Dear Parents, Staff and Friends,

MATHS IS FUN DAY
What a great day we had today. We celebrated maths with lots of activities solving, making, predicting and planning. Many thanks to our organising team and all our wonderful teachers for planning and conducting the huge range of activities today.

NAPLAN
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests - Michael Grose
During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making. The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests. Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations.

American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard. As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

- Take your cues from your child: If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.
- Focus on doing their best and trying hard: Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.
- Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.
Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

Help them retain their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise. A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

Have a peace filled week, Trudy

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**APRE NEWS**

**MAY – MONTH OF THE ROSARY**

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. There are several Marian feast days in May, including Our Lady of Fatima, Mary Help of Christians and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The month of May is a good time to pray the rosary. The practice dates back at least 700 years and is still observed around the world today. Prayer beads are used by Roman Catholics to help the practitioner keep track of some 180 prayers which make up the rosary. They have traditionally been associated with Catholicism, but the use of prayer beads is widespread, with many religious traditions incorporating them.

Rosary beads will be on sale in the office this month for $1.

**A STORY OF A MOTHER’S LOVE**

"When I was a child my mother was making my lunch one day when a fire erupted on the stove top. My brave mum ran into the kitchen, grabbed the flaming pot and ran outside with it. As if that wasn't heroic enough... after the flames were gone, my mum sat in a chair on our porch and told me to stay inside and not to worry. Her expression seemed a bit strange and she had her body turned away from me, but she was otherwise completely calm and collected. I later found out that she suffered third-degree burns from her elbow to her fingertips on her right arm. She used every bit of strength and willpower she had to hold back tears and screams so that I wouldn't get scared or worried." — Jamie Williams, Fort Myers.

This Sunday, I hope all families have a chance to celebrate the beautiful gift of their mums.

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**You Taught Me**

By: 365greetings.com

You taught me how to love
Love as pure and white as a dove
You taught me how to care
Simply show that I can share
You taught me to be happy
To smile and laugh but sometimes sappy
Indeed, you are the best teacher

Happy Mother's Day, my dear Mother!
AROUND THE SCHOOL

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests are designed to assess the skills of Australian students in literacy and numeracy. The tests will be conducted over three days from the 12 – 14 May and involve students from Years 3 & 5. There will be four tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning Session</th>
<th>Middle Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 May</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13 May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>No testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>No testing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNI of NSW Competitions
Nominations for students from Years 3 to 6 to take part in the University Of New South Wales Science, English or Mathematics Competitions closed last Friday 1 May. A note outing details was sent home to all students in years 3 – 6. If you had wanted your child to participate please contact the office or Mrs Blumke as soon as possible.

Congratulations
Lara Kenny has been selected in the Junior Regional Netball team and will play in the State Competition in June. Well done Georgia and Lara.

Georgia Colburn has been selected to train at the Australian Karate Federation National Training Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport. She has also been very successful in a number of recent competitions.

Georgia attended the Australian Schools and University Championship over the Easter Vacation in Sydney. She won Bronze in Kumite and 4th place in Kata on Friday 10 April. She also took part in the Australian Open-International Event held on 11 and 12 April in Sydney and obtained 4th place in Kumite and 5th place Kata. Georgia attended the SSU Oceania Championship last Sunday 1 May and received Gold in Kata and Silver in Kumite.

Well done Georgia and Lara.

Nappies needed! Any size, any brand, any number.
Do you have any unused disposable nappies taking up space in your cupboards? Perhaps your children are now using the next size up? Or perhaps your children have grown out of nappies completely and you would still like to help mothers and children in need?

The Nappy Collective is a volunteer group who collect unused nappies and distribute them to organisations around Australia who assist women and children in crisis. In May and October each year they hold a nappy drive to collect the unused nappies.

A collection box will be at the CTK office until Thursday 14th May for any donations you may have. The nappies do not have to be in the original packaging, but they do need to be clean! If you are able to label them with the size, that would be very helpful. A handful of leftover nappies may not seem like much, but every single donation will help another mum somewhere.
This is a very practical, simple and effective way that we can all make a difference to families in need, so please, clear out your cupboards, or add a pack of nappies to your supermarket trolley (newborn and crawler are the most needed sizes).

For more information visit [http://www.thenappycollective.com/](http://www.thenappycollective.com/) or see Miss Cunningham. Many thanks for your donations.

Chess Club

Chess Club had to be postponed today and will restart next Wednesday in the Library. John Fitz-Walter

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### TEACHING AND LEARNING AT CTK

**Count Down to Fun……CTK Maths Trail**

We are celebrating Maths within our school. To encourage students to be active learners in Maths we have created a ‘Maths Trail’ that will take students around the school, stretch their brain and get them solving problems. You can enlist Mum and Dad to help. Grab a ‘Maths Trail’ form from your classroom teacher and get started! When you have solved the problems drop the form in the box outside Mrs Kiernan’s classroom. A lucky winner will be drawn at assembly in coming weeks. The lucky winner and their family will enjoy the fun of a new board game.

**Maths Fest… Learning through creativity.**

Today at CTK all students participated in an exploration of maths. Students were placed into multi-aged groups; including Preps to Three and Four to Six. Activates were designed by teachers to engage students in a range of hands on, problem solving investigations. Maths activities included lateral thinking activities, symmetry, pattern making, cooking, art and Mindcraft only to name a few. The aim of the day was to raise awareness of the importance of maths and how it is a part of everyday activities.
The Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015

The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is an annual statewide initiative that aims to improve literacy and encourage children to read widely for pleasure and learning. For a student to successfully complete the challenge they must read or experience the allocated number of books for their year level during the reading period. Students who complete the challenge have their efforts recognised through the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier of Queensland. A list of suggested books is available from the PRC website, however there will be boxes of appropriately aged books in the library for students to choose from. Students are encouraged to select a range of fiction and non-fiction books suited to their reading ability. Students are also welcome to read books from previous years’ booklists and from lists for higher year levels. To successfully complete the PRC, students must read or experience the number of books indicated in the table below. The requirement for Year 5 and 6 students to read 15 books acknowledges that older students are likely to select longer, more complex books that may take them longer to read.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Number of books</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep – Year 2</td>
<td>Read or experience 20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 – 4</td>
<td>20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 – 9</td>
<td>15 books</td>
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</tbody>
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The following activities can be counted towards the challenge:

- reading independently
- shared reading
- being read to (Prep – Year 2 only)

The following literature forms can be counted towards the challenge:

- printed books
- e-books, virtual books and digital publications
- graphic novels and comic books
- audio and braille books
- newspapers, magazines and recipe books.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is not a competition, however I do like to encourage students to read and reward them for doing so. Therefore students who progressively submit a Reader’s Challenge form listing the names of all the books they have read will receive progress awards when they reach 50, 100, 150 and so on. I know the students feel a sense of pride and excitement when they receive these awards. **To Register:**

Parents please complete and submit the blue Registration form for your child/ren to Ms Smithwick. You will then receive documents outlining the procedures. Record the names of books read by/with your child on the reader form and return when complete.
I wish to register my child/ren to participate in the 2015 Premier's Reading Challenge

Name: __________________________________ Class ______
Name: __________________________________ Class ______
Name: __________________________________ Class ______
Name: __________________________________ Class ______

Please return this form to Ms Smithwick by 19 May 2015.

NB. Children can be registered at any time to participate. Challenge concludes 28 August 2015.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday wishes to Georgia Neilsen 6.5; Mrs Maclean 7.5; Lily Hall and Claire Thurtell 8.5; Fergus Alexander and Dominic Forbes 9.5; Grace Bentley 11.5; Harry Hodge 12.5.

SPORT

**District Trials**
Good luck to Ellie Manton, Teak Wynn, Lily Gundry, Oliver Stanley-Jones, Jack Coomber, Josh Rowlings and Lara Kenny who will be participating in the West Taylor Bridge District Cross Country Trials this afternoon (Weds 6 May). The 10 year old students will run 2 km and the 11 and 12 year old students will run 3 km. I am exhausted just writing about it.
Good luck to Elizabeth Nolan and Georgia Colburn who will be participating in the West Taylor Bridge district Softball trials.

CTK P&F

**MOTHER'S DAY STALL**
Friday 8th May
All Gift bags $8

Assorted variety so siblings don't double up!

We have a limited number for grandma and nanna too!!

Remember to send the money to school on FRIDAY 8th MAY... Don't let your child be the one to miss out on the shopping fun!!!

**Fete Posters**
Could all fete posters please be returned to your child’s teachers by Monday 11 May.

**P&F MEETING**
The next P&F meeting will be held on 11th May, commencing at 7.30pm in the staff room. Please feel free to come along and share any ideas you have for the P&F. If you cannot make it, and would like any items placed on the agenda, please feel free to email me at djlonergan@gmail.com

FETE - 14th June 2015:
A big thank you to Kylie Bentley for all her preparation work for the fete to date, and for everyone who has volunteered to assist. The fete is a major undertaking, and without the parent body, would not be possible. The line up for this years fete looks excellent, and I hope to see as many people as possible there.

**PARENTING TIPS**
KidsMatter is an Australian mental health and wellbeing initiative set in primary schools and in early childhood education and care services – like preschools, kindergartens and day care centres.
It’s not a program, but a framework that helps these places take care of all their mental health needs by focusing on:

- creating positive school and early childhood communities
- teaching children skills for good social and emotional development
- working together with families
- recognising and getting help for children with mental health problems.

It's a fact that a child’s family is the first and biggest influence on their mental health. Basically, families can teach children these skills as early as possible in life – even from when they’re babies!
KidsMatter provides families with a range of information sheets to help them support children’s mental health and wellbeing, and to recognise if and when professional help is needed. They contain practical information, tips, and strategies across a range of common childhood issues. Spend a few minutes having a look through the website, it is full of useful resources. We will include a link to some information sheets in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you
David Lonergan - P&F President

CTK UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is open every Friday morning from **8.15am until 9.00am** & please remember the Uniform Shop is operated by an amazing group of volunteers who give up their time freely to help the rest of us with our uniform needs.

CORINDA/GRACEVILLE CATHOLIC PARISH

**MASS TIMES**

*St Joseph’s, Corinda*
Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am

*Christ the King, Graceville*
Sunday 9:30 am and 6:00 pm

St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Cnr Oxley Rd & Martindale St, Corinda.
Christ the King Catholic Church, Churchill Street, Graceville.

STUDENT BANKING

Student Banking is each Tuesday.

COMMUNITY

**Beautiful Cards for sale**

*$5.00 for a pack of 4 with envelopes.*

Available from the CTK Office.