Dear Parents

On Tuesday, we all enjoyed perfect weather at the annual swimming carnival which exemplified the wonderful community spirit at Rosary. The students were beautifully behaved, cheering on their team mates and enjoying the day away from school; the swimmers gave of their best and were excellent sports; the parents helped in a myriad of ways as officials, recorders, photographers, with hospitality, by providing morning tea and by being great spectators; the staff as always gave over and above to ensure the day was so successful. Thank you all for your support!

Sincere thanks to Julie Godfrey for her preliminary planning for the carnival and to the carnival committee – Elizabeth Fryar, Jo Chilver, Melinda Hall-O’Brien, Alison Marks and Janet Hanratty who worked so hard and efficiently to organise and coordinate such a successful carnival in Week 3 of term. It was pleasing to note that the staff at Dickson Pool commented on our students’ good behavior and excellent manners.

Communication is very important to us at Rosary and over the years we have endeavoured to make it as streamlined and effective as possible:

♦ Our newsletter Veritas, which is mailed to families each Thursday is an essential component - so if you are reading this, thank you.
♦ The school calendar, printed each year and distributed to families, has details of school happenings to assist with forward planning. A copy is also available on the school website.
♦ The school website http://www.rosary.act.edu.au is a major source of information. The forms and notes section is particularly important as it contains copies of all notes sent home by classroom teachers. It also features upcoming calendar dates, newsletters, School Board, PTFA and ROSACS information, as well as the canteen menu and is updated on a daily basis.
♦ The new noticeboard in the car park is updated regularly to highlight upcoming events.

You can assist our very busy Front Office staff by checking the newsletter or school website for information before ringing the school with a query. Please do not hesitate to phone if necessary, but could I request that you avoid the peak times of 8:45-9:15 am and 3:00-3:30 pm. Occasionally, the phone might go to voicemail, when the ladies are busy looking after sick students or attending people at the counter. Please leave a message and your call will be returned in good time. The office email: office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au is checked regularly for messages and this is another option for relaying information such as changes to pick up arrangements, notification if your child will be absent for a few days etc.

Car park etiquette is still a serious issue before and after school. Could I urge you all to read the accompanying page regarding car park procedures. The safety of all is our prime concern – students, siblings and parents. A few minutes of patience could save a lifetime of regret! Could you please pass on the information to any grandparents, carers who pick up or drop off your children.

A reminder also to keep to the 20 km speed around the school and to take extra care approaching the school crossing on Higginsbotham Street. A very shaken mother reported a near miss yesterday (by a Rosary parent) when she and her children were using the crossing in the morning.

Kind regards

Maureen Doszpot

21 February 2013

Week 3 Term 1

Fleming Street, Watson ACT 2602
office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au ABN 14 964 349 708
Telephone: 02 6248 0010 Facsimile: 02 6247 8777

Safety is no accident
FROM YOUR AP

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last week I wrote about the class contact process and the possibilities for support and friendship across the school. Unfortunately we did not receive a single reply to the request for class contacts. That means the lists of names and contacts are waiting to be collated, the friendship parties are waiting to be organised and playdates are lacking.

Please reconsider your services as a class group contact. The process is simple. All we ask is that you collate the lists provided and liaise with the school to gather more details from people in your class year group. If there are 2-3 class group contacts then the job is shared and easier.

The next step is to organise a venue and a date, provide information to VERITAS and we will publicise the social happening for your child’s year level. Then all that is required is to chat, socialise, meet other parents and watch your children play with their friends.

The PTFA would also like your support in assisting with the organisation of school based events. These are listed on the calendar with the respective year level. (Eg: Gelato Day 11th April Kinder parents to organise) This is another opportunity to share the workload across the school community and is an opportunity for you to contribute to school events.

We promote the virtues of being a Christ-centred community in our school vision statement. We need to be true to this as we have a wonderful school community and it is important that our connections are fostered and developed each year as new families join our school community.

If you were not able to add your details at the parent evening please complete the sheet attached to this weeks VERITAS.

Yours in the Dominican Spirit of community

Melinda Hall-O’Brien

Assistant Principal
Melinda.hallobrien@cg.catholic.edu.au

Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose

http://www.parentingideas.com.au

Make the most of this school year

Parental withdrawal from children’s education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities.

But the message for parents is clear – become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child’s education. Their chances of success are better when kids see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning. Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

1. Make sure your kids start each day well. That means they should get a good night’s sleep, have a healthy breakfast and arrive at school on time with all their learning requirements as well as a healthy lunch.

2. Attend school activities such as open days, concerts, parent evenings, sports events and celebrations. Read the school newsletter and other forms of communication so you can stay in the loop with what’s happening at your child’s school.

3. Consult with your child’s teacher about homework expectations and practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school. Each teacher has his or her own expectations about how you can help so make sure you work within their guidelines.

4. Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s. School discipline is always more effective when it’s supported by parents so be supportive of their attempts to promote good behaviour in your child.

5. Become an advocate for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school-life.

Julie Godfrey
Coordinator
**Religious Education News**

**Project Compassion**, brings you the story of Ditosa.

Since her parents died from AIDS, Ditosa lives with her grandmother and aunt in Matuba, Mozambique. At the Matuba Children’s Centre, Ditosa receives food, medicines and support. She also learns important life skills. This support is a lifeline for the families supported by the Centre, and is enabling them to improve their livelihoods.

Your donation to Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion provides children like Ditosa with the opportunity to learn new skills, to become self-supporting.

Put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2013 Project Compassion Appeal. Donations (both coins and notes) are gratefully accepted at school. Project Compassion boxes for your homes are available at the church and you can also donate online at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au).

**MJR (Making Jesus Real)**
Last Friday we introduced the students to MJR. We spoke about ‘God Moments’ and how important it is to recognise them. Jesus speaks to us every day through people and events in our lives. Small acts such as a smile, a wave, a compliment, someone holding a door open, helping someone who has fallen over, etc. Most of the time we don’t pick those kind and good moments (‘God Moments’) because we don’t spend 30 seconds a day to say… “Where was Jesus in my life today?”. I encourage you to take a moment to encourage your child to do this every day. There are 86,400 seconds in a day, you only need 60 seconds to "suck the goodness out of the last 24 hours" and see where Jesus has been walking with you, in a person or an event.

**New Families**
At Rosary students receive the Sacraments in the following grades. Yr 2 Reconciliation; Yr 3 Eucharist; Yr 6 Confirmation. If any students (Baptised Catholic) have come to Rosary in the higher grades not receiving these Sacraments, please let me know if you would like them to receive the relevant one(s).

**Sacramental Dates - First Eucharist**
The Commitment Mass for First Eucharist is on Sunday 24th Feb @ 10am and the Parent/Child Information Session is on Thursday 28th Feb @ 6.30pm.

Regards
John O’Brien

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**Parish News**

**FAREWELL LUNCHEON**
We will be holding a Luncheon to Farewell Fr Rafael and Sr Kate to thank them both for all their work in the Parish. The Luncheon is to be held on Sunday 3rd March from 11.30am onwards. There will be a leaving collection after Mass on the 16/17 & 23/24 February for gifts for both from the Parish. A BBQ lunch will be provided by the Parish. Parishioners are asked to bring their own drinks and a plate to share (quiche, cakes, slice, biscuits).
School Board

At Rosary, the School Board plays an important role in overseeing the running of the school, and providing support and assistance to the school staff. Currently there are four parent members of the board, of which 2 are up for re-election/renewal every year. As Chair, I would ask all members of the Rosary community to consider whether they could devote some time to becoming a member of the Board. The workload will not be onerous – on average an hour and a half a month. You do not need any special skills – other than an ability to work as a ‘team. This is an ideal opportunity for those of you seeking slightly different ways of supporting your children’s education. Please think about whether this is for you – and if so we look forward to your application.

John Brennan
Board Chair

Catholic Care Canberra Goulburn

My name is Hannah and I am happy to be returning for my second year as Rosary’s school counsellor in 2013. The CatholicCare Student and Family Counselling program is a free service offered to Catholic school students and families. I am at the school on Tuesdays from 9am – 1.30pm during term time. I can be contacted through the front office during these hours. You can also leave a message or speak with your child’s teacher or Mrs. Dozspot at any other time.

Some of the issues school counsellors receive referrals for include anxiety and other mental health issues, parental separation and divorce, grief and loss, peer and social issues, developmental issues and some behavioural issues (where we can provide support to class teacher and parents). Because I am only at the school for a few hours each week, I am sometimes limited in the support I am able to provide. I am happy to talk to you about alternative supports available if you wish.

I look forward to meeting some of you and wish you all a very happy and healthy 2013!

Veritas Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at Friday’s assembly

Violin and Cello Lessons

Olga Haydon is offering weekly private violin and cello lessons in school time at the school on Tuesdays. Lessons are for 30 minutes and are individual tuitions. All levels accepted including beginners.

Please contact Olga on 0404 636005 or email her at olghaydon@hotmail.com for more information.

For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22 February</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Assembly</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 February</td>
<td>Year 3 Eucharist Commitment Mass</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 February - 1 March</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 February</td>
<td>Eucharist Parent Information Night</td>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1 March</td>
<td>Year 6 Cairo Assembly (Please note change from calendar)</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 March</td>
<td>Year 2 Prayer Celebration</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>ACU Chapel</td>
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Clothing Pool open every Thursday 3.00 pm—3.30 pm
**SPORTS CORNER**

PSSA

There have been some changes to PSSA student entries since the amalgamations of the North Canberra and Gungahlin regions. Our school is now part of the combined North Gungahlin Region. For our region’s swimming carnival and athletics carnival we enter students in the following age groups – Under 12s, Under 11s and Under 10s. The Under 10s age group includes the students in the Under 8s and Under 9s. We take the two fastest swimmers/runners from the Under 8s, 9s and 10s and they compete in the Under 10s races.

**Swimming Carnival**

The 2013 swimming carnival was a big success. The announcement of the winning house will take place this Friday at our assembly. The Markcrow Spirit Cup will also be presented during the assembly. Ribbons have been presented during morning assemblies this week. Congratulations to all participants!

PSSA

Information regarding PSSA selection will be available shortly.

**2013 Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival**

We have had an amazing response to the Catholic Schools Soccer carnival. We are very excited to be sending five teams from Rosary. Teams will be displayed in the tuckshop area on Friday. Coaches and managers will be notified this week also. The draw will be released in the next couple of weeks. Please check the website for updates. Rosary students have a reputation for outstanding behaviour at carnivals. I would ask parents, coaches and managers to familiarise themselves with the code of conduct on the website link below. Rules are also available on the website.


Julie Godfrey
Coordinator

**50th Anniversary**

**Commemorative Cookbook**

Available at the office now for only $30.00.