Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had two wonderful school community events since our last newsletter. The first was the Successful Start Program celebration assembly. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. At the assembly each class shared one aspect of the program. For some it was their class song and for others their class flag, motto or personal shield. Some classes sang songs about the virtues, for example friendliness and helpfulness and getting along with each other. Performing at assembly for peers helps students to develop confidence and provides an audience for the celebration of good work. We were lucky that the weather was mild but we are eagerly awaiting completion of the new gym where the acoustics will be much better than in the outside environment.

The second event was Pancake Tuesday and casual clothes day to raise money for the school children in Victoria who lost their schools and preschools in the recent bushfires. Our children and many parents were keen to hold a fundraiser for this worthy purpose. The world is a better place when those adults in it have a social conscience and so it is important that the younger generation have opportunities to give for the benefit of others. We raised $783.55. (So far!) Thank you to everyone who made a donation. Included in this newsletter is an article about ways you can support your children if they show anxiety about the bushfires or other disasters. This may be useful if the weather climbs to the 40s again this week.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the 2009 Governing Council members. Elected as Chairperson for the second year is Caralyn Lammas. Our treasurer is Geoff Woods, who has been a longtime member of the Finance Advisory Committee and our Secretary is Sarah Morelli, also undertaking this role for the second year. These three positions, along with myself, form the Executive Committee and hold the responsibility for agendas, minutes, running meetings and monitoring the finances of the school. Joining these parents are the following members along with the portfolio they convene:

Jane Thomas—Environmental Sustainable Development.
Barb Copus and Shane Waite—Fundraising & Special Events.
Sally Wuttke—Grounds.
Colin Morris and Ruth Brazauskas—Grants.
Nicky Guerin—Steiner Education.
Veronica Planthaber—Community Care.
Sarah Morelli—Uniform.
Rowena Tennant—Early Learning Centre.
Ros Green—OSHC.
Caralyn Lammas—Canteen.
Vicki Stokes—Built Environment.

Please see further in this newsletter for Caralyn’s invitation for you to join a sub-committee.

I am sure that you heard about the commitment of $14.7 billion from the Australian Government to provide new facilities and refurbishments to schools. This is exciting news for schools. The main objective is to provide economic stimulus through rapid construction and refurbishment of school infrastructure. The project is called Building the Education Revolution. In order to achieve the maximum impact on employment it is essential that projects commence as soon as possible. Projects unable to demonstrate their ability to be completed within the specified timeframe will not be funded. Last week our Governing Council Chairperson and myself
attended a briefing by the Premier and basically the message was use it or lose it! Of course we don’t want to lose it so Governing Council is working as quickly as possible to take advantage of the offer. Lots of ideas have been put forward and it is Governing Council’s job to see what projects meet the guidelines. We know some things like upgrades to airconditioning and heating will not be funded but we are still not sure what priorities will be listed. We are able to access two buckets of money. One for a large project and Governing Council has identified an upgrade to the Resource Centre as our prime objective. The second smaller amount of money, looks at things like refurbishment of buildings (toilets?), shade structures, outdoor learning areas, sporting grounds, green upgrades and IT facilities. You are invited to make suggestions about how you would like to see the Resource Centre redeveloped and for other projects around the school. Your input is appreciated. As there is an extremely short timeframe please put your thoughts in writing by 4 March, addressed either to Caralyn or myself. Governing Council is holding extra-ordinary meetings to keep up to date with information and to ensure we meet deadlines. Governing Council will keep our community informed about our school’s projects.

Kind Regards

Vicki Stokes

**ELC NEWS**

**Family Fun Time Workshop**

**Wednesday 4 March**

7.00-9.00pm

You & your partner are invited to attend a Family Fun Time Workshop with Andrew Mickan. Father of 5, Andrew is passionate about families having fun together. Andrew teaches parents how to make play a regular occurrence within their own family.

(Note the session is for adults—parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers etc).

A gold coin donation to help cover costs would be appreciated.

Supper provided (tea, coffee, biscuits)

**SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

After school staff are on duty at three designated areas including the yard, the crossing and drop-off zone until 3.20 pm.

It is important that students are not asked to wait at the Devitt Avenue car park after school as there is no staff supervision.

Children may only use the Upper Primary playground after school under adult supervision.

It is lovely to see parents chatting and children playing after 3.20pm, but we request that all children be supervised when playing in all areas including the oval and Middle Primary and Upper Primary playgrounds. Thank you for your co-operation.

**ATTENDANCE**

It is a DECS requirement that the school is notified of any absence or lateness for all children. Please inform the school by phone, a spoken message or in writing of any absence or lateness for your child/children.

Our school day starts at 8.45am and it is essential that children are ready to begin their learning at 8.45am. Children are welcome to arrive at school at 8.25 am as the yard is supervised from this time. It is important to allow your child to be at school in time for the start of daily routines and a chat with the teacher.

Children who are late miss instructions and messages as well as time to get organised and prepare for a day of learning. Lateness is also embarrassing for the students, disruptive for the class and time-wasting for both students and teachers. In fact, if a child is 15 minutes late every day this equals 2½ days per term or 10 days per year. By the end of Year 4, this equates to a term off school.

Before School Care is available from 7.30am for parents whose children need to be at school before 8.25am.

*See OSHC News in this Newsletter.*

**SCIENCE NEWS**

**Science Lessons**

Throughout this term and next, Adam Clutton will be working with classroom teachers and conducting extra Science and Technology Lessons with all classes at our school. The classes are 1 hour long and run over a two week period and will focus on many scientific concepts, and have a ‘hands on’ approach. Recently some of our Junior Primary classes have been learning about water absorption, magnets, electrical circuits and have been designing and making some amazing egg-speriments!!!
Help your children make sense of natural disasters

The Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires continue to wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. These two natural disasters will be brought into our living rooms via the media over the coming days and weeks.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fills the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. **Reassure children that they are safe.** The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. **Be available and ‘askable’.** Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to

3. **Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television.** Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding. Sit with them. Ask them questions to ascertain their understanding.

4. **Support children’s concerns for others.** They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5. **Let them explore feelings beyond fear.** Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6. **Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish.** Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7. **Avoid keeping the television on all the time.** The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. **Be aware of your own actions.** Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening, but it should not dominate their lives.

9. **Take action yourself.** Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of, so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Michael Grose is one of Australia’s leading parenting educators. For more

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**Canteen Meal Deal - Tuesday 3 March**

On Tuesday 3 March a canteen meal deal will replace normal lunch orders - *No other lunch orders will be available on this day.* Deal for week 6, Term 1:

**Vegetable Mornay Served with Rice**

**OR**

**Tuna Mornay Served with Rice**

**Plus a delicious Apple Turnover**

Meal Deal includes a bottle of Water

All for only $6.00
ST PETERS NETBALL CLUB
2009 Winter Season
Nominations are soon closing for the 2009 Netball Winter Season. If you intend playing in the winter season then you must complete a nomination form, obtainable from:
Mrs C Lloyd
19 Phillis St
Maylands 5069
P: 8362 4808
or
Mick Mansfield
11 Breaker St
St Morris 5068
P: 8332 7291
M: 0428 332 729

GIRLS CRICKET
Kensington District Cricket Club.
FREE Girls Cricket Sessions. The aim is to introduce girls to the game of cricket through a series of games. All ability levels will be catered for. No experience necessary. Equipment provided.
Wednesdays 4 Mar; 11 Mar & 18 Mar
5.30—7.00pm
Parkinson Oval, The Parade, Kensington Gardens.
For more info contact Ben Johnswood on Mob: 0438 860 048 or bjohnswood@saca.com.au

BASKETBALL
Our basketball teams are now organised and programs of matches will be sent home this week.

Thank you to all our coaches for their voluntary assistance and strong support of our students.

It is essential that all students playing basketball are in the care of a responsible adult at the stadium- they are not to be dropped off and left unsupervised.

SOCcer
School soccer is available for students in Year 2 to 7. Students must be at least 7 turning 8 years old this year to play soccer. There is no provision for students who are 6 or younger to play soccer on Saturday mornings.

FOotball
A school football team for our Year 4 and 5 students is being organised with John Edwards as our coach.

Matches will be held on Saturday mornings. This competition conducted by the Norwood Football club and SANFL is not highly competitive but based around children having fun and learning new skills. There are no finals.

Awards are given to teams (including children and team parents and spectators) that demonstrate good sportsmanship and behaviour.

Expression of interest forms relating to this football for Year 4 and 5 students will be sent home later this week.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COLLEGE PARK SCOUT GROUP
Scouting is a worldwide organization where youth have fun while learning a range of life skills through a broad range of activities. These include games, cooking, camping, performing arts, adventurous activities and community service.

The Wednesday Cub pack (for 8-11 yrs) is looking for new cubs in 2009. The pack leader has experience to ensure all cubs have the opportunity to develop as individuals and in teams. New members are invited to a special Open Day on Wednesday 11 March.

Meeting Times: Cubs Wed 7-8.30pm
95 Fourth Ave, Joslin (next to Joslin Reserve).
Group Leader: Brenton Whittenbury
M: 0434 686 667
Wed Cub Leader: Ian Godfinch
M: 0401 121 020

CHILD CARE LINKS
You are invited to attend these free presentations:
Childhood Protection Keeping Your Children Safe
When: Mon 2 March 2009
Time: 7.30pm—9.00pm
RSVP by 27 February
Fighting Childhood Obesity
When: Wed 11 March 2009
Time: 7.30pm—9.00pm
RSVP by 6 March
Both presentations will be held at the:
Hall, Burnside Council

COMMUNITY EVENT
Launch of Local Artwork
‘Daily Bread - The Art of Work’
by Martin Corbin.
SUNDAY 22 MAR, 12.30-2.30PM
Cruickshank Reserve, Maylands

WORDS OF WISDOM
Do not undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special. Author Unknown.

MUSIC NEWS
Students in Years 2 to 7 have the opportunity to learn violin, voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, recorder and music theory at school from Sarah Bradley as a private provider. Please contact Sarah on 0434 930 626 for more information

OSHIC NEWS
We invite parents or caregivers to join our OSHC Advisory Committee.

Meetings are held in the hall from 6pm to around 7.30pm twice each term.

If you would like to become involved with decisions relating to our OSHC service and ideas around further improvement, please express your interest to Edwina Guidolin (Director)

Bookings for After School Care are available and may be made by contacting Edwina, our OSHC Director on 83326901.

VIRTUES OF THE WEEK
Week 5 - Excellence
Excellence is doing your best - giving your best to any task you do or any relationship you have. Our school motto is Strive for Excellence and we expect all students to do their best. Excellence is the key to success. When you practise excellence, you can make a difference in this world.

Week 6 - Friendliness
Friendliness is being a friend. It is taking an interest in other people. It is going out of your way to make others feel welcome or to make a new person feel at home. When you are friendly, you happily share your belongings, time, ideas, and feelings. You share the good times and the bad times together. Friendliness is the best cure for
From the Chairperson:

Hello, my name is Caralyn Lammas and I am the recently elected Chairperson of Governing Council. My family and I have been a part of the Trinity Gardens Primary School community since 2001 and are committed to the school until 2016. My son Luke completed Year 7 last year and my son Harvey is in Reception with Joanne Simpson. I am passionate about our school, its children and community and am committed to working hard to help achieve the goals of our school. Our Governing Council members are also passionate, committed and hard-working people; in addition to their work on the Governing Council, they each are responsible for a sub-committee portfolio. We need people to join our sub-committees. The commitment is only a few hours per term; the benefit is the completion of projects and the action of programs that support our children. The following are examples of work undertaken by our various sub-committees: the lizard seat; the playgrounds grant; healthy choices canteen menu; various sports teams; the family fun fair; the future bigger and better gym. There are 10 sub-committees to choose from. Inserted in this newsletter is a form you can fill out and return to the front office. The form contains information about each sub-committee and space for your contact details. You may elect to join more than one committee, and more than one person may use each form. Please complete and return the form even if you have previously been a sub-committee member or had made an informal commitment to become one this year. I would especially like to hear from families new to our school; becoming involved is a great way to meet other families with interests similar to yours’. I look forward to a strong and positive response from our school community.

I am at school most mornings and afternoons. Please come and talk to me. If you don’t know me, ask around; someone will be able to point me out. You can contact me on 8364 6982 or 0439 273 960 or clash@chariot.net.au.

Caralyn Lammas
Chairperson
Trinity Gardens Primary School

Yesterday Trinity Gardens Primary School sent 4 teams to the East Adelaide Walla-Rugby Sevens Gala Day at Burnside Rugby Club, Kensington. In total we had 36 students representing our school in the year 6/7 Girls and year 6/7 boys division. Three of our teams made it to the semi finals but unfortunately none of the teams progressed to the finals. We had many fantastic players in all teams on the day with special mentions going to Nicholas Hyland and Caitlin Pullan who received the Most Valuable Player awards for our school. Congratulations should go to all students for their efforts in all games. Well Done!

Children from Dimity’s Steiner Reception class and Toulia’s Year 1 Steiner class with samples of their learning.
**2009 TGPS Governing Council Sub-Committees**
Please return this form to the front office by Tuesday, 10 March.

- **Special Events/Fundraising**
  - Convenor: Shane Waite/Barb Copus
  - Manages social and fundraising events eg. family fun fair, end of year celebration.
  - Meets once or twice a term in the evening.
  - Name:
  - Child/ren name/s and Class:
  - Email:
  - Ph:
  - I cannot attend meetings but am willing to assist with events ☐

- **Grounds**
  - Convenor: Sally Wuttke
  - Monitors school grounds, including planning, design and working bees.
  - Meets once a term in the evening.
  - Name:
  - Child/ren name/s and Class:
  - Email:
  - Ph:
  - I cannot attend meetings but am willing to attend working bees ☐

- **Grants**
  - Convenor: Colin Moss/Ruth Bralauskas
  - Identifies and applies for various local, state and federal government grants.
  - Meets once a term in the evening.
  - Name:
  - Child/ren name/s and Class:
  - Email:
  - Ph:

- **Canteen**
  - Convenor: Caralyn Lammas
  - Manages policy, menu, special events and overall direction.
  - Meets twice a term at school in the morning.
  - Name:
  - Child/ren name/s and Class:
  - Email:
  - Ph:
  - I cannot attend meetings but am willing to work in the canteen ☐

- **Sports**
  - Convenor: Ros Green
  - Manages extra-curricular sports, uniforms and policy
  - Meets once a term.
  - Name:
  - Child/ren name/s and Class:
  - Email:
  - Ph:
  - I cannot attend meetings but am willing to assist with sporting events ☐
2009 TGPS Governing Council Sub-Committees

Please return this form to the front office by Tuesday, 10 March.

**Steiner Education Stream**  
Convenor: Nicky Guerin  
Promotes and provides information about Steiner education and maintains the learning environment  
Meets once a term in the evening.

Name:  
Child/ren name/s and Class:  
Email:  
Ph:

I cannot attend meetings but am willing to assist ☐

**OSHC**  
Convenor: Ros Green  
Members form the OSHC Advisory committee and work to achieve the highest quality service  
Meets twice a term on Thursdays 6 – 7.30pm.

Name:  
Child/ren name/s and Class:  
Email:  
Ph:

**School Community Care**  
Convenor: Veronica Gordon-Planthaber  
Provides pastoral care and a social network for school families, supports classroom representatives.  
Meets once a term, or as needed.

Name:  
Child/ren name/s and Class:  
Email:  
Ph:

I cannot attend meetings but am willing to assist ☐

**Environmental Sustainable Development**  
Convenor: Jane Thomas  
Works with the whole school community, including students, on projects aimed at reducing our impact on the environment.  
Meets once a term in the evening.

Name:  
Child/ren name/s and Class:  
Email:  
Ph:

I cannot attend meetings but am willing to assist ☐

**Built Environment**  
Convenor: Vicki Stokes  
To oversee large and small scale facility development in a planned and coordinated way. To consult with Governing Council, the Principal and the Department of Education and Children’s Services as appropriate regarding school future site planning and capital works projects such as buildings, infrastructure and ‘built’ landscape design (eg Gabion wall, piazza, shelters, seating, etc).  
Meets as needed

Name:  
Child/ren name/s and Class:  
Email:  
Ph:
SUCCESSFUL START ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2009

PANCAKE DAY & CASUAL DAY
TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2009