Dear Parents and Caregivers,

During the past weeks, the gospels have focussed on the time in Jesus’ life when he preached to many people. During this time, Jesus taught his people “The Beatitudes”. The beatitudes is based on love, humility, service and peace and is a lesson for all people either living two thousand years ago or today.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 5:3-10

Our school motto is ‘Love and Service’. It helps to remind us of our need to look out to the needs of others as we live by Jesus’ example. Let us pray that we have the strength to live by The Beatitudes within all the dimensions of our lives.

Yours in education,

Paul Devlin
Principal
**RE NEWS**

**Ash Wednesday**

All parents and families are invited to join us next Wednesday 9th March as we celebrate the beginning of the season of Lent and commence our journey towards Easter.

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

**Yrs K-2 - 10.30am Liturgy in the MPA**

**World Day of Prayer Service**

Friday 4th March ~ 10.30am ~
Mary Immaculate Church
All welcome

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

* It is carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
* It brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Through World Day of Prayer, women around the world
* affirm their faith in Jesus Christ
* share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs

The focus for 2011 is on the woman of the nation of CHILE.

Five of our students will be involved in the prayer service representing the woman from this part of the world.

Veronica Mullane, Maxine Perez, Siobhan Martinez, Georgina Davies, Alana Porter

These girls have a family background that is either Chilean or from other South American nations such as Brazil and Uruguay.

For more information about World Day of Prayer 2011 visit the website: www.worlddayofprayer.net

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Early student arrivals at school**

While there has been a decrease in the number of children arriving before the gate opening time of 8.25am there still is a number of children who are being dropped off too early for school. Notice was given to all families late last year as to the change in practice and there have been constant reminders this year through the newsletter. This is a duty of care issue as there is no supervision of these children prior to 8.25am. The school is seeking the co-operation of parents in this matter. We are also negotiating with the COSHC to provide reduced rates for the care of children who arrive at around 8.00am so that they can join the COSHC and be appropriately supervised. Once the details of this arrangement is known it will be advertised to all parents.

**Car park**

Please continue to use the car park at school in a courteous and legal manner. The car park is there for all parish and school use and needs to be used following all guidelines. There are a number of spaces for drivers with disabilities and some spaces for emergency use particularly outside the parish / school entrances. Please do not use these spaces unless your car has a valid RTA permit displayed correctly. Also leave the Emergency space for any Emergency vehicles only. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

**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

**SOCIAL SKILLS**

**GOOD LISTENING**

Look at the person
Sit still
Think about what is being said
Say ‘Yes’ or nod your head
Ask a question to find out more

Parent Links: When giving instructions, have your child look at you and give only one or two short instructions at a time. If they forget, ask “Is there something else to do? What’s next?”

You may ask your child to recount an experience, while you model good listening to their story. Play some listening games, sing songs together, read stories to them, get them to relay messages from one family member to another or retell what they watched on TV that night.
School Fee Statements
The Catholic Education Office has sent out School Fee Statements to all families with payment due 11th March 2011. Prior to the School Fee due date, any family that is experiencing financial difficulty and therefore not able to make payment is asked to contact the school in writing, so that assistance or payment arrangements can be discussed. Office Administrator Mrs Michelle Brien can be contacted by email mbrien@parra.catholic.edu.au or by addressing a letter to the School office.

Learning Letterbox
Kathryn 1M
Last week I learnt to spell “went”.
Isabella KP
I have learnt how to trace and to do my best work.
Sophia 1G
Helping is very kind because it is helping one another.
Liam 3G
We learnt heaps about Mini-beasts. We learnt about how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.
Amy 5G
I learnt that in winter at Antarctica it is minus 89 degrees.
Erica 5M
I learnt that there isn’t just one way of doing homework. You can do it in many different ways!
Vicki 6P
I have learnt that there are over 3000 animals in the Amazon Rainforest and over 5 Tribes there too.

ICAS Student Tests
A note has come home today to students in Years 3-6 regarding the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools program.
These are optional external assessments that students can participate in and are offered in the subject areas of:

Computer Skills, English, Mathematics
Science, Spelling, Writing
Please refer to the note for the dates and costs of each of these tests.

MINI VINNIES
Stephanie Paterson
Jeremiah Mondragon
Raphael Venturozo
Jacob Manityakul
Samantha Poullos
Hannah Contemplacion
Rachel Foong
Jessica Martin
Liam Pola

RE
Ashlyne Ocampo
Joannah Lumbre
Courtney Turner-Seymour
Clare Roberts
Tamara Dover
Alfredo Pribadi
Caitlin De Cruz
Selena Coleiro

MEDIA
Hans Magnaye
Lachlan Kellam
Sally Richards
Hannah Grech
Rizelle Pan
Annika Orantez
Liam Cassar
Paramveer Bassi

Let’s Celebrate
Nash Belkovskis
On Saturday 19 February - drummer Nash Belkovskis competed in a Battle of the Bands - and won overall BEST ROCK IMAGE - for performance, skill, attitude, look and passion.
This was one of only three individual awards presented on the night. So congratulations Nash!

If your child/ren will be participating in any of these assessments please return note and money by 4th April (wk 11).

Zone Swimming Results
Congratulations to all competitors who competed at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt Pools last Friday. There were so many comments from not only MIPS parents but observers from other schools who commented on how supportive the MIPS students were towards the competing swimmers. WELL DONE TO YOU ALL.

We have 13 students continuing to the next stage, the Diocesan Swimming Carnival this coming Friday.
They are:- Johanna Cusack, Samantha Poullos, Caitlin De Cruz, Brianna Weymark, Philo Farid, Mitchell Sharp, Alessandro Genova, Ryan Attard, Miguel Villa, Liam Waters, Fady Farid, Luke Zelasko and Jayden Weymark.
Good luck to you all for Friday.

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following Year 6 children who have been selected on the Mini Vinnies, RE and Media student teams for 2011. These children will assume a variety of roles at MIPS throughout the year including liturgy, prayer, social justice, media and IT.
NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Parents and Friends Working Bee

The first working bee for the year will be held next Saturday from 8 – 12pm at the school. All eager hands are welcome to join the team and help in various areas around the school. To date there has been a limited number of response forms returned to the school. If you are intending to come along and help please complete the tear off slip from the reminder letter going home today and send it to school. Even if you can simply stay for one hour, it would be greatly appreciated – many hands make light work!!

Parents and Friends Bingo night

Many thanks to all the members of the Parents and Friends who contributed to the very successful Bingo night last Friday. It was well prepared and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The P and F will provide a report in due time. Thanks also to the staff who generously gave up their time to be present and assist with the evening – it is greatly appreciated.

Hello Parents & Friends of MIPS,

This Wednesday from 7:30pm in the school staff room, the first P & F Meeting for 2011 will be held. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents from the community and to find out more about what is happening in and around our school. The night is also a forum to ask any questions you may have about the school, and to hear from Mr Devlin about his plans for 2011.

We would like to invite all parents to the evening who are interested in finding out more about being involved in the community. As well on the night, we will be asking for assistance in the roles of PRC Representative and Maintenance co-ordinator for 2011, two very important roles within the community, and equally rewarding. If you are able to assist in undertaking either of these appointments for 2011, your service and assistance is very much appreciated.

This weekend will also see the first working bee of 2011. Many hands make light work, so if you can spare any time at all, come along Saturday morning. Morning tea will be provided.

Take care and God Bless

Ryan Hutton
President
P & F Association - Mary Immaculate

Uniform

Many thanks to all our parents who continue to send their children to school in the correct uniform everyday. We have a lovely uniform that needs to be worn by all children at all times. If for some reason your child is unable to wear their uniform please send a note to your child’s class teacher until the matter can be resolved. Please note the following areas which we constantly need to remind the children about.

♦ School hats (bucket style or legionnaire style complete with School Emblem) are worn at all times when not in the classroom
♦ School shoes are to be black leather not black sport shoes
♦ Sport shoes need to be mostly white running shoes, not basketball style shoes
♦ Sport socks need to be visibly above the shoe
♦ Girl’s aprons are currently optional (as per decision last year)

The second hand uniform shop had moved to the demountable classroom next to Mrs Kelly’s kindergarten classroom. The shop is open every Tuesday from 8.35 am – 9.30 am.

Parents please note that if your child is still wearing the PLAIN LEGIONAIRE STYLE it should be returned to the school office and exchanged for the new bucket style.

Parish Based Sacramental Program - CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Registration Forms are now available online at www.maryimmac.org.au, after every Mass and the Parish Office ONLY, for those children who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. (Please note children need to have made their First Reconciliation to participate in this program.) These forms must be returned via email or to the Parish Office or in the Parish Locked Box by Friday 18 March. The first Parent Evening for the families involved in the program will take place on Wednesday 30 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.

INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARISH SCHOOLS ENROLMENT 2012

There will be a meeting for parents wishing to enrol their children in our parish schools, Mary Immaculate Primary School, Quakers Hill, St Joseph’s Primary School, Schofields and Tom Santus College on Thursday 10 March at 7pm here at Mary Immaculate Church. Information will be shared about the enrolment process by Fr Ian. School principals will also speak about their particular schools.

All parents concerned are asked to attend.