

**From the Principal ....**

**Seán B Gill**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here's a very positive observation by the ever-astute Mark Twain with which to start the new school year: "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been." So, any wrinkles that have appeared on our faces over the past six weeks are due to the large amount of smiling and the abundance of laughter in which we were engaged, as we journeyed through the holidays with our children. No dissenting voices, please!

As we commence the school year, we have the unusual coincidence of already commencing the Season of Lent. This could be a happy coincidence as it brings together two events that have many similarities.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey. Ashes on our foreheads mark us as Christians, as followers of Christ, as the people who carry His message in the actions of our lives, actions that give those with whom we make contact, an insight into Christian behaviour, an insight into Christ.

Our children begin their academic year journey. They wear the School's uniform and identify themselves as members of Corpus Christi Catholic School. They carry the School's message in the actions of their lives and give those with whom they make contact an insight into the School's behaviour expectations, its values, its ethos.

We can begin our Lenten journey in a very positive manner by receiving the ashes on Ash Wednesday as a means to reassert the presence of Christ within our lives and not allow the ashes to be simply an outward symbol with no inner significance. We can enter into the spirit of Lent and focus on an area of our life that needs rebuilding, we can monitor our usual behaviours to check if they are negative or positive expressions of our calling to be a Christian. We can celebrate our Christian mysteries on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Resurrection. We can emerge on Easter Sunday as Easter people with the Spirit alive and active within us. Of course, we can simply skip along through Lent, turn up for each day of it but give it no recognition. We can ignore our opportunity to advance our sense of who we are and neglect the occasion on offer to become more compassionate, more tolerant, more courageous, more forgiving, more loving, more of everything that Christ was as He lived the final few weeks of His life.

Our children can begin their new school year in a very positive manner by being prepared with books and materials and wearing their uniform in a manner that indicates total identification with our school. They can participate as fully as possible in the everyday life of the school, including its sporting and cultural activities, and focus on behaving in a responsible, co-operative manner. They can celebrate fellowship with other students by respecting their rights and feelings, whilst following instructions and rules that enable the ordinary conduct of the school. At the end of the year, they can emerge as the beneficiaries of having done their best at all times and having participated enthusiastically in the life of the school.

Of course, they could simply doodle and dawdle their way through the school year, turn up each day but make little effort at self-improvement. They can refuse any responsibility for their learning, homework and assignments and close their mind to encouragement and motivation. They can neglect opportunities to develop self-esteem, to advance academic skills, to broaden social interactions, to cultivate and absorb Christian values.

**Welcome**

To the New School Year and to the choices it presents to each of us. You might have noticed that there has been a fair bit of activity over the Holiday break. Here is a brief summary of what has occurred over the summer:

Kindergarten Refurbishment

Outside School Hours Care established

Grade 3 – 4 Classrooms upgrade

Car-Park sealing

Netball Court sealing

Carpet in Hall

New Principal's Office

Office upgrade

Playgrounds installed

Primary Toilets painted

Office Block painted

Reverse Cycle Heat Pumps installed  
Tripping Hazards and Steps painted  
Testing and Tagging of electrical items carried out  
Laptops Laboratory upgrades  
Telephone upgrade  
Security and Fire Protection upgrade

**A big thank you to Mr VL for his management of all these tasks.**

### **Staff Changes**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Mrs Mary Turnock and Mrs Julia McCullough to the teaching staff at Corpus Christi School. Mary has taken on the role of Assistant Principal: Religious Education and will be teaching in Grade 6 with Mrs Anne Simpson. Julia will be teaching in Grade 2. Ms Mandy Jubb has been appointed to the new position of Director of Corpus Christi School Outside School Hours Care and Mrs Liz Stacey returns after an extended period of leave to rejoin the Education Support Team. Mrs Tracey Muench has been appointed as Canteen Manager and Mrs Katrina Kingsley as Uniform Shop Manager.

### **Riding Bikes to and from School**

Parents of children in Grades 3 to 6 who may be riding their bikes to or from School need to provide me with written advice of the proposed traveling arrangement prior to commencement.

### **Carpark**

As part of the Development Application for moving Kinder to 77 Cambridge Rd we were required to submit a staff parking plan. **Please note that the row of spaces closest to the hall is reserved for staff only.** In respect to the use of the Carpark please follow the directions of Mr VL and note that there is no entry or exit to Cambridge Rd, and you cannot turn right into Alma St before or after School. As always we ask that you consider the children in your movements in and around the Carpark. A pedestrian pathway has been constructed allowing access to Alma Street through the Carpark. There are bound to be the odd teething problems as we settle back into the School year and we ask for your patience and consideration as this occurs.

## **School News & Reminders**

### **Student Information Packages**

Individual information packages have been issued to all students today. Included are a number of forms that require completion and return to the School Office by no later than this Friday, 15 February 2008. Forms are required to be signed by only one parent/guardian. Office staff will be happy to help should you require additional copies of the package or if you require any assistance or advice in regard to its completion.

Included in the information package is a Minor Excursion Form. Please note that students will not be able to participate in any excursions, including the Grades 3 - 6 Corpus Christi Swimming Trials that are scheduled for next week, until receipt of the completed information package.

### **School Fees and Levies**

**Information regarding changes to the invoicing and payment arrangements for fee and levy accounts were issued to parents at the end of last year. Further information regarding this matter is included in the student packages issued today on the sheet titled "Fee and Levy Payment Arrangements" that needs to be completed and returned to the School Office by this Friday, 15 February 2008. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the changes, please contact Leonie.**

### **Office Procedures**

To assist you when making enquiries at the School Office, please note that particular areas of responsibility apply to each staff member as follows.

- **Mrs Leonie Parker** will help you with queries relating to school fees and levies, or matters of a financial nature.
- Any matters relating to students such as enrolment procedures, changes of address or contact details, applications for Kindergarten Child Care Benefits, immunisations, etc, are to be directed to **Mrs Cheryl O'Rourke**.
- Mrs Karen Harris and Mrs Karen Pollard **share the role of receptionist and will be happy to help you with any general enquiries and processing of payments.**
- **Mrs Karen Harris** co-ordinates preparation of the weekly School Newsletter and can help if you have any queries in regard to items that you may wish to be considered for inclusion. Newsletters are issued each Tuesday and the cut off time for submission of items is 11.00am each Monday.

**If the relevant person is unavailable, your query will be directed to an alternate staff member who will be happy to assist.**

### **Registration of Visitors to the School**

**ALL** visitors to the school, including parent helpers, contractors, those participating in meetings, canteen and uniform shop helpers, etc, are asked to report to the School Office to register their arrival in the Visitor's Book. This is not necessary if visiting for only a very brief period, eg, dropping off lunch to a student. Visitors will be issued with a numbered visitor's pass attached to a lanyard. This must be worn at all times while on site and must be clearly visible. Departure times must also be registered in the Visitor's Book, at which time lanyards are to be returned.

### **Volunteer Registration Forms**

Commencing from this year, it is a requirement by the Archdiocese of Hobart that all volunteers at Catholic schools or colleges are registered. This includes canteen and uniform shop helpers, parent help volunteers, etc. If you would like to volunteer at Corpus Christi School it will be necessary for you to register. Application forms are available from the School Office. Approved registrations will remain in place for a period of two years.

### **Sale of Swimming Caps**

**Children in Grades 3 to 6 will be participating in swimming trials at the Clarence Pool on Friday, 22 February. All participants are required to have a swimming cap in their house colour. Caps are available from the School Office at a cost of \$2.50.**

### **School Banking**

Will commence next Tuesday 19 February. Please leave your child's bank book in the School Banking bag, each Tuesday if you wish to bank with the Catholic Development Fund. Application forms are available from the School Office if you need them.

<b>SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL (NOT INCLUDING CHILDREN REGISTERED FOR OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE)</b>
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**Teacher playground supervision commences at 8.15am and concludes at 3.15pm.**

You are asked to support the following measures to ensure that children are safe and adequately supervised while they are at school.

- In the interests of the safety and wellbeing of the children, **it is expected that they would arrive between 8.15am and 8.30am, rather than earlier.**
- **Kindergarten children** arrive between 8.30am and 8.40am and are escorted to the classroom by their parents/guardians/carers.
- When **Prep – Grade 6 children** arrive at school before 8.25am, they are to proceed to the amphitheatre adjacent to the School Office and sit there under teacher supervision. Parents are welcome to sit with their children in the amphitheatre if they wish to do so. (On inclement days, the children are supervised in the Grade 3PL classroom.)
- **Children are not to wait outside classrooms under any circumstances.**
- Classrooms open at 8.25am and children are directed by the duty teacher to proceed to their classrooms to prepare for the beginning of the school day.
- **Grades 3-6 children**, who wish to play ball games (under duty teacher supervision) between 8.25am and 8.40am, may do so on the netball court in area 4, which is adjacent to the Grade 3/4 block.
- Children are not permitted to play on any play equipment before or after school, as these areas are not under direct teacher supervision at that time.
- At the end of the school day, **you are encouraged to ensure that your children are collected before 3.15pm.** After this time, children are directed or taken by teachers to the School Office, where they are supervised until parents/guardians/carers arrive to collect them. **Unless extraordinary circumstances exist and prior agreement has been sought and received, children are to be collected from the School Office by no later than 3.30pm.**

<p><b>If your family circumstances require that your child/children arrive prior to 8.15am and/or cannot be collected by 3.15pm on a regular basis, it is necessary for you to complete a "Supervision of Students Before and After School" form. These forms are available from the School Office and require completion and return prior to commencement of any early drop off or late pick up arrangements.</b></p>
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<p><b>In an emergency or one off situation, staff at the School Office are to be contacted as soon as possible with advice of the proposed arrangements.</b></p>
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The Canteen aims to make a small profit each year that is directed back into the school to provide resources for the benefit of students. Every effort is made to limit the need for price increases. However, it is no longer possible to absorb rising costs and it is necessary to make a number of amendments to our Canteen Menu. A copy of the new menu is enclosed with this newsletter for your information.

As usual, volunteers are needed to assist in the canteen. If you are able to help out, please complete the slip below and return it to either the Canteen or School Office by the end of this week. I always welcome new volunteers and look forward to meeting our regular helpers. It's great fun and the children love to see their mums, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles so please consider offering your assistance.

Rosters will be issued during the week commencing Monday, 18 February. In the interim, I would like to be able to confirm helpers for Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 and Friday 22. Please contact Tracey on 6247 3570 or 0409 158 726 if you may be able to help on these days.

I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2008 for another fun and successful year.

**REMINDER**

**The Canteen will not be open this week and will commence operation next week on Wednesday, 20 February.**

**M & M Anderson : Painting & Decorating. Ph: 6243 9782 or 0417 534 237.**

**Important Dates**

<b>Monday 18 February:</b>	P&F Meeting 7.30pm in the Library.
<b>Wednesday 20 February:</b>	Board Meeting 6.00pm in Staffroom.
<b>Friday 22 February:</b>	Corpus Christi Swimming Trials.
<b>Monday 25 February:</b>	Grade 6 Camp Clayton until Wednesday 27 February.
<b>Thursday 28 February:</b>	Auxiliary Meeting.

**Sports****Justin Brasjna****Physical Education Co-ordinator**

2008 promises to be a busy and exciting time for Physical Education. Our Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 6 March. Next Friday 22 February we will be conducting swimming trials for Grades 3 -6 at the Clarence Aquatic Centre. The trials are held so children can be placed in races appropriate to their swimming ability. All Grade 3 – 6 children will need to wear their bathers under their sports uniform on Friday 22 February. They are required to wear a swimming cap in their house colour. These can be purchased from the School Office at \$2.50 each. All children will have the opportunity to compete in the 25m freestyle, 25m backstroke, 25m breaststroke and the 50m freestyle. For those who are non swimmers there will be kickboard and novelty races on carnival day and an opportunity to get in the water during our trials. The emphasis is on fun, enjoyment, safety and team spirit. The times for next Friday are:

<b>Grade 4</b>	10.00am – 10.30am
<b>Grade 3</b>	10.30am – 11.00am
<b>Grade 5</b>	11.00am – 11.30am
<b>Grade 6</b>	11.30am – 12.00pm