Dear Families and friends

Welcome back to St. Gabriel’s 2011. The start of the year has been surprising! With our students from last year leading the way, our new little ones have very quickly figured out what this school business means. Of course there’s some testing of the boundaries going on in each class but overall there is a beautiful sense of both industry and peace. We welcome the following teacher and children to our school:

Helen Ward
Aaron Calvi          Jack McCloskey
Asher Cummings      Emma De Silva
Scott Emanuel       Douglas Kosasih
Dominic Harper      Joe Reno

I know that they will enrich life at St. Gabriel’s and that they will enjoy being part of our community.

For the staff the beginning of the year started early with a number of Professional Development opportunities. There are always the usual sessions on policy and procedure but the most important is looking at the needs of each student in relation to the programs we are offering. I love the way in which everyone pools their creative energy in ensuring an exciting, appropriate education for each student.

Over the holidays two interactive whiteboards were installed, so now each class has a SMART Board. This particular piece of technology has revolutionised teaching and has engaged the students in ways that I did not think possible. All in all the year is off to an excellent start.

Our Parent/Teacher Evening and social get together is on Monday, 28 February at 6.30pm. This is the first opportunity we have to be together as a community, so I would encourage you to book your babysitters and put the date in your diary. Not only will you learn much about your child’s class you will meet lovely new people and have some fun.

On our first day back we shared a liturgy at St. Edmund’s I would like to finish with a small quote from that:

May your shoes be light,
may your patience be endless,
may your joy be extreme,
may your passion for the work you do never waiver,
and may 2011 challenge and reward you.

Looking forward to journeying with you all in 2011.

Kathy Freeman
Teachers 2011

Junior N
Gosia Nowak - Teacher
Nicky Lopez - Teacher’s Aide (morning)
Michelle McCann - Teacher’s Aide (afternoon)

Middle L
Belinda Lu - Teacher
Michelle McCann—Teacher’s Aide (morning)
Selma Murphy - Teacher’s Aide (afternoon)

Upper W
Helen Ward - Teacher
Selma Murphy - Teacher’s Aide (morning)
Nicky Lopez - Teacher’s Aide (afternoon)

Music Teacher
Deborah Boffa

Leadership Team:
Principal – Kathy Freeman
Head of Campus - Dianne Hooke
ERSES Business Mgr - Marilyn Noonan

Office:
Bursar - David Welsh
School Secretary - Val Argent
Reception/Enrolments - Jo Biggs
Maintenance & Grounds - Peter Murphy
ERSES Property Mgr - Brenden Jones

NEW STAFF
St Gabriel’s would like to welcome Helen Ward as the new teacher for Upper W.

Diary

Tuesdays
Library Day - Students to please bring library bag to school with their name clearly labelled.

Wednesdays
Music Class

Thursdays
12.30pm Assembly - whole school.

Fridays
Whole School Sport

CHARGING FM’S
Reminder to parents of children with hearing impairment: please ensure that your child’s FM has been charged overnight, so that it can be used in the classroom the next day.

Happy Birthday To
Emma 22.2.02

Congratulations to the Paddy family who welcomed Lauren Elizabeth on Sunday, 6 February 2011.

It’s a girl!
Children's Awards

The following awards were presented at our school Assemblies:

**Week 1 - 31 January 2011 - Class Awards**

- **Junior N** - for being a great friend and helping his teacher and friends in class - **Jack**
- **Middle L** - for great listening in class - **Corey**
- **Upper W** - for being an excellent listener - **Douglas**

**Week 2 - 10 February 2011**

- **Student of the Week: Blake**
- **Try your Best Award** - **Kian**
- **Care and Share Award** - **Jack**
- **Uniform Award** - **Aaron C**
- **Be Safe Award** - **Aaron T**

**Class Awards**

- **Junior N** - for great listening and talking to teachers and friends - **Asher**
- **Middle L** - for trying hard with lots of talking in class - **Melanie**
- **Upper W** - for always following class rules and putting up his hand in class - **Dion**
Please visit our school website. It is regularly updated with news and events that are happening at the school.

The “St Gabriel’s News” is also posted on the website as a fast and easy way for families and friends of St Gabriel’s to keep informed of events that are happening at our school.

The school newsletter is sent home every second Friday and via email. If you would like an email copy only please advise Jo at reception or via email reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au.

**Morning Routine and School Bell Times**

Our morning routines have changed to help maximise learning time.

**Please note that recess is now at 11.00am.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>School Starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.10pm</td>
<td>School Finishes</td>
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**SOCIAL CLUB BOOKS**

Various Social Club Book companies leave their books, etc. for staff to look at and purchase over two week periods during the school term.

For every item purchased, St Gabriel’s receives a percentage which we then use to purchase books, puzzles for the school.

Parents and taxi drivers will now have an opportunity to purchase if they wish, books, etc., as they will be put on display in the flat at the end of the school day.

The books, etc. are sold at a great discounted price and are also wonderful presents for birthday parties, etc. and it also enables us as a community to purchase more resources for our students.

Thank you for your support.
SCHOOL ABSENCE AND SPECIAL TRANSPORT

If your child is absent from school please notify the school office that morning either by telephone 9634 2367 or via email to: reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au.

If notification is by telephone, a note explaining your child’s absence will also need to be sent to school on your child’s return, for the teachers’ roll book.

If your child travels to school on special transport please also contact your driver to inform them of your child’s absence.

This is also applicable if the child is not requiring transport home due to medical appointments, etc., as it is the parents’ responsibility to contact the taxi driver.

Thank you.

School Office

LABELLING OF UNIFORM, LUNCH BOXES AND DRINK BOTTLES

Parents please ensure that your child’s uniform, lunch box and drink bottle are labelled with their name. If your child’s recess and lunch are in separate containers could they be labelled also.

Thank you for your support.

WANTED: Parent Volunteer - Scholastic Book Club

Last year St Gabriel’s School received $170 in FREE resources from parents purchasing books from the Scholastic Book Club.

Is there a parent in our school community able to volunteer and organise the Scholastic Book Club orders for our students? The book club orders will be placed once a term. The person co-ordinating the orders will be responsible for the collection of orders and money; placement of orders and then the distribution of books when they arrive.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to organise the Book Club could they please contact Dianne on 9634 2367 or via email hooke@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you in advance.
What a fantastic effort by all who helped to collect Coles Sports for Schools vouchers for St Gabriel’s School.

CONGRATULATIONS! The total points collected including bonus points was 47,515 points.

Your wonderful effort in collecting vouchers has enabled the school to purchase some new sports equipment, e.g., sand and water play tray, pop up goal, and more for St Gabriel’s which will be well used by all our students.

THANK YOU.

The Good Guys, Castle Hill

St Gabriel’s will be participating in the ‘Support Your School’ program again this year.

Every time you make a purchase of $50 or more please ask for your reward voucher.

Each $50 spent will receive a $1 voucher that the school can redeem for equipment or raffle items etc.

Please forward your vouchers to the school office.

Thank you for your support.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Teacher Evening</td>
<td>Monday, 28 February</td>
<td>6.30pm-8.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Gabriel’s Open Day</td>
<td>Thursday, 10 March</td>
<td>9.30am-11.30am</td>
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Student term Dates for 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 - Autumn</td>
<td>Monday, 31 January - Friday, 8 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 - Winter</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 April - Friday, 24 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 - Spring</td>
<td>Monday, 18 July - Friday, 23 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 - Summer</td>
<td>Monday, 10 October - Tuesday, 13 December</td>
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It is the policy of St Gabriel’s to distribute information when requested regarding activities and information concerning deafness and other matters. This does not imply that St Gabriel’s endorses these activities or the information contained therein in any way.