Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Lent, a preparation time for Easter**

During last week we celebrated Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent. Lent is a time within our church when we prepare for Easter by thinking and caring for others while also deepening our relationship with God through prayer. During Ash Wednesday the children either attended or participated in a Mass or a liturgy depending on their age. During these celebrations the children were led to an understanding of their need to prepare for Easter by caring for others in the way modelled by Jesus. They were also encouraged to spend time in prayer as a way of “talking to” and “hearing” God.

During school time the teachers will continue to develop the children’s understanding of Lent and Easter by leading discussion at an age appropriate level. This will ensure that the children have the opportunity to express their own understanding of Lent and Easter as they grow in awareness and appreciation of God’s love for us.

At home too, parents are encouraged to talk to their children about Lent and Easter to help ensure that they are able to express opinions and ask questions during this time. As we draw towards the end of the term, we as a school, will celebrate the events of Holy Week in a sensitive manner to allow the children time to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. Upon returning to school next term we will celebrate the wonderful time of Easter. This celebration will continue throughout Eastertide. The school celebrations will be all advertised to the parent community and all parents and friends of our school are warmly invited to attend and participate.

Let us continue to work together to make this season of Lent and Easter one of hope and renewal.

Yours in education,

Paul Devlin
Principal
**ENROLING NOW FOR 2012**

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**RE NEWS**

**Project Compassion 2011**
*Partner with us to make a difference*

Our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active. (*1 John 3:18*)

As a school community, let’s take up the challenge to make our giving real and active this Lent.

Lent offers us the opportunity to share what we have with those who have less through the act of almsgiving. Last week all families received a Project Compassion box. The aim is not necessarily to fill it up like a money tin but to consider what your family has in life and try giving in relation to this while thinking about the conditions of other people and families around the world.

Some ideas from the Caritas Lifestyle Awareness Calendar are......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20c for each magazine, book or newspaper your family buys or reads this week</th>
<th>Eat a simple meal tonight. Give what you would normally spend on dinner to Caritas.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1 if you grow your own vegetables</td>
<td>$2 if you can afford medicine when you are sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2 if you buy vegetables</td>
<td>$2 if there is a doctor in your suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2 if there is a doctor in your suburb</td>
<td>20c if you watched or played sport today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50c for each year of school you have completed</td>
<td>Search your car for loose coins – place them in the Project Compassion box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Water Day - How would your life be different if the nearest tap was 5km away? 10c for each time you use clean water today</td>
<td>Earth hour: Turn off all your electrical appliances for 1 hour. Give technology a rest and get active.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20c for every IPod, TV, and mobile phone in your house</td>
<td>50c for each meal you ate today. Sit with someone different at lunch time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20c for each meal you ate today</td>
<td>Show an act of kindness for each of your family members today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2 if you went to school or work in a car or bus today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Orange Frozen Fruit for Harmony Day**

Harmony Day is on Monday 21st March. It is a day where we celebrate the diversity of the Australian people. The colour for Harmony Day is orange.

The Mini Vinnies team will be selling FROZEN ORANGE QUARTERS for 30c each or 2 for 50c next Monday 21st March.

All money raised will be donated to Caritas’ Project Compassion appeal.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10c for each text message you send today</th>
<th>50c if you have school books and pencils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1 as appreciation for your fun and safe weekend</td>
<td>10c for each car trip you went on today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s Day – make a shamrock out of coins and place the money trail into your Project Compassion box.</td>
<td>Harmony Day – celebrate diversity and learn a new language greeting today. 10c for each friend you have whose parents were born in another country.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Social Skills**

**Using Manners**

*Say PLEASE and THANK YOU*

Parent Links: Model good manners in front of your child. Reward good manners and let your child know that it is appreciated. If your child doesn’t say please and thank you, remind them, but don’t make a big issue out of it. Point out children with good manners. If you are going to a restaurant or theater where good manners are required, tell your children what you expect of them before you go. Explain to them that they get privileges and special outings because they know how to behave.

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**Learning Letterbox**

**Student Letters to our Principal**

I learnt that Antarctica is a world heritage place.

Erica, 5M

I learnt that our bodies are made up of about 3/4 of water.

Haylee, 2M

I’ve been learning about how incredible mini beasts are and how much we need them in our world.

Payton, 3G
LEARNING SPACES

Agile Learning Spaces, why do we have them?

Agile Learning Spaces have been introduced within the Diocese of Parramatta to promote student learning and enhance teacher practice. Research shows that good teachers make a difference to student’s learning. When teachers work together sharing their expertise on teaching and learning, reviewing data and the responsibility of students they are continuously improving their instruction. Children who have access to this improved practice and instruction have a greater chance of learning the desired outcome.

Agile Learning Spaces are classrooms where everyone is learning together.

OVER DUE School Fee Accounts

The due date for all School Fee Accounts to be paid by was last Friday the 11th March 2011. If you have overlooked your account please ensure that payment is made this week as the Catholic Education Office is scheduled to follow up on the unpaid accounts this Friday the 18th March.

Thank you to all the families that have made contact with the school regarding their account, these families will receive a written response to their request.

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.

Student Mobile Phones

Many students in the older grades bring mobile phones to school to enable them to be in contact with parents whilst they are travelling to and from school. Once these students arrive at school they need to deposit their mobile in the student foyer. These phones are kept in the school office and can be retrieved when the student is going home. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Student iPods

Many students are bringing their iPods (or similar) to school. Children and parents are reminded while the school will do everything possible to help the children protect their property, that these are bought to school at the children’s own risk.

Enrolment Evening

Last Thursday evening, the three parish schools held an enrolment evening. This was an opportunity to share information to prospective families about our school. We have had a strong level of interest for Kindergarten which is pleasing and are now accepting enrolment applications. This evening starts the official enrolment period. If you wish to enrol your child in Kindergarten for next year please call by the office and collect an enrolment pack. Likewise, if you know of any family in the area who is looking for quality Catholic education please ask them to contact the school office for either a school tour and / or enrolment pack.
Hello Parents & Friends of MIPS,

Today you will be receiving a book of raffle tickets per family for the Easter Raffle. The tickets are $1 each or 3 for $2.00. We ask please to send in the sold tickets and money in a sealed envelope marked "Raffle Tickets" via the office bag on a Monday or a Friday preferably.

Thank you for your support and good luck.
Vicki Vella
P and F Coordinator

--- TODAY ---

March 2011 Mary Immaculate Parish Terra Sancta Open Day
This Monday 14th March
Schofields: 85 Hambledon Road
Eastern Road, Quakers Hill
4-8pm
Tour the sites and their facilities and learn about different education opportunities and standards. Meet the students, teachers, parents.

Discover the Difference.

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.

Reflection Morning with the Bishop
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will give a reflection on ‘The Spirituality of St Dominic’ on Saturday 26 March from 10am-1pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall, cnr Sturt & Wentworth Sts, Blackheath.
Entry by donation. Morning tea provided. No need to book. Details: Carmel (02) 4787 8706.

Positions Vacant: Office Manager (part time)
The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, is recruiting for a part-time Office Manager, 30 hours/week (Mon-Fri). This is a new position. You will need to have MYOB Accounts Payable & Receivable experience and General Ledger knowledge. You will prepare end-of-month accounts, BAS reporting and payroll. Details: John Sheehy tel (02) 8838 3417 or download the job description from the Diocese of Parramatta’s website: www.parra.catholic.org.au Closing date: Monday 18 March at 5pm.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Kiss and Drop
We are very fortunate to have the car park facilities and kiss and drop area for the school. Parents are reminded to use the car park legally and courteously while also using the kiss and drop efficiently. The kiss and drop is not intended for parents to get out of their cars to farewell their children. Please use the following guidelines when using the Kiss and Drop.

Approach the Kiss and Drop area at a “walking pace” in your car
Come to a total stop in the Kiss and Drop area
Parents remain in their car
Children exit their car by the ‘safe’ left side

Painting in Years 2 and 4
We are currently having the Year 2 and 4 classrooms repainted following the re-carpeting and pin-board installation over the Christmas holidays. This is being completed using the final monies available under the Building Education Revolution. There is also some final work being negotiated for the outside sections of the Stage 3 block to complete some outdoor learning areas. Parents will be informed as soon as theses project can be confirmed.

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SCHOOL NEWS CONT.

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Parents move out of the Kiss and Drop area at “walking pace”
Please assist the school by following these simple guidelines