Dear parents,

**Canberra Trip 2013**

It was a privilege to accompany Ms Emma Ponti, Mrs Carolyn Taylor and our Year 7 students to Canberra last week. We were accompanied by the Year 6/7 class from St James at Coorparoo. The children had a fantastic time away. While we were on our camp, the children participated in a variety of educational programmes that focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy while having a lot of fun at the same time. A day in the snow added another dimension to the trip as well.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. The Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme provided a rebate to all students who attended. The excursion was a rewarding experience for all of the children. We were all very proud of the students as their general behaviour and attitude was exemplary.

**NAPLAN**

Once again our students can be very proud of their results this year. Please take note of the table below which clearly indicates that our students are operating at a very high level across all strands. Each year the administration and year level teams take the time to analyse the NAPLAN data to identify areas that may require extra attention in certain aspects of literacy or numeracy. Throughout 2013 Spelling has been identified as an area that requires special focus. As a result our teachers have received Professional Development in this area to further enhance our spelling programs and improve outcomes for all students. I’d like to thank and congratulate all teachers and students involved in this year’s NAPLAN process. Hard copies of the student reports will be distributed to all students by Mid-October.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews**

Thanks to all parents who took the opportunity to meet with our wonderful teachers this week. I hope that the interview provided you with a positive up-date on your child’s progress. I’d like to acknowledge our dedicated teaching staff for preparing thoroughly for these sharing sessions. Thanks also to all parents for supporting the class teachers in their quest to provide the best possible education for your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>Mean Scores</th>
<th>Yr.3</th>
<th>Yr.5</th>
<th>Yr.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Average</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>576</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>539</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>617</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>532</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>School Average</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>542</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>School Average</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>533</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>School Average</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>515</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued over)
Cultural Day- Tomorrow
Cultural Day provides us with the opportunity to show-case the artistic talents of our students. Between 11.00 and 1.00 the children will rotate throughout the school in their pastoral care groups experiencing aspects of music, dance, art and drama. The whole school will gather in the hall at 2.00pm for a concert which will feature string groups, vocal groups, guitar ensembles, instrumental ensembles and dancers. I’d like to thank Tony Shaw for planning and co-ordinating this day as well as all of our specialist teachers and instrumental instructors for making such a great day possible.

Thank you and Welcome Back
I’d like to thank Tony Shaw, Emma Ponti and the Mt Carmel staff for their great support over the last five weeks while I’ve been acting in Peter’s position. Additionally, I’m grateful to the children and parents of this great community for their friendliness and support as well. We look forward to welcoming Peter back next term. I’m sure he has many wonderful stories to tell. Tony Shaw will be taking a week’s long-service leave in the first week of next term. We wish Tony well as he enjoys this well-deserved break.

I hope you all have a safe and thoroughly enjoyable Spring break and I look forward to seeing everyone in Term Four.

John Bates

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sep</td>
<td>Cultural Day – Activities / Concert 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sep</td>
<td>Last day Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Oct</td>
<td>Public Holiday - Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 8 Oct</td>
<td>School resumes Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 10 Oct</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 12 Oct</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Oct</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 26 Oct</td>
<td>Halloween Party – Parent Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Nov</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 28 Nov</td>
<td>School Concert &amp; Rehearsal at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6 Dec</td>
<td>Last day Term 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring Break

Year 7’s visiting Parliament House in Canberra
Debating Skills

As part of the extension work in the learning centre we offer Debating to the students in Year 6 and 7 who are chosen for literacy extension. These students from Year 6 and 7 will participate in a four week Introduction to Debating Program in the beginning of Term 4. The objective of this program is to enrich the children’s cognitive and language abilities and encourage confidence. The Year 6 and 7 debating teams will prepare for a Intraschool Debating Competition which will be held during Week 5 or 6 of Term 4. The students can then choose to continue building their debating skills once they are in secondary school.

What is a debate?

A formal argument where individuals present opposing views about a particular issue according to a set of rules.

What skills can the child learn to acquire?

- abstract thinking
- analytical thinking
- citizenship
- organisational of information
- teamwork
- persuasion
- research
- public speaking
- distinguishing fact from opinion
- defining and examining topics
- cross-examination and questioning

Leanne Croft and Kerry Kearns

WORKING BEE
SATURDAY OCT 12

The School Spring Clean Working Bee will be held on Saturday 12th October from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. This is the final Working Bee for the year. BBQ and Beers afterwards for all hardy Spring-cleaners. Please email Dominic Murphy at djmurphy@qldbar.asn.au if you are able to attend.

P&F Update

Air conditioning funds approved

Following the financial success of this year’s Fete, the P&F last week voted to fund Stage 2 of the air conditioning project. Stage 1 (electrical upgrade and air conditioning to Prep classrooms) will be completed over the September holidays. Subject to finalising orders with the contractor, Stage 2 can now proceed over the Christmas break. We very much hope that by the start of the 2014 school year all our classrooms will be air-conditioned, providing a more comfortable environment for our children and staff over the hottest months of the year.

We are very fortunate that our community has the capacity to raise significant funds through the annual Fete, enabling the P&F to fund a project of this scale over a relatively short timeframe. Thank you to everyone whose hard work and generosity has made this possible, including many families whose children have now left Mt Carmel.

Uniform shop reminder

A reminder that the Uniform Shop will be open Friday afternoons 2.30-3pm, and on Tuesday 15 October from 8am-9am. If you are cleaning out cupboards over the holidays, please send in your pre-loved uniforms (especially in small sizes!).

Lost property

With the warmer weather, most school jumpers have made their way home. However there are still many in the lost property boxes near the Learning Support Room. Over the holidays, all unclaimed lunchboxes and drink bottles will be discarded for hygiene reasons, and any remaining clothing items laundered. Unnamed items will be taken to the Uniform Shop.

Prep Buddy Families

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we are looking for Mt Carmel families who would be prepared to provide welcome and support to our new Prep families. If you have a child starting prep in 2014 and would like to participate, please email pandfmtcarmel@gmail.com.

Halloween Parent Function – 26 October

The annual Mt Carmel parent function is an unmissable event on the school calendar. If you have not been to one before, it is always a fun and informal way of catching up with other parents with a few drinks, some great food, fabulous dance music, camouflaged in costume (if that is your thing!) Now the only hitch is that Mt Carmel families are famous for waiting until the last minute to buy tickets to any school event, which can drive our party planners insane with guessing how many people to cater for. So please, show them some mercy – buy your tickets today.

Enjoy your holidays everyone......

Kim Broadfoot
P&F President

Next P&F Meeting: Thursday 10 October 7.30pm in the Staffroom (the first week back from holidays!)
From our Assistant Principal Administration

**Student Life and Email Accounts**

This week all students in Years 3-7 were taking through the process of logging in to our new Learning Management System called LIFE. As part of this login, students in Years 4 and up also have access to a student email account. While all the students have already signed an ICT Acceptable Use Contract that covers school email, it is appropriate at this time to remind your children of the following:

- School email accounts are for schoolwork purposes only. They are not to be used for creating accounts in other programs or applications unless they are directed to do so by their teacher. If student wish to create accounts for programs that they use for recreation at home, this should be done using email accounts organised and supervised by parents.
- School email accounts are a privilege. If students are not using their accounts correctly then they will be locked out of the entire Student Portal.
- School email accounts are a privilege. If students are not using their accounts correctly then they will be locked out of the entire Student Portal.
- School email accounts are a privilege. If students are not using their accounts correctly then they will be locked out of the entire Student Portal.
- School email accounts are a privilege. If students are not using their accounts correctly then they will be locked out of the entire Student Portal.
- School email accounts are a privilege. If students are not using their accounts correctly then they will be locked out of the entire Student Portal.

Please take the time to go through these instructions with your children. They will also be reminded of these expectations in class.

Tony Shaw

**Music in 2014**

All music groups at Mt Carmel will be showcased at the Cultural Day Concert on Friday 20th Sept 2pm in the hall.

If you are considering a musical instrument for your child in 2014 you are invited to come along and hear our students perform.

**OLMC Parish News**

Due to the school holidays, there won’t be any SPARKS this Sunday 22nd September.

The last two SPARKS for the year will be:

- 4-5:15pm Sunday 27th October 2013, and
- 4-5:15pm Sunday 24th November 2013.

SPARKS is:

- a group for kids in grades 4-6
- to get together one Sunday a month
- for some games, sharing of faith
- and to share some food afterwards
- then to attend the 5:30pm Mass together.
RSVP: by Monday 21st October 2013 by completing the attached form.

Payment Options:-
⇒ Flexischools
⇒ Return this form with cash or cheque
⇒ Try Booking: See Quick Links on website or https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/mtcarmelcoorparoo

Or http://trybooking.com/62434

Name of People Attending: _____________________________________________

Oldest child and grade: _____________________________________________

Dietary requirements: _____________________________________________

Payment method: ☐ Cash        ☐ Cheque
RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

All Library Books due back now!

Please keep encouraging your children to get those library books back to us (especially if your child came home with a note from us last night).

Premiers Reading Challenge

By the time you read this, I will have all the PRC “stars” decorated and hanging in the Library. They will remain there until the certificates arrive in Term 4 but look out for the full list of achievers in the first newsletter of the new term.

Term 3 ICT Projects

Term Three is traditionally my busiest term with classes and 2013 has proved to be no different. Hopefully you will get to see some of these projects either in work folios or on children’s USB sticks. Some of the projects consolidated existing technology skills, while others exposed students to a program that they had never used before.

Prep – What Food am I Guessing Games (keyboard skills)
Year 1 – Fete Brochures (keyboard and design skills)
Year 2 – Saints note taking and reports (research skills)
Year 3 – Phases of the Moon Claymations (using cameras and Movie Maker)
Year 4 – Book Trailers (using Movie Maker)
Year 5 – River Thinglinks (using a web based photo link program)
Year 6 – Notable Australian Radio Interviews (using Audacity)
Year 7 – Canberra e-book and Renewable Energy Digital Photo Art

Million Metres for Motor Neuron Disease Swim - October 13

It’s on again! The Million Metres for MND Swim is on Sunday October 13 at Langlands and Yeronga Pools. Form a team with friends, family and co-workers and join the local community to support the MND and Me Foundation, founded by local father and Pride of Australia medal-winner Scott Sullivan.

You don’t have to be a super-fish or regular squad swimmer, it’s for everyday people who want to get moving to help those who eventually can’t. To register and for more details, go to www.millionmetres.com.au.

Tuckshop News

Fri 20 Sep Michelle Rukavina Nicole Nasser Andrea Ibrahim Susan Blunt Misha Del Rae Silvana Abraham

Term 4

Wed 9 Oct Maria Angeli Nicky Briggs Rachel Lyons Kylie Southwood
Thu 10 Oct Danielle Ganim Jane Green Julie Stokes Di McGregor
Fri 11 Oct Ermana Garbati Lisa Kratzman Lisa Watson Shalini Matthews Mary Pappas
Wed 16 Oct Liz Carroll Suzanne Schick Carmel Grasso Diane Reynolds
Thu 17 Oct Simone Ryan Pauline Mednis Natalie Ryan Marcus Soo

Please call Kelly on 3395 5236 if you cannot work on your rostered day.

From the Assistant Principal

Religious Education

‘Zumalai Day’ Term 4 Week 2

Traditionally we have raised money for Zumalai in East Timor-Leste by hosting a Spellathon throughout the school.

This Year we will be holding ‘Zumalai Day’. This day will be provided as an opportunity for all children in Years PREP to 7 to try to walk in another person’s shoes. For the duration of the school day the children will make changes to their daily routine to walk in the shoes of a child from Zumalai.

A sponsorship form with more details will be sent home in week one of next Term. We look forward to creating more awareness and a sense of respect within our community.

Year 4 Children raise awareness and hope to heal others

As part of a Liturgy earlier in the Term, our Year Four students held a Liturgy about healing. As a way of healing others the children in Year Four donated toys and books for the children at the Mater Children’s Hospital. John Bates and I had the pleasure of delivering these items to the children. They were delighted to receive this generous donation.

Emma Ponti
Chess is an activity which uses both sides of the brain and studies conducted worldwide have shown that engaging in regular chess lessons results in improved mathematical, spatial and lateral-thinking skills. Studies have also shown that Chess improves reading skills by up to 25%.

Chess at Mt Carmel is open to all students from Prep to Year 7 and Term 4 lessons commence on Tues 8th October which is the first week back of school and continue for 10 weeks until the last week of term. Cost for Chess lessons for this term will be $85.50 which must be paid by week 2 of lessons. Cash, Cheque or BSB payments are accepted. All classes will be held in the hall and will commence at 7.30am.

Mrs Connie Pizzato who has been teaching chess for over 20 years will conduct classes with experienced assistant chess. Mrs Pizzato may be contacted on 0409 794 745 if you have any queries about the program.

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in chess tournaments which allow them to use the skills they acquire in chess lessons.

Please sign the permission form below and return with money to Mrs Pizzato as soon as possible.

If paying by direct debit account details are as follows;
BSB: 484 799
ACC: 000873071
NAME: Connie Pizzato
Please put MtCarmel and your child name in the description field for tracking record.

Mt Carmel Chess Lessons Term 4, 2013

I........................................... give permission for my child/children..........................................................

...........................................Year........ Date of Birth.........................................................

To participate in chess lessons. $...............enclosed

Signed.................................................................Contact details.................................................................