Dear Parents

It is with great joy and hope that we celebrate the election of Pope Francis. During his homily at the inaugural Mass in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis spoke of the need to protect the environment, serve one another with love and not allow "omens of destruction", hatred, envy and pride to "defile our lives".

He said the role of the Pope was to open his arms and protect all of humanity: "Especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison.

"Today amid so much darkness we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others," he said. "To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope, it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds."

School Registration

On Wednesday 3 April and Thursday 4 April, a Registration Panel of eight members will visit Rosary as part of the process of school registration. The Panel will visit classrooms, examine documentation and talk to members of the Rosary community – students, staff and parents in order to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Education Act 2004.

All the staff have been working extremely hard preparing for Registration and I thank them for their dedication, professionalism and willingness to walk the extra mile.

The members of the Registration Panel are:

- Mrs Lyn Smith – Senior Officer: School Services – Catholic Education Office, Manuka
- Mr Matthew Egan-Richards – Principal – St John the Apostle Primary School, Florey
- Mrs Mary Dorrian – Head, RE&CS – Catholic Education Office, Manuka
- Mr Dominic Braybon – Senior Officer: School Services – Catholic Education Office, Manuka
- Mr Jason Borton – Principal – Richardson Primary School, Richardson
- Ms Julie Wardle – Deputy Principal – Lanyon High School, Conder
- Mrs Marylou Gorham – Assistant Principal – St Monica’s Primary School, Evatt
- Mrs Madonna Pianegonda – Officer: RE&CS - Catholic Education Office, Manuka

Signadou 50th Anniversary Celebrations

This week we congratulate the Australian Catholic University on the 50th Anniversary of the Signadou Campus. Our histories are very much intertwined and Rosary will be part of Signadou's Open Day on Sunday. Many thanks to Sandy Vincent, Jo Chilver, Jodie Dawson and Alison Marks for setting up the Rosary Recollections Display in Egypt; to Susana Wynn and Josephine Costanzo for adding a touch of paint to enhance the display; to Ross Harcombe and all the teachers for ensuring we look our best; to Daryl Clifton for hanging up our beautiful quilts; to Mel Smith and Cathy Jugovac for providing props and clothing and, to the PTFA for organising the BBQ at Signadou. Please feel free to come and see the display.

Congratulations

Congratulations and well done to Melinda Hall-O’Brien who on Saturday will graduate from the ACU with a Masters in Education. Melinda’s hard work and dedication is an asset to the Rosary Community. We are all very proud of her achievement.

Kind regards

Maureen Doszpot
Principal
FROM YOUR AP

Dear Parents and Friends

When you are reading with your child have you considered how to support vocabulary development? Perhaps some of the following suggestions may be possible for you to implement at home to support your child’s reading.

Effective vocabulary development incorporates six critical components of vocabulary development. The most meaningful use of vocabulary today is through speaking and listening. Language interactions serve as a strong foundation for vocabulary development; ongoing conversations with people about field trips, games, and books are effective ways to introduce students to new words, ideas, and concepts. Students of all ages need to hear words used in a wide variety of situations, as well as to engage in frequent discussions in which they interact with other mature language users in real-life situations. Remember -The talk about books is as important educationally as are the books themselves. For the young child, oral language comprehension is the foundation for reading comprehension; rich oral language experiences foster growth in children’s knowledge of words and concepts. Younger and less able readers require a steady diet of oral language activities and opportunities to connect words to their meanings.

The average student must be exposed to a new word from 6-14 times for competent, frequent use to occur. While 12 exposures are enough for most readers, some children need to use a word 20 times or more before they can remember or attach meaning to it. Word learning ranges on a continuum of no knowledge to thorough understanding of how to use the word. There are four levels of word knowledge: Un- known - I have never seen this word. Familiar - I have seen this word but need to think about what it means. Recognised - I automatically know what this word means. In-depth - I have extensive knowledge about this word and can use it in my listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Independent readers take charge of their word learning abilities; they have been taught to monitor their vocabulary growth by focusing on the four levels of word knowledge.

Yours in the Dominican Spirit of community

Melinda Hall-O’Brien

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

Parenting Ideas
by Michael Grose

The Pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children? Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity. But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers. When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order. Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?
Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school. The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood. Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway. It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school. However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you! The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love.”
Religious Education News

Project Compassion, brings you the story of Bernard.

Our partners at Red Dust Healing helped Bernard overcome his drug and alcohol addictions and grief at losing his mother. He has also reconnected with his Aboriginal roots, and is now a Court Support Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Your donation to Project Compassion helps Bernard, and other Indigenous people in Australia, overcome physical, emotional and spiritual challenges to regain direction and purpose in their lives.

Fund Raising
Thank you to those families who have already contributed so generously. We have raised just over $500 so far and it would be wonderful if we could make it to $800 or beyond. With $1000 Caritas could train a rural midwife to assist women and babies in rural Bangladesh. Each class has a Project Compassion box available for the children’s donations.

To help boost our fund raising efforts the Yr 6 students have organized two events. The first is a colouring competition for K-1, 2-3 and 4-6. To enter, a gold coin donation is required. Each of these sections will have an Easter egg prize for first, second and third. Yr 6 will also be running a guessing competition. Students will have the opportunity to guess the number of eggs in a large container (50c per guess). The student who guesses the correct amount (or is the closest) will win the container. The winners of these competitions will be announced at the morning assembly on Holy Thursday (28th March).

Holy Week Prayer Celebrations
Palm Sunday — Kinder and Yr 6 @ 2:30pm / quad (Fri 22nd March)
Last Supper — Yr 3 @ 12:40 pm / hall (Thurs 28th March)
The Garden of Gethsemane — Yr 4@ 2:00pm / staff car park (Thurs 28th March)
The Trial and Crucifixion — Yr 5@ 2:30pm / hall (Thurs 28th March)
At the Tomb — Yr 2 @ 10.30am / junior playground (Tues 2nd April)
He is Risen — Yr 1 @ 10:45am / junior playground (Tues 2nd April)

Regards
John O’Brien

SAVE THE DATE

50th Anniversary Ball
10 August 2013
Thoroughbred Park

More details to follow!
Indonesian Puppet Show

As part of the whole-school language program, an Indonesian puppet performance has been arranged at Rosary on Monday, 25th March.

Pak Sumardi is one of only 36 active puppet masters (Dalang) in Indonesia. Being a Dalang is a family tradition, handed down from father to son. It is gradually dying out as Indonesia becomes increasingly modernised and younger generations choose other careers. Traditionally, boys began learning the skills of being a Dalang from the age of 7. Puppet shows have been performed for hundreds of years and are used to tell traditional and moral stories.

Each year Pak Sumardi tours for a few months in Australia. His visits are facilitated by the organisation Cultural Infusion. He performs with both shadow and wooden puppets. A performance lasts for 50 minutes and he splits the audience into 2 groups; one sits and watches the performance, while the other sits behind him to see how he works with the puppets. The groups swap places half way through.

The cost will be covered by the school excursion fee. The performances will be in the morning session between 9 and 11am. Students are to wear their usual school uniform for a Monday.

Veritas Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards last Friday;

M F R

Making Jesus Real

For Your Diary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22 March</td>
<td>Year 5 Washington Assembly</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22 March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Prayer Celebration</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Quadrangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 March</td>
<td>Catholic Soccer Carnival</td>
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<td>University of Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25 March</td>
<td>Indonesian Puppet Performance</td>
<td>9-11.00</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>School Board</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Holy Week Celebrations</td>
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<td>See RE Section</td>
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Clothing Pool open every Thursday 3.00 pm—3.30 pm
Canteen Roster

WEEK 8 TERM 1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Assistance Needed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Melissa Petropoulos and Emma Hanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Maria Hadlock</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Closed-Good Friday</td>
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If you can help in the canteen, please call Kathy on 0409 462 512.
Canteen Menu available at this link.
Sausage Sizzle 28/4 notes went home today. Please check your child bag!

Year 7 2014 Enrolment Information

Merici College OPEN DAY  Wednesday 8 May 2013 from 9.30am - 7.00pm.
YEAR 7, 2014 Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 14 May from 6.00pm-7.15pm.
Contact the Merici College Enrolment Officer for details E: Patricia.Ryan@merici.act.edu.au

John Paul College OPEN MORNING (the building behind Mother Teresa School) Thursday 9 May 2013 9.30-11am
Year 7, 2014 Information Session Thursday, 9 May 6.30-7.30 in the Hall at Mother Teresa School
Contact the John Paul College on Ph: 6163 4800

St Francis Xavier OPEN DAY Wednesday 8 May 10am-2pm
YEAR 7-12 2014 Open Evening: Monday 13 May, 5.30pm-7.00pm Tours, 7.00pm Information Session
For more enrolment information go to our website www.sfx.act.edu.au or call 6258 1055 SFX Expo Day: Friday 10 May

Daramalan College OPEN EVENING Thursday 4 April 2013 5:00 - 7:00pm (last tour at 6:30pm)
Year 7, 2014 Information Session 7:00 - 8:00pm in McCowage Hall
Enrolment Application Forms will be available at these events or they can be obtained from the College by phoning Damaris Brown, Registrar, on 6245 6348 or by emailing enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au.
**Sport News**

**Catholic School Soccer Carnival:**
This Sunday 24 March @ the University of Canberra playing feilds. The carnival commences at 8am and all players must have shin pads or they will not be allowed to play. Parents can get more information from the website http://www.cgsoccer2013.com.au/.

**P.S.S.A Girls Netball:**
Congratulations to Ellie Haseler and Imogen Hicks for being selected in the North Gungahlin Girls netball team. The girls will represent our region at the ACT Carnival. We wish the girls all the best for the carnival.

Mr Konik

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**HOT CROSS BUNS**

Ordered Hot Cross Buns can be collected from the *canteen* from 2:30pm until 3:15pm on Monday, 25\(^{th}\) March.

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**CLEAN OUT TIME — RECYCLING**

Get rid of your old:
- Batteries;
- Mobiles and hand held devices (DS’s etc);
- Electrical equipment (toasters, hair dryers, DVD/VCR players)

Dennis Maddock Recycling will do a pick up of these items at *school* next Monday 25 March 2013, between 8:30-9am (look for the blue station wagon outside the hall)

Please, no TV’s, computers or items that are mainly plastic – as a guide, items should be mainly metal.

Marg Corcoran