Dear Parents, Friends and Benefactors,

In the Annual General Meeting held in February this year a school homework policy was presented to the parents in attendance. The school considers homework to be an important part of the children’s learning and I would like to see a culture developed here at St Philomena School of parents supporting this policy. I know from experience there is a great variety of attitudes to homework held by parents but experience also clearly proves the importance of homework.

Learning can not be limited to time in the classroom at school. For things to be remembered and assimilated it requires that a student take the time to think about it and understand it. For things like Maths and grammar, it requires practice to develop understanding. Homework helps reinforce and build on what is seen in the classroom. If you want your children to make the best of their education, you must support the teacher by ensuring homework is always done, except for a special and very occasional reason. Family routines should give due time for the children to do their homework.

Homework does not just help to educate the mind but it also helps to educate the character. Homework requires self discipline to concentrate and apply oneself. When the child sits down to work as best he can for the appropriate time, he develops a solid work ethic. We are not all academic and inclined to study and, if this is the case, so much the greater is the work ethic which is developed. The child will always learn something, too.

Finally, homework also permits you to see what your children are learning at school. Please look at their diaries every day to know what they have to do and ensure they do it. By parents and teachers working together your children’s education will be a lot more fruitful.

I can not finish this letter without making mention of the month of May. The Church has dedicated this month to the Blessed Virgin Mary. To appreciate why, it would be easier if we lived in Europe. May in the northern hemisphere is late spring, when the days are warming up, the sun regularly shines in a blue sky and life is back in full swing. All the trees have their leaves back and the flowers are in full blossom. Seeing nature come back to life and look so beautiful makes one realise why May was chosen as the month for Our Lady. The Church uses nature to teach the everyday Catholic how much She values our Blessed Mother in Heaven and we would do well to use this month to honour Her in a special way as well. Make sure the family Rosary is recited daily in your homes and, as a suggestion, recite the Litany of Our Lady daily and ask your children to place flowers before Her statue every day. Her love for us and care for us should never be undervalued and the honour and devotion we show to her will never go unrewarded.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr Karl Pepping
Principal of St Philomena School
ANZAC Day School Commemoration Ceremony
ANZAC Square, Brisbane City

On Thursday 14th of April 2011, students in Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7 attended the ANZAC Day School Commemoration Ceremony at ANZAC Square, Brisbane City. The students and teachers travelled by rail to and from the city where they represented the school at a service to honour the courage of our service men and women and thank them for the sacrifices they made ensuring the safety of our wonderful country.

Our School Captains, Alex and Eruera, laid a beautiful floral wreath on behalf of St Philomena School as a mark of respect.

Missions Money

During Lent, our students took up a collection from their pocket money to be donated to The Society of St Pius X Mission in Zimbabwe. We are extremely pleased to advise that we were able to forward $1106 to the Mission as a result of the generosity of our students and their supportive families. This is an inspiring effort from our small school community and a wonderful example of what makes St Philomena’s a school of which we can all be proud.

Election of Sporting House Captains

Last week our students held a ballot to elect the Sporting House Captains and Vice Captains for 2011. The successful nominees for these positions are:

POLDING CAPTAIN: Christopher Fox
POLDING VICE CAPTAIN: Holly Neumann
CHISHOLM CAPTAIN: Gerard Hardess
CHISHOLM VICE CAPTAIN: Dominic Hardess

Congratulations to our new sporting leaders!

There are 17 days left in the Canteen Rescue program at Grand Plaza so there is still plenty of time to try your hardest to help the school win some of the fantastic prizes on offer. Make sure your family and friends know that they can help us win by simply registering their Grand Plaza receipts at the service desk.

EVERY DOLLAR = 1 POINT FOR OUR SCHOOL
Year 6 & 7 Class Project
The subject matter for the Year 6 & 7 class project for Term 1 was “An Unusual Animal”. Each student had to research an animal of their choice, illustrate their findings on an informative chart and present a lecturette to the class on their chosen subject. As you can see from these photos, the students certainly put a lot of effort into producing a high standard of work.

Building Works Continue
Construction of our new school building is progressing beautifully despite the less than perfect weather conditions that the builders have been confronted with. We thank them for their continued hard work which is bringing completion of the new classrooms ever closer.

As the end of the current financial year draws to a close it is timely to remind families and friends of the school that donations to the School Building Fund are tax deductible. If you wish to get a tax deduction for 2011 tax returns, donations should be made by June 30th. With our current building project progressing well, all donations are of the greatest benefit to the school and are sincerely appreciated.

School Captains’ Visit to Parliament House
Last Tuesday, 17th May, Mr Briggs, Eruera and I went to Parliament House for lunch. When we arrived we were given a conducted tour of Parliament House with school captains from other schools in the Logan area and we were allowed to sit in the politicians’ seats.
After the tour, Mr John Mickel took all of us to the Parliamentary Annexe where we were served a lovely meal.
After lunch we thanked Mr Mickel and then took the elevator to the bottom floor and left to return to school.
It was a most enjoyable visit!

By Alex Massey

There will be no school next Thursday 2nd of June because it is the Feast of the Ascension.

**Due to this:
1. There will be no school Mass next week on Tuesday 31 May.
2. The students will have sport on Friday 3rd June and should come to school in their sports uniform that day.