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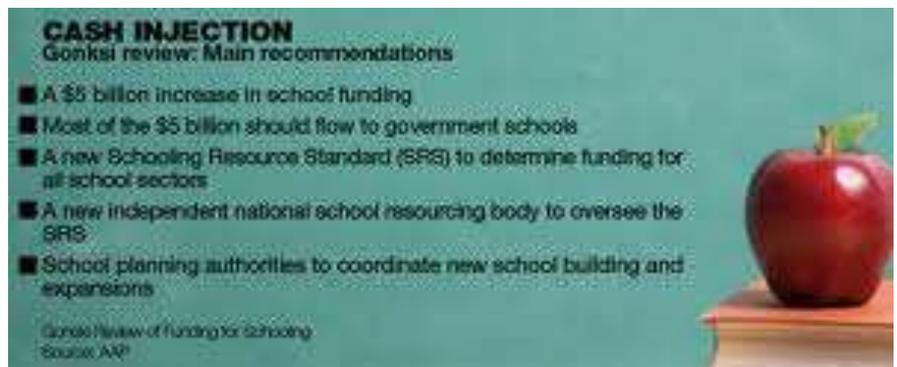
Early Learning Centre

6049 3485

From the Principal

The Gonski Report

A couple of weeks ago the Commonwealth Government released the Gonski Report. This review, undertaken by six eminent Australians, is the first major review into educational funding in Australia since the Karmel Review of 1973.



A school like Trinity stands to be significantly influenced by the review. Trinity's income regime is heavily reliant upon the recurrent funding we receive from the Commonwealth government for every student enrolled at the College. In fact, about 62% of our per capita income comes from the Commonwealth; about 15% comes from the State government and the remaining 25% comes from fees charged to parents for each student.

Since the release of the report I have had time to consider some of its major aspects and recommendations. Earlier this week I attended a meeting of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) held at St Columba Anglican School in Port Macquarie where the nature and consequences of the Report were the major issues on the agenda. One of the special guests at this meeting was the Federal Member for Lyne, Mr Rob

Oakeshott. Mr Oakeshott's presence gave the meeting the opportunity to explore some of the aspects of the Gonski review with him as well as the chance to impress upon him the importance of federal funding to many independent schools. I must say that I was very impressed with Mr Oakeshott; he listened well and displayed a very good understanding of independent education and the important service schools like Trinity offer to society.

In essence, the Gonski Review is very sound and makes a lot of sense. It attempts to deal with two important issues: the lack of sufficient funding for education in this country (Australia is near the bottom of all OECD countries in terms of per capita funding of education) and the lack of equity in Australian education, where the size of the gap between the best and the poorest performing students, together with the numbers at each end of the spectrum, are amongst the worst in the developed world.

Most assessments of the Gonski review indicate that essentially there are no losers. The report recommends strongly that all students in Australia, regardless of the school they attend deserve financial support from the governments of the day. The Federal government is yet to commit to the mechanisms and structures which might be required to achieve this but a school like Trinity should not lose out as a result of the Gonski recommendations. It appears that students, rather than individual schools would be funded under the Gonski recommendations. So for example, a student with particular learning difficulties will receive a certain amount of funding; this funding will follow the student regardless of whether he or she is attending a Government school, a Catholic school or an Independent school like Trinity.

There appear to be some problems with the Gonski report, the most significant of these being the suggestion that the academic success of schools being judged entirely on NAPLAN results. This is a very poor and limited measure, as NAPLAN only attempts to test a small range of curriculum and student skills. NAPLAN was only ever intended as a diagnostic tool for teachers (for which it is quite useful) and not as a means of global educational comparisons between schools and school systems. Furthermore there is on-going concerns about the security of the administration of the NAPLAN tests, as in most schools, they are supervised by individual teachers in individual classrooms. Under the recommendations from Gonski, NAPLAN would become an even higher stakes exercise and for me, this is of real concern. However, despite these limitations, there is no other current national system of testing on which the Gonski Review could base an analysis of school performance.

The Gonski Review appears to have achieved a great outcome – uniting all of the schooling sectors in general support of the Review! It has been praised by Principals from Government Schools, the public school Teachers' Union, the Catholic sector and the Independent sector. This is in part because of the logic and clear rationale of its recommendations. It is also due to its clear intention (and obvious effect if implemented) that 'a rising tide lifts all boats'. This 'rising tide' would require an additional increase in expenditure on school education in Australia of \$5 billion. This amount would make a significant difference but is only a 15% increase in the national educational budget and constitutes only 0.05% of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In all reality, an additional \$5 billion in the context of the national budget, is not a lot of money!

In this context it is disappointing and quite ironic that the main opposition to the Gonski Report to emerge at this stage is from the government itself! The very government which commissioned the report is downplaying the notion that it will spend any more money on implementing its key recommendations! This is partly due to the political populism which is driving both the Government and Opposition to vie with one another over the 'holy grail' of balancing the budget before a deadline of the end of the 2012-13 financial year. Australia's deficit is quite small, particularly when it is compared with most of the western nations and this highlights this political process as inconsequential when one is considering a significantly more important issue, such as the education of a nation's youth!

State governments are opposing the Gonski Report because they fear that they may lose more control over education to Canberra. The recommendations of the Review then get lost in the on-going tussle of federalism between the Commonwealth and the States.

Of course, the Federal Opposition have comprehensively attacked the Gonski Report, perhaps partly because it has emanated from the Gillard government. I have to say that I have been very disappointed with the Opposition's Spokesman on Education, Mr Pyne on what he has had to say about the Review and some of its key recommendations.

At the end of the day, without the injection of the additional \$5 billion from governments, the Gonski Report cannot be successfully implemented.

The Gonski Review provides a wonderful opportunity to resolve the structural problems which have beset Australian education: the damaging acrimony between the sectors over funding; the lack of sufficient funds from government

for education; and the equity problems, where disadvantage of various kinds has limited access to quality education for so many Australians.

Education is a major key to the future of our young people. It is fundamental to the productivity of our country and the well being of its citizens. It is absolutely intrinsic to the constant call from politicians from all quarters to make Australia the 'clever country', with a strong enough educational base to develop creativity and productivity on which our future trading will depend. In this age when so many Australian parents, busy earning a living, outsource to schools the character development and values formation of their children, schools like Trinity assume a vital role in the formation of fine young men and women.

The Gonski Review provides the Commonwealth government with a wonderful opportunity to make fundamental improvements in education. At Monday's AHISA meeting I enthusiastically voted in support of a motion which commended the report and its full implementation by the Federal government. I also happily supported a motion to send a letter to the Opposition encouraging them to focus on the strong recommendations from the Report and the impact that these might have on the education of all students in Australia, rather than focussing on scoring as many political points by constantly criticising the Government at every opportunity.

It would be a tremendous shame if the opportunity to make fundamental improvements in education in our country is lost, as appears likely, as a casualty of short term politics, where governments of various kinds are more concerned with short term electoral appeal than with both inspirational and sustainable leadership of our nation.

I will continue to keep the College community informed of any relevant developments in relation to the Gonski Review.

Cancellation of BISSA & BIPSA Swimming Events

I was disappointed to hear that the annual BISSA and BIPSA Swimming events have been cancelled

due to the recent rain and ensuing floods around Wagga. I take this opportunity to congratulate those students who performed well at the College base events and who were chosen in the teams to represent the College at this next level. I am sure that they are disappointed that they missed their opportunity this year but I also know that they will understand that in these difficult circumstances, there was no other choice but to cancel the events.

Of course, we keep all people affected by the floods in our prayers and thoughts.



P&F

Last week the Parents & Friends' held their first meeting of the year. It is at this meeting that positions on the P&F Executive are declared vacant and the process of voting for this year's officers takes place. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Mr Steve Hall who has been the President of the P&F during 2010 and 2011. Mr Hall contributed in so many ways to the College and usually in a very quiet and unassuming way – many thanks to Mr Hall for his generous support of the College via the P&F. I also wish to thank Mr Mal Clarke, who last year was the Vice President of the P&F and again, did a mountain of work in supporting the College in this role. Many thanks to Mr Clarke! Finally, I wish to publicly thank Mr Greg Scott, who was the Treasurer of the P&F in recent times. I thank Mr Scott for his support in this role.

The P&F continue to offer on-going support to the College in numerous ways. I hope that one of their main functions will continue to be to contribute to the community of the College – to raise friends first and then to think about raising funds for the College! Having said this, I am very grateful for the funds which are generated via P&F events and fund-raising; their on-going financial commitment to the improvement of ICT facilities in classrooms has been very generous, their financial contributions to other small projects and their recognition of staff on a regular basis are all very welcome and appreciated signs of real support!

At last week's meeting the 2012 office bearers were elected and they are:

- President: Mrs Raelene Weissel
- Vice – President: Mrs Karen Brawn
- Secretary: Mrs Kaylene Kurtzer

The role of Treasurer is still vacant and I would encourage anyone who feels that they would be able to fulfil this role to contact the College and/or any member of the new P&F Executive!

2013 Enrolments

I take this opportunity to urge current parents who might be planning to enrol any siblings at the College in 2013 to contact my Personal Assistant, Ms Heather Watson to make an appointment for an enrolment interview and to begin the process of completing the enrolment forms and sending these through in the lead up to this interview. It would be a terrible situation for current parents to miss the opportunity to enrol their next child on the misunderstanding that they had plenty of time to initiate and complete the enrolment process. Demands for positions are very strong, particularly in Kinder at the Albury campus and

therefore it is imperative that parents begin this process to avoid disappointment!

The College enrolment policies do not have any preferential treatment for current families. In this context, I hasten to add that of course we welcome the enrolment of the siblings of current students but we do not presume that this will occur automatically. Therefore it is important that we hear from parents sooner rather than later so that we can book in the enrolments before vacancies disappear in certain year levels.

Grandparents' Days

I am looking forward to welcoming the Grandparents of our Junior School students to the College on our scheduled Grandparents' Days later this month. These special afternoons are scheduled for the Wodonga campus on Friday, 16 March and at the Albury campus on Friday, 23 March, both from 1:30 – 3:00pm. Invitations and reminders will be sent home via student diaries in the days ahead and I hope that as many Grandparents and other special people will be able to come along on these days to see their Grandchildren's classrooms, meet their teachers, have a tour of the College and enjoy an afternoon tea at the end of this process.

Grandparents' Day is always one of the great days on the calendar in the Junior School at both campuses of the College! I am looking forward to welcoming our visitors to the College in a few weeks time!

Steven J O'Connor
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Tickets for the HTC Sensation Android Smart Phone, valued at approximately \$600, are still available for one more week. Senior students will sell raffle tickets for \$2 per ticket to raise funds to purchase more outdoor furniture for the Senior School. All members of the College community are eligible for this prize, with tickets only to be sold at school by the Senior Students during lunch breaks. The raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of Senior School Chapel on Wednesday, 21 March. (As the donated phone was supplied by Telstra the phone is locked to the Telstra network).



The **Senior Schools Athletics Carnival** will be held on **Wednesday, 14 March**. All students can wear the correct College Sports Uniform to and from school for that day. They must ensure that they are wearing correct footwear and hats. If a

student is leaving from Alexandra Park and not returning to school they must have presented their Pastoral Care Tutor with a note from their parents giving permission to do so, prior to the day. Any student who does not have a note or says that their parents have given permission verbally will not be allowed to leave from the carnival and will be expected to return to school via the buses.

Academic Competitions - The deadline for the National Academic Competitions is Monday, 12 March. If students would like to enter any of these competitions you will need to complete the nomination form (back page Newsletters 2, 3 & 4); check carefully that the age group for the competition is appropriate for your child. The **nomination form** should be returned with the student's name and Year group to Pastoral Care Tutors. Due to closing dates for these external competitions no nominations will be accepted after this date.

Senior School Parent-Teacher Interviews - Senior School interviews for Years 7 to 10 are scheduled for Tuesday 13, Thursday 15, and Wednesday 21 March.

The online booking service for these interviews will close at 11.00 am on Tuesday, 13 March. Please ensure you have logged on prior to this time to avoid disappointment. Please use the code supplied below and follow the steps outlined; a link to the booking service is available from the College website.

The booking code is CKA AF

Peter O'Neill
Deputy Principal

Year 6 Excursion to Canberra



Students from Trinity have recently undertaken an educational tour of the National Capital. While on this tour they participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$10 per eligible student under the Parliament and civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this programme. We hope that the excursion was a rewarding experience for all students.

Kathy Walsh
Year 6

Reflection

On Day 2 we had to get up at 6.45 am and get dressed straight into our school uniforms and do things like that. At 8.40 am we arrived at Parliament House



and BOY could you call it fancy! It was so pretty, my eyes nearly popped out of my head! I just couldn't believe that the Prime Minister pretty much worked there every day! You would have to be REALLY fancy to fit in there!

We went into a kid's version of The House of Representatives which was really cool and we did a type of play. Then we went behind a glass and started looking at what they were doing in the House of Representatives. Then we went behind ANOTHER glass and started listening to the people in the Senate. We also had a look at the pictures of the old Prime-Ministers and there was one in particular that caught my eye which was the picture of Gough Whitlam because it was very artistic. And as it seems, they had to use a picture that had won an art show because he didn't want to sit for another photo!

After we had finished at the New Parliament House, we went to Questacon. It was a shame because we didn't get to see all of it but at least we got to see some.

Once we had finished, we went back to Gold Creek Resort to get ready for rock climbing (which was really cool but poor Monique got a bad knock to the ear). After that, we had supper and went to bed.

Then it was day three. We woke up at 6.45 am so we could get packed and do everything like that. Then we hopped on the bus and set off.



After that, we went to Lazer Tag. It was real cool and we even got to go TWO TIMES! We also got to have score sheets and we got to play video games while we were waiting! After we had finished we set off back to school.

It was a really good trip all in all, sure we didn't get to see Julia Gillard but we got to go to Parliament House! And sure we had to have our lunch under the Parliament House carpark, (on the second day, but at least we got to have lunch! And sure my team didn't win at Lazer Tag but we got to play Lazer Tag! My point is that we had fun and that is all that matters.

Alannah Woods

Year 6

Homework Help - Albury



Homework help is being offered to all students in Years 7 to 12 who would like some help/guidance with their homework or assessment tasks. Also, If you would like help with the structure of your written tasks or would like to learn some great study habits, such as summarising and note taking. If you're a new student or a Year 7 student who is feeling a little overwhelmed and need some help to get organised... come along and spend one hour a week in the library... you will feel a whole lot better starting a task than putting it off.

Homework help will now run on a Wednesday afternoon as of Week 7 Wednesday, 14 March. (3.15 – 4.30)



Chess Club - Albury

Do you have an unused and unwanted Chess Set at home? Please send in to the Art room where the Chess Club will put them to good use!

Sarah Bradbury

Head of Visual Arts

Sports News - Albury

Greater Western Sydney AFL Clinic

The GWS AFL team will be conducting a free footy clinic at the Lavington Sports Oval on Friday, 9 March from 5.00 – 6.00 pm.

Trinity Athletics Carnival

Wednesday, 14 March will be the Senior School Athletics carnival at Alexandra Park. Students will have to attend their PCG and as a class they will travel by bus

to the track. Students will need to wear their full PE uniform to school and can get changed once at the track. Students who wish to go directly home will need to provide their PCG tutor with a note prior to the carnival. It is expected all students will compete in at least one track and one field event on the day. Students who are injured need to provide me with a note and be prepared to assist on the day, where they can. A house meeting will be conducted prior to the carnival.

Announcement: North's Hockey Club wishes to advise that training has commenced for U/12 girls at the Albury Hockey Centre 5.30 – 6.30 pm for the 2012 season. We are in need of new players who want to learn and have fun playing hockey in a safe and friendly environment. For more information please call Peter Evans 0428 103 499

Nick Payne
Head of Sport

Junior School News - Albury



Anaphylaxis

Please be aware that we have students in the College with severe allergies who may experience Anaphylaxis, if exposed to nuts, sesame seeds and poppy seeds. These include all tree nuts as well as peanuts.

We therefore ask that you are aware of the food products you send to school. Please consider all food including rolls, slices, muffins, food bars that may contain nuts, sesame seeds or poppy seeds.

We wish to do everything in our power to prevent these children experiencing an anaphylactic attack and prevent other students witnessing such. Do keep in mind that the canteen is nut aware and doesn't sell products with nuts as ingredients.

Clean up Australia Day

Due to the inclement weather the Junior School's Clean Up Australia Day has been postponed to Friday, 16 March. **Once again can I remind you to arrange for your son/daughter to have garden gloves for the day. The students are to wear their sports uniform.**



Albury Campus - Volunteer Parent Helpers

Any parent, grandparent or young adult who has left school and was unable to attend the Parent Helpers night earlier in the term, the re-run presentation will be held on Tuesday, 13 March in the 5CO Classroom at 3:30 pm.

Chris O'Loan
Head of Junior School

Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop Operating Hours during School Terms			
Mondays	8:30 – 10:00 am	2:30 – 4:30 pm	Cathy Katsoolis
Tuesdays	<i>Closed</i>		
Wednesdays	8:30 – 10:00 am	2:30 – 4:30 pm	Cathy Katsoolis
Thursdays	8:30 – 10:00 am	2:30 – 6:00 pm	Cathy Katsoolis
Fridays	8.45 – 9.30 am		Sam Baker

Uniform Shop: 6049 3440

Cathy Katsoolis
Uniform Shop

Canteen News - Albury



Thank you to volunteer Michelle Densley, and to Sam Vitolo for their tireless efforts assisting in the Canteen.

Cold weather and hot food! As the weather cools, more children want a hot lunch. **Please** urge your children in the Senior school to order their lunch. It is very difficult to guess quantities of food required and there are lots of variables to consider. Minimising waste is one of a number of strategies used to keep costs down; consequently I try very hard not to prepare “excess” food that is subsequently wasted. I do hate to disappoint Seniors who don’t order, but some days it does happen if there is an unexpected demand.

Roster Week 7, Term 1		
Date	Name	
March	Monday 12	Sharon Ingles
	Tuesday 13	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
	Wednesday 14	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
	Thursday 15	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
	Friday 16	<i>Volunteer needed</i>

Margaret Cochrane
Canteen Manager

Weekly Extension Question from the Tutorial Centre

After School Literacy

Literacy class for students from Years 3 to 6. Commencing Thursday, 1 March. 3:20 till 3:50 pm in D1 (near the Tutorial Centre and Uniform shop). The focus for the next couple of months will be on writing. Questions? Please email Lyn Maxwell lyn.maxwell@trinityac.nsw.edu.au



Week 5 Answer
What is this Word?

Take the letters **ERGRO** . Put three letters in front of it, and the same three letters behind it to form a common English word. Answer:

UNDERGROUND

Week 6 Question
Who Finished the Race First?

During the cross country race Kate was fourth. Ann is not the oldest, but is older than Deanne, who was not second. The child who was next in the age to the youngest, finished second. The child who finished in third place is older than the child who finished first. Betty is younger than the child who finished in third place. Can you determine who finished where and place the children in order of age?

Lyn Maxwell

Head of Tutorial Centre

Trinity College 10 Year Anniversary

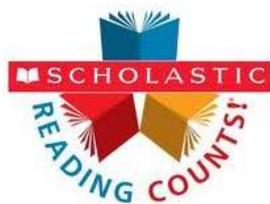
As indicated on your family's College Calendar, the last weekend in May is dedicated to Trinity's 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations. All past and present families, students, staff and friends are invited to join in the festivities as our school community acknowledges this wonderful milestone.

As part of the weekend's celebrations, the College will be hosting a formal 'Trinity Blue and Red Ball' on the Saturday evening. It's not too early to sort out your glad rags and start organising your table!

Please note the weekend of Friday 25 - Sunday 27 May in your social diary and watch this space for further information.

Sonia Glanvill

Scholastic Book Club



Scholastic Bookclub Issue 2 is out! Please return any orders by the due date so that I can get your order returned to you before the holidays commence. Please also remember to ensure that payment has been made prior to returning the completed order form or make any cheques payable to **SCHOLASTICS AUSTRALIA**. Please also ensure that you child's name and class are also clearly marked on the order form. All orders will be returned via classroom teachers as soon as they are delivered to me.

Please NB: If the order is to be a present or surprise – please list a contact name and phone number so I can call you when the order has arrived to organised for collection. **Issue 2** (Easter) has been distributed and the due date for return is **19 March 2012**. Thank you

Helen Trebley
Bookclub Coordinator

Student Academic Competitions



At Trinity College, students in Years 3 – 12 have the opportunity to enter Australian Schools Competitions. Students with a special aptitude or interest in one or more of the areas listed below are encouraged to enter.

Please complete and sign the form below and return it without payment by **Monday, 12 March**, (to your child’s Pastoral Care Tutor). (Cost of entries will be included as part of Term 2 Student Accounts). Please place a tick beside the competition(s) you would like your child to be entered in.

Student Name.....

Year Group.....

Please Tick Below	Year Groups	Subject	Date of Competition	Cost
	3 - 10	Computer Skills (University of NSW)	Tuesday, 22 May	\$7.70
	3 - 12	Science (University of NSW)	Wednesday, 6 June	\$7.70
	3 - 12	Writing (University of NSW)	Monday, 18 June	\$16.50
	3 - 7	Spelling (University of NSW)	Tuesday, 19 June	\$11.00
	7 - 12	English (University of NSW)	Tuesday, 31 July	\$7.70
	3 - 12	Australian Mathematics	Thursday, 2 August	\$5.50
	7 & 8	French (ALC Certificate 1)	Tuesday, 7 August	\$9.00
	9 & 10	French (ALC Certificate 2)	Wednesday, 8 August	\$12.00
	11 & 12	French (ALC Certificate 3)	Thursday, 9 August	\$12.00

Signed _____

(Parent/Guardian) Date _____



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