Dear Parents

I have often discussed with parents, during my teaching career, medical issues they have needed to face with little or no time to come to terms with.

My wonderful partner, Jeff, and I have needed to face serious medical issues last week. He was told he only had 6 months to live, unless he had open heart surgery immediately to replace a faulty aortic valve in his heart that he was born with. This was such a shock to both of us and our families.

Jeff had his open heart surgery last Friday and he was in the Intensive Care Unit for 3 days and now he is making a slow but sure recovery in the ward.

I now feel a sense of relief, but emotionally exhausted! When we were told he had no alternative but to have this major surgery, our lives went on hold. All of a sudden, the little things that worried us didn't seem to matter anymore. We do need to get everything in perspective!

Our life with our loved ones, our family and friends are the most important things. We have a love for each other that is strong and happy and we will come through this with the wonderful support of family and our friends.

I may have to take some leave as a carer, but we will be taking it a day at a time! We hope Jeff will be coming home from hospital tomorrow. We will see how his health is and then make arrangements.

Thanks for being such a great, caring community. Jeff and I really appreciate your support and good wishes.
Woolworths Earn & Learn

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back! This community program enables schools and early learning centres throughout Australia to earn educational resources simply through the school community shopping at Woolworths.

Last year, the program provided 720,000 pieces of educational equipment to more than 12,500 schools and early learning centres. Schools selected from thousands of different items through our program, highlighting how each school's needs are different and how critical a breadth of range is.

From Monday 8th April until Sunday 9th June 2013, when you shop at Woolworths you will be entitled to Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. One Woolworths Earn & Learn Point sticker is earned for every $10 spent, excluding cigarettes, liquor and gift cards.

Collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points, place the stickers on an Earn & Learn sheet and put the sheet into the Woolworths Earn & Learn box, outside our school office. You can also choose to put a completed sticker sheet into the “Clayton South Primary School” box at Woolworths in Clarinda. OUR school will then be able to redeem these for educational resources. Encourage your family & friends to also place any Woolworths Earn & Learn Points into the “Clayton South Primary School” box.

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program offers products to suit students of all ages. Schools and Early Learning Centres can choose resources based on their unique needs, across every educational category possible, including Mathematics and English resources, science equipment, arts & crafts materials, sports gear and more.

Our cubby house in the preps was purchased with Earn and Learn points two years ago. Last year we bought amazing Maths equipment. This year let's go for new heights!!!

Year Level Newsletters

This week, every student will bring home their Term 2 Newsletter for their Year Level. Please take time to read the “newsy” letter from your child's teacher team. You will be informed of everything that is happening at CSPS with your child’s learning. Remember we need to work together as a student, family and teacher team for your child to be happy and learning to their full potential. The “newsy” is great way to engage in a conversation with your child to understand the CSPS Reading Program from Prep to Year 6 with CAFÉ and IPICK books!

School Uniform

How many of you have noticed the “new” school uniform on display in the office foyer? Our current “green and gold” uniform is used by many schools, both Catholic and public schools. In the upcoming weeks, I will be asking you to fill in a survey giving your opinion on the existing uniform and new uniform for CSPS.

The new school uniform would be phased in over a few years, so there is no initial outlay for families. We would expect Preps in 2014 to wear the uniform and any new students through the year. Your opinion would be greatly appreciated (and could win you a prize)! More details on the uniform survey to follow in next week’s newsletter.
Kindergarten Plans

As you know our school is having a new kindergarten built on site. The planning is well underway working with the architect and the Kingston Council. The kindergarten will eventually cater for 66 students. There is adequate space for our Play Groups too!

Please have a look at this preliminary plan and understand it will be on Narrumburn Road entry. This is very exciting for our whole school community!

Sustainability News

We welcome Sarah Halligan to our sustainability team! Sarah is a CRT filling in for us so that we can keep our sustainability program going strong within our CSPS community.

Mother’s Day Stall

The Mother’s Day Stall will be held over 2 days next week:
Thursday 9th May and Friday 10th May

The prices are set at $4.00 and $8.00
A great opportunity to buy Mum a gift to say “Thank You” for all her hard work during the year!

Helpers wanted!

We are looking for helpers to sell Icy Poles on Fridays from 1:30-2:30pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated.
On Friday 19th April, four of our Grade 6 students participated in the Junior Mayor Elections in the LF Payne Chelsea Town Hall. There were twenty-four schools and each chose one student to come up to the stage and give a speech on the topic “What is one thing that the City of Kingston can do to make our community more environmentally sustainable?”

Ellie felt nervous, but gave an excellent speech on community workshops to an audience of more than 100 people. Kevin, Dean and Anna helped to put together the ideas for the speech as well as supporting her on stage.

The students also met the city of Kingston mayor, Cr Ron Brownless OAM.

By Ellie, Kevin, Anna and Dean
May
2 Tanay
2 Elissa

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EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE
MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE AT HOME
HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES

In June/July each year, students aged 14 – 19 years from over 20 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 2-10 months. Opportunities are available to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide each student with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to practice your language skills, share your stories, learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

Our students bring with them their own spending money, health insurance and a wonderful attitude and desire to learn about their new host country. Your whole family...and your relatives and friends...will grow and learn as you all get to know your new ‘son’ or ‘daughter’ from another land. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 0800 440 079 or visit our website. http://studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

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EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE AT HOME

In June-July students from over 20 countries around the world, will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 2-10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 0800 440 079 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student