Dear Parents, guardians and friends of Mary Immaculate

The Parent Forum last Wednesday was well supported by parents and focused on 21st century learning models as well as the nature of work and leisure in the next 10 years. Gary Brown from the Catholic Education Office and Stephen Martyn from the Australian Meat Board offered their thoughts and experiences. Both the presentations and the discussion that followed were well received by the parents. I thank everyone who participated in the Forum.

I will shortly be placing an order for a number of laptop computers and smartboards for the use of teachers and their students. Most importantly will be the provision of ongoing professional development for the teachers. At our next Parent Forum in Term 3, we will be showing parents how this new technology will be used to transform learning and teaching. I will be providing more information early next term.

It struck me on Friday as I was handing out Principal’s Awards to some of our students that not everyone may know the steps to being eligible for a Principal’s Award.

1. When a student receives 3 Congratulations Certificates, (for contributing to the life of the school and their studies) they receive a Bronze Award.
2. After receiving another 3 Congratulations Certificates, the student receives a Silver Award.
3. With 3 more Congratulations Certificates, a Gold Award is handed to the student.
4. Once a student receives a Bronze, Silver and Gold Award, they are eligible for a Principal’s Award.

It is my strong view that every child in the school can achieve the necessary prerequisites for a Principal’s Award. It is not one’s aptitude but their attitude that will determine their altitude. Put another way, excellence is achieved by a positive attitude to study and school life and is achievable by everyone. I have asked that the names of every child who is receiving any award at an up-coming assembly be placed in the Newsletter. Therefore parents will be able to keep track of when their child is receiving an award.

World Youth Day 08 is fast approaching. Mary Immaculate School will be hosting about 390 pilgrims each evening. Many of our staff members have generously given of their time to take on the responsibility of a site co-ordinator. The pilgrims will be with us from Monday the 14th July to the morning of Monday the 21st July. They will be sleeping in the classrooms and the Multi-purpose Hall. I have been told that we will be getting Italian citizens. If you speak Italian and are available on Monday evening, July 14 to assist with translation, please contact Angela Martyn at the School Office and leave a contact phone number. I will need to be setting out the guidelines and giving other important information that evening and I cannot speak Italian. On Saturday the 9th of July we will be providing the pilgrims with a cooked breakfast. (A breakfast pack consisting of cereal and bread will be provided on other mornings). If you are able to offer assistance with providing the cooked breakfast, please leave your name and a contact phone number at the School Office. Monday the 21st of July and Tuesday the 22nd of July are going to be pupil free days across the Parramatta Diocese. On Tuesday, teachers will be returning to school to prepare their rooms for Term 3. Therefore Term 3 will commence on the 23rd July for all students.

Currently, the Newsletter is the main form of communication between school and home. As a parent, I am aware that not all communication from the school makes it home with the children. To assist with accessing the Newsletter electronically, it is placed on our school website each week. To access the website type in the following web address and locate the link to the Newsletter. http://www.maryimmaculate.parra.catholic.edu.au/

Peter Stoyles
Principal
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who will be receiving Principal’s Awards this week in the Primary Assembly at 9.15 in M.P.A.

ASSEMBLIES
Dear Parents, to enable teachers to supervise effectively at Primary and Infant Assemblies we will be altering the seating arrangements. From this week seats will be provided for parents and friends behind the children and the seats on the sides of the MPA will be reserved for teachers only in their role of supervision. Thank you for your support in this initiative.

WORKING BEE
Our second Working Bee for the year is on Saturday, 14th June from 8-11am. Please bring along some gardening tools, whipper snippers and the like. If it rains we will still go ahead as there is plenty of internal work to do.

Canteen Roster
Wed. 11/6/08 S.Preller, HELP NEEDED
Thur. 12/6/08 C.Gilmore, A.Fulton, R.Victoria
Fri. 13/6/08 M.Vandermeel, L.Waters HELP NEEDED
Mon. 16/6/08 R.Simmons, M.Dent
Tues. 17/6/08 C.Russell, C.Middleton, A.Jachimowicz

KNIT OFF!! Calling all squares – Please send ALL finished squares into school by this Thursday the 12th June so we can sew up some love and join our efforts into blankets.

Wow! What a response – we have had so many squares coming in! and some FANTASATIC knitters have even sent in entire rugs. A Huge thankyou to the wonderful people who have been sewing squares together already as well. We will have our KNIT OFF on Friday the 13th June in the Multipurpose area at 12 midday. Representatives from the class will some together to see who can shift those needles the fastest. They will each begin with 50 stitches cast onto their needles and we will start the race at 12.10. at 1pm we will decide the Mary Immaculate Knitting Champion for 2008. 
On this day we invite anyone from our community to come along and sew together the many squares we have collected. Any donation of yarn for this task will be appreciated. Come along and share a cuppa and a laugh and lets sew some love into those rugs to keep those in our community in need of assistance warm this winter, knowing that they are not forgotten and are cared for in a very personal way. Thank you to those generous people who have already sent in their names to help. If the time does not suit you, please let me know and I will send some squares home to you.

WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL
Every Year thousands of our fellow Australians go without the necessities of life. If a Fair Go means anything, we as Christians cannot allow this to continue. We are called to live justly and love tenderly. Love in action is what we are on about at Mary Immaculate. Please send in warm clothing, and essentials, like underwear, singlets, beanies, gloves, jumpers and linen. We need baby clothes and rugs, as well as children’s clothing and adults. These will be collected in the class rooms and distributed through St Vincent de Paul and organised by our Mini Vinnies group. You have been magnificent in the past, we know you will come through again in the spirit of love.
Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthday between 4/6/08 and 10/6/08: Jordan Gois, Jonathan David, Michelle Pribadi, Curtis Mercieca, Nash Belkovskis, Francis Dent, Kirsten Ocampo, Ferdinand Esguerra, Nina Lakei, Anna Hamoy, Daniel Walsh, Ariana Garces, Alyssa Gratil, Rhiannon Santos.

The following students were left off our Birthday list for May, sorry! We hope you had a very special birthday: Chelsea Williams, Christian Todorovitch, Laura Mortimer, Gabrielle Sandel, Armaan Roopra, Miguel Villa, Sophia Grech, Liam Amato, Holly McFarlane, Joshua Stephens.

Dates to Remember

STUDENT BANKING

Student Banking encourages primary school children to save their money and watch it grow. It’s easy – children can open up a Youthsaver account and make regular deposits while they’re at school.

It’s not just the students who benefit – participating schools will also receive:

- $5 for each new Youthsaver account opened
- 5% commission for each deposit (up to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit)
- Minimum commission payment of $25 per quarter (provided at least one deposit is processed in the quarter)

Student Banking is collected Friday mornings from the class tubs, processed and sent back in the tubs in the afternoon.

If you would like more information or would like to open an account please pick up your Commonwealth Bank pack from the school office or student foyer.

LOCAL PEST CONTROL
P.A.R.T. Programme

Dear Parents,

If you are doing or have completed, in the past, the Classroom Helpers Programme and would like to take part in the final course P.A.R.T. (Parents As Reading Tutors) this will be held on Thursday 26th June, 2008. This course will run for a full day beginning at 9.15am and concluding at 3 o’clock. Lunch will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you and know the programme will be informative, enjoyable and engaging.

Please fill in the form below and return to the office c/o Mrs Dimataga.

Thank you,

Paola Dimataga & Helen Ridley.

P.A.R.T. Training Day

I, ________ wish to attend the P.A.R.T. Training Day on Thursday 26th June, 2008 from 9.15 until 3pm in the Support Room.

Signed ___________________________ Date ____________