Dear Parents

‘Respect’

Each year there are words that gain entry to dictionaries for the first time. These words have been in circulation already, have become part of daily usage and so have earned the right to take their position amongst other officially recognised words. Some of the more unusual candidates for listing recently were:

**Muffin top:** Roll of fat that overflows from tight jeans.

**Schmiddy:** Beer glass with a capacity less than a pint but more than a half pint.

**Queuecumbered:** To be trapped in a queue which slowed down the instant you joined it.

At the other end of the dictionary, are words that have fallen into disuse but need to be listed still, so that we can refer to their meaning if we come upon them by accident. It has been suggested that one such word might be “respect”; a once commonly held word whose practice could be seen and experienced in the daily lives of ordinary people. However, an increase in disrespect has grown to almost crisis point in our society and is evidenced in the increased violence and anti-social behaviours that are reported daily through the various forms of the media.

Individually, we can’t change society but we can make a big difference in our little corner of Mary Immaculate. It’s up to us to make sure that we’re doing our part to be respectful adults and to teach our children to be respectful emerging adolescents. As adults we can quickly lose credibility, if we are disrespectful to our children or to others while teaching them to be polite. The following piece of writing is a young person’s response to the invitation to put into writing their feelings about respect – there is a moral to this piece of writing:

“Everyone expects respect
No matter who they are.
The only way to gain it is to treat everyone
As a friend, as an equal person,
As part of our extended family
No matter their colour or creed.
Only then, will you start to get
The respect you so dearly need.” David Harris.

And the moral: Respect has to be earned not demanded.
What incredible Wisdom!

It’s for sure that children learn their standards of respect from what they see around them and parents and staff are in an extraordinary position to teach by their own example as well as by instruction. Because our children take their cues from us, we need to be sure that we are setting the best possible standards. Schools teach children about respect but parents have the most influence on how respectful children become. Thanks for this partnership at Mary Immaculate.

Respect is not the same as obedience. Children might obey because they are afraid but, if they respect their parents, they will obey because they know that parents want what is best for them. Respect is an attitude and being respectful helps children succeed in life. If children don’t have respect for parents, peers, authority or themselves, it’s almost impossible for them to succeed. The best way to teach respect is to show respect. When children experience respect, they know what it feels like and begin to understand how important it is. Saying please and thank you is an example. Never taking the happiness away from anyone else is another!

If we reinforce our children’s positive and respectful behaviour, and eliminate disrespect by immediately calling attention to it so as to discourage it, we are helping to develop the moral intelligence of our children. This will improve their ability to be able to apply critical analysis to television, films and music whose content is increasing in the portrayal of disrespectful behaviour. It is true that we can’t change society, but it’s also true that we can be a powerful influence in our little corner of it.

Mary Immaculate is a great place and we can make it greater!

God, our Father, we ask that the love You have for us, be evident in the love we have for our children. Amen.

Kindest regards
Ian Jordan
Acting Principal
RE NEWS

When thinking on what to write about as we enter the season of Lent, I could not go past an email forwarded on to me by a dear friend. If Lent is about becoming what we are meant to be, and reflecting on our failings and shortcomings, I don’t think I can do better than to share this story with you. It highlights so beautifully the importance of how we deal with each other day to day as we see the face of Jesus in every person. It tells of a relationship between a phone operator and a little boy who took “Information please” literally. She had given a kind and patient ear to his problems over time, from a hurt finger to the death of a pet. This then culminated with their reconnecting after many years. She, a childless woman had gained as much from this relationship as had the little boy on the end of the line needing help with his homework. Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today?

Maria Boyd
REC

STAFF NEWS

I have been informed that two of Mary Immaculate teaching staff are having (more) babies!!! Congratulations to Sarah Hutton (1G) whose third baby is due mid August and Jo Wolffe (1G) whose fifth baby is due late June!!! Please be assured of a smooth transition and strong commitment to the teaching and learning of all pupils in 1G during these occasions. Thanks.

UNIFORM POLICY AT MIPS

Parents are asked to please ensure that the uniform and grooming policy agreed to on enrolment is observed. In particular, boys hair is to be cut above the collar, girls are to wear only sleepers or studs and sports shoes must be ‘mostly white’. Your cooperation is appreciated. (Note: Meetings have been held with PSW re the girls summer uniform fabric...two ‘thicker’ fabrics (same style and colour) have been produced and will be available soon.) Swatches can be viewed on the notice boards in the Canteen area. Thanks.

PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

From time to time photos of children may be taken by staff for school presentations and media promotions. Parents are asked to put in writing to Leader of Learning Joanne Jones (media and promotions co-ordinator) if you do not want your child’s photo published. Thanks.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION MIPS

The idea has been floated to form a P&F Association to try to get more parents involved in our wonderful school. The 4 aims: educational forum/social/fundraising/maintenance is usually the basis for such an association. Please put your thoughts in writing to Ian Jordan. Thanks. A meeting is to be held asap with the (existing) Social Committee to sort out dates this term and beyond. A Trivia Night/Family fun DAY and a Bush dance are a few of the suggestions!!! More soon.

PROBLEMS WITH PARENTS WAITING IN THE MPA

Staff have requested that parents are to wait for children in the designated ‘pick up’ areas when the final bell goes at 3.20pm: Kinders (pavers)/ Year 1 (pavers)/Year 2/3 (outside new healing garden/friendship corner)/Years 4,5,6 downstairs concrete undercover area. Please do not wait in the MPA and or outside the inside classrooms. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

These are being conducted over the next few weeks. Thanks for being available for this most important communication process: working together with your child’s teacher to ensure a smooth start to the year. Please try to have your child in the conversation with you and the teacher. If it is about them then they need to know what is going on!! (Please note that other children/siblings etc are not permitted to play unsupervised around or near classrooms or on the playground during this time. Thanks.) Only the front entrance of Barnier Rd will be available after 4pm.

SCHOOL FEES

Please find attached to this newsletter a schedule of fees clarifying what parents are expected to pay in 2010. Last week, for the first time, the Catholic Education Office sent fees out to all parents for every catholic school in the Diocese. You would have received these by now. Any families experiencing financial difficulties are asked to contact the newly appointed financial secretary/office manager Michelle Allen who can be reached on 9626 3999. Please be assured of the utmost confidentiality in these matters. Thanks.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS FOR CHILDREN

Children that need to take medications, are anaphylactic, asthmatic etc., must be registered on Medical Action Plans that are to be ‘signed off’ by parents who wish for this management for their children. These must be updated each year and parents are asked to please contact the office asap to review arrangements as required. Thanks.

MORE SOON

When thinking on what to write about as we enter the season of Lent, I could not go past an email forwarded on to me by a dear friend. If Lent is about becoming what we are meant to be, and reflecting on our failings and shortcomings, I don’t think I can do better than to share this story with you. It highlights so beautifully the importance of how we deal with each other day to day as we see the face of Jesus in every person. It tells of a relationship between a phone operator and a little boy who took “Information please” literally. She had given a kind and patient ear to his problems over time, from a hurt finger to the death of a pet. This then culminated with their reconnecting after many years. She, a childless woman had gained as much from this relationship as had the little boy on the end of the line needing help with his homework. Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today?
ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday begins the season of Lent. A forty day period of Prayer and reflection where we evaluate our lives and the values we live by. This is a day of abstinence from meat for Catholics who are fourteen years and older. It is also a day of fast for those 18-60. This suggests one main meal and two small meals. This Wednesday the children for Yr3-6 will be attending the Parish Mass at 9.15am. Infants will be having a Liturgy of the Word Celebration and reception of Ashes in the MPA at 10.30am. Parents and Family are most welcome to attend either or both of these ceremonies to pray with your children.

Reminder: there is a Sacramental Program Information Night this Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the church. Enrolment forms are available for Confirmation/Eucharist this weekend.

PARISH BASED SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For those children who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, registration forms will be available from Saturday 20th February after the 6pm Mass and onwards at all Masses and also the Parish Office ONLY.

(Please note children need to have made their First Reconciliation to participate in this program.) These forms must be returned to the Parish Office or in the Parish Locked Box by Friday 12th March. The first Parent Evening for the families involved in the program will take place on Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Church. Please refer to the information sheet accompanying the Registration form for any queries or contact the Parish Office on 9626 3326. The Parish Sacramental Team.

NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

A new gate and stairs have been installed for pedestrian access to the church and school. It assures safe passage for children and adults entering the precinct by avoiding the vehicular access to the car park.

We would encourage people entering the church or school to use this access if they are not travelling by car and using the car park. It has been a miracle that no child (or adult for that matter) has been hit by a car so far. A reminder to people driving in our car park, they must obey the speed limit and correctly observe the parking signage, particularly in front of the Church.

Thank you
Fr. Ian

STAR SPOT

Congratulations to Cassandra Wheeler Yr6 who has made it to the next stage in the MacKillop Trials for Tennis.
Good luck in Wollongong

GET WELL CHEERIO

To Isaac Papadatos who was in hospital recently. Fantastic that you are feeling better.
(PS: Any MIPS student who has an overnight stay in hospital will receive a MIPS Get Well Bear!!
(Please inform the school office. Thanks.)
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthdays between 4/2/10 and 17/2/10


Canteen Roster

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<tr>
<th>Wed 17/2/10</th>
<th>Thurs 18/2/10</th>
<th>Fri 19/2/10</th>
<th>Mon 22/2/10</th>
<th>Tues 23/2/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>S.Quigley</td>
<td>P.Holtsbaum</td>
<td>K.Weymark</td>
<td>M.Gonzales</td>
<td>C.Johnson</td>
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<td>L.Corapi</td>
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<th>Mon 1/3/10</th>
<th>Tues 2/3/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>C.Baker</td>
<td>C.Russell</td>
<td>R.Bouopoulos</td>
<td>L.Corapi</td>
<td>L.Catford</td>
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<td>S.Cooper</td>
<td>C.Middleton</td>
<td>T.Shaw</td>
<td>R.Berry</td>
<td>H.Milne</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Phone: 9626 3999
Fax: 9626 3913
E-mail: mimmac@parra.catholic.edu.au

Second Hand Uniform

The second hand uniform shop is in desperate need of coat hangers and plastic bags. If you have any spare of either to donate please send them into the office. Thank you.

There are plenty of summer uniforms for sale so if you need extra now is the time to buy!

Get in before the rush for all winter uniforms!

Shop open between 8.30am and 9.30am Tuesday mornings.

Why did the worker get fired from the banana factory?

He kept throwing out all the bent ones.

Nicholas Howarth 4M

Joke of the Week

OPS M-EYE LOVE BOOKS PROMOTION

OPSM, a major sponsor of the Premiers Reading Challenge is running the Eye Love Books promotion from 1st February to 1st April 2010 to encourage parents to take their child for an eye test. OPSM will donate $5 worth of books to our school for each student from Mary Immaculate who has their eyes tested.

NB: The donation is not dependent on purchasing glasses. For more information go to

OLMC Parramatta Open Days

OLMC Parramatta will hold three Open Days in 2010 as well as a number of OLMC Campus Tours throughout the year:

Year 7 information Evening February 22

Phone: 02 8838 1200 for details.

Mary Immaculate Primary School

125 Barnier Drive
Quakers Hill NSW 2763
MARY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Fees 2010

Annual Diocesan School Fees for K-6  2010

These are:  1st child  $1,110  2nd child  $831  3rd child  $555

Accounts are sent out as 3 installments in Terms 1, 2 & 3 and are:

Per Term  1st child  $370  2nd child  $277  3rd child  $185

Diocesan School Building Levy 2010

This is $525 per family (paid over Terms 1, 2 & 3 ) $175 per term

The above two amounts are remitted to the Catholic Education Office and not kept by the school. These amounts may increase in 2011 as set by the Catholic Education Office.

• Resource Fee 2010: (Non Refundable)

This is $110.00 per pupil per year and covers the cost of all craft materials, mathematics equipment, folders, exercise books, copying and stationery each child needs over the year. (Children may be expected to supply tissues, pencils, rubbers, rulers from time to time etc.) This fee is charged in term 1 of each year and is retained in the Resource Account. No profit is made by the school.

• Excursion/Incursion Fee 2010: (Non Refundable)

This is $60.00 per pupil per year and covers the cost of bus and pool entry for the annual swimming carnival (years 3-6), athletics carnival (K-6) Life Education (K-2), The Alpha Show (Theatrical), incursions (visits of educational programs to Mary Immaculate) and class excursions throughout the year. No profit is made by the school and this arrangement prevents endless collections from parents, children, staff etc. and is a valuable saving of administration time. This fee is charged in Term 1 each year and is retained in the Excursion Account.

Please note: The cost of any School Camp, Canberra visit and representative sports events are not covered by this fee.

• Technology Fee 2010  (Non Refundable)

This is $60.00 per pupil per year and covers the purchase of new computers, printers and software that is made available to all students at Mary Immaculate. This fee is charged in term 1 each year and is retained in the Technology account.