Dear Parents and Caregivers

At Trinity Gardens School we like our students to engage in playing games but there is one ‘game’ we don’t want them to ‘play’ and that is the game called “Guess what is in the teacher’s head?”.
In the olden days of teaching there was an emphasis on learning facts and teachers would frequently ask questions to have information regurgitated back to them. I can still clearly remember learning all the names of our early explorers but I have absolutely no idea of the relevance of this learning. These days there is more attention on processes, learning how to learn, than on facts and information alone. Staff avoid this ‘game’ by making explicit the intent or aim of each learning activity. This avoids confusion for students and ensures efficient use of time. When children are clear about what they are learning and why, relevance for learning is maintained and more likely to be transferred into new and different learning situations. We call this metacognition and we encourage children to use meta-language, that means using language to talk about learning.

Last Friday on the pupil free day staff used a strategy, called coding, from the quality teaching framework to determine the level of intellectual rigour, significance and the quality of the learning environment of a lesson. These three areas are called dimensions of quality pedagogy and within each one there are elements (a total of 18 in all). They did this by watching a video taped lesson and then reflected on what they observed compared with the 3 dimensions and 18 elements. The sharing of the observations resulted in the development of common understandings. Finally, staff planned their own lessons based on the Quality Teaching framework and will implement these lessons over the next few weeks.

There’s no doubt about it, when you get teachers talking together about their practice, good things result. I am proud of the way our staff strive for continuous improvement and are willing to reflect critically on their practice and I look forward to our next sharing session.

Recently while on long service leave I had the chance to visit and look at schools in Italy, France and Spain. On the whole I saw many schools with concrete jungles for play areas. It was amazing to me to see so many children ‘playing’ in such small enclosures, in fact some were not playing at all but sitting around. Some children attending these schools lived in dense high rise and I wished for them that they had a Trinity Gardens School environment. Every child at our school spends their day in a wonderful physical environment where they can choose to run on grass or asphalt and to choose between free creative play or to play on our wide variety of equipment. They are lucky indeed.

Virtues of the Week
Week 5 : Understanding
Week 6 : Truthfulness
On my return I was pleased to see the new sandpit in action and the resurfacing of the hardcourt play area well underway. Then last Saturday a small but dedicated band of hard workers planted the gardens in the Junior Primary play area. Natives were planted on the mound and eventually these will help overcome noise and air pollution from Portrush Road. Flowers and other natives were planted in the nearby garden beds. Once these plants have grown our children will be in a softer, even more pleasant environment. Keep an eye on the growth over the coming months and if you see a weed or two feel free to remove it! On behalf of our children and staff, thank you to all who attended the working bee.

Another grounds development is to begin the Piazza. Unfortunately we have not yet sold enough pavers to make a start. Please consider being a part of our school’s history by purchasing a named paver. These can be individually named or be a family paver. If you know an old scholar please encourage them to purchase a named paver. For each named paver we get almost enough plain pavers to cover a square metre. Plans for the Piazza are being prepared now and will be displayed around the school for you to see how wonderful this outdoor learning and community space will become. The amphitheatre will be a very welcome addition to our environment. If you need any more information about the pavers please drop by the office.

On Friday 13 June there’s a great social opportunity to get to know some of our families. The special events/fundraising group has organized a Magic Wine Night. Come along and find out why it’s called a ‘Magic’ night. I’ll see you there!

Kind regards
Vicki

This photograph is the interior of a classroom in France. How can students fit in non-adjustable desks? Do our classrooms look like these?

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**VIRTUES WALKATHON**

On Thursday 26 June, all students will be participating in a Virtues Walkathon to raise money for our paved Virtues Walk on the new Piazza area.

Students will be allocated a period of time to walk/jog/run around the track and visit all of the special Virtue Checkpoints that will be scattered along the course. The goal for this event is for students to Be Active whilst raising funds for our school piazza. This will be an exciting way to support our whole school Virtues Program.

Students will be encouraged to gather sponsors for their efforts on the day by either a donation or an amount of money per lap of the course.

Sponsorship forms will be coming home shortly.

**SPORT NEWS**

SAPSASA news

Congratulations to our students who participated in the SAPSASA soccer Round Robin competition last Friday. These students demonstrated great sportsmanship and determination in particularly trying weather conditions.

Some of our students will be participating in the SAPSAS netball Round Robin competition before the end of this term.

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**THANK YOU!**

A BIG thank you to all the wonderful, energetic people who turned up for our very productive working bee on Saturday 24 May.

Thanks to Mel & Jamie, Lee & Simon, Jan & Andrew, Granny Marg, Cathie, Mark, Patrick, Kirsty, Barb, Scott, Stacey, Fred, Oliver, Darren, Joel, Sally and Vicki.

Also, thanks to all the happy children who had a lovely time playing together.

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**STEINER NEWS**

Adelaide Steiner Education Association
Invites all Parents to
The Autumn Parent Workshop 2008
‘Creating Wellbeing Through Transforming a School Outdoor Environment’
Date: Wed 4th June 2008
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Devitt Building (TGPS)
Presenter: Karen Generowicz

Karen will speak about the importance of integrating wellbeing throughout the school environment with an emphasis on the development of outdoor learning and social spaces.

All welcome!

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**PAVERS**

Don’t forget that orders for personalised brick pavers are due by the end of Term 2. Please contact the Front Office staff if you have any queries.

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**YEAR 8 ENROLMENTS**

Year 8 Student Enrolment

All enrolment forms for Year 7 students going on to secondary school should be in sent to our school office before Friday 30 May. This applies even if you are not attending the zoned school on the form you received.

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**VIRTUES OF THE WEEK**

Week 5 - Understanding

Understanding is thinking clearly. It is using your mind so that you can see the truth about things. It is paying careful attention and thinking about things in order to see their meaning. Understanding is also having empathy and showing compassion. Understanding gives us the power to think and learn and also to care.

Week 6—Truthfulness

Truthfulness is being honest in your words and actions. You don’t tell lies, even if it means you will get into trouble. You don’t listen to gossip and people who tell tales. Being true to yourself means being who and what you are, without trying to make yourself look like something you are not. Truthfulness builds trust, so people always know where they stand with a truthful person.
OSHC NEWS

Bookings are available for Before and After School Care by phoning 83326901. Edwina will be on leave from May 29 until June 13 – we wish her a happy time during her well deserved break.

During this time Vanessa Woods will be Acting Director of our OSHC service.

NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter by email, please send an email to our editor at: belinda.chandler@trinitygps.sa.edu.au to let her know.

That way we get your correct email address and you can receive future newsletters electronically. If you choose to receive your newsletter electronically, please tell your child and their teacher that there is no longer any need for them to collect a hard copy.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment books are available for sale at the front office now. Instead of sending them home with each child as we have previously done, we are selling them directly from the office. Be quick— we have limited stocks.

FEATURE FILM

Barrett Casting are searching for an intelligent, confident, Caucasian 5-8 year old boy for a feature film called “The Boys are Back in Town”. This film will be directed by Scott Hicks (director of “Shine”) and produced by Tim White.

Please contact Michael or Danielle at Barrett Casting on (02) 9699 1377 or michael@barrettcasting.com.au

FINANCE NEWS

Please note that families who have elected to pay the Materials & Services Charge for 2008 by installments are due to complete payment on or before 15 June 2008.

Unless otherwise negotiated, no fees for the current year should be outstanding at this time.

Statements are posted and/or sent home regularly. If you have an outstanding balance and need clarification or wish to discuss final payment options, please call Karen on 8431 4170 or call in to the Front Office.

Unfortunately, for those families where there has not been negotiation around outstanding charges, the debt collection process as approved by Governing Council will be implemented this term.

As always, thank you to the majority of families who have completed payment and/or submitted School Card Assistance forms.

CANTEEN NEWS - WEEK 5 TERM 2

The Canteen and School Community would like to thank Giselle McKay for all her fantastic work over the last four years in the Canteen.

We hope you enjoy your time at leisure with your family and hope to see you soon.

The Canteen is urgently looking for volunteers. Please enquire with times available— all welcome.

Thanks, Teresa.

CANTEEN MEAL DEAL - TUESDAY 3 JUNE

On Tuesday 3 June a canteen meal deal will replace normal lunch orders. No other lunch orders will be available on this day. Deal for week 6, term 2:

FOOTY FEVER

Choose A Pie - Pastie - Sausage roll - Vegetable quiche
Poppy seed and Orange cake
Chocolate Milk

All for only $6.00
No other lunches available on this day
Buy 4 meal deals - get the 5th free!

I would like to order a Pie - Pastie - Sausage Roll - Vegetable Quiche (please circle your choice) with poppy seed & orange cake and a chocolate milk.

Name………………………………………………………………               Room…………………………….

Amount enclosed…………………………..
The 26th of May is the National Day of Healing (before it was known as Sorry Day). It is not an official holiday but a day for all Australians to acknowledge the wrong that been done in the past to Australian Indigenous people (aborigines).

This day will become part of the Journey of Healing for the Stolen Generation.

The Stolen generation, young Aboriginal children were taken from their parents and placed in foster care with white families.

The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Kevin Rudd has apologized to the Stolen Generation, for the loss of their Country, culture and their children.

Today was about healing these wounds, to move forward with recognition and respect.

INTERVIEW 1

One of the Stolen Generation that I met was Mona Kennedy, her father was Irish and her mother a full blooded Aboriginal Woman from Oodnadatta which is located in the South Australian outback. Her father was sent to jail for his association with Mona’s mother. Mona was part of the assimilation policy, where young aboriginal girls were taken from their families to foster homes with white people. Mona was 14 when she was sent to live with the Bagshaw Family at McLaren Flat, to work as a maid and to look after the children of the Bagshaw Family. Mona remained with the family until she turned 18 years of age. The Bagshaw family were vingerons and grew grapes and fruit trees. Mona enjoyed her time with the family. Mona went on to university to study and became a writer, author and Poet. She currently lectures at the University of South Australia in Aboriginal Studies. Mona told us, “If you have a dream in your heart, you can be anybody you want.”

Ms Jandruwanda paints native Australian animals and scenery, and then has them made into greeting cards which she sells. The greeting cards also have a poem that she has written inside them. We bought a card with a platypus on the front and the poem inside read,

**The Platypus**

*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Solitary delight,  
Of water and land,  
Survival in danger,  
From careless man,  
Suckle your young,  
With pride anew,  
We have to love,  
And care for you.

INTERVIEW 2.

We met an Aboriginal Artist named Jennifer Jandruwanda who is both an artist and a poet and is from the Yandruwandha Tribe.

A picture of Jennifer Jandruwanda holding two of her beautiful designs on greeting cards.