Dear Parents, Staff and Friends,

Some additions around the school

I hope that you may have noticed that the undercover area has a few additions. Over the last few weekends, we have had an audio-visual system installed in the undercover area. This consists of speakers, drop down screen and mobile sound desk. We have been able to purchase and install this equipment through the generous efforts of a group of parents who worked last year to ensure the funds. We thank them very much. There is still a little work to be done before we are operational but it will certainly make a great deal of difference to the sound and use of the undercover area. Can’t wait to hear our wonderful, talented CTK kids at the Talent Quest later in the year – The Voice has nothing on our CTK talent.

Our LED digital sign will also soon be working. We have had approval for the sign from the Brisbane City Council and we are now waiting for the computer software to be installed so that we can light up and inform you of things that are happening around the school.

Action Learning Cycles

Brisbane Catholic Education Office offers funding to schools to conduct action learning cycles in Literacy and Numeracy. These cycles enable school teacher teams to investigate aspects of their classroom practice with the intent of pedagogical change that contributes to the improvement of literacy and numeracy outcomes for students. This year, we developed a proposal to be part of this initiative and we have been accepted. This is exciting for our teachers, our learners and our school. I will keep you informed of the outcomes.

External Review

On Thursday, May 22nd we will have a visit to the school from a panel representing Brisbane Catholic Education. They will meet with members of the school community to conduct a review of our school which is for the benefit of the school community’s strategic plan to improve student learning. An external review also provides accountability to the Archdiocese and government(s) on a periodic basis.

The purposes of the review are to:

- Provide an opportunity for professional dialogue with an external panel of experienced educators on learning improvement within the school
- Assist the school to meet our reporting obligations to our local school communities, the Archdiocese and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board
- Affirm and challenge the processes and outcomes achieved by the school in relation to the learning improvement of students
- Provide an external perspective to the school’s learning improvement journey.

All schools within the Archdiocese undertake the external school review process according to the five year school cyclical reporting schedule approved by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board for the period 2012-2016.

NAPLAN

Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests - WORDS 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.

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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 great week
Trudy Walsh

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Dear Mum,

I’m not sure if I can put into words how much I love you but...

I know that not everyone is as fortunate to have someone like you.

Someone who is available for every crisis.

Someone who is open to drop by visits.

Someone who puts others first and also knows how to care for herself.

Someone who changes lives on a daily basis.

Someone who is gentle, thoughtful, and well balanced.

Someone who dedicates their lives to others.

Someone who is willing to live life to the fullest no matter what barriers present themselves.

Someone who is able to love me for me regardless of what I choose; regardless of the mistakes I make. This is worth one’s weight in gold. Or chocolate. Or shrimp pasta. Or, you know, anything that we love.
I love you mum, you’re the best!

School Parish Mass
Once a term, the school combines with the parish to help lead the Sunday parish mass. The next school parish mass will be held on Sunday 18th May commencing at 9.30am in the church. All families are welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist where the children help lead in the singing.

Walking Wheeling Breakfast
WALK - WHEEL - RIDE.
Local Councillor, Nicole Johnston will present the school with the Oxley Road Cup as the winning school for the month of March. Our results have been pleasing throughout the year with the Middle years classes (Year 3 & 4) winning the first terms intra-school competition. They will receive an ice cream next week as their reward.
The next Walking Wheeling breakfast will be held on Wednesday 4th June commencing at 7.30am. This is a chance for our walkers and wheelers to enjoy a hearty breakfast of fruit, hot milo and sausage sizzle after their walk or wheel to school.
Gerard Marsh

SCHOOL PARISH MASS

Sunday 18th May 2014
9:30am All Welcome

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Mother’s Day Stall
Mother's Day Stall Friday 9th May. $3 and $6 gift bags available. Great Value gifts and fun for the kids to shop for MUM!! There will be some extra bags available for Nannas and Grandmas this year too. Lots of variety so siblings don't bring home the same gift. Don't forget to send money with the kids to school on Friday 9th May !!! (we will have change at the stall but exact money is always appreciated)

Sorry Day 26 May 7am at the Sherwood Arboretum (Ferry Street end of the park).
You and your children are invited to come and join with members of this community including Graceville State School, Milperra State High School and Christ the King School for this important day of reconciliation. As part of this there will be an art work on show that has been created by students of these schools.

LIBRARY NEWS

I hope everyone received their National Family Reading Month minutes forms last week. I know my family has them prominently displayed on the fridge. Please record the number of minutes your child reads each day before returning them to school at the end of the month. I have received notification that the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge will commence on May 20 and run until 5 September. I will send more information next week.
This week I have sent home some overdue notices, if you are unable to locate your overdue books please do not hesitate to contact me directly. The CTK Book Fair will be held 21-23 May. If you are able to give an hour and volunteer to assist with selling would you also please let me know.
Have a happy week, Illese Smithwick

TUCKSHOP NEWS

As I always start with my extreme gratitude to my side kick on a Wednesday, the divine Amanda Smith. Also to our awesome baker, Julie Fitzgerald who struggled in with her cupcakes, even with her daughter at home sick! My heartfelt thanks to my great team of Mums. On Friday a special thanks to my gorgie Sis Tracy McCullagh who stayed and swept in as chaos was about to descend. Thank you also to the other fabulous Mums, Rachel Phillips and Jenny Manthey. A Big thanks also and always all the more sweet with their scrumptious cupcakes - Thank you Justine Ebzery and Georgia Richards.

Bakers
Friday 9.5 Bronwyn Stephens & Julie Czekierda
Wednesday 14.5 Nicki Cuolahan
Friday 16.5 Julie Czekierda & Kate White
Helpers
Friday 9.5  Vanessa Reid (early)
           Therese Reid (early)
           Belinda Rowlings (late)
Friday 16.5 Justine Ebzery (early)
            Natasha Ross (early)
            Janelle Burton (late)

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking is every Tuesday.

P&F NEWS

Amusement ride armbands now available for purchase online!
For a limited time only, pre-paid armbands are available for purchase at $22 each. Partnering with school fete specialists, Party Time Amusements, CTK Armbands can be purchased on their secure website at www.partytimeamusements.com.au

These armbands guarantee unlimited access to all amusement rides on fete day. If you need a refresher on what rides are available, look no further - giant obstacle course, all aged jumping castle, slot car racing, mechanical surfboard / skateboard, bungee fun run, Ferris Wheel and Red Barron ride. It's fun fun fun!

Please note these amusement ride armbands do not include our luck of hand games or activities in Kids' Fun Space.

For more information, please contact Alicia Gordon at allowmebooks@gmail.com or see the flyer in today's newsletter.

Calling all cooks!
Move over Nigella, CTK cooks are dusting off their aprons and the whiz of Thermomixes will be heard suburb wide. Lemon butter, homemade jams, pickles, cakes...are a few of the delights that will be found at our Cake and Country Market stalls. If you find it relaxing making home made treats, then Bronwyn Stephens, Alex Bentley, Pip Thorn and Nicki Cuolahan want to hear from you! Watch this space for more information over the coming weeks.

The bar is setting the bar!
The bar will be one of the happening places for adults at CTK Fete and Market this year. Gourmet hamburgers, cheese platters, beer, wine, musician and a wine / sparkling wine raffle will have the bar area rocking. Make sure you schedule a visit at this year's fete.

Donations still required
Thank-you to those who have dropped off their bottles of wine / sparkling wine to office staff and have donated unwanted books and music. We are still taking donations and every donation helps our fundraising efforts for our school.

This week, our fete thanks goes to... women who I admire for their incredible organisational abilities. Fiona Forbes’ for her seamless ability to organise our Garage Sale with grace and good humour; and Bronwyn Stephen and Alex Bentley for their 'can do' approach in organising the cake stall that has taught me a thing or two. As they say - everything sells! A special thanks goes to all CTK parents who while juggling busy work and home lives, can donate a hour or two to work on P&F stalls. Without the combined effort of all, the CTK Fete and Market would not happen. Thank-you!

Purchase your $22 Amusement Rides Armband now!
CTK Fete & Market – Sunday 15 June, 10:30am-3:30pm
To gain unlimited access to CTK Fete’s Amusement Rides (giant obstacle course, all aged jumping castle, slot car racing, mechanical surfboard / skateboard, bungee fun run, Ferris Wheel and Red Barron ride); you can now purchase your $22 armband in five easy steps:

1. Go to www.partytimeamusements.com.au
2. Click onto “Event Tickets” in the menu bar.
3. Click on CTK logo.
4. Enter the quantities of armbands required and then “Go to Checkout”. (Party Time Amusement is the provider of our amusement rides and their website is secure.)
5. Bring your receipt on the day of the fete to the ‘Armband Collection’ Ticket Box and we will place it on the child’s arm. (Armband Collection will open at 9:30am).

Please note: armbands are not transferrable and cost $22 per child.

CTK Amusement Rides Armbands will not be sold on Fete day.
Individual tickets will be available for purchase at $5 per ride.
Please note: CTK Fete Amusement Rides Armband does not include games (lob-a-choc, wak-a-frog, knockem and pick-a-duck) or activities in Kids’ Fun Zone.

For more information, please contact Alicia Gordon at allowmebooks@gmail.com

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

The suppliers of the Navy & Red Sports Jackets worked tirelessly over the past 5 weeks & were able to deliver them this week ahead of schedule. (Miracles do happen!!) Orders have been given to students & hopefully made it home safely.

The Uniform Shop is open every **Friday from 8.15 – 9.00am**. Alternately order forms are available at the school office or online at CTK website. Drop completed form back to the office, the order will be filled out & given to your child to take home.

Please remember, especially during busy times, the Uniform Shop is solely run by volunteers & all proceeds go to our P&F.

**PARISH NEWS**

**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

**Parish Sacramental Program**

Enrolments for the 2014/2015 Corinda Graceville Parish Sacramental Program are now open. The program is open to children who have turned 7 by July 1, 2014; have received the Sacrament of Baptism; and are now ready for Penance, Confirmation and First Communion.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the parish website or picked up from the parish office. Enrolments close on Friday July 18, 2014.

**Employment Opportunity – Youth Programme Facilitator**

*Corinda Graceville Catholic Parish*

The Corinda Graceville Catholic Parish is seeking applications for the part-time position of Youth Ministry Coordinator. Working 15 - 20 hours per week, the successful applicant will be responsible for facilitating and developing youth programs and activities across the parish, including:

- To develop and implement pastoral and social programs for young people of the parish
- Further develop young people’s involvement and leadership in the parish community
- To grow a youth ministry team
- Identify and implement programs for youth in the parish
- Collaborate with groups already functioning within the parish

To succeed in this role, an applicant will need to be well organised, demonstrate initiative, exhibit a collaborative work style and have a strong commitment to integrating youth and young adults within the broader church community. A current drivers licence and eligibility for a Working with Children blue card are essential. An interest in music and an ability to play a musical instrument would be well regarded.

Applications Close: Monday 12 May, 2014
Commencement Date: Week of Monday 2 June, 2014

For further enquiries regarding this vacancy including a copy of the position description, please email pp.corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au or telephone the parish office (07) 3379 1534.

Applications should be submitted by a covering letter with a current resume outlining your suitability for the position to Rev Gerry Kalinowski, Corinda Graceville Catholic Parish, via email to pp.corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au

St Lucia parish is in need of a new secretary, to be in charge of the newsletter and general secretarial duties and looking after the accounts. The task has been for 12 hours a week in the past, but this may need to be increased. It may also be necessary to separate the accounts duties from the normal secretarial work.

It is a casual position, in accordance with the ‘Clerks – Private Sector Award’, and usually starts at level 5. Anyone interested, please
contact the office for further details on 3371 5860 between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays or mail your details to St Thomas Aquinas Parish, 87 Central Avenue, St Lucia 4067.

COMMUNITY NEWS

**Western Suburbs Asperger Support Group**
Date: May 22nd  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

Venue: St Matthews Church ( car. Oxley & Sherwood Rds. Sherwood)  
Speaker: Mr Peter Freney  
http://www.irlenclinic.com.au  
Topic: “Reading & Learning Problems & Visual Dyslexia”  
Cost: Gold coin appreciated

**13 – 15 June 2014 : : Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend for married couples**
Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston (QLD)  
**For bookings/details contact:** Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559, stjmen@aapt.net.au  
Information website: www.wwme.org.au