Dear Families of Trinity Gardens School

We have some wonderful news to share! Firstly, our school was reviewed last week by an external panel led by the Assistant Regional Director, Anne Kibble. Other panel members included the regional Performance Analyst and Reporting Consultant, a principal from another school in the East and a principal from another region. All schools in the state will be reviewed on a three year cycle and we were the lucky school in the Eastern region to be first! The panel were here for the whole day and met with all school leaders who shared our school improvement plan, the improvement processes we use, the evidence to support our claims and demonstrate improved outcomes for students. In addition the panel observed teaching in two mainstream classes, two Steiner classes, the Early Learning Centre and the St Morris Unit. The panel interviewed twenty four students from across year levels and streams, six parents (from both streams) and four staff (again from both streams). It was a gruelling day for our leadership team, the teachers involved and the panel. I am extremely proud to report that we received a glowing report and so our school was validated. The panel had many positives to share but they particularly liked the way they could see in action what was spoken about. They felt a sense of congruence between all groups interviewed and they felt we had quality improvement processes in place that were sustainable and worked well. The panel validated our approach to using data to improve outcomes and to link improvement strategies directly to classroom practice. We will receive a more detailed written report in the weeks to come. The validation is something important to celebrate as we did not do anything special because of the review. What we shared is our everyday practice. The hardest task was to decide who was going to share just what. We had so many things we wanted to share but the panel would have to have been here for many days to see/hear it all! The staff at Trinity Gardens are a dedicated and professional bunch who well deserve the outcome of our review. I have two sayings that are relevant to our review outcome. The first is ‘Collectively we achieve more’ and this is well demonstrated through the whole school consistent practices we use and the collective responsibility everyone takes for all students. The second saying is ‘Even if we think we are on the right track we’ll get run over if we stay there long enough’, so we aim for continuous improvement. Our result was a lovely reward for all the hard work undertaken at this wonderful school.

The second piece of news is to announce that our very own Rowena Tennant, Director of the Early Learning Centre has won an award for Director of the Year for South Australia. Congratulations Rowena! Last week Rowena was flown to Sydney to attend the National award presentation ceremony and was wined and dined as part of her prize. If your child has attended the ELC you will not be surprised to hear this announcement. Rowena is one of our dedicated and highly committed staff members. Like myself, Rowena is fortunate to lead an outstanding team and so we should also recognise Shelly Leach, Peta Ware and Cher Litchfield who also contribute to our quality pre-school outcome.

Term 2 Week 3
5 May 2010

Diary Dates

7 May Friday
Walk Safely to School Day
Yr 6/7 Mt Lofty Excursion

10-14 May Mon-Fri
Arbury Park Camp Yr 5/6

12 May Wednesday
Governing Council Meeting
6.30pm

14 May Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the Gym

25 May Tuesday
ICAS Computer Skills

28 May Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the Gym

Forward Notice–June
9 June Wednesday
ICAS Science

14 June Monday
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
15 June Tuesday
Pupil Free Day

Virtues of the Week

Week 3 Flexibility
Week 4 Joyfulness

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
7 MAY FRIDAY
program. It is no wonder that the ELC is full with a constant stream of enquiries for places. Thank you to the parent who nominated Rowena for this award.

Next week is the NAPLAN testing. NAPLAN stands for National Assessment Plan for Literacy and Numeracy. The tests are offered to all students in Australia in years 3, 5, 7, and 9. The tests are a snapshot assessment which means that they test what a child can do on that particular day. The child may perform at their absolute best or they may not perform well at all. The results are therefore an indication of what a child knows about what is being tested. Although most children will have done a practice test the style of test is mainly multiple choice and this is an unfamiliar style of testing for most children. In addition, the tests only focus on aspects of literacy and mathematics and as such cannot test everything a child knows or can do. Nevertheless, the tests are an indication of progress and should be measured against what teachers already know about a child’s achievement. I always ask teachers to check the results for any surprises and if there are any differences to analyse why there are differences. It is not appropriate for some students to sit the tests because of learning disabilities or level of learning. At Trinity Gardens we encourage those children sitting the tests to simply try their best. At this time it is important to remind parents that you can at any time, regardless of NAPLAN, request an interview with your child’s teacher if you are worried about any aspect of their achievement.

This Friday we are to receive a visit by the leader of the Federal opposition, Mr Tony Abbott along with the Member for Sturt, Christopher Pyne. Mr Abbott is keen to see the diversity at our school with both streams as well as the disability unit. He will present the school with a new Australian flag.

As we start the winter term I wish to make a plea to all parents using the drop and kiss zone. This zone does not work unless you observe the rules. Currently the main difficulty is people who are remaining in the zone for longer than 2 minutes. If you arrive early and your child is not waiting then after 2 minutes you need to do a drive around the block. We cannot have cars building up to Portrush Road because cars in the zone do not want to do a lap of the block. While I understand you want your child to come out while you are in the zone if they are not there it really isn’t too much to ask to do a lap. Teachers on duty will help if they can by calling your child. The pressure only really lasts for about 10 minutes so please be patient to keep everyone safe.

The newsletter is the main means of communication to families. Staff are very grateful to everyone who reads the newsletter and keeps up to date with what is happening. In the last newsletter I asked families to walk around the St Morris unit rather than go through the yard to get to Wellington and Jones buildings. Unfortunately many people choose to walk through the unit yard. As a consequence the staff in St Morris have kindly altered their schedule to enable families to enter school through the yard. So thank you to those people who had respected the original request. If you walk through the yard please keep young children in tow and be mindful of our students in the unit by walking slowly and with care.

Keep an eye out on the Resource Centre redevelopment. The demolition is almost complete. The Children’s Centre is still on schedule and is now looking like a real building. To provide the best possible physical environment for your children we need your help at the next working bee. Please mark this date in your diary and I’ll see you there. (See newsletter insert).

Kind regards
Vicki Stokes

MARKET DAY

After popular demand our Market Day will return this term in Week 7, Wednesday 2 June 2010.
We thank Samara for all the work and great effort in organizing our market in the past.
This term marks the commencement of a market committee and a new format for stall owners.
Stall owners must now register at the Front Office, whereby they will be allocated a stall number.
Cost of a stall will be 10% of the profits made on the day.

We look forward to our Market Day continuing for the enjoyment of our children and families, and as a successful fundraiser for our school.

Any enquiries please call:
Robyn, M: 0433 033 042
Anna, M: 0409 695 940

PS: We are looking for 2 volunteers to commit to cooking the BBQ. Anyone interested, please contact Robyn or Anna.

Thank you.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

This Friday, 7 May it will be the National Walk Safely to school Day.
The objectives of this day are to:
To promote the health benefits of walking and help to create regular walking habits at an early age
To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
To ensure that children hold an adults hand when crossing the road.
To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and may be difficult to change as children become adults.
To promote and improve the use of public transport and reduce the level of traffic congestion.
To reduce vehicle emissions to help tackle climate change and improve air quality.
Further details can be accessed at www.walk.com.au.
Perhaps you could park the car and walk a small distance to school if your home is too far away to walk all the way to school.
Happy Walking.
Our class explored the coming of the first rains; when summer is ending and the earth is changing; when the ground has been baked for months but the smell of rain settles in the air; when the clouds form and become dark. The summer with its relentless heat fades with the coming of autumn. The searing heat is mirrored by the intensity of the beautiful changing colours of the foliage and the sunsets - the seasons are fascinating to watch.

The children learned what the coming of the rains felt like on their skin, in their eyes and on their faces. They wrote these poems to express their observations and their feelings about this time of change.

We discussed the seasons and their relevance to the earth and the creatures that inhabit her. The class also discovered the beauty of poetry, how language can create mood and feeling. They experienced writing where there are no boundaries to style and layout. The children were free to create and explore similes, adjectives and metaphors.

I feel very sticky
It's cooling down!
The water is falling heavily
Now it's pouring in to the dams and rivers
But now it's so cold, because
The rain loves earth
I love when wet air comes
The wind is quite strong on my body

Isabella

The sun is hot
It's baking me
As night falls
I try to cool myself
I can't wait till the rain comes
I felt the heat and the grass was itchy
I sensed the rain
It felt surprising
I try to live with it
And I do
As new roots grow
They add to my many millions of arms and legs
The sound of people Sounds of all the creatures

Helen

I felt the rain in autumn
In winter oh the rain
It is great
New parts
Springing out of me
The wind blew
The rain over my trees
I was appreciating winter because
I knew the heat would be coming
In spring worms tickled me
Grasshoppers through my hair
The sound of birds and bees in my ear
In summer it was dry, hot not humid
I'm looking forward to autumn
The sun is hating me at the moment

William
Students in the Italian classroom are consistently engaged in a wide range of activities—including music, movement, speech and drama. Furthermore, students are encouraged to take great pride in their formal academic work using the following three strands:

- Communication
- Understanding Language and
- Understanding Culture as outlined in the SACSA framework.

The following photos are from Jennifer’s classroom where students were encouraged to celebrate Carnevale in a bright and vivid atmosphere using il discorso/ speech, il movimento/ movement and la musica/ music.

**Classroom Inquiry**

Questions underpin Inquiry in the Italian classroom.

- What would happen if you wore una maschera all the time?
- What makes Venezia such a magical city?
- Rename Venezia. Think of a new name for this city.
- What questions could you ask to identify a person wearing una maschera?

Arrivederci
Signora Daniela 2010
Steiner Class Two
Main Lesson focus: The story of “The King of Ireland’s Son”.

His hound at his heel
his hawk on his wrist
a brave steed to carry him whither he list
and the blue sky over him.

The Class Two child lives in a vivid world of pictorial imagination. The wonderful story of the King of Ireland’s son, written by Padraic Colum, is full of adventure, enchantment and quests. The Class Two child finds such Celtic stories enriching, fulfilling and exciting, as they live within their inner being in a world where magic and adventure is possible. They love new challenges and are socially more confident. These quest stories meet the child’s consciousness. We have been using this story as a context for writing, as well as reading and oral language development. It is also a basis for working with sentence construction and blends.

Below are examples of work from Main Lesson books.

Sentence construction: In the pictures above the children have been using words on cards to make up sentences, arranging and re-arranging themselves to engage in sentence construction. These are the building blocks towards reading for the children in Class 2. They do this in small groups or with the whole class.

Reading: The children’s Main lesson books become a ‘reader’ for the children to read through either individually, in pairs or as a whole class.
Children today live and learn in a world that is different from the world in which we grew up. They routinely use ICT as part of their learning and how they communicate. While that sounds great (and it is) it does create challenges. How do children sort through what is good information and what is not? How do they figure out whether the information is current, accurate and fair? How do they make sense of it all? We need to be sure that children are prepared to learn new skills as they move through life. At Trinity Gardens School we call these ‘skills for the 21st Century’.

21st Century skills are more than using technology. Skills like being able to read, write, listen, speak and represent while thinking creatively and critically about ideas and information are just as important as before, along with the ability to understand ourselves, the world around us, to interact with others and to share thinking.

21st Century skills include of critical and creative thinking, ethics and responsibility and ICT literacy. This means the ability to find, evaluate, use and share information by thinking critically, creatively and ethically. It is also about when, why and how to use ICT in responsible ways.

These 21st Century skills are like a puzzle with three pieces that fit together.

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**What are Critical & Creative Thinking?**

Critical thinking means developing good judgement and making smart choices. Creative thinking means being inventive, thinking innovatively and using imagination.

What does Critical & Creative Thinking look like? Ask ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions, make a plan to find information to answer their questions, know how to find information to answer their questions, figure out if the information they find is true and trustworthy, choose the best tools to create their electronic work, seek and share feedback about their learning.

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**Why are Ethics and Responsibility Important?**

Our children are citizens of a digital world. Citizenship involves responsibilities as well as rights. Children show us everyday that they know how to use ICT. However, they might not always use ICT responsibly and safely. Being a good ‘digital citizen’ is vital in the 21st century. Children need to understand copyright and the far-reaching consequences of what they say and do while using the internet (digital footprint). They need guidance from teachers and parents to be sure that they are always thinking about their own safety, and the safety of others.

What does Ethics and Responsibility look like?

⇒ show respect as they work with others to gather information to create electronic work
⇒ follow guidelines that help keep them safe while communicating electronically
⇒ ask permission and give credit to authors when they want to use their work
⇒ use ICT only at the right times and in the right places
⇒ Show confidence and interest in learning with ICT

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**What is ICT Literacy?**

ICT is more than just computers. ICT is any Information and Communication Technology that helps us to find, process and communicate information. ICT tools include the internet, mobile phones, GPS, texting, video games, digital cameras, MP3 players, wikis, blogs and more. ICT literacy provides our children with the skills and knowledge they need to take part in Inquiry. Children need to be critical consumers of information and to be creative producers of information that they find relevant. This motivates them to learn more about the world around them, to share with others and to see different points of view. They are not limited to collaborating within their own classroom, but can work with others around the world!

What does ICT literacy look like?

⇒ insert edit words, numbers, pictures, sounds and movies
⇒ find efficient ways through websites
⇒ manage electronic files and folders
⇒ select and use digital devices and other ICT
**FINANCE NEWS**

Invoices for Families starting at our school in Term 2 are being sent home this week.

Please ensure prompt payment is made for these and any other outstanding amounts through the Payment Post box in our new School Office.

Thank you
Karen Barrow

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**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

Our school newsletter is available for perusal via the school website. Just go to: [www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au](http://www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au)

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**Critical and Creative Thinking**

The **five big ideas** focused on critical and creative thinking are based on a learning process called **Inquiry**. Inquiry is a process that we follow in our daily lives, though we may not even be aware of it. To guide their learning in any subject, students follow this process:

- **Plan & Question**
  - We have a question that we want answered and we create a plan for how we are going to find the answer

- **Gather & Make Sense**
  - We research and gather information, decide if what we find fits and then organize it

- **Communicate**
  - We use our information to produce something that shows we have found our answer

- **Reflect & Evaluate**
  - We make changes after we consider feedback from others

- **INQUIRY**
  - A process for learning where students investigate real world questions and construct their own understandings of how the world works.

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**NORWOOD FLAMES**

**AUSSIE HOOPS**

**DEVELOPMENT SQUAD@CLC**

**TERM 2, 2010**

It’s Game Time for junior basketballers at Campbelltown Leisure Centre, Botanic Grove, Campbelltown! Join Norwood Basketball Club’s experienced coaches for:

- **AUSSIE HOOPS**: basic skills for beginners, suits 5 to 9-year-olds. $33 registration includes your own basketball, $25 without basketball. Plus $4 each week for each player. ($35 for 10 sessions for term payment.)
- **DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**: more advanced skills for 10 to 13-year-olds at Primary School. $45 for Term 2, **payable in full at first session**.

Sessions run on Thursdays from 4-5pm, starting on Thursday 22nd April, concluding Thursday 24th June 2010. **NUMBERS LIMITED, so get in early!**

**A second session from 5-6pm will operate if numbers permit.** Email to bmcrouch@smartchat.net.au Enquiries: Mary Crouch 0416 198977.

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**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

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CRICKET 2010:
Last term, our Year 4/5 school cricket team played their matches each Saturday on our school oval.
We had a dedicated band of players and supporters who all enjoyed their Saturday morning cricket.
We extend our thanks to Colin Moss for his wonderful and committed coaching of this team and also to the parents and supporters of this team.
Please find a report from Colin about the cricket season for Term 1, 2010:

Trinity Gardens School fielded a team of committed cricketers for the 09/10 Summer Cricket Season. Whilst the members of the team came from different school years the boys encouraged each other equally and enthusiastically. Those boys were Joshua H, Vince M, Tony J, Cameron N, Lewis E, Cooper Y, Jyles L, Lachlan W, Oscar M, Luca V, Lachlan M, Jack Mc, Stephen M and Jaxxon S.
The season culminated with a “Lightning Carnival” at Kensington Oval where the boys finished a very creditable 6th out of 11 teams. Thanks to all the parents who supported the boys over the season with particular thanks to Stephen & Emma whose assistance was invaluable. Colin Moss

Soccer:
Our five teams played their first match on Saturday and from the feedback we have received, everyone enjoyed their soccer game.
Please note that we have been advised by the soccer association that East Adelaide (Number 7) soccer team in the 10 Yr Red Division (Year 4) has withdrawn. This will mean according to the timetable, our Year 4 team coached by Steve and Ashley will have a bye this week as they are due to play East Adelaide.

SAPSASA news:
Athletics:
Congratulations to Mary C and Kali who were selected to participate in the State Athletics championships representing the East Adelaide district following the recent East Adelaide Zone Athletics competition where they represented Trinity Gardens School. This is a fantastic achievement to be selected in this team. The girls competed on Tuesday 4 May at Santos stadium in trying conditions. Vlad was also selected in this team but unfortunately was on holiday.

Netball
Chandraka D and Hannah M have been selected to play in the East District SAPSASA netball team. This team will play in the State-wide SAPSASA Netball Carnival at ETSAPark from 17 to 21 May. We congratulate the girls and wish them a wonderful week of netball.

Football
We have just been notified that Tom Wagner has been selected in the East Adelaide District SAPSASA football team. Our details about this are sketchy at present but we congratulate Tom on this outstanding achievement. We wish him a marvellous week of competition at this very high level.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Scott Pearse who along with his team from the ETKG tennis club became the Div 2 Eastern Districts Juniors Summer Premiers. Scott also became the Jamestown Easter Tournament U/12 Singles winner.

HATS….
Whose hat are you wearing…??!
Please ensure your child has their hat and not one belonging to someone else.
Thank you, Front Office

Uniform for Sale
Winter Tunic Size 10, $25.00
Never Worn
Please contact
Kellie, M: 0413 617 890

COMMUNITY NEWS

Girl Guides SA
There are currently vacancies at a Girl Guide Group near you.
Leabrook P: 8338 3163, Helen
Leabrook P: 0439 817 378, Anna
Magill P: 8365 8352, Michelle

Asthma Foundation of Australia
Free Public Info Sessions
www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

Kids Taekwondo
Paradise Primary School, Fri 6.30pm
Modbury West Community Hall
Mon & Wed 6pm
Enquiries M: 0412 909 500, or
M: 0420 754 153
E: info@worldtaekwondo.com.au
www.worldtaekwondo.com.au

VIRTUES OF THE WEEK

Week 3 -
Flexibility is being open to change. It means not always having to have your own way. It is being open to the opinions and feelings of others. With flexibility, you are willing to change your mind. If something doesn’t work, you try a new way. Flexibility is making changes for the better.

Week 4 -
Joyfulness is being filled with happiness. It is a peaceful sense of well-being. Joy is inside us all. It comes from an appreciation for the gifts each day brings. Joy comes when we are doing what we know is right, and when we laugh and see the humour in things.