Dear families of Trinity Gardens School,

This term our school embarks on a new journey with Kids Matter. Kids Matter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. Kids Matter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents, carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids. Healthy living is everyone’s business and an important part of that is looking after their social and emotional well being. Ensuring we are focussed on children’s well being is an investment in our future. If you would like further information please go to http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/.

Included in this newsletter is information which provides you with important information about our next steps in our focus on educating our children and the wider community about sustainability and caring for the environment. I encourage you to take some time to sit with your child and read the information and discuss ways that your household can contribute to making our environment a better place for everyone.

Welcome to the new reception children who commenced in rooms 6W, 7W and 8W. Also welcome to Arthur Tseregounes who replaces Amelia in the Resource Centre for the next 4 weeks while Amelia is on leave. Kostas Fotiadies joins us full time in 23A while Kelly is on leave. Vicki will continue in her role as Assistant Regional Director for the remainder of the year with Harriet continuing as Deputy Principal and Tonia as Senior Leader.

Term 4 is the busiest school term for staff as they work to conclude the year (eg write formal reports) and prepare for next year. This is the term staff work collectively on next year’s classes. I would like to provide the following explanation for how this process works.

The number of classes we have in any one year is entirely dependent upon how many students are actually attending in the new school year. This term, we do our best estimated scenario based on what we know, eg Year 7s moving on and new receptions starting and any other movement. We then wait to see if our predictions hold true. To help us please let us know if your child will not be attending Trinity Gardens next year. The number of children in any year level determines whether or not the class will be a straight year level or a composite class. There is no deliberate effort for one type of class over another as children learn equally well whether in a composite or a straight class. Sometimes there is a misconception that if students are in a straight class then they will all be at the same academic level. Unfortunately it’s not that simple. In any straight class there will be children operating at different academic levels and this is the same as a composite class. The challenge for our staff is to uphold our purpose statement by recognising the uniqueness of every child and ensure every child is challenged at their academic level through differentiation and negotiation of the curriculum.

In the class placement process I ask for your trust in our staff who undertake this process in a conscientious manner taking into account a great deal of information about each child. A great deal of time is invested in this process and takes into

Term 4 Week 1
17 October 2013

Diary Dates
23 October Wednesday
Virtues Walkathon
Governing Council Meeting, 6.30pm

25 October Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the gym
Rm 4W & 25A

28 October Monday
Pupil Free Day

Week 3
Swimming–Notes sent home this week

1 November Friday
Greek Olympics
Working Bee Sunday 3 November

Week 4
Swimming–Notes sent home this week

4 November Monday
SAPSASA Cricket/Tennis State
Class 2 Steiner Meeting
SESC Meeting 3.25pm

11 Nov Mon–15 Nov Fri
Year 5 Arbury Park Camp

11 November Monday
Built Environ Meeting

18 November Monday
Steiner Parent Lecture 7pm

20 November Wednesday
After School Market
Governing Council Meeting

22 November Friday
School Assembly 2.15pm in the gym
Rm 27A & 3W
You are invited to contribute to the process by writing to me with information about friendship groups and special educational requirements that you would like considered when placing your child in a class. Each teacher also makes recommendations for placing children in classes for next year. The staff will seriously consider the information provided by parents but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met. We aim to place each child with at least one of their friends. Once the classes are set, it is very difficult to make alterations because one change can affect the balance of friendships, ethnicity, gender and learning needs that we try so hard to achieve. Therefore, unfortunately, late letters cannot be accepted and changes will not be made once classes are made known. Requests for specific teachers cannot be considered.

Please address all letters, marked ‘Confidential’, to me personally. Letters need to reach me by Friday 8 November. Staff will begin the allocation process during the next week so late letters cannot be accepted. Thank you for your help with the class placement process.

In closing we are looking forward to the walkathon next Wednesday and we hope your children enjoy the day walking to raise money for our school.

Kind regards
Marg Erwin
Acting Principal
Only a few more sleeps until our major fundraiser of the year will take place

*The Virtues Walkathon on Wednesday 23 October 2013.*

I do hope over the holidays your child/ren have managed to collect sponsorships for this fun event which will take place on our two spacious ovals on Wednesday morning.

(Only dire weather will cancel the event – SMS messages will be sent if this is the case).

All children at our school will participate on this fun walking activity and your child/ren will be walking (75 mins max) for a particular virtue with their buddy class for a set time period. They will be wearing a specific colour to represent that virtue.

There will be two specific walking times with the first one at **9.30 – 10.45** and the second at **11.30 – 12.45**. Your child/ren will know what time they will be walking and who they are walking with – this information is also included in this newsletter. (ELC Blue group will walk Wednesday morning & ELC Gold group will walk Thursday morning).

We are encouraging all parents/caregivers/family members to support their child/ren not just with sponsorship but also by cheering them on or walking with them on the day or by baking cakes for the Cake stand.

There will be refreshments available for our school community to enjoy – a sausage sizzle, cake stand and coffee van. (Please speak to your class parent rep about volunteering in these areas – any help will be greatly appreciated.)

The official walking part of the day will finish at **12.45** – it is then time for classes to celebrate the occasion by having lunch together from 1.00pm onwards.

This can be a shared lunch organised by the Class Parent Rep/Teacher or a time when students eat their own packed lunch with their buddy class – please speak to your child/ren’s teacher about this. The lunch will take place at their Virtue station where they began their walk in the morning. (See map.)

Lunch play (1.30pm) and afternoon lessons (2.00 – 3.00pm) will be as usual.

Your child/ren will come home with their Virtues Walkathon passport with the number of laps completed stamped – this will help with the sponsorship collection. All sponsorship money needs to be given to the class teacher by **Wednesday 30 October**. Each student will get a congratulatory Virtues sticker for participating in this wonderful event.

The funds raised from this event will be used to develop our Play Pods and Creative Play Spaces across the school.

Many thanks in advance for supporting your child/ren and the school community in this exciting event.

We are looking forward to seeing you share this wonderful day of fun and fitness with your child/ren.

Thank you,

From the Fundraising Sub-Committee
Our school newsletter is available for perusal via the school website. Just go to: www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au

**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

Our school newsletter is available for perusal via the school website. Just go to: www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au

**Healthy Living focus on sustainable food, Term 4 2013 and Term 1 2014**

Trinity Gardens School is an Australian sustainable school. We are working towards human and environmental health goals and the sustainable use of Earth’s resources.

We are asking all parents/carers to carefully consider what goes into children’s lunch boxes. Food that is sent in containers is generally healthier food, more appropriate in quantity for the child and easier to eat. A recent waste audit at Trinity Gardens identified uneaten food (and drinks) as a major problem, together with disposable food wrappers.

Commercially packaged foods may be more convenient, however they come with costs. The additional sugar, salt, preservatives and colours represent poor nutritional value for cost. Small children can find the packaged amount too large to eat, leading to over consumption, or take too long to eat with the food wasted. Children of all ages have difficulty with the small tear off parts including straws and screw caps. These, and the wrappers are more likely to become yard litter, lasting for years or washing down the drain after rain, ending up in wetlands and the sea.

As Trinity Gardens School grows so has the need to manage growing volumes of food waste. This food waste attracts animals, both native and pest to bins. Our yard bins are not part of the local council waste service, instead they are emptied into a commercial bin where collection is not as frequent. With increasing amounts of food waste this is not a pleasant task.

To help us with these problems and to help you to focus on sustainable food choices we are asking you to:

- Send healthy food in containers - no disposable packaging.
- Uneaten food returns home - yard bins are food free bins- no food wasted here.
- If packaged food is sent, then the packaging is returned home to complete the purchasing/use/disposal cycle which comes with your consumer choice.
- Lunch order packaging is also returned wherever possible- ask for paper wrapping, not cling wrap - reuse the paper bags.

Please don’t use cling wrap, soft plastic polymers transfer to the food and are eaten - it also blows away from the children. Plastic sandwich bags are a rapidly increasing litter item (the new cling wrap) - box containers are healthier for children and the environment

Some families have already made these choices, packing healthy, fresh food in containers and accepting responsibility for food waste. Families have green, waste and recycling bins available at home while the school has over 700 people on-site but with no green waste service and impossible to manage recycling bins. Food in boxes changes food choices for the better - children's health and environmental health improve and we are a more sustainable community.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**PLAYERS NEEDED!**

**Kanga Cricket Juniors**

Year 2/3 Players needed

Saturday Mornings

**Basketball Juniors**

Year 2/3

After School Tuesdays

TERM 4 ONLY

**WORKING BEE**

**SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER, 9AM–12PM**

Your participation in the working bee is essential to ensure the maintenance and improvement of our vibrant, engaging and creative outdoor environment.

Parents, Grandparents, Children are invited to help care for our outdoor learning environment.

Children are permitted to bring bikes and scooters to use in school grounds.

See flyers on noticeboard for more information and also in the next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.