Dear Parents,

It’s hard to think of this in our comfortable country and our comfortable home, but the majority of the world is poor. Jesus loved the poor. For example in last Sunday’s Gospel He helped a poor widow whose only son had died. Matthew’s Gospel says that Jesus was filled with pity.

‘Remember the poor’ are the words attributed to Pope Francis who has made this the theme of his time as pope. Pope Francis chose not to live in the papal palace in Rome but in a simpler hotel and will not take an expensive summer holiday. He is choosing to live a life of simplicity and austerity, showing us in the rich part of the world what is essential. You can follow the pope on twitter (Pope Francis@Pontifex) and there is also a free app available called The Pope App with video, photos and translations of his preaching which allow us to have access to the world of the pope. His twitter account on 2nd June says:

‘The world tells us to seek success, power and money: God tells us to seek humility, service and love’

This message of the Gospel delivered in a 21st century manner is one that we give to the children at school, most recently witnessed by our St Vincent de Paul winter appeal. We look at developing the children’s awareness of poverty within our community and overseas. However the most important thing that we try to impart is the everyday caring for others. It is this that makes a real difference to the world.

I have seen this caring amongst our parent community as well, in the support for families that are experiencing death and illness and in the selfless way that parents volunteer to help in the classroom, with the Spring Fair, sporting events, meal deals and selling hot chocolates. The Pope would be proud of us!

Speaking of unselfish volunteering- our next Spring Fair meeting is next Wednesday night, 19th June at 6:30pm in the Parish Meeting room. We are still in need of stall holders for the books, chocolate wheel, rides and tickets.

Regards,

Lesley Studans
**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**
A reminder that this year we are using an online booking system for parent/teacher interviews. Parents are asked to log on to the website, using the log on provided and book the interview with their child’s class teacher. The school event code is VJLSJ. Any parent who does not have internet access or is having difficulty with the process can come to the library after school where staff will assist them to make a booking or contact the school office. A reminder that bookings close at 6:00pm tomorrow, Friday 14th June.

**BOOK FAIR – TWO WEEKS TO GO!!**
Our annual school book fair will take place from the 20th until the 27th of June. During that time the library will be open from 8:10am-8:30am and 3:00pm-3:30pm as well as at lunchtime and during the Tuesday parent/teacher interviews from 3:00pm-6:00pm and 6:45pm-7:15pm, to allow children and parents to purchase quality books. The Book Fair also assists the school in that we receive a commission from each sale which then can be used to purchase resources for our library. If any parents have any queries in relation to the Book Fair please see Mrs Cividin.

**SEWERS NEEDED**
We are in need of helpers to make some simple costumes for our Alice in Wonderland musical. If you are able to help please complete the slip below:

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Name: ____________________________
Child’s class: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
I can work with a pattern ☐
I can work without a pattern ☐
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**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**
The Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion has now finished. If any families have still have stickers at home could they please send them to the school as soon as possible so that we can finalise our tally. Thank you to all for your support.

**BOTTLE STALL MUFTI DAY**
On Friday, 28th June, we will be holding a mufti day to support the bottle stall for the Spring Fair. For those who have not experienced this before children are asked to bring a bottle to donate to the bottle stall. As part of the activity children are able to wear plain clothes “mufti” on the day. A flyer with further details will be sent home next week.

**ICAS WRITING COMPETITION**
The ICAS Writing competition will be held next Monday, 17th June. Due to the nature of the competition it will only be able to be held on the date advertised. Any students who are absent on the day will be unable to take part in the competition.

**PARENT GROUP NEWS**

**SKOOL IS COOL**
Good Guys at Prospect will support our school by awarding points for purchases when you mention our school. The points are then sent to us as redeemable vouchers.

**ATHLETES FOOT**
$5.00 from every shoe purchase is given to the school.

**SPRING FAIR NEWS**

**CRAFT STALL**
If anyone has any material, buttons, old neck ties, ribbon, Christmas material, old doilies/lace tablecloths, glass beads, felt. We really could do with some supplies to start making some wonderful craft items and if anyone would like to come and help please contact Alison Punch 0417020710.
CATHOLIC SECTOR CALLS FOR FUNDING CERTAINTY

Catholic Education is calling for greater clarity from the Federal Government about how school funding will be allocated in 2014. As reported in The Australian, the NSW Catholic Education Commission is urging Catholic education directors and principals to contact their federal MPs for clarification of school funding arrangements in the new school year and beyond.

The Federal Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, The Hon Peter Garrett MP, said funding would be distributed according to school and student need that Catholic schools around the country would receive $1.4 billion in extra funding over the next six years.

Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby, who wrote to local federal politicians in western Sydney last week, said it was 'virtually impossible' for schools to plan for next year and plan their budgets without 'sufficient clarity about the level of actual funding for Catholic schools next year'. He will speak with local Labor Federal MPs via teleconference this week.

Greg has also written to local Coalition MPs urging them to present their alternate educational policy and funding model. To date, both the Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, and Opposition Education Spokesman, Christopher Pyne, have refused to honour the NSW state agreement unless all states and territories have signed on. Additionally, Mr Pyne has stated he will not propose an alternate arrangement for school funding nor commit to any funding indexation levels until 30 June.

In his letter Greg said the Coalition’s ‘position on this issue makes it particularly difficult for the Catholic community including our parents, teachers and staff to determine what the election of a Coalition government would mean to the ongoing resourcing and support of Catholic schools.’

Greg spoke with Coalition MPs via a separate teleconference during the week. To date, Prime Minister Julia Gillard has only secured agreement from the New South Wales Government for the National Plan for School Improvement with Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT expected to sign up by the 30 June deadline. Under the plan, the state and federal governments will contribute to a new education funding model that will include an agreement to increase school spending over an agreed period of six years.

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Out and About at OLOL

The next few weeks, as we move towards the end of term, are busy ones. In addition to the work that goes into writing reports and preparing for parent/teacher interviews staff have been engaged in a number of professional learning opportunities.

This week our staff development day centred around how we assess children, particularly in relation to reading comprehension. We talked about assessment as learning, for learning and of learning. We discussed the importance of feedback to guide children in their future learning and to ensure that they understand what the next step is for them.

The second focus for the day was on the use of iPads to assist learning in the classroom. Staff from St Agnes Catholic College at Rooty Hill came and shared with us some of the ways they have been using iPads to assist student learning in the classroom. We saw many ways in which this technology can be utilised and as a school we are continuing to purchase more iPads to ensure greater availability across the school.

In addition to this whole staff professional development a number of individual teachers have also been attending courses to extend their knowledge in a variety of curriculum areas. During this week alone we have had staff involved in professional development around the Religious Literacy Assessment, around Mathematics learning, around incorporating the Space and Measurement strand into the Mathematics Assessment Interview and around the implementation of the new K-10 English syllabus.

This ongoing professional development is important to ensure that we are up to date with the latest information and research related to teaching and learning and that as a result we are able to provide the best possible opportunities for the children within our care.

Carol Cividin
Assistant Principal
Curriculum Conversations

Winners will be announced at tomorrow’s assembly.

House Colour points
276, 273
238, 211
Who is the winner?