Dear Families of Trinity Gardens School,

This week our Assistant Principal, Ros Green has written about school attendance. We thank all families who do their best to limit absence from school unless for sickness and who follow protocols for informing the school about absence.

Kind regards,
Vicki Stokes

Why attendance is important.

To give our children the best opportunity to learn they must attend school as often as possible. The ideal is that all students attend school every day. The reality is that 100% attendance is not always possible. Sick children cannot attend school as it is definitely not in their best interest or their classmates. Occasionally, medical and other appointments can only be made during school times. Sometimes children, particularly our younger students, can become tired and an occasional day away from school can be a preventative measure. It may ensure that the children do not become sick and miss more school days.

At Trinity Gardens School, we establish partnerships with parents and caregivers and work to provide children with learning opportunities that will provide a solid foundation for the future. Research shows that success in learning is directly proportional to regular attendance and participation in education programs. Absence from school can limit a student's achievement of the essential knowledge and skills required for effective participation in work, relationships and families, and active citizenship.

Missing one school day per week over five years equates to missing one year of schooling.

Whenever your child is absent, you are required to notify the school with a reason. This needs to be a phone call or a written note. Absence messages can be recorded on the school phone at any time and will be retrieved by office staff who will inform class teachers. This fulfills our legal responsibility to record reasons for absences but also means we have an understanding of what is happening in a child's life and allows us to cater for them appropriately.

For absences, parents/caregivers need to apply in writing. Principals have delegated authority from the Minister to approve applications for temporary exemption from education program attendance for periods up to one calendar month. Temporary exemptions exceeding one month are approved by the Chief Executive or delegate, on recommendation of the Principal after parents submit the paperwork available from the school office.

Punctuality to school is important as children that are late miss the opportunity to become organised for the day, do not have time chat to their teacher and classmates before school starts and are often embarrassed and unsettled when they miss the beginning of the day. All classes start punctually at 8.45 am. Classes are always open by 8.35 am to give children time to unpack and organize their belongings and say goodbye to their parents ready to start learning for the day.

We understand that there may be

Term 2 Week 5
19 May 2010

22 May Saturday
The Secret Garden 9am-1pm
See inside for details

25 May Tuesday
ICAS Computer Skills Competition

26 May Wednesday
SAPSASA Netball 1.30pm
Trinity Gardens Courts
Steiner Parent Workshop No.2
7.30-9.30pm, See insert.

28 May Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the Gym
SAPSASA Cross Country to Oakbank.

2 June Wednesday
After School Market Day

9 June Wednesday
ICAS Science Competition
Governing Council, 6.30pm

11 June Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the Gym

14 June Monday
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

15 June Tuesday
Pupil Free Day

16 June Wednesday
Reception Transition 9-10am

22 June Tuesday
ICAS Spelling & Writing Competition
Reception Transition 9-11.30am

25 June Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the Gym

29 June Tuesday
Reception Transition 9-12pm
occasional lateness due to traffic, appointments at the beginning of the day or unexpected emergencies but to assist your child please arrange your school routine so your child arrives at school at 8.40 am at the latest. Staff are on duty from 8.25am so children can begin arriving after that. Before School Care is open from 7 am so please contact our OSHC director, Edwina Guidolin should you require care as your child needs to arrive at school before 8.25am.

Staff complete the roll books which are official records at the beginning of the day and late students are marked as absent. Teaching staff always need to be informed of the reason for lateness so these records can be adjusted. This also helps staff to understand if the child may require assistance. Studies have shown that late arrival at school through the primary years is often related to non-attendance during secondary school. Classroom teachers and/or leadership staff are always available to discuss any attendance matters or concerns with you. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to have a chat.

Ros Green
Assistant Principal

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**COMPETITION NEWS**

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) - Educational Assessment Australia**

Entry forms for these competitions have now been forwarded to the University of New South Wales and papers will be received by the school shortly.

**Competition dates are:**
- Computer Skills: 25 May 2010
- Science: 9 June 2010
- Spelling: 22 June 2009
- Writing: 22 June 2009
- English: 3 August 2009
- Mathematics: 17 August 2009

Students will complete these assessments as a group supervised by Ros.

Sample practice questions for some competitions can be downloaded from [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au) (the EAA website) for the ICAS competitions. Past ICAS test papers can be purchased from EAA online at [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au). There is no compulsion to purchase papers but this information has been provided in response to questions asked by parents in past years. Past papers only indicate the formats and types of questions which may be asked.

ICAS is an initiative of Educational Assessment Australia (EAA). EAA is a not for profit organisation owned by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

This year, we are also adding the **Australian Mathematics** competition to our test repertoire and this will be held on 5 August.

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**THE SECRET GARDEN**

*Saturday 22nd May*

9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Morning Tea & Sausage Sizzle

Now that we have our lovely new gym and paved piazza, the Grounds and Built Environ Committee need your help to prepare and plant the new secret garden next to the gym.

We will be making sawdust paths, installing a rainwater tank, planting new plants and creating a beautiful natural environment for our children to enjoy. There will be frog ponds, a bridge and lots of plants to engage the children’s senses when we have finished.

However we need to get started now before the hot weather is upon us again. This will give the plants the best chance of survival and give the children a whole new area to explore and enjoy this year.

We will supply a delicious sausage sizzle, tea, coffee and yummy homemade biscuits and cakes.

So please bring yourselves, your picks, mattocks, wheelbarrows, rakes and children. Children may bring scooters or bikes. Come and get to know some other members of the school community.

If we all work together it becomes a lot of fun and the secret garden will soon be ready for our children to see, smell, touch and enjoy.

Any questions? Contact Sally Wuttke on 0405 747 706.

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**BIKES & SCOOTERS**

Please remember bikes and scooters must be wheeled through the school grounds. This is for the safety of others coming and going through our school.

Thank you.

**ST MORRIS ROCKS**

If you would like to see the rock St Morris students sent to NASA and the analysis of it the web address is www.ratw.asu.edu. The rocks code is rat 10697.

**ICE CREAMS**

**Ice Creams at Lunch in the Gym**

Please note that as of Week 6, beginning 24 May ice creams will no longer be sold at lunch times in the gym due to it now being the winter season.

Thank you.

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**Virtues of the Week**

**Week 5 Commitment**

**Week 6 Thankfulness**
This term in Room 8, our inquiry unit of learning is about the weather. We asked: “What are the clouds made of?” and “What is hail?” Through observations, investigations and experiments we have not only explored the properties of clouds but also found out about evaporation and condensation. We also saw that water can be seen in 3 different ways. It can be a solid, a liquid or a gas.

We drew around a puddle of water and checked it during the day. The puddle began to shrink and disappear. We found out that this is called evaporation.

We discovered that water can change into ice or water vapour.

From the library we borrowed books about the weather and looked at drawing and photos of clouds. We are also making a ‘word wall’ displaying vocabulary related to weather.

In our computer lessons we made weather pictures using the Kid Pix programme.

Clouds can be different shapes. We made cloud pictures with cotton wool and made them into different shapes like rabbits, dragons or dogs.

We observed ice cubes and discussed how hail is like tiny ice cubes or rain drops that have frozen.

We observed cloud formations and used chalk and crayons to make our drawings. By smudging the chalk we could make the clouds look fluffy.

What will happen to the water?

My mirror is fogging up.

The ice is changing back into water.

We took photos of clouds.
Which clouds give rain?
Which clouds don’t give rain?

My picture has grey clouds and rain falling.
By Olivia, Savier and Anthony.

**OUR EGGSPERIMENT!!**

In class we did an *eggsperiment*. The teacher put us into groups of 3 and 4. In these groups we had a manager, a director and a speaker. We all had different job to do as managers, directors and speakers. Then we started our *eggsperiment*.

The hard boiled egg represents the Earth and its tectonic plates. The shell as the crust, the white as the mantle and the yolk as the core. First we cracked all sides of the egg shell (crust). Next we moved the shell (crust) and watched it converge, transform and diverge just like the earth’s tectonic plates. After that we peeled the egg crust to see the mantle. Finally to complete our *eggsperiment* we cut our egg in half or in a quarter to see the core of the egg.

We discussed Alfred Wegener’s theory of Pangaea, where there was one large land mass and then over millions and millions of years it separated into the continents. We used the interactive whiteboard to watch the continents move to their current positions.
Zoe joined us at the craft table where we were making a Cherry blossom tree. Without direction or prompts, she began to make a pattern with her flowers. I asked her whether there were patterns in real trees. “Noooo” said Zoe and she continued making her blossom.

I invited her to go and have a look to see if she could find any patterns. I gave her the camera and asked her to record any patterns that she found. As soon as we walked out the door, Zoe picked up a twig from the tree with the seat around it. I asked if she could see a pattern. Zoe said “Yes, there is” and took a photo of the tree. Zoe decided to keep going. Did other trees and bushes have patterns in them? The Eucalypt was her next study. Initially Zoe decided that there were no patterns in the leaves but as we looked a little closer, we found that there was a straight line, squiggly line, straight line, squiggly line pattern.

When we reached the palm tree, I asked Zoe if she could find another pattern. She walked around the tree examining it from different angles. She didn’t think so. I started tracing the bark repeating the pattern that I could see. Zoe didn’t say anything. She smiled, prepared to take the photo that recorded the pattern she had recognised. We found a high bit, low bit pattern in the gum nut so Zoe recorded the information with her camera. By the time we had reached the rosemary, Zoe was spotting different patterns in many plants. She found a pattern in parsley and thyme and took photos of those as well. Zoe took the photo to record her pattern.

Demi and Matteus were busy digging a hole to make a road in the sandpit. When asked if they had a plan, Demi said ‘yes’ and offered to paint a map. Demi put a lot of time and thought into painting the map. The streets were lined with trees, flowers and a car next to the digging hole was a friend’s house. Once her map was completed Demi returned to the sandpit to make her creation. When asked how big the digging hole was going to be, she held her arms out. “How do you think we can measure the hole?” she was asked. Demi suggested we use a stick and promptly found one, placing it next to the hole. Demi remained working on her project when Matteus had moved onto another activity. She continually referred back to her map using the information to complete her creation in the sand. Fallen branches and leaves were collected as well as other materials from the making table.

Demi was using lots of early literacy skills to read the information from her map. She was also using mathematics to measure the hole and numeracy to count the things on her map and find these objects around the ELC environment.
English as Second Language (ESL) at Trinity Gardens School

What is an ESL learner?
These are students where the language spoken at home is not English. These students may speak some English but predominantly speak another language with family and friends. Currently we have 123 ESL learners in our school with a range of language needs which are supported by the ESL programme.

How are the needs of the ESL students identified?
In order to support the ESL learners accurately we need to know what their needs are. Using the SACSA Scope and Scales framework there are continuous formal and informal assessment processes. These processes collect information about the ESL learners oral and written proficiency in English. By collecting samples of work from the ESL learners and with consultation with their class teachers an overview of their language ability is gained which accurately determines the level of support they need. Annually the ESL learners needs at our school are assessed by DECS and the funding is allocated accordingly.

How many different languages are spoken in our school?
At our school there are over 20 different languages spoken. Some students speak more than two languages and attend language schools at the weekend. This year we set up a language buddy system with older students helping younger students in their shared mother tongue language. It enabled new learners to be more linguistically and culturally confident with their buddy translator to chat to at recess or lunchtime.

Harmony Day is one of the ways we celebrate and promote cultural diversity and understanding.

Who provides the support for ESL students in our school?
Harriet Wilmore is the ESL teacher and works closely with SSO Serafina Castellano. Together they work in collaboration with class teachers to maximise the impact this support has on the ESL learners language development.

How are the ESL Learners supported in our school?
The ESL support is provided alongside the class teacher. The provider works individually with the ESL learner or in a small group. The support focuses on areas of language needing development e.g. wider knowledge and use of vocabulary, writing complex sentences and writing using the correct tenses. The support provided is flexible and changes according to the ESL learners needs.

Learning language, learning through language. Learning about language.

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Number of ESL Students in ESL Categories 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESL Categories</th>
<th>E - Early Years</th>
<th>P - Primary Years</th>
<th>M - Middle Years</th>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E3</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>M4</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M6</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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OSHC NEWS

Our Before School Care Service will now be operating from 7 am each week day beginning Monday 24 May. This earlier start will result in the fee now being $8.50 for each Before Care School Care session.

During our April Vacation Care program, the children and staff enjoyed our excursions to Plaster Fun House, Ingle Farm Bownland, The Amazing Drumming Monkeys & Intencity. We had theme days including Crazy Scientists, Alice in Wonderland, Teddy Bear’s Picnic, Around the World & Wheels Day.

On Alice in Wonderland day we decorated the room with paper lanterns, signs with This Way, That Way and balloons. The children really enjoyed the hired Giant Games, the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party & Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum fun with Belly Bumpers.

Our Around the World day was also a lot of fun. We made a giant plane and set the seats up like the inside of an airplane. The children pretended to travel to the destinations of Japan, New Zealand & Egypt. They had their tickets checked when boarding the plane and listened to the pilot give instructions for take off with safety demonstrations by the flight crew. They really enjoyed being greeted & farewelled in the different languages and traditions of the different countries, like the Maori welcome of rubbing noses.

They also enjoyed games, art/craft and food activities based on these cultures.

Our Teddy Bear’s picnic was another great day. The children and staff brought in their favourite teddy/toy and we took them for a walk to the local Maylands Park for lunch. We played Frisbee & flew a kite after we had eaten.

We are currently asking for suggestions for the July holidays. so please let us know of any ideas you or your child/ren have for these or future holidays. If any of you would like to share your skills or career with us please let Edwina know.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Peters Netball Team
Urgently Need:
Any Trinity Gardens School girls or boys, 9-11yrs, interested in playing netball. For enquiries please contact Toni Hendry, P: 8395 4243 or on mobile: 0422 573 152.
Thank you.

Everyday English Language Classes
- Practice speaking English
- Improve your language
- Improve your job prospects
- Make new friends
Tues 10am-12pm
Thurs 10am-12pm
Fri 10-12pm Cost $3.5/class
Payneham Community Centre
P: 8365 4038

Thunderbirds Skill Session
During the July School Holidays At the Beachouse, Glenelg Cost $30 per participant
Call Netball SA P:8238 0500

Smash Hit Table Tennis
Sturt Table Tennis Club
7 Albert Street
Clarence Gardens
Sat morning 9.30—11.30pm
$5 per person, per session
Email Scott at snicholls@tabletennissa.com.au

Lost Property...again
Please check your child is wearing their winter jumper. The lost property box is overflowing. It is now located outside the school front office. Thank you.

School Market
The After School Market will be held in week 7, Wednesday 2 June 2010. Please come along and support our school and enjoy the fun of Market Day.
Stall holders if you have not registered please contact front office to register and receive your stall no. Thank you.

FINANCE NEWS

Invoices for strings hire have been posted this week. If your child has brought home information regarding an excursion or sport, please ensure the appropriate fee is sent back to the School Office with the permission slip.

Statements are posted and/or sent home regularly to those families with an outstanding balance for Materials and Services Charges, excursions, instrument hire or sports fees. Please check your statement and finalise payment as soon as possible.

If you need clarification or wish to discuss payment options, please call Karen on 8431 4170 or call in to the School Office.

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

Karen Barrow
**SPORT NEWS**

**SAPSASA news:**

**Netball**
The Trinity Gardens SAPSASA netball team will be playing their match in the East District SAPSASA Round Robin netball competition on Wed 26 May at 1.30pm on our school courts. Parents/Caregivers and family members are invited to attend and support our team.

**Cross Country**
Our SAPSASA Cross Country team will travel to Oakbank to compete in the SAPSASA competition on Friday 28 May. Hugh will accompany this team - details will be given to children participating later this week.

**Basketball News:**
The Norwood Basketball Club will launch its new Norwood League Competition Saturday the 29th of May 2010.
Games will start at 2:00 pm and continue until all games are completed.
Costs will include $40 team entry fee for the season and $5 per player per game fee.
Games will take place at the Campbelltown Leisure Centre located on Botanic Grove (off Lower North East Road) Campbelltown.
We currently have positions for all players in all junior age groups, and are seeking applications from individual players that would like to be placed in a team, and whole team nominations.
Details can be found at [www.norwoodbasketball.com.au](http://www.norwoodbasketball.com.au) then follow the links from the top right hand corner under Norwood League. You will find application forms and information on the competition under this tab.
If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact me at coach@norwoodbasketball.com.au or on 0422 000 000.
Michael Rogers MSc, CSCS
Junior Development and Coaching Director Norwood Basketball Club
0422 000 000
coach@norwoodbasketball.com.au

Our Junior Primary School Sport is truly reflected in these comments from one of our soccer coaches:
*We will be having a great time. Winning is not everything but we will be winning with our attitude and respect for ourselves and the other teams we play.*

**Community Development and the Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting**

*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step* Lao Tzu (Chinese Philosopher)
As with any journey there is a beginning and the beginning of my journey in relation to the Trinity Gardens Children’s Centre began approximately two and a half weeks ago. I was recently appointed and began work as the Community Development Coordinator for the Children’s Centre located at Trinity Gardens. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, children and families from the Trinity Gardens Primary School and Early Learning Centre for welcoming me to the site and to write a little bit about the Children’s Centre and my role.

**What is a Children's Centre and who is it for?**
The Children’s Centres in South Australia are a joint initiative of several government departments including Department of Education and Children’s Services, the Department for Families and Communities and Health SA. Children’s Centres support parents and caregivers and their children aged between 0 - 8 years by providing a range of health, education, care, parenting and family support services. The Children’s Centre is for families and children who live in the local community. It includes families whose children attend or are yet to attend local schools, preschools and care services i.e. long day care, occasional care, Out of School Hours Care. The Trinity Gardens Children’s Centre building is currently under construction and will be completed later this year. The centre will have spaces for parents and caregivers to meet and attend community groups and have contact with resident or visiting early childhood and health professionals.

**What does the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) do?**
The Community Development Coordinator works as a member of the Children’s Centre team to increase community capacity to support families to provide the best opportunities for every child. Briefly, the role of the CDC is to develop links and to work with community members to participate in activities and bring about changes which relate to childhood development, wellbeing and parenting. In a day to day setting the community development coordinator may be involved in - attending meetings and talking with agency staff, parents and caregivers; involvement with playgroups; parent/carer groups; ascertaining accessible information on issues relating to available services, parenting issues, nutrition and child development in addition to writing grant applications.

**Parent/caregiver knowledge.**
Communities are filled with a wide group of individuals who have strengths, knowledge, skills and various life experiences. The knowledge of what exists within a community can be discovered in many ways but conversations are a really informative and effective way. Parents and caregivers are important members within the community who have a very important and critical role in children’s development. The views and ideas of parents and caregivers will inform the community development and decision making process. I look forward to meeting and speaking with many more parents/caregivers, children and staff in future.

Kind Regards
Cris Katsambis
Community Development Coordinator
Trinity Gardens Children’s Centre for Early Childhood Development & Parenting

**VIRTUES OF THE WEEK**

**Week 6**

- **Commitment** is caring deeply about something or someone. It is the willingness to give 100% to a friendship, a task, or something you believe in. It is the ability to make decisions and follow through on them. When we are committed, people can count on us to keep our promises. Commitment enables us to achieve great things.

- **Thankfulness** is being grateful for what we have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. Appreciate the little things that happen around you and within you every day. Think positively. Thankfulness brings contentment.