



Dear Parents, friends, past pupils and students

This week marks the half way of term one. Modern life does not lend itself to stopping and thinking. We are a fast moving and a quick changing society. Nothing is made to last anymore, it's disposable and stability is not what this culture is about. Next week you will receive a report regarding your child. It is not an academic progress report but more about attitude and effort. The only comments will be mine. This means I will stop and think about each of our students and comment on my observations. It is not meant to be a disposable item, it is a record of how they have settled into boarding and school life at Tardun.

All our students on weeknights have quiet time where they can stop and think—no mobile phones, ipods or distractions. For some this is a new experience or for others it is a difficult time—they have to think about things they normally would avoid. School gives them stability, rules and regulations—which every adolescent needs. This at times conflicts with the messages seen in the media. Shows like 'Jackass' certainly give students a very different message and it is important that students receive a balanced message and perhaps think about consequences before they act.

The church enters it's important season of Lent and it is important for us to use this time especially as it coincides with sorry day. To mark this historical moment we as a school were invited to the Bundiyarra centre in Geraldton. This was important for others to see young people interested and aware of the past. In our Christianity, it is very powerful to forgive and equally powerful to experience forgiveness. So it was a day where cultures met and let the past go as life moves on.

This week sees the Director of Catholic Education—Mr Ron Dullard and the Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia—Mr Wayne Tinsley visit Tardun. This again will be a time for reflection on the school and its students.

Friday 29th February is the 1st board meeting of the year. The board meets twice a term. Once in Perth and then the other times in Tardun. Board members for this year are:

Board Chair Mr Michael Thomas
Dept Board Chair Dr Debbi Rosser

Cathy McKenna Bill Budiselik Tarleah Thomas
Grant Woodhams MP Br John Marks Ms Leanne O'Dea
Mr Mike Kirkman Anne Cullendar (Regional School Officer)

The board generally deals with policies and finances of the school and farm.

This weeks reflection comes from an Irish wish

*May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.
May the soft winds freshen your spirit.
May the sunshine brighten your heart.
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.*

It is also a good time to be thankful for the recent rains (100mm) over the last week. (nearly the whole of last years total rain.)

Yours Sincerely

Nicholas Lynch
Principal

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An introduction to the new female boarding staff members.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you have deposited money into the school bank account you need to contact Janette in the office to ensure your deposit has been allocated to your child. We have had a number of deposits made into the school bank account without a reference being left.

Included with this newsletter are term fee statements. Please check your term fee statements carefully and if you think there are any errors with deposits or fees please contact Janette.



NEWSLETTER



Message From the Deputy

Hello again,

I thought that I'd write a 2008 update about some routines we have established here at CBAS. We have an electronic safe for the storage of student phones during the school day. Phones are either left at St. Joseph's or Girls' boarding by the students or handed up to teaching staff for storage in the safe during the day. They are handed back to the students at 4.30pm each school day. This was decided by the staff in order to prevent inappropriate phone usage during the day. Any students who refuse to hand up their phones and are caught using them at school will have them sent home. I hope you will support us in this, and understand our reasoning regarding phone usage.

We are also requiring students to hand in caps to the office or to leave them at St. Joseph's and to wear correct headgear. We have two types of broad brim hats available for the students and these are the only acceptable headgear to be worn at the school. This is a safety issue also, as caps do not adequately protect the face and ears from the sun and students spend a considerable amount of time on farm prac and outdoors during lessons and breaks. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us ensure that students are sun safe by purchasing a school appropriate hat for your son/daughter. They are available to order from the front office.

There are also a number of students who have long hair here at CBAS and we require that the hair is clean and tied back during the school day. This is once again a safety issue, as students are often around farm machinery or in the metalwork, woodwork or small motors workshops. If a student is consistently refusing to tie his/her hair back we will be notifying the student's parents that he/she will need their haircut to a safe length.

We have, in the past had several parents and students thinking, because we are an agricultural school, that it is acceptable for students to bring knives to the school. This is not the case. Multi-tools and knives of all kinds are not permitted here at the school, or in boarding, and will be confiscated until they can be returned directly to the student's parents. Please ensure that your student does not come to school with these articles.

I am happy with the way that the vast majority of the student body have accepted these requirements in the interest of their own wellbeing and safety. Please contact me at the school if you wish to discuss any of these matters.

Mr. Grant Howarth
Deputy Principal

Ash Wednesday service

To begin preparing for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ the staff and students participated in an Ash Wednesday service which signifies the beginning of the Lenten period.

The way that we are reminded that Lent has begun is by having the Sign of The Cross marked on our forehead with blessed ashes. The ashes are made from burning the palm leaves that were used the previous year on Palm Sunday.

People put ashes on their heads to show that they are sorry for their sins.

Thank you to Fr Michael Morrissey who assisted us with this service and to all those who participated.

Introducing the new staff for Declan House – Girls Boarding at Tardun

This year two new staff have begun working in Declan House. Bronwyn Blattman and Lynn Bidwell both have previous boarding experience.

Bronwyn, husband Gerard, children Brianna, Emily, Christopher, Hayden and dog Harry moved from All Saints College, Bathurst after five years. Bronwyn was Head of House looking after between 30 and 60 girls. She particularly enjoyed going on camps with the girls, being active in sport, scrapbooking and cooking. Brianna and Emily are boarding at Nagle while Christopher and Hayden are attending Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Mullewa.

Lynn Bidwell moved from Waikato Diocesan School for Girls in Hamilton, New Zealand where she was House Supervisor for Year 13's for four years and Head of Boarding for the past six years managing up to 30 staff and 153 – 158 girls. Lynn grew up on a dairy farm and went to boarding school herself for her college years. She enjoyed being involved with chapel music and taking craft classes. Lynn has two adult sons, both married and one grandson aged 5 back in New Zealand.

Currently there are 26 girls boarding at Tardun with more on the waiting list. Bronwyn and Lynn both feel very settled and enjoy working with the girls. Their aim is to provide safety and security with a family feel to the House.



Commissioning Mass

On Thursday the 14th of February staff, students and members of our local community gathered to celebrate the new school year and to welcome new staff members to Christian Brothers' Agricultural School, Tardun.

The commissioning mass was organised by the year 8 students which was celebrated by Father Michael Morrissey. Everyone enjoyed this time together, a time to reflect on the year ahead and on our relationships with each other - staff, students and locals alike.

Thankyou to the year 8 students who did such a great job for their first mass and thanks to Father Michael Morrissey who always has some interesting words to impart to us all. We look forward to a peaceful and holy year for 2008.

Rebecca Lynch

Parent and Friends

The Parent and Friends Association held its first meeting on 15 February at Skeetas restaurant where we also took the opportunity to enjoy a cuppa together.

The meeting was very productive in determining our direction for the year, our priorities and in deciding on ways we will use raised funds for the benefit of students at CBAS.

Actions to proceed with

- ◆ Quotes to be obtained for shade sails over the school swimming pool
- ◆ Draft plan to be made for improving the area outside the dining room
- ◆ A stall to be held at one of the markets in Geraldton where student products can be on sale.

The following dates for meetings have been set for the rest of the year. These dates are all on a Friday.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
15 th Feb	16 th May	8 th Aug	31 st Oct
14 th March	20 th June	12 th Sept	TBA

Please mark these down!

Our P&F is a friendly group and all ideas are considered and appreciated. Thank you to all who attended and we would love to see any new comers at the next meeting on Friday 14th March.

Rebecca Lynch



Above: Father Morrissey and Alisha Fairclough during the Ash Wednesday service

Below: Commissioning Mass photos





NEWSLETTER



Year 8 Camp - Jurien Bay

The year 8 camp to Jurien Bay was very successful and a lot of fun. Our trip to Jurien was a first to the area for some of our students. We were lucky with the weather, it only rained slightly a few times.

The students enjoyed canoeing, swimming, exploring caves, swimming with seals, farming and lots of eating!!

All parents should be proud of their children as everyone's behaviour was excellent.

Thankyou to Mr Phil Turner and Ms Noelene Turner for driving the bus and helping on the camp.

Anita Krippner.

Student Reports

On the first day we went e went kayaking on the beach. It was really fun. Mitchell and Trevor's kayak tipped over. They had to swim back to shore. Taris-sah they got stuck in a current when it started to rain and couldn't make it back to shore. We had to rescue them as a group. On the second day we went to Hi-vallee Farm. We went with the owner named Don and climbed the hills and looked at the native plants and animals. We saw a really big spider, Don explained it was an X spider. I had lots of fun on camp.

Shaquille Bero

The best thing about camp was going swimming with the seals. The seals came really close to us and were really friendly. We played games in the water with the seals. We went to a different beach and went snorkelling and looked at coral.

Mitchell Dodd

I really liked going to the Hi-Valley farm. We went for a drive on the tractor. We threw nets in the pond and caught yabbies. We caught lots of small ones so we had to throw them back. Don made Damper it was really yummy, we had butter and maple syrup on it.

Jack Zeller



Above: Some students work on the principles of Tardun.

Below Jermaine and Garrum canoeing.



Above: The students at the front of a cave

Below: Tarissah and one of the Yabby's she caught.



Check out the next newsletter for student reports and photos from the year 10 Outward Bound camp