Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week we celebrate Ash Wednesday. This marks the commencement of Lent during which we prepare for the wonderful time of Easter. On Wednesday, the children and staff will attend a Mass or Liturgy where they will receive ashes in the form of a cross on their forehead. Traditionally ashes were a sign of a sign of remorse, repentance, and mourning but today it signifies a period of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection.

During Lent in particular, we direct the children’s attention to the life Jesus led and to the story of the events leading up to His death and resurrection. We also highlight the central theme of the lessons of love that Jesus taught throughout his life.

In preparation for Easter, we encourage the children to focus on what they can do to be more like Jesus in the way that they treat others in their lives. We also encourage a more active prayer life during which they develop their relationship with God.

Let us pray for our community as we prepare for the resurrection of our Lord at Easter.

Yours in education,

Paul Devlin
Principal
**RE NEWS**

**Ash Wednesday**

All parents and families are invited to join us this Wednesday 22nd February at one of the following Ash Wednesday services.

**Yrs 4-6 - 9.15am Mass in the Church**

**Yrs K-3 - 10.30am Liturgy in the MPA**

On Wednesday we commence our journey towards Easter. The children will be reflecting on the theme ‘Opening our hearts for the season of Lent’ with a focus on ways we can PRAY, FAST and GIVE this Lenten season.

This week each family will receive a Caritas Project Compassion box to be placed somewhere in your home. Throughout Lent, we are called to embrace a spirit of giving among our families and foster an awareness of the needs of the world’s poor and disadvantaged. Your family’s donations are much appreciated and can be returned to the office throughout Lent up until the last week of school this term.

This year marks the launch of ‘Faith In Our Future’, a consultation process Bishop Anthony Fisher has initiated for pastoral planning in the Diocese of Parramatta. Pastoral planning provides us with an opportunity to work towards a shared vision, common priorities and an action plan that will guide our Diocese into the future.

Today an information and prayer card has been sent home for you to read, reflect and pray about. Bishop Anthony Fisher has invited the parents and teachers within our schools to contribute our views and suggestions by visiting [www.faithinourfuture.org.au](http://www.faithinourfuture.org.au) or by attending one of the consultation sessions taking place in local parishes.

**P & F NEWS**

**P&F TWILIGHT WORKING BEE**

What a great success!

Last Friday’s ‘Twilight Working Bee’ despite the wet weather, was a wonderful success due to the energetic efforts and time of the following families:

- **Phillips** (Jacqueline 5M & Joshua 5P),
- **Calafate** (Kai 2G), **Forster** (Michaela 4G), **Howarth** (Nicholas 6P), **Garbutt** (Nicholas 2G & Luke 6M),
- **Dau** (Abuk 1P), **Henson** (Kathryn 2M & Sarah 5P),
- **Dickerson** (Sarah 2M), **Varlet** (Clark 1M & Heidi 2M),
- **Vella** (Stephanie 5M), **Allen** (Kristian 1P & Paige 3P), **Walsh** (Ava 1M), **Nazha** (Ziad 2M)

Under the coordination and organization of George James (General Assistant) and Nicholas Varlet (P&F Working Bee Coordinator) the following projects were completed:

- Weeding large bank near top carpark / drive
- Trimming trees around covered walkways & Picnic Hill
- Weeding of gardens
- Whipper snipping around carpark, behind demountables and Picnic Hill
- Blowing paths and paved areas
- Removal of trees in Grotto
- Weed spraying perimeter fence and paths
- High pressure water cleaning of front entry area
- Collecting rubbish from around the school
- Painting a Library display shelf
- Fitting light bulbs to high area lights

Also, a special ‘Thank you’ to the following families who were unable to attend the ‘Twilight Working Bee’ but made a donation to assist with purchasing of materials and equipment used at the Working Bees.

- **Tromp** (Max 4G & Aimie 4P),
- **Macaraeg** (Caleb 1M & Isaac 6G),
- **Kim** (Jean 4G & Jiwon 1M), **Northeay** (Jackson 1M),
- **Young** (Joseph KP), **Almelor** (Tamia-Rose KP),
- **Zavone** (Josh 6M), **Khali** (Jessica 4G),
- **Miller** (Taylor 3M), **Granata** (Natasha KG),
- **Prakash** (Lennox KP), **Romero** (Erica 6M)

This is a large school and the support and assistance of families in completing projects like these is invaluable.

**The second ‘Working Bee’ for 2012 will be held on Saturday morning 10 March from 8:00 – 12:00pm.**

Already a number of families have committed to attend. It is not too late to join in. The more helpers the greater impact we have on keeping our school grounds in wonderful condition for all to enjoy.

It is in partnership that we can achieve great things together!

**Matthew Troy**

Assistant Principal
SCHOOL NEWS

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop is well stocked with all items and is open every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30am till 10:00. If you are unable to attend during these times, order forms are available from the school office or downloadable from the school website.

The Learning letterbox
The Learning Letterbox is a place where the children can post letters to Mr Devlin telling him some of the wonderful things that they have learnt recently. The children can write about things that they have learnt either at home or at school. They can also write about things that they would like to learn about. The Learning Letterbox was started last year to help the children focus on the mindset of learning. Research indicates that when we are more conscious to the learning process that we are involved in, the more likely we are to learn new knowledge and skills. Please encourage your children to use the Learning Letterbox through the year. Mr Devlin looks forward to reading all the letters.

Student Banking
Student banking is available to all students at Mary Immaculate on Friday’s. If you do not have a Commonwealth Student Banking account, you can open one at any branch or collect a form from the office. Student banking is a wonderful way to teach children the importance of saving and we encourage you to get involved!

Student Medication
Just a reminder that all medication forms must be updated every year. If your child has an existing medication form, please ensure that an up to date form/plan is provided for 2012. This includes administration of regular medication, Asthma plans and allergy plans. If your child is required to be administered medication at school a letter from the prescribing Doctor must accompany medication in its original packaging with the child’s name on the Pharmacy label.

Contact Information
From time to time children become ill at school and we are unable to contact parents or carers as their contact numbers have changed and we have not been notified. This is a distressing situation for both the child and our staff. Please ensure that any changes in contact information are supplied to the office in writing.

CANTEEN NEWS
If you like to help in the canteen please contact the school office!
Reminder:
The canteen is open for over the counter snack and drink sales Monday and Tuesday.
(No lunches are available) Lunch orders are available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Week 4
Wednesday  22/2  Cass Johnson & HELP NEEDED
Thursday  23/2  Lisa Sartori & Kellie Varlet
Friday  24/2  Sharon Hooper & Shiroma Peiris

Week 5
Wednesday  29/2  HELP NEEDED
Thursday  1/3  Eli Willcoxson & Rosie Jeroncic
Friday  2/3  HELP NEEDED
February 18/2/12 - 3/4/12

Community News

TIGERS NETBALL CLUB
WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2012 SEASON.
NETTAS – U/8 AND U/9
JUNIOR – U/10 TO U/15
SENIOR PLAYERS
FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT TIGERS CLUB SECRETARY 0402 237 450

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Quakers Hill Police are looking for interested community minded people to join the Quakers Hill Neighbourhood Watch Eyewatch Group. (Facebook Group) This invites people living or working in the suburb of Quakers Hill to join. This group will involve up to date information in relation to crime related issues in Quakers Hill, persons wanted for offences, community topics of interest and crime prevention post.

Local police will engage the community to participate in decision making about policing their community. Members of this closed group will be able to facilitate this group along with the local police.

Once the group takes off and there are many members, a NHW meeting will be able to be held and members from the comfort of their lounge room chair will be able to attend the on line meeting a couple of times a year.

Police are now seeking people that are interested in joining and will also be calling for some administrators for the site. It will not take up much of your time. If interested please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at Quakers Hill Police on 9678 8999 or follow us on Face Book Quakers Hill LAC - NSW Police Force. 