the pain of grief
- adjust to an environment in which a significant person is no longer present
- emotionally relocate and move on with life.

However, they do suggest that the young person completes the program six to twelve months after the loss, as they are in better position to cope with the program.

As recommended by the Good Grief Organisation, each child should only complete the program once in each of the three stages. This effectively means that students can only participate in the program every second year at school.

This program is strictly confidential and implemented with discretion and sensitivity. Please feel free to talk to me if you have any concerns or issues you would like to further discuss regarding this nomination. If you think that this program is something that your child or children would benefit from, please write their names below and the reason for nomination and send it back to school in a sealed envelope, addressed to Mrs Myles. Please return nomination form by this FRIDAY

After nominations are made and numbers are ascertained, a permission slip and further information will be sent home via your child.

Mrs Carmen Myles
Religious Education Coordinator

Seasons for Growth Nomination Form 2016

I/We _____________________________ would like to nominate our child/ren for the Seasons for Growth program for 2016.

Child/ren’s names:
1. _____________________________ Class: ______________
   Reason for nomination:
   __________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________ Class: ______________
   Reason for nomination:
   __________________________________________________________________________

Parents/Carers signature: ______________________________________________________

Please return nomination form by this FRIDAY
‘My Body, My Life’ – Year 5 & 6 Puberty & Personal Development Program

Parent-Child Information Evening

A team from the Archbishop’s Office of Evangelisation are coming to school during Weeks 9 and 10 this term, to present an information session for parents/guardians and their child/ren on puberty and personal development to both Year 5 and 6 students. There will be separate nights for both Year 5 and Year 6. These sessions have been developed specifically for pre-teen, early adolescents and cover aspects of the physical, emotional and social developments that take place during puberty. They will be delivered by trained professionals. The program is consistent with a Catholic understanding of the dignity of every human person and the dignity of the gift of sexuality.

The evening session includes opportunities for the child and their parent/guardian to work together through some fun, non-threatening activities whilst also being introduced to the same information and vocabulary regarding puberty for further discussion at home. The session will be conducted in single sex groups.

Following the parent/child information evening, presenters will deliver a program to students in class time. The daytime session (during school hours), will place more emphasis on being unique, appreciating others’ uniqueness and dealing with peer pressure. This session will also be conducted in single sex groups.

Parent/Child Information Evenings:

YEAR 5 – Monday 20th June, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
YEAR 6 – Monday 27th June, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Each child needs to be accompanied by a parent – It would be great if a parent/guardian of the same gender as the child could attend (given they have gone through the same changes their child is about to experience), however, either parent or both parents are warmly welcome to attend.

If you are intending to attend this informative and valuable information evening, please complete the slip below.

My Body, My Life Puberty & Personal Development - Parent/Child Information Evening

My child .................................................. in class ................................ and I/we, will be attending the puberty and personal development information evening. We will be at the evening designed specifically for my child’s year level and so will be attending:

☐ YEAR 5 – Monday 20th June, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
☐ YEAR 6 – Monday 27th June, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Parent Name/s: .................................................. Signed: ..................................................
Congratulations to the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Alves, Xander Beale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Blenkin, Brianna Brown, Jordan Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regan Carr, Nicholas Clothier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaida Crowle, Koby Dubbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Hearn, Ella Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hugh Kennedy, Olivia Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luka Milenkovic, Lucas Miners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Moore, Oscar Moore, Ryan Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Morgan, Nathaniel Mowlam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tristan Mowlam, Chelsea Pert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Pook, Sienna Prpic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Pulsford, Brodie Reilly</td>
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White Cards are given out to the children on Friday morning at the 8.50am assembly.

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Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thursday 9th June</th>
<th>Friday 10th June</th>
<th>Monday 13th June</th>
<th>Tuesday 14th June</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Ellie Mowlam</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>PUBLIC Holiday</td>
<td>Nicki Muir</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>Odette Chan</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Nicki Muir</td>
<td>Odette Chan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SCA Walking Club
Walking club this Friday 10th June!!
Put on your beanies and your gloves!!
We will meet outside Coffee Guru at 9am, walk around Gordon Pond and pack for a coffee!!
We look forward to seeing some new faces.

The Parent Network

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Karen’s Craft Central
Do you have any:
tulle,
scrap material,
ribbon,
old photo frames.....
anything crafty would be very much appreciated.

Contact stall coordinator
Karen Snowball 6294 1860 or
karen.snowball@cg.catholic.edu.au
School Notices

JUST A REMINDER ...

- Notes and money for Catholic Schools Netball Carnival are due,
- **Book Club Closes TODAY Wednesday 8th June,**
- Walkathon money and pledge cards are due.

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SCHOOL BANKING

Our Star Banker of the week is

Stella Giannis of 6 Blue

Congratulations Stella!
A great prize is coming your way.
Don’t forget once you have 10 tokens you can redeem a reward!
Available right now are
- Mud Splat Handball
- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Outback Pat Bag Tag

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CONGRATULATIONS

Charlotte Hayes 5Blue is heading off to compete as an ACT representative in the 2016 National Judo Championships in Geelong, VIC this weekend.

Good Luck Charlotte!

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Community Notices

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 3833
MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACT BUDGET IGNORES MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki, will seek an urgent meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr to express her extreme dissatisfaction and that of the Catholic Education Commission with the lack of investment in Catholic Schools in the ACT Budget.

The Government’s Budget briefing yesterday included no new initiatives for Catholic Schools in the ACT. The Budget delivered $21.5 million in funding for public schools to respond to recommendations of the ‘Schools for All’ report whilst not providing a single dollar to enable Catholic Schools to meet the same outcomes for their students. Catholic Schools and the parents of students in our schools are committed to achieving the recommendations of the Shaddock Review; the budget expresses disdain for the needs of students in Catholic Schools and their parents.

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said ‘Governments have a core responsibility to meet the needs of all students in the Territory, especially those with particular and complex needs regardless of the choices of their parents about the type of education that meet their family requirements. Since over 25 per cent of all students in the ACT attend Catholic schools, Government spending should reflect this distribution of students. In this Budget the Government is showing that education funding for ACT Catholic schools is a low priority.’

Mr Paul Compton, Chair of Catholic School Parents for the Archdiocese said, ‘Parents who have a child with a disability or complex need should not be disadvantaged because they choose a Catholic education for their child. These families must be supported.’

The latest ACARA Financial data on the MYSCHOOL website shows that for each dollar of Territory funding going to a student in an ACT government school a student in a Catholic school receives less than 17 cents. This is the lowest amount provided by any State or Territory Government in the country. The ACT Government is demonstrating a continuing lack of respect of for the choices of ACT families, ACT teachers and the requirements of over 17000 ACT students most particularly those with complex needs.

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

8 June 2016