Dear parents, students and friends of Good Shepherd,

From Pope Francis
The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy. The readings are from the Gospel of Luke; the ‘gospel of mercy’. On the Fourth Sunday the reading is the parable of the two sons, the third of the ‘lost and found parables’ (Luke 15:1-32). In these parables we find the core of the Gospel. (9, 17) Pope Francis (The Face of Mercy, Misericordiae Vultus)

Reflection
What am I doing to reflect the teaching of Jesus to ‘Be merciful just as your Father is merciful’ (Luke 6:36) in my family and my community?
Am I open to receiving God’s mercy?

Kiss ‘n’ Drop Procedures
At the last staff meeting, Kiss and Drop procedures were discussed and firmed up to enable an efficient and safe departure of our students from the school premises. There are some key changes to the procedure which are indicated below. Students in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary are still to be picked up from the classroom by their parent/guardian.

Vests: Staff members will be wearing vests on the duty area to ensure they are visible amongst the parents and students gathered.

Shed: Whilst end of school is a naturally social time, we ask students to take responsibility for being alert to vehicles in the pickup vicinity and keep noise to a reduced level so that safety and departure instructions can be given and heard.

Collecting students: It is imperative that all families use the marked cross walk areas to arrive to and from school. Crossing the road at other areas may seem quicker however places you and your child at risk of serious injury. Please remind others if you see this happen, the message is passed on out of shared concern.

Windshield names: Coming home today are two name tags for each family. These name tags can be shared between vehicles and enable teachers to assist students to identify their vehicle in an efficient manner. The name tags are held together with elastic bands. These elastic bands can be used to attach the name tag to the sun visor of the car.

Volunteer Forms
Last week a note was sent home regarding volunteer opportunities for our community members. Just a reminder to please submit these forms to the office by Friday. A huge THANK YOU to all those who have volunteered in various forms so far this year.

Public Holiday
School will be closed Monday, 7 March for the Labour Day long weekend. I hope families are able to enjoy the mid-term break.

Parent meetings
Over the last and coming weeks classroom teachers will be providing parents/caregivers the opportunity to meet to discuss the needs each student. Some students with particular special educational needs will require an IEP or Individual Education Plan; these meetings are scheduled for Thursday, 10 March and a note will be sent home with details. I have included a list of 10 tips for parents from Michael Grose’s Parenting Ideas Blog that may be useful.

God Bless
Andrew Colley
Principal

Learning through Faith, Love & Laughter
Parent-teacher-meetings---10-top-tips-for-parents
By Michael Grose

The first formal meeting with your child’s teacher at the start of the year is a chance for you to introduce yourself and get the partnership ball rolling with your child’s teacher to benefit your child. This meeting is likely to be tightly scheduled so be ready to make the most of this time you have with teachers.

These essential tips will make sure you maximise this valuable opportunity:

1. **List important points before you go**
   Spend five minutes prior to the meeting listing two or three questions, or jotting down any information about your child that you’d like the teacher to know. This simple preparation will ensure that you don’t forget to pass on must-know information to the teachers.

2. **Attend with a partner or friend**
   If you are nervous about the meeting then consider attending with your partner or a friend. It’s easy to miss key points when you are on your own and it’s difficult to relay information accurately to a partner. Two sets of ears are generally better than one.

3. **Make a good impression – be friendly and positive**
   Make a good impression on your child’s teacher by adopting a friendly, positive demeanour. Greet them with a warm smile and a culturally-appropriate greeting and be mindful that they may be a little nervous themselves.

4. **Be lead by your child’s teacher**
   You may have plenty of things to say but sit back and let your child’s teacher steer the meeting. Many information-gathering parent-teacher meetings have gone off track because over-enthusiastic parents have railroaded them.

5. **Take notes and clarify information you don’t understand**
   Take a notepad with you so you can make a note of important points. Be prepared to clarify any information your teacher passes on that you don’t understand. It’s counter-productive to leave with more questions than when you arrived.

6. **Be prepared to discuss your goals for the year**
   Think about your aspirations for your child for the coming year. If you are not asked directly be prepared to share the goals you have for your child this year before you leave. These goals and aspirations may be:
   - academic (“I’d love him to improve his spelling!”),
   - social (“She’s struggled making friends in the past so this year I’m hoping she makes two or three good friends.”)
   - or related to their behaviour (“I’m really working on teaching her to rein in her temper. I’m hoping you can help her with that this year.”)

7. **Help your child’s teacher build their family knowledge**
   Be prepared to pass on essential family details such as your family circumstances (single parent family, step family etc.); your child’s birth position; your preferred contact details and work arrangements. This information will help the teacher form a more rounded picture of your child.

8. **Be prepared to give an assessment about how your child has settled in**
   Be ready to give a brief assessment about how you think your child has settled in at school this year. Don’t expect your child’s teacher to provide an assessment of early progress more than “he or she seems to have settled in well”. An accurate assessment of your child’s progress comes later in the year.

9. **Pass on what they need to know**
   Don’t leave the meeting without telling teachers important information about your child’s health, family circumstances or behaviour that’s likely to impact significantly on your child’s well-being or learning during the year. Don’t leave it to June to tell a teacher that you think your child may have some mental health issues. Such concerns need to be raised at the start of the year so your child’s teacher can factor this in to their teaching.

10. **Follow-up with a thank you phone call or email**
    Cement your relationship by being one of the few parents that follow-up parent-teacher meetings with phone call or emails of gratitude for the way the meeting was conducted or even the interest the teacher showed in you and your child.

   Research supports the fact that a strong parent-teacher partnership is one of the main keys to your child’s success at school. This meeting hopefully will be the start of a fruitful and happy relationship with your child’s teacher over the coming year.

For more practical tips, advice and parenting ideas, sign up to our FREE weekly [Happy Kids newsletter here](#)
**Dates to Remember**

**Thursday, 3 March**  
Year 3 Prayer Service 9.00am

**Friday, 4 March**  
Science Shockproof Incursion  
Years 1-6

**Monday, 7 March**  
Public Holiday

**Tuesday, 8 March**  
Three Year Old Program  
starts for students who have turned 3

**Thursday, 10 March**  
Year 2 Prayer Service 9.00am

**Friday, 11 March**  
T20 Cricket Carnival  
Raphael Reserve

**Tuesday, 15 March to Friday, 18 March**  
Year 6 Camp

**Wednesday, 16 March**  
Pupil Free Day

**Thursday, 17 March**  
Year 6 Camp Mass

**Friday, 18 March**  
Year 4 Assembly

**Tuesday, 22 March**  
Board Meeting 6.00pm

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**Honour Certificates**

Congratulations to the following students who received honour certificates at last weeks assembly:  
Domenic Cecconi, Kaleisha Crofts, Owen Harwood, Amelia Barber,  
Matilda McMahon, Jude Bracha, Ryan Berry, Ashlee Sims, Eva Boardman, Matilda Smith, Sarah Benny, Eboni Freeth, Ben McNamee and Jade Owen

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**GSK P & F Notes**

- Thank you to all who have participated in our Easter Fundraiser! All monies ($80 per box) are due back to the office by **Friday, 18 March**.

- If you haven't already, remember to join our P & F Facebook page. It is a great way to communicate with other parents, to ask any general questions and to chase down those lost hats and lunchboxes!  
  Find us at GSK Parents and Friends (P&F)

- Our next P & F meeting will be on Tuesday, 8 March at 6pm in Ward House. Ideas for 2016 Community Friendraising and Fundraising will be discussed at this meeting. We hope to see another fantastic turnout!  
  Crèche facilities are available at $2.50 per child (please RSVP).

**NEXT MEETING: EVENING MEETING - Tuesday, 8 March 6.00pm**

Like us on Facebook – GSK Parent and Friends (P&F)  
Email: goodshepherdparentgroup@hotmail.com

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**St Brigid’s College**  
**Scholarships for 2017**

Examinations will be held at the College on Saturday, 19 March 2016  
Please see letter sent with this newsletter.

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**CANTEEN**

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<tr>
<td>Mon, 7 March</td>
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<td>Wed, 9 March</td>
<td>G Wheeler, S Wise</td>
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<td>Fri, 11 March</td>
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Wendy Lazzari, Canteen Manager

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**Uniform shop**  
Orders for winter uniforms should be made by Friday, 18 March in order to have enough stock for next term. The girls winter uniform is made to measure so they must see Linda to be measured as soon as possible. Please pick up a uniform order form from either Linda in the Uniform shop or from the office.
Triple P
Dealing with Disobedience
Come along to our FREE Discussion Group

Date:       Wednesday 16th March 2016
Time:       1.00 – 3.00 pm
Where:      Child and Parent Centre Challis, 40 Braemore Road,
            Armadale

Contact Child and Parent Centre Challis on 9498 3580 or at
louise@parkerville.org.au

Bookings are essential.
Triple P
Fighting and Aggression
Come along to our FREE Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday 18th May 2016
Time: 1.00-3.00 pm
Where: Child and Parent Centre Challis, 40 Braemore Road, Armadale

Contact Child and Parent Centre Challis on 9498 3580 or at louiseparkerville.org.au

Bookings are essential.

Crèche available upon request
Triple P
Raising Resilient Children
Come along to our FREE Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday 15th June 2016
Time: 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Where: Child and Parent Centre Challis, 40 Braemore Road, Armadale

Contact Child and Parent Centre Challis on 9498 3580 or at louise@parkerville.org.au

Bookings are essential.
Crèche available upon request