Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. It is always heartening to watch the children return looking well rested and eager to be back at school. I wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new families. I look forward to getting to know you better as we work together to educate your children. You can be assured there will be lots of opportunities for you to take an active role in the education of your child both academically and spiritually.

We also welcome new teachers to St Cecilia’s, Miss Lucy Schneider (KB), Miss Angela Pelling (1B) and Mrs Laurina Barbetti (Italian) and Mrs Julie Harrison (Canteen and Volunteer Coordinator)

Our Kindergarten children have settled in well, making the adjustment to ‘big school’ with anticipation and excitement. So too have our older students, adjusting to new teachers and routines without fuss. It is however a timely reminder that we can help our children continue the positive transition by ensuring they get plenty of sleep at night and arrive at school prepared for the new day. Walking into a settled classroom after the bell can often cause a child unnecessary anxiety.

Meet the Teacher Monday 8 February

Next Monday evening parents have an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher and ask questions about class expectations and routines. Teachers will explain homework procedures, communication and reporting opportunities as well as everyday routines that may need explanation. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30pm with a repeat session at 7pm for those of you with more than one child at the school.

Swimming Carnival

The 2016 School Swimming Carnival for Years 1 - 6 is on Wednesday 3 February 2016, at Manly Swimming Centre Balgowlah Road, Manly. The Carnival will run from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Parents transport their own children to the pool. At the conclusion of the swimming carnival, buses will transport children back to school. Kindergarten will attend school as usual.

Students are to meet their teacher inside the centre at 9:10am but are not to enter the water until the commencement of the carnival. A reminder to parents to ensure that children have a hat, sunscreen and plenty to drink. Remember, for safety reasons children are not to go to the canteen so will need to bring morning tea and snacks. Also, please ensure all property is clearly labelled (this includes towels, shoes, socks, sport T-shirt etc.)

As students arrive at the carnival they are asked to join their colour house groups and remain with the group throughout the day to ensure they do not miss being marshalled for their race.

At the end of the carnival parents taking their child home are asked to ensure their child is marked off the class roll by the class teacher. Unfortunately we are not permitted to allow students to leave the carnival with anyone other than their parent without written permission.

Manly pool officials have asked parents to note the following:

- that there is a Spectator Fee of $4 per person
- that photography is only permitted with the permission from the School Principal or Swim Centre Management
that any students signed off from the school roll by their parents/guardians are NOT permitted to stay or re-enter the premises until the conclusion of the carnival. After the carnival all students and parents are to pay the normal entry fee.

Changes to be aware of:
- With the redevelopment works taking affect around the centre various changes have been made to the entry / exit of patrons and seating arrangements for students and spectators:
- NEW Entry and Exit Points: The entrance for parents and spectators has been relocated to Kenneth Road, all parents attending are to use this entry only. Please Note – Disabled parking and entry to the facility ONLY is available via Balgowlah Road.

Parking: 4 hour parking is located along Kenneth Road. All surrounding streets are 2 hour parking only. Spectators are encouraged to car pool if available and to allow ample time for parking.

Uniform
The children have returned to school looking very smart in their summer uniforms. Sports uniforms can be worn to school on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Monday and Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>1W Monday, 1B Tuesday; All Yr 1 children Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Monday and Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
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Also a reminder that students must wear a hat when out in the playground. It is always a good idea to apply sunscreen before coming to school each day.

Italian
This year Co.As.It- the Sydney Italian Language and Community Services, will again fund Italian lessons for students from Years 1 to 6. Kindergarten will not be involved in these classes. Instead they will have extra literacy time in the Library.

Ceremony of Light’ Liturgy
A warm invitation is extended to all parents to join us on Thursday 4 February when St Cecilia’s extends a very special welcome to all our Kindergarten children and students and staff new to St Cecilia’s. Our School Leaders for 2016 will also receive their Leadership badges.

Please join us for this very special liturgy.

Staffing 2016
Kindergarten White: Lucy Schneider
Year 1B: Angela Pelling
Year 2: Jenny Morris (MTW) & Terese Cunningham (Th F)
Year 3B: Damien O’Brien
Year 4: Terri Smith
Year 5/6: Monica Officer & Nick Dowler
PE: Sarah Kernaghan
Multi Media/library: Stephanie Harding
Admin: Sue Walmsley & Bev Butler
Teacher Asst: Louise Fergus
Canteen: Julie Harrison
Kindergarten Blue: Zoe Hulme
Year 1W: Colette Ward
Year 3W: Gabrielle Williams
Italian: Laurina Barbetti
Music: Sarah Kernaghan
Learning Support: Sue Grose
LS Asst: Bec Schopen

As Wednesday is the school swim carnival and due to the start of the new school year the newsletter is being sent today. From next week the newsletter will revert to being emailed each Wednesday.

In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus
In all things may God be Glorified.

Fran Taylor
Principal
**UPCOMING DATES**

**February**
- Wed 3rd: Swim Carnival 9.30 – 11.30am
- Thurs 4th: Ceremony of Light 9.30am
- Mon 8th: Meet the Teacher 9am Pop up Play
- Wed 10th: Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am
- Mon 15th: Prayer Assembly 2.30pm
- Tues 16th: Class Parents meeting
- Sun 28th: FCG Mass – Yr 3
- Mon 29th: Prayer Assembly P&F meeting

**March**
- Tues 1st: Yr 3 Boys to St Paul's
- Thurs 3rd: Peninsula Swim Carnival
- Mon 7th: Catholic Schools Week commences
- Thurs 10th: Yr 6 Peninsula Cluster Mass
- Sun 28th: Sacrament of Reconciliation

**TERM DATES 2016**
- Term 1: Wednesday, 27 January to Friday, 08 April
- Term 2: Tuesday, 26 April to Friday, 01 July
- Term 3: Monday, 18 July to Friday, 23 September
- Term 4: Monday, 10 October to Tuesday, 20 December

**Sport**

**SWIMMING**
Thank you to all parents who have volunteered to help at the swimming carnival on Wednesday this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timekeeping</th>
<th>Ribbons</th>
<th>Lifesavers Walking Pool deck</th>
<th>Lifesavers in the pool for the 25m races</th>
<th>Marshalls</th>
<th>Recording</th>
<th>Place judge</th>
<th>Starter</th>
<th>Runners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grace Conna</td>
<td>Magella Brady</td>
<td>Paul Fraser</td>
<td>Chris Bignold</td>
<td>Nadine Meeham</td>
<td>Deb Ristuccia</td>
<td>Karen Bolcher</td>
<td>Brendan Maher</td>
<td>Emma Trueman</td>
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<td>2. Georgie Maher</td>
<td>Jodi Castellan</td>
<td>Russell Clarke</td>
<td>Tim Wunder</td>
<td>Annette Padeldon</td>
<td>Kim McGrath</td>
<td>Robyn Wunder</td>
<td>Ioni Doherty (Oliver Duncan)</td>
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<td>3. Susan Kibby</td>
<td>Melanie Nunn</td>
<td>Orla Keane</td>
<td>Chris O'Connor</td>
<td>Clare Butler</td>
<td>Sara Toia</td>
<td>Colette Gong</td>
<td>Colleen Kasalo</td>
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<td>4. Kate Connors</td>
<td>Zoe Brown</td>
<td>Melanie Blankenstein</td>
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<td>5. Georgia Delany</td>
<td>Gabrielle Brown</td>
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<td>6. Lesley McClennan</td>
<td>Christine Boy</td>
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<td>7. Joanna or Jonathan Stutcliffe</td>
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<td>8. Lilla Haughton</td>
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**Parent Network News**

Due to Wednesday’s swimming carnival, the canteen is only open for over the counter sales. We are still looking for volunteers for the following days:

- Friday 5 Feb – 1 Volunteer
- Monday 15 Feb – 1 Volunteer
- Friday 19 Feb – 2 Volunteers

We are also looking for the following days:

- Friday 12 Feb – 1 Volunteer
- Wednesday 17 Feb – 1 Volunteer

Please contact me at julie.harrison@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Thank you,

Julie Harrison
New Bus Route Numbers for School Bus Services in 2016

From the start of Term 1, most School bus services will be renumbered to eliminate any duplication of route numbers. These changes do not impact the route or level of service provided.

Detailed information on the renumbering for all school services can be obtained from Sydney Buses website at the below address:


Thank you for promoting these changes in your school bulletins, newsletters and at assemblies to ensure students are aware of their school route numbers.

If you have any questions or require further Information please contact TransportInfo on 131500.

Sydney Buses
Northern Region
Bexley
Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:
- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.