Lent is a time of repentance, a special season which lasts for forty days and leads us to Easter. Lent is a time for renewal.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need to stop and reflect, to re-think and to re-turn to God who waits lovingly for us.

We are encouraged to do three things during Lent to ready our hearts for Easter:

1. **Pray** (spend more time listening and responding to God)
2. **Fast** (Sacrifice something that we like)
3. **Give Alms** (Give to the needy, help others less fortunate than ourselves)

Everyday we are faced with the struggle of choosing God’s way of life and love, or the way of selfishness. It is in the little things that we make these choices, such as, who we play with, what we share and who we share it with, how helpful we are, or how truthful we are.

Let us pray that during the time of Lent we will try to choose God’s way of love and life.

May we grow to trust in your way of life and love and shine with the Spirit of Jesus.

create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Great start to the year!

The students have made a very impressive start to 2013. Students have returned refreshed and are eager to learn and contribute to the life and spirit at Sacred Heart. Last year the staff clearly outlined our expectations regarding student behavior and conduct and this will be reinforced this year to ensure students are aware of their rights but more importantly their responsibility to themselves and others.

Our Youngest Members begin their learning story

The energy and excitement on Monday morning was overwhelming with the newest members of our community starting their first day of Kindergarten. The Kindergarten children met their Year 6 buddy, said goodbye to their parents and walked to class confidently, the only tears visible were from their parents. The children settled into class routine very quickly and by recess time they were old hands. Many happy faces walked out of our school gates that afternoon and many said that they were looking forward to tomorrow.

Friday School Assembly

We invite our parents to join us next Friday at 2.40pm for our first assembly of the year. Our new Year 6 leaders have been working hard preparing and rehearsing for their first experience in leading a school assembly. Good luck year 6! I am sure you will do us proud.

Gymnastics Program begins on Wednesday

Fitschool Gymnastics program will begin next Wednesday. Children are to wear their sports uniform on this day. Our qualified instructors will be building on the skills taught last year. If your child is not able to participate in this program due to a pre-existing injury please send a note to the class teacher.

Inserts in this week's Newsletter:

- Notices from the Catholic Education Office
- Special Interest Groups letter

Parent Information night

The parent information night will be held next Monday and Tuesday Night. Please refer to the note sent home last week for specific dates and times for your child’s class. I encourage all parents to attend as important information about your child’s learning this year will be discussed as well as class expectations, excursions and procedures for the year. I look forward to meeting you on the night.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our second hand uniform shop will be open every day this year. Purchases can be made from our school office. Items will be sold for approximately $5.00.

School Office Hours

The school office will be open from 8.30am – 3.30pm.

School Fees

This week you would have received your school fee accounts for Term 1. It is appreciated if accounts can be finalised by the due date. Many parents are using direct debit payment plans or payment arrangements as an alternative method of payment. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please contact Mrs Ward or myself. Please contact the office for more information.

Parent Interest Groups

Contained in this newsletter is an invitation for parents to be involved in school events and initiatives. This is a great way to meet new families in our community and share your talents. This year I would like to form a maintenance group to organise weekend painting teams. Some of the areas around the school need a face lift. If you are handy with a paintbrush please fill out the form and return it to the school office.

Canteen Update

Thank you to the parents who have returned their Canteen note sent home last week. Kindergarten families would have received it this week. We still need more volunteers. If you are able to assist please return the slip to the office ASAP.
Beginning of the Year Mass

I extend a warm invitation to our community to join us in celebrating the Eucharist tomorrow at 9am in the Church.

Annual School Swimming Carnival

What a fantastic day of talent and sportsmanship.

The sun was shining and the goggles were on as the students of Sacred Heart performed their best at our Swimming Carnival yesterday. Congratulations to our Year 6 leaders who organized their teams, demonstrating the spirit of Sacred Heart through cheering and their positive support and encouragement toward all our competitors.

My thanks to Mrs Yanz for her organization of the event, the support of the staff and the many parents who volunteered their time to help on the day. Congratulations to the students whose performance have achieved a place on the Cumberland Zone squad.

House Colour points:

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Congratulations to the following students who will represent Sacred Heart School at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival at Parramatta Pool on Thursday 21st February.

Elizabeth Brown
Sienna Chambers
Catherine Elias
Suzana Menassa
Ella Tauroa
Marcus Cooper
Raymond Elia
Matthew Mina
Dino Redimerio

Only 2 girls and 2 boys from each school for the individual events are allowed to compete.

Parish Welcoming Mass

I invite all new families to our parish to join us on Sunday 17th February at 10.30 am for morning tea followed by celebrating the Eucharist at the 11am Mass. We look forward as a parish to meeting you and your family.

Kids on Keyboard

Kids on keyboard is a great way to introduce your child to the world of music and to the playing of an instrument. It can also offer students in upper primary who have had little musical experience an introductory basis in preparation for high school. There are place available now in the Tuesday 8:00 to 8:45 am morning class. If your child is in Year 2 or above and you are interested in him/her participating then please ring Mrs Christine Dieckmann on 97211278 or 0409247424

Enrolments for Year 7 2014

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year.

There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2014 enrolments on:

Tuesday 19th February and Thursday 14th March 2012
9.15 – 11am

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

There will also be a Year 7 2014 Enrolment Information Evening on Monday, 18th March from 6.30 – 7.30pm. This evening will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting. Prior to the presentations there will be a further opportunity to tour the school with school tours running at 5.30pm and 5.45pm.

Please RSVP for the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening by phoning the School Reception.

Parish News

LENT 2013

♦ Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 13th February. Our Mass schedule is: 6:45am, 9:00am School Mass, and 7:00pm.

♦ Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year (CCL 97, 1251f).

Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent at 7:00pm
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<td>02 9636 6811</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chahinecc@optusnet.com.au">chahinecc@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
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<td>Tony Shaw Swim School</td>
<td>02 9604 8772</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sales@advantageaustralia.com.au">sales@advantageaustralia.com.au</a></td>
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<td>0400 622 442</td>
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Thank you to our generous parents for their kind Christmas office donations last year.