To our School Community,

It was wonderful to see so many of our students and families at the Festa in Palestra and Disco on Friday, 12 March. The atmosphere, the weather, the piazza and of course the gym itself were perfect! This event was not a fundraiser but rather a celebration of our gym and the achievements of our school community. Thank you to everyone who came and took part in this milestone in our school’s history. Thank you also to the many people who helped make this event a success. It truly was a collaborative effort. Students, staff and many volunteers worked behind the scenes and on the night to ensure the event ran smoothly. This effort was reflected in the positive feedback we received from the school community and the various government and business representatives who attended. Well done everyone.

I appreciate the response to my request for volunteers to help out on the night. We worked well as a team and we had fun. I was pleased that many new people offered their time. Volunteering is of great benefit to our school - a couple of hours here and there make such a difference and allow our various subcommittees to complete projects and achieve results. Our subcommittees are working on new projects; the people involved are full of enthusiasm and drive. New subcommittee members are always welcome - it is never too late to join one. If you have been considering joining, I urge you to fill out a volunteering form, available from the front office.

Thank you
Caralyn Lammas
Chairperson, Governing Council

Dear Families of Trinity Gardens School,

Like Caralyn, I too felt that the gym opening was wonderful and sincerely wish to thank everyone for their support to make it such an enjoyable community event. I felt very proud of our school community and the students who spoke so well during the opening ceremony.

Meanwhile focusing on learning......

While walking around the school have you seen the displays of the 2010 School Improvement Plan? This plan identifies the three main priorities for improvement in learning:

21st Century Pedagogy (the art and science of teaching)
21st Century Literacy
21st Century Numeracy

Throughout the year updates will be provided about the action undertaken in these priorities through the newsletter.

Let’s start with 21st Century Pedagogy. The main intent of this priority is to engage in how traditional schooling needs to change to better prepare children for taking their place in a changing world. To assist in this challenge we reflect upon current research, such as that recently undertaken in 2008 by the
Facilities Update - Resource Centre Development:
The RC redevelopment is almost in full swing. The safety fence is now in place and may require some adjustments during the life of the project. The old entrance point behind the RC is now no longer available, nor is the covered walkway.
There will be a new entrance and gate from the Aberdare pedestrian crossing. This will assist smooth entrance to the school while the building work is underway. It will be necessary for students using the Wellington and Jones classrooms to walk around the St Moriss building rather than through the St Moriss gates as we need to respect that the St Moriss students have priority of use. The existing walkway will be removed and replaced with a wide verandah opening the RC.

Perhaps you could consider using the drop off zone. Please remember though that you may only wait for 2 minutes. After that you need to be prepared to do a lap of the block and by the second time around your child should be waiting for you.
The RC toilets will also be out of action and everyone in Devitt, Wellington and Jones will use the Wellington toilets.
A big crane is coming in from Amherst Ave close to the Kitchen Garden so please avoid parking your car in this area. Parking in Devitt Ave and walking across the oval to school doesn’t take very long and provides some healthy exercise at the same time.
The bike racks have been moved (or will be very soon) with one set near the Wellington pedestrian entrance and the other near the tennis courts on the Aberdare Ave side. There is a plan to purchase more racks to go behind the Aberdare classrooms.
The entire roof of the Resource Centre will be removed and the new roof will be of a different design and much higher to enable natural light to be used.

Plans of the new RC will soon be displayed in the front office. There will be some disruption to everyone for the next nine months however the inconvenience will be well worth it in the long run.

If you have a particular question please leave it at the front office for me or chat to me while I am on yard duty.

Thank you for your patience.
Vicki Stokes

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In their report entitled Innovating to Learn, Learning to Innovate they talk about learning in the past focusing on memorization of facts and procedures and learning in isolated and bitsy ways and taught through ‘chalk and talk’. While we are familiar with this style of teaching and many people have achieved success through this approach it suited a different world. The world is no longer basic and we need to rethink teaching and learning.

So how has our world changed? We have increased economic globalization and increased mobility of people. There are concerns about the world’s environment and the use of the Earth’s resources. There is a decline in many traditional social institutions. There have been severe changes in financial markets. Natural disasters and terrorist activities impact on safety and even H1N1 (swine flu) have affected us. As well, global and technological changes have created a more connected and interdependent world. Developments in information and communication technologies have led to changes in our conceptions of time, place and community. People connect across the globe at any time of the day or night, and limitless information is instantly accessible.

Source: Dancing on a Shifting Carpet Degenhardt L and Duigan P 2009.

Of course not all of the above changes directly affect very young children however the changes do present challenges and opportunities for schools. Despite the advances in technology children still need to learn to read and write and to understand and use mathematical concepts and skills. There are no magic recipes for school change but we need to be open to new learning and to consider ways of thinking differently about schooling.

At Trinity Gardens School we have begun to embrace 21st Century pedagogy and have already introduced ways to equip our students to take their place in a complex world. For example we know students need to take responsibility for their own learning and the strategy of individual goal setting supports this expectation. We know there is a new need for spiritual connections and our Virtues program addresses this need along with school rituals and traditions. Through these children have a strong basis of values upon which to ground themselves. We embrace developments in ICT by ensuring there are up to date computers available along with Interactive Whiteboards and we teach cyber safety and e-communication. Having high expectations for student achievement is also important as students need to achieve success with their education in order to increase their life choices. We know that parents have high and differing expectation of schools and we aim to work with parents in partnership. Never before have parents had so much access to schools and the service we offer. Our emphasis on Numeracy and Science fosters the development of thinking mathematically and scientifically.

There is much to consider in understanding 21st Century pedagogy and at TGS we are up for the challenge! We know schools need to change because the world has changed. We will continue to share our ongoing understandings and the implications for school change with you and we invite feedback from you too in our journey.

Kind regards
Vicki Stokes
School Enrolments:
Does your child have a sibling/s that will be attending TGS in the next 1-3 years? Please start thinking about your child’s enrolment here at TGS. Mainstream and Steiner classes are already heavily booked for the future. Therefore if you can enrol your child as soon as possible this will greatly help with our future planning.
Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Payment of Excursions/Camp
Our School Office can be a very busy place at times. To help the office staff, could payments be made via the School Office. All payments must be in an envelope clearly marked with name, class and payment details. If paying with cash please have correct money as change is not available from the till.

Whooping Cough Advice
There have been a few students diagnosed with Whooping Cough here at TGS.
If you suspect anyone in your family may have Whooping Cough see your medical practitioner. Please notify the school immediately of any confirmed cases.
The following website may be of some interest:

For Sale
Boys School Sandals, Betts for Kids
Size 11, Worn Twice
$25.00, Phone Mel: 0412 513 979

3 Way Conferences
These conferences are now underway. Please make a determined effort to meet with your child and their teacher/s.

We always aim for 100% attendance because it means so much to us that you are supporting your child in partnership with us. If you cannot make it in to school this week you are welcome to make another mutually agreeable time to meet with the teacher.

We understand that everyone leads busy lives and so we sincerely thank you for making the time for a conference.

See you next week at Sports Day!
Vicki Stokes

FINANCE NEWS
A reminder before Term 1 ends regarding payment of Materials & Services for 2010. Statements are posted and/or sent home regularly - please check your child’s bag this week. If you have an outstanding balance for Materials and Services Charges, excursions, instrument hire or sports fees please check your statement and come into the School Office to pay outstanding amounts before the end of term if possible.

School Card applications are collected electronically from the school and must be lodged early for this process to occur. If you feel you are eligible for School Card assistance and have not yet completed a 2010 form (available from the Front Office) again please do so before the end of term.
If you require any assistance regarding payment of 2010 fees, please contact me on 8431 4170, or call in to the Front Office.
Thank you all,
Karen Barrow

SCHOOL LUNCHES
It is now almost 6 months since we began to use the Ashbrook Ave Deli to provide a lunch service to our school. Reports from families and students indicate that this service is working well and we’d like to thank families and Maria from the Deli for working well together.
A new menu and costing is being prepared ready for Term 2 so if you have any suggestions we’d like to hear them. Please put your thoughts in writing and leave them at the school office. Please:
- take care to write out the order with enough detail for Maria to be clear what you want, for example ‘chicken and lettuce’ could be a sandwich or a schnitzel!
- order from items on the menu as these items have been selected for healthy eating.
- check the order if your child writes it out, as sometimes they leave off their name/class or their writing is hard to read.
- remember spare menus are available from the school office

Thank you.
Parent Education Workshops will begin in term 2 on Wednesday April 28 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
The first topic for discussion will be: Music in the Life of the Child with a panel led by Mark Molloy, Class 4 teacher.

While the Steiner music curriculum has the ability to produce fine musicians, its true aim is to help produce fine human beings. The music curriculum in a Steiner school helps to equip children with the tools our age so desperately needs for cultural renewal. They are active listeners; they understand that working in the physical world takes effort, perseverance and a refinement of skills. They have experienced the dynamics of working within a group of peers with differing abilities in order to produce something fine, beautiful and meaningful. In the Trinity Gardens Steiner Stream, the students have the chance to experience the finer, subtle aspects of music-making. Although the focus is Music in the Steiner stream all parents, and future of Trinity Gardens School are invited to attend.
SAPSASA Cricket - Knockout Competition

On Friday 12 March, 12 boys from years 5, 6 and 7 hosted Magill Primary School to a 25 over per side cricket match. 

Being a knockout competition means that only the winning team advances to the next round. This didn’t faze the boys as they were all very excited to be playing a cricket match at school on a turf wicket.

The Magill team turned up looking very smart in their whites, they even had their individual names on their hats! We knew the opposition were going to be strong but it’s little wonder as they have four year 7 classes and four year 6 classes to choose a team from.

Magill won the toss and elected to bat. Both openers were made to work hard for their runs as they kept a very watchful eye on each ball. The first wicket came off the first ball of the second over when the batsman hit a catch. It was time for celebration!

Magill ended up making a total of 189 runs in 25 overs which is a very healthy run rate of 7.6.

It was now our turn to bat. The boys made a great start putting on a 15 run partnership. A huge six was hit against the wind that nearly hit a Magill parent who was enjoying the match as a spectator.

As a few wickets fell and runs were hard to come by it became clear that Magill PS were going to win the match. But this didn’t effect the attitude of the boys, they continued to do their best and enjoy the match. This is a real credit to the boys and I was extremely proud of their sportsmanship towards the Magill students.

The tale wagged and in the end the boys ended up batting for 24 overs. This was a great achievement as the Magill bowlers were throwing everything at them.

I honestly believe that as the boys walked off the oval at the end of the game they felt a real sense of success and achievement. It was great to see and to be involved with it.

Well done boys, great effort.

Hugh Ross, Physical Education Teacher

SAPSASA Swimming 2010

On Tuesday 2 March 2010, 18 students from years 4, 5, 6 and 7 travelled to the Norwood Outdoor Pool for the Eastern Zone swimming trials. Students who qualify go on to represent the Eastern Zone at the state finals against all of the other zones from the state. The weather was kind as it was a lovely sunny day, though there were some concerns after a chilly morning.

Students arrived at the pool and all parents and students representing Trinity Gardens assembled in the shade at the end of the pool. Students braved the chilly morning by completing some warm up laps of the pool. After that it was time for competition.

Competition was fierce as the students were racing against many students who train regularly and represent swimming squads. Regardless of the results all students tried their hardest and were extremely good sports and were proud of their efforts after each swim. All day we saw students getting out of the pool after their event with huge smiles on their faces. Well done students on displaying such wonderful attitudes towards competition.

For me witnessing students carry themselves so well throughout the day, have such great attitudes and represent the school in exemplary fashion was very pleasing and made me feel very proud of each student there.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted in transporting students to and from school, we really do appreciate it.

Hugh Ross, Physical Education Teacher

Soccer News:

Expressions of interest for school soccer teams for students in Year 2 to 7 have now closed. We have nominated 5 soccer teams this year.

Letters with information and costs involved will go home soon.

The soccer season commences on Saturday 1 May and finishes on Saturday 28 August.

A timetable is sent home to all players when it is sent through from the Soccer Association. Thank you.

Basketball Holiday Clinics

In conjunction with the Norwood Basketball Club, the Campbelltown Leisure Centre would like to invite you to a free basketball camp in the school holidays on Thursday 8 April & Tuesday 13 April 2010.

Times are as follows:

Thurs 8 April: 12:00-1:30pm yr 2/3
1:45-3:15pm yr 4/5
3:30-5:00pm yr 6/7

Tues 13 April: 12:00-1:30pm yr 4/5
1:45-3:15pm yr 6/7

Bookings are essential,
P: Michael Tuohy 0411 166 365 or,
E: campbelltownbasketball@gmail.com

Glenunga International High School

Open Day: Wed 31 March 2010
For more details
P: 8379 5629

James Partington School Holiday Tennis Clinics

During both weeks of the school holidays.  P: James 8332 9603

National Karate

Come & Try Night

Thursday 22 April 2010
TPGS Gym
Visit: www.nationalkarate.com.au

Correction & Apology: Date for Willunga Waldorf Autumn Fair: 27 March 2010

Virtues of the Week

Week 9 - Perseverance is being purposeful and persistent. It is sticking to something, staying committed, no matter how long it takes or what obstacles appear that might stop you. When we persevere, people can depend on us to finish what we start and to keep our commitments. We don’t give up until a problem is solved.

Week 10 - Courtesy is being polite and having good manners. It is a gracious way of speaking and acting which gives others a feeling of being valued and respected. It is greeting others with respect. Being courteous shows other people that you respect them and care about them.