Dear Parents,

Many parents have been asking me about Father Scott so I thought this week I would give you a quick update on his progress. The good news is that his speech is definitely improving and he certainly still has his great sense of humour which we all enjoyed when he came for a short visit to see the staff last Thursday. Photographs were taken and I will put them in the notice boards for you and the children to see. He is being well looked after at Holy Family Services Facility at Quaker’s Rd. Marayong (Room 30, Joseph Wing) because although he is now able to better communicate, his left side remains paralysed and he does require a wheelchair and specialist care. At the end of last year the children and teachers put together a DVD of messages and Christmas greetings for him and Mrs. Keft, our Parish Secretary, tells me that he really enjoyed watching it and particularly enjoyed hearing what the children had to say. He is able to have visitors but not between 1.00pm and 3.00pm as this is a rest period and not too many people at once.

I continue to be inspired by his great faith and courage as he daily faces the physical and mental challenges as a result of the stroke. He sends his love to all and asks that we continue to remember him in our prayers.

God bless you and your families,
Chris Gibson, Principal

PLAYGROUND INCENTIVE SCHEME

For new parents who are unfamiliar with our Positive Playground Incentive Scheme here is a brief summary:
The St Paul’s award winning Playground Incentive Scheme, (2008 National Award for School Improvement) has been in place since 2007. It aims at communicating to children clearly and precisely what behaviours are appropriate and desirable. This is done by the distribution of small, coloured, laminated discs, (Do-Good-Dots) to children who are ‘doing the right thing’ on the playground during play times. The discs are then given to the class teacher after lunch and added to a class tally on a ‘Do- Good- O-Meter.’ Every term the children and their teachers discuss the importance of showing respect, care and safety on the playground and together develop a list of grade rewards to be gained when they have worked together to achieve a particular amount of Do- Good- Dots. These rewards may include extra play, a night without homework, a dress up day or an afternoon at the park.

To balance this positive approach and to set clear boundaries for children with regard to inappropriate behaviours, a procedure for notification to parents has also been devised. This involves a three step process. When a child is observed being unsafe or inappropriate they are given a warning, followed by some time out on the playground if the behaviour continues. The final step in the process if the child continues to be unsafe or inappropriate is to give them a Playground Notice. This notice is then given to the class teacher who follows it up with a letter sent home to parents explaining what happened. If three notices are given out over the term the student misses out on the incentive reward that is next to be gained by the grade. This is often followed up by a meeting involving the student, parents, class teacher and Miss Fabri (Assistant Principal) so that a plan can be made to assist the child to modify any inappropriate or unsafe behaviours.

The Playground Incentive Scheme has been extremely successful and very popular with the children who look forward to working together to achieve the next incentive reward. They have also commented in a survey that they feel that the Playground Notice system is fair and helps to remind children how to be kind and safe on the playground.

If you have any questions with regard to these procedures please feel welcome to contact Miss Fabri.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - CAPS

Coloured caps for our swimming carnival to be held on Monday 15th February may be purchased in the undercroft this week before school. The cost of the caps is $2.00
CANTEEN
There will NOT be Canteen next Monday 15th because of the Primary Swimming Carnival. Children will need to bring their lunch to school on this day.

THANK YOU
Congratulations to our Year Six Leaders for their excellent behaviour last Tuesday at the Leadership Day they attended at Springwood and a special thank you to our parent drivers, Sue Alam, Michele Casey and Jude Durrant for being our drivers on the day. The school thanks you for your kind assistance.

MULTILIT
Dear MULTILIT helpers. Monday morning MULTILIT will commence on Monday, Week 5, 22nd February 2010. Mrs Kerry Nethery will be taking these lessons. Location of sessions is yet to be decided. Please meet in the office on Monday 22nd for the first session. Thank you in advance.
Mrs Claire Bayley and Mrs Therese Ricketts
Learning Support Team

SUNSET DISCO FAMILY PICNIC
Friday 19th February 2010, 6.00pm in the school grounds
This very popular annual event is fast approaching. This year will be a BYO family picnic. Gold coin donation at the gate, please, to cover the cost of the DJ. Bring along a picnic blanket, fold-up chairs and food needed for your family – and of course, your dancing shoes! Drinks and ice blocks will be available for sale on the night. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Bliss 0400 369 083.

P & F NEWS
The Annual General Meeting of the school parent body will be held on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre. It would be very pleasing if one parent from each family could attend. Nomination forms for positions on the committee will be sent home next week.

Catherine McAuley Westmead
School Open Morning
9.15 – 11am on Tuesday 16th February 2010
Enrolments for Year 7 2011
Catherine McAuley Westmead will be holding a School Open Morning on Tuesday 16 February for interested parents and students. You will have the opportunity to join a school tour where you will tour our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our wonderful students and teachers. You will also have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action, as well as have any questions answered by our School Principal.
Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to book a place on one of these tours.

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS
Our social skills focus for this week is
Wear Your Uniform Correctly