Dear Parents and Caregivers

A sincere welcome to the 2009 school year is extended to all children and their families. This year we welcome 41 new children and their families to our community. The weather is not being kind to us this week. Classrooms do have air-conditioning and we carefully control the amount of time children are outside. Children may be outside at recess time and for 10 minutes of lunch and stay under the walkways. There is no oval, court or play equipment play on days of extreme heat. Children will be encouraged to keep hydrated and are allowed to drink water during lesson time. The heat wave will help our new Receptions remember their start to school! We will not hesitate to call you if we feel your child was suffering due to the heat. I do hope you are able to find a cool spot to read our first newsletter as there are some wonderful opportunities and events coming up very soon.

At Trinity Gardens School, staff work hard before the children come back to school to prepare for their arrival. We believe it is important that our students enter a learning environment that is both welcoming and set out ready for them to engage in activities. A pleasant environment is appreciated by children and noted in research as one important factor conducive to learning. To assist the environment most of Wellington building was painted over the holidays and the upstairs Jones classrooms, St Morris and 5W were all re-carpeted.

The learning of each child at our school is paramount and staff have worked together over two days last week to engage in professional learning around their pedagogy. What this means is that staff have been looking at ways that they can get better at what they do. Our staff, all experienced teachers, strive to be exceptional teachers. When staff are experienced it could be all too easy to be complacent rather than challenge their professional identity and lead learning in new directions, practice deep reflective decision making and respond analytically to their students.

Last year we began a process of using the Quality Teaching Framework and we will continue this journey this year. We know the number one thing that makes a difference to students’ learning outcomes is the quality of the teaching. One activity undertaken by staff was to view a short video focused on the changing nature of the world and to reflect upon the sort of skills our young learners would need as teenagers in 2017, as young adults in 2025 and as retirees in 2068. We also referred to research about the sort of schools children want. This is what they said they wanted:

- No harassment
- Positive relationships
- Recognition of individualism
- Pleasant environment
- Relevant, challenging and practical learning
- Schools that treat children as real people
- Schools where children can learn collaboratively
- Schools where children can negotiate learning
- Schools where children can learn along with teachers

What can be summarised as important to student learning: Relationships, the environment, choice, relevance and higher order thinking skills.

Term 1  Week 1  28 January 2009

Dates to Remember

Acquaintance Night  
Wednesday 4 February 2009
See program on back page for more details

Governing Council AGM  
Wednesday 4 February 2009
7.30pm

Cyber Safety  
Wednesday 18 February 2009
7.30pm

Gardening Australia  
Thursday 19 February 2009
6.30pm. Please place your name on the RSVP list at the front office if attending.

Virtues of the Week

Week 1: Respect
Week 2: Responsibility
Parents, you are partners with us in your children’s learning journeys and we welcome your collaboration. Please make time to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher. This is usually best done after school as in the morning we like teachers to welcome the children without interruptions. Our **Acquaintance Night is next Wednesday** and you are welcome on that night to visit your child’s classroom and to listen to your teacher explain their curriculum program and class routines. At the end of term we have formal parent, child and teacher conferences, however I must stress that you are welcome at any time to meet with the teacher. You do not need to wait for an invitation. We are earnest in our endeavour to meet parental expectations and to achieve this we need your help, so if you are unsure of anything, would like more information or seek clarification please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. Parents differ in the expectations they have for their children and we want to know about your expectations so that we can work with you.

**Cyber Safety** has become an area that parents and staff share. How can we keep our children safe from cyber bullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, and predatory activity? Young people today are immersed in digital technologies, using the internet and mobile phones to research, exchange information, do their homework and for entertainment. While there may be many benefits, young people need to be aware of the potential risks and the importance of being responsible digital citizens. Parents and teachers play a pivotal role in helping students develop appropriate and ethical behaviours when using digital technologies. The Australian Government has developed an accredited workshop for educators and provides free sessions for students at school and parents in the evening. At Trinity Gardens School we are accessing this service on Wednesday 18 February. There will be a session for Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 students during the day, staff will complete the workshop after school and at 7:30pm parents are invited to attend a workshop. All parents are invited, you do not need to have a child in upper primary. Please mark this date in your diary.

Another invitation I extend to you is to join us for an informative and entertaining talk by Sophie Thompson from **Gardening Australia**. Sophie will be visiting us on Thursday 19 February and will assist garden lovers with tips to manage in our time of changing climatic conditions. More details will follow. Luck just has these events on consecutive nights and we did not want to miss out on either event.

The first major school community event is our annual **Acquaintance night next Wednesday**. A program is included in this newsletter. Staffing is not finalised until week 3 and in the next newsletter I will provide a list of our 2009 teaching staff. Staff will be introduced at the beginning of the AGM to be held in the Resource Centre at 7.30pm.

Finally, have you considered nominating for Governing Council? Please contact me or Caralyn Lammas (Chair of GC) if you need any information before nominating. Nominations forms were sent home with school fee invoices or another form can be collected from the front office.

I am extremely optimistic about the 2009 school year and am looking forward to working with you, our families, throughout the year.

Yours sincerely
Vicki Stokes
Principal

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**Welcome!**

The school community extends a warm welcome to the following students and their families who have joined us this year:


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**Sport News**

Years 2 to 7 children can participate in school basketball and cricket teams during this term. Notes will be sent home shortly with all interested students.

These notes will need to be returned to school as soon as possible as cricket matches begin on Saturday February 14 and basketball begins on February 9.

We will need many adults to help as coaches as the number of teams we register will be dependent upon the number of people who can act as coaches.

Without enough coaches some children may not be able to participate. Registration fees apply to both cricket and basketball and a uniform hire fee applies to basketball. An entrance fee to the stadium also applies to basketball.

This year, a $5 sports levy will apply to all children so all children can receive a plate at the end of the year to attach to their wooden plaque.

These will be presented at our sports presentation in Term 4. Wooden plaques for new students will be need to be purchased at the end of the year - more details about the plaques will be available later.

Basketball matches are played during the week after school and cricket is usually held on Saturday mornings or Friday evenings.

If you have any questions please see Ros at school.

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**Words of Wisdom ~ Upfront**

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

*Henry Ford*
On Tuesday 3 February a canteen meal deal will replace normal lunch orders - No other lunch orders will be available on this day. Deal for week 2, term 1:

**Chicken and Vegetable Stir Fry with Rice**

**OR**

**Vegetable Stir Fry with Rice**

with a Scrumptious Fruit Slice

and a bottle of Water

All for only $6.00

I would like to order a .......... (please circle your choice) with a .......... and a bottle of water - for only $6.00

Name..............................................................................................................

Room.........................................................

Amount enclosed..............................................
**Music Lessons**

**Piano Lessons:**
Marie Morton has vacancies for piano lessons for students from Years 2 to 7. If your child/children would like to learn piano please contact Marie on 81652845.

**Guitar Lessons:**
Guitar lessons will be available at school on Wednesdays. Mr. Ray Smith will continue as our guitar teacher. If your child would like to learn guitar please contact Ray on 82619345 or 0401032783. Please contact Ray if your child is not continuing with their guitar lessons this year. These music lessons are usually rotated during the school day so the child does not miss the same lesson in class. There is a cost per lesson.

**Where's Your Hat?**
Our Sun Smart policy has recommenced and hat wearing is now a compulsory requirement. Please remind your children of the *no hat, no outdoor play* policy! Thank you for your support.

**OSHC News**

Our Vacation care program conducted during the school holidays was very successful and children enjoyed a variety of activities and excursions. Bookings for Before School Care and After School Care are available and may be made by contacting Edwina, our OSHC Director on 83326901. An enrolment form needs to be completed before children can attend OSHC. All Reception children attending After School Care are collected by an OSHC staff member. Children from Years 1 to 7 make their way to the hall as soon as they are dismissed from their class.

**St Morris Community Child Care Centre 20th Birthday & Reunion**

13 February 2009
If you are a past St Morris CCCC family member please contact the centre for details of our celebration.
Ph: 8332 3999
We would love to see you!

**Acquaintence Night 2009 Program**

**Wednesday 4 February**

**Program**

Early Learning Centre & St Morris Unit open from 6.00 until 7.00pm

- 6.00pm Mainstream & Steiner Reception classes
  - Mainstream Reception/Year 1 classes
  - Steiner classes 1 and Mainstream Year 4/5

- 6.30pm Steiner Class 2 and Steiner class 3, Mainstream Yr 5/6 and Yr 6/7

- 7.00pm Mainstream Yr 1/2 classes, Yr 3, Yr 2/3 and Steiner class 4/5

- 7.30pm Governing Council AGM in Resource Centre
  - Introduction of staff at beginning of meeting.

Come and hear your child/children’s teacher share their routines and plans for the year.

Please note supervision of children remains the responsibility of parents.

A Creche for school aged children is available for the AGM. Children must be booked in through the Front Office.

**Virtues of the Week**

**Week 1 - Respect**
Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. Respect is valuing ourselves, others, and the world around us. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we are respectful we treat others as we want to be treated.

Respect includes honouring the rules of our family or school, which make life more orderly and peaceful. It is knowing that every man, woman and child deserves respect, including you.

**Week 2 - Responsibility**
Being responsible means that others can depend on you. You are willing to be accountable for your actions. When things go wrong and you make a mistake, you make amends instead of excuses. When you are responsible, you keep your agreements. You give your best to any job. Responsibility is a sign of growing up.

**Uniform Shop**

NOW AVAILABLE!
GOLD POLO SHIRTS
100% COTTON
ONLY $20

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY AFTERNOON 2.45 - 3.30
FRIDAY MORNING 8.25 - 9.30

**Tennis Clinics**

JAMES PARTINGTON TENNIS CLINICS

TERM 1 CLASSES ARE EITHER AFTER SCHOOL OR ON WEEKENDS.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE PHONE JAMES 8332 9603 OR www.tennisclinics.com.au

**Our School Newsletter is Available for Reading via the School Website. Just Go to: www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au**