

# St Clare's Catholic High School

Term 1, Week 10

Friday, 4 April 2014



Clare Connection

## From the Principal.....Mr R Muscat

Dear St Clare's Community,

To complement the good work being done in classrooms, we launched the *Challenge Programme* this year with the view of providing further opportunities that match the ability of gifted students. The aim is to engage identified gifted students from Years 7-10 to undertake a process of exploration, using the Problem-Based Learning model, to discover a solution to a real life situation. For example, the

Year 8 group is investigating the effectiveness of amusement parks by applying Newtonian principles. It involves students employing critical thinking skills, cooperative learning strategies and their creativity.

Ms Wood, the school Teacher/Librarian, oversees the programme by providing students with relevant learning frameworks and guiding their thinking towards a solution.

What is emerging within the groups is a strong sense of

camaraderie as students exchange ideas and shared understandings. Moreover, their self-awareness as learners is growing with confidence.

We are very proud of the initial gains and look forward to greater discoveries as the year unfolds.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter and safe school holidays.

God Bless.



### Dates to Remember:

Monday, 7 April	<b>MUFTI DAY</b> —\$2.00 donation towards Caritas
Tuesday, 8 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews (1pm-8pm) <b>STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 12.10PM</b>
Wednesday, 9 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews (1pm-8pm) <b>STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 12.10PM</b>
Friday, 11 April	Last day of Term 1
Monday, 28 April	Students return to school for Term 2
Wednesday, 30 April	ANZAC Day Assembly
Friday, 2 May	Movie Night—5.30pm—8.30pm at St Clare's

175 Buckwell Drive HASSALL GROVE 2761/Locked Bag 1412 Plumpton 2761

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## From the Assistant Principal..... Mr M Whitton

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### **Raising an Independent Child without “Helicopter Parenting”**

Inevitably, in high school, students will encounter problems socially and in their learning. Over the past few weeks as staff worked through some of these issues, we found ourselves face to face with ‘helicopter parents’; parents who hover over every aspect of their children’s lives in attempt to make sure everything goes well. Their mobile phones serve to be virtual umbilical cords. It’s not unusual for students to be calling and checking in with mum or dad three or four times a day or vice versa.

Students are calling parents to make decisions about dropping a class, making a decision about sport, dealing with any kind of setback or informing mum or dad that they are in trouble. We have experienced parents that fly into school ready to confront teachers for “unfair” treatment of their daughter or son without knowing the full story. As parents, it’s perfectly natural to want to advocate for and protect your child. But how far is too far? It is wonderful that some parents

experience such close relationships with their children, but this kind of dependence leads to a lack of confidence in being able to achieve things on their own. It can also interfere in the strategies we use in helping students achieve independence and take responsibility for the poor decisions that they make.

Research tells us that helicopter parents cause more harm than good. Some schools of thought indicate that students need a balanced approach to learning. Learning with support through trial and error can result in better understanding, long-term learning, and the ability to apply knowledge to new situations. Support is important, but so is the occasional failure. The most valuable help a parent can give a child is to teach the skills needed to complete a task rather than completing it for them or adjusting a child’s work until it meets the parent’s standards. There is value in the saying, “Give a person a fish and he/she will eat for a day; teach a person how to fish and he /she will eat for a lifetime.”

When you’re evaluating whether to intervene on your child’s behalf or to provide help, it may be helpful to ask

yourself:

- Does this intervention further your goal of promoting your child’s eventual independence?
- Ask how it would feel to you if someone intervened in your life in the same way.
- Is the intervention about building skills or about providing protection to your child?
- How will the intervention affect your child?
- What will be the likely outcome if you don’t provide this intervention or if you provide a different, less intrusive intervention?

Therefore, I ask that parents refrain from responding to their daughter’s or son’s request when contacted during school hours. It is our school policy that all contact to parents/carers will be made from the school by either a teacher or front office staff member. In all cases there must be procedural fairness and privacy to all parties involved.

I thank you for taking the time to read this article and consider what I have written.

## From the Religious Education Coordinator.....Mr M Vella

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As this is the last Newsletter before Easter, I would like to encourage you all to participate in your local churches to celebrate this wonderful period of time. It reminds us of the highs of Palm Sunday where Jesus enters Jerusalem and is acknowledged as a man of God and a leader, to the lows of Good Friday where he shows us his love by his sacrifice of the cross. Then we have the resurrection to complete the Paschal Mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is just a nice story unless we can make this a personal experience. How can we do that?

God has gifted us with freedom and we can acknowledge God’s plan for us to be truly human, a gift created in the image of God. So we can celebrate the gift of self which takes on its true purpose when we are in relationship and make this visible by loving our neighbour. Then we have the death of Jesus which reminds us of the many times when we are asked to die to our selfish wishes and think of others

before ourselves. Jesus really suffered and died and sometimes we go through experiences which remind us of Jesus. We have a mortal and fragile body which will come to an end.

We witness the resurrection and this reminds us that even though our mortal bodies will die and we will lose close friends and family, this is just the beginning of eternity. Jesus said he was going before us to prepare a room for us in his Father’s house. This is what a groom in Israel did before he could bring home his wife. So it is a very close relationship which God wants to share with us not some causal relationship but a vow that will last forever. Death has no power over us as we know there is still life after death. We know this because Jesus has shown us the way. Please make your own personal Journey with God this Easter.

Ms Stephanie Cassar will be representing St Clare’s Catholic High School with a number of our students as they will walk with the Bishop this Easter. Feel free to ask her if you wish to join her that day.

Project Compassion Update:

We are finalising our donations to Project Compassion. Students have been extremely generous this year. We will be having a raffle and a Mufty Day to raise a few more dollars for the very needy cause. Some people in our community are poor and are limited by a number of things to reach for wellbeing. In some countries people would see our difficulties as luxuries. When the average income is only \$10 and a can of fish is one dollar you can see some people around the world are destitute. Money raised will educate some people to break out of poverty and also provide the means for a healthier way of life like having clean water or emergency shelter after a cyclone or other natural disaster. I would take this opportunity to thank Michelle Mutabdzija and the Social Justice Group for organising the collection and raffle. I would also like to thank teachers, students and parents for supporting this worthy cause.

# From the Head of Learning....Mr D Wales

Dear parents, carers and students of the St Clare's community

Conjunctions and conjunctive phrases, which can be identified as connecting words and connecting phrases, can be used to link sentences and paragraphs. Such use can help to bring clarity and cohesion to your writing, as well as your speaking.

So, to enhance the sophistication of your writing, as well as your speaking, consider use of the following words and phrases, when connecting sentences and paragraphs:

Some conjunctions/conjunctive phrases, which can be used to introduce an additional point:

also as well	furthermore in addition	moreover to boot
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Some conjunctions, which can be used to indicate sequence:

afterwards beforehand finally firstly	initially later meanwhile next	penultimately previously subsequently then
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Some conjunctions, which can be used to indicate similarity:

equally	likewise	similarly
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Some conjunctions/conjunctive phrases, which can be used to indicate difference:

alternatively although but	however in contrast on the other hand	whereas while/whilst yet
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Some conjunctions/conjunctive phrases, which can be used to indicate cause and effect:

as a result because consequently	for this reason hence since	so therefore thus
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Some conjunctive phrases, which can be used to show an example:

for example	for instance	in this case
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Some conjunctions/conjunctive phrases, which can be used to conclude:

finally	in conclusion	ultimately
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Some conjunctions/conjunctive phrases, which can be used to summarise:

in brief	in summary	on the whole
in other words	in summing up	to summarise

Adapted from Gazis, Slattery, Simon and Shepherd (1998), and Oshima and Hogue (1991)

Thank you for your on-going support of learning at St Clare's.

Best wishes and prayers

Dear Parents,

The new Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012, introduces significant changes to collection, use and disclosure of *Private Information*. CEDP has adopted new **Privacy Procedures** to give effect to these changes. Please go to the CEDP website to access the new **Standard Collection Notice** at <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/policy-central>.

## From the Head of Teaching, Innovation and Learning....Ms S McManus

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In the last newsletter, I explained the purpose of Learning Intentions and how they are being used to assist student outcomes being achieved. I also discussed how in the creation of Learning Intentions, the teachers of St. Clare's plan very carefully what they want each child **to know, be able to do and understand.**

This accountability also extends to students, as they too, must have a commitment to learning that is evident each and every lesson.

Set principles that are expected to be adhered to by students include:

Being on time to class and bringing the required

equipment.

Displaying good manners to staff and peers.

Promptly starting work and completing this to the best of one's ability.

Working collaboratively and being persistent.

As adults we realise that school is the setting that provides opportunities to develop talents that are required in the work force. If our students are committed to learning now, then they are putting in place vital skills for their future in the workforce.

As we near the end of the term, I

urge all families to discuss these principles and to set firm goals with their children for Term Two.

Kind Regards



## From the Leader of Diversity.....Mrs P Del Carmen

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### **Reading Intervention Program – Fostering a love of reading and reading for life**

**“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn,**

**the more places you'll go.”**

- Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

The best gift you can give your child is the gift of reading. Reading opens many doors and prepares our children for life and the work force. Quite often many of children fail to learn to read and comprehend what they are reading at the same rate as their peers.

Children who have experienced difficulties in the early years of their schooling with reading are often perceived by their parents as reluctant readers. Avoidance or a reluctance to read may be a sign of your child finding some aspects of the reading process difficult. Listening to your child read doesn't stop in the primary years of schooling. We can all

reminisce about the countless readers we listened to our children read in the infants and primary years.

In adolescence fostering reading in your teenager becomes even more important, as we prepare our children for different skill sets of analysing, synthesising, inferring and applying information across a diverse range of subjects and into many contexts and formats. This learning process prepares our children for tertiary education experiences of TAFE and University, as well as apprenticeships and the workforce.

Therefore, it becomes ever more important to model to our children good reading behaviours. Taking time as a family to have a reading hour once per week can be a great way to bond and slow down, as our lives become increasingly busy. Using this time to read for enjoyment and discuss the book which you are reading, not only engages your teenager in the reading process it also helps your child develop vocabulary, expressive language skills, analysis of a text, reading for a purpose, and hopefully enjoyment.

At St Clare's Catholic High School we aim to foster a love of learning and reading. In 2014 we are pleased to again offer our Reading Intervention Program. This initiative was developed in 2013 to assist those students who may need specific remediation with the reading concepts of accuracy (decoding), comprehension and fluency. Students are withdrawn from their core classes for 20 minutes everyday for a 5 week period to receive direct reading instruction from a Diversity Team Teacher.

***If you believe your child would benefit from this program or you have any questions or concerns about their reading, please feel free to call to discuss your child's specific learning needs.***

***“The greatest gift is a passion for reading.”***

- Elizabeth Hardwick

## From the Business Manager

### School Fees

All families are kindly reminded that Term 1 fees should now be finalised unless you have a payment arrangement in place.

I urge families; please don't hesitate in contacting myself or the finance department on 9830 2400 (Select Option 2) if you have any concerns in meeting your school fee responsibilities. **THE KEY IS COMMUNICATION** – we are happy to discuss a mutually agreed arrangement for payment of fees.

If, however, you are experiencing a situation that is impacting on your fee paying ability please make us aware of your situation so that we can discuss ways to alleviate your concerns. You may be assured that all correspondence is treated with the strictest confidentiality.

With the holidays fast approaching ....Please note that the office will be unable to accept any cash payments on Friday, 11 April.

Families, particularly those on arrangements, are reminded that

they may continue to pay through BPay or at the Post Office throughout the holiday period. Please refer to your account statement for the Biller Code and Biller Reference numbers.

### Security

The school will have tradesmen on the site throughout the school holidays. I ask, although, if you see anything suspicious please contact the parish office on 9832 4461.

## From the Leader of Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10).....Mrs T Nielsen

As this term draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support on behalf of Ms Ruff (Leader of Stage 4) and the Assistant Leaders of Stage. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that the students are to return in full winter uniform in Term 2. Please refer to the explanation below for winter uniform requirements:

### Dress uniform:

Boys	Girls
Grey school trousers	School skirt- to be worn to the knee
White school shirt with school crest	Open-necked white blouse with school crest
Grey socks	Black tights or black pantyhose- no knee highs
School tie	Black school blazer with school crest on the
Black school blazer with school crest on the	Red school jumper worn in conjunction with the school blazer
Red school jumper worn in conjunction with the school blazer	

### Sport uniform (to be worn only on Thursdays):

- White polo shirt with school crest
- White school sports socks with tri-colour band
- School tracksuit (jacket and pants) **N.B** Tracksuit jacket may only be worn on Thursday (sports day)

Shoes must be designed for sporting purposes. **N.B** Casual shoes including canvas, Rabens, Vans and slip-on volley style shoes are not designed for sport and are, therefore, not permitted. Fluorescent colours are not permitted.

I would like to remind all parents/carers, if your child chooses to change their hairstyle over the school break they should ensure this new style meets school grooming regulations set out in the school diary and also on the school's website. This is also applicable for new piercings.

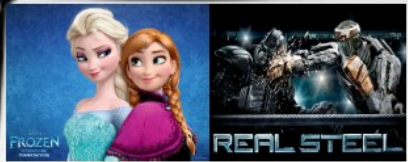


## ST CLARE'S, B BLOCK CINEMAS.

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Tickets \$3.00 for sale at lunch

Popcorn and drinks for sale



## Uniform Shop

Tuesdays - 8.00am - 1.30pm

Thursdays - 12.00noon - 3.00pm

Colebee Crescent Car Park Entrance

Phone: 9835 2718

### Winter Uniform Requirements

Track suits, blazers ties and tight. Long sleeve shirts are also available.

Jumpers are available in small and large sizes. Taking orders for size 14 and 16 jumpers.

### Uniform Shop opened:

Saturday 26th April from 9am -3pm

## Homework Club

Every Tuesday and Friday at lunchtime  
in the SDC

*from the Diversity Team*

As a fundraising initiative of Year 10 Student Leaders, a movie night will be held at St Clare's on Friday, 2nd May 2014. The evening will commence at 5:30pm and conclude at 8:30pm. The cost for student admission will be \$3. Tickets must be purchased before the night during lunch time. Popcorn and poppers will also be available for purchase on the night, varying in cost from \$1.50—\$3.00.

The permission note must be returned to your child's Learning Group Advisor by Friday, 11 April for permission to attend St Clare's Movie Night. Please indicate on the note if you will allow your child to watch 'Real Steel'.



**FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2014.**

**B BLOCK CINEMAS**

**POPCORN AND DRINKS FOR SALE**

**TICKETS \$3. 00 EACH FOR SALE AT LUNCH**



**arteveryday**  
st marys

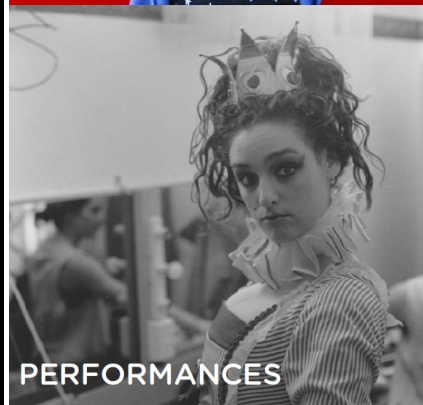
**ST MARYS CORNER  
COMMUNITY AND  
CULTURAL PRECINCT**

**Saturday 12 April 2014  
10am - 8pm**

Art Everyday St Marys is a full day free art event for the whole community featuring a dynamic program of creative activities - art exhibitions, performances, workshops and presentations.

PENRITH  
CITY COUNCIL

ST MARYS CORNER  
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL PRECINCT



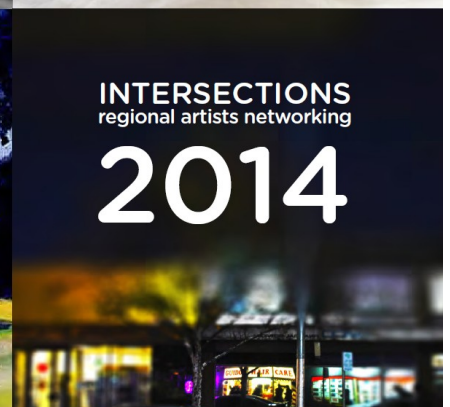
**PERFORMANCES**



**WORKSHOPS**



**EXHIBITIONS**



**INTERSECTIONS**  
regional artists networking

**2014**

# PROGRAM

## 10am - 4pm

St Marys Community Centre, Building 5

### Art West - Arts and Craft Exhibition 2014

ARTWEST is an annual exhibition produced by local artists and community members engaged in art and craft. ARTWEST exhibition is an initiative of St Marys Area Community Development Project (SMACD).

## 10am - 4pm

Room 1, Memorial Hall, Building 1

### Nepean District Lapidary Club Exhibition

Exhibition of hand made jewellery using polished stones and minerals with an opportunity to arrange a visit to the Club's new premises at 27 Swanston Street St Marys.

## 11am - 12pm

The Chambers, Building 2

### Kids at the Corner: What's in a Hat?

*What's In a Hat?* is a creative learning experience for children age 5 - 15. Children will have access to the treasures of St Marys and District Historical Society's hat collection. Each hat holds a story of the person who owned it in the past.

Members of the Historical Society will be recounting those stories to children to illustrate them creatively with colourful art materials. Kids can also try on the hats and have their photo taken as a great memory. The workshop will be guided by artists and the art material is free.

10 places available only. To book for your child please call 9623 4785 or email to: caroline.volkienne@bigpond.com

## 12pm - 4pm

Arts and Craft Studio, Building 3

### Clay at the Corner: Funky Functional

Presented by Nepean Potters Society

## 10am - 4pm

A ceramic exhibition featuring works by members of the Nepean Potters Society. The works are beautiful and affordable. Come and join the conversation with artists, have a cuppa and grab a bargain!

## 12 - 1pm and 1 - 3pm

### Platters - community clay workshops with Robert Linigen.

Robert is an experienced and highly creative Nepean TAFE art teacher who will show you methods to build a clay platter that can later be fired in a professional kiln.

## About Art Everyday St Marys

**Art Everyday St Marys** integrates art and community engagement as a model for enriching the everyday life of the City and our community.

**Art Everyday St Marys** builds creative partnerships and new audiences, offers professional opportunities for artists and contributes to the vibrant cultural life in our City.

**Art Everyday St Marys** is an initiative of St Marys Corner Community and Cultural Precinct.

### St Marys Corner Community and Cultural Precinct

29 Swanston Street, St Marys NSW  
T 4732 7879 E [stmaryscorner@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stmaryscorner@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)  
[arteverydaystmarys.weebly.com](http://arteverydaystmarys.weebly.com)

**ST MARYS CORNER**  
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL PRECINCT

**PENRITH**  
CITY COUNCIL

## 12 - 2pm

**Wheel throwing demonstrations with Christine Reynolds & Bob Beattie.** Come and learn the craft of making pots guided by experienced local potters.

## 1 - 2pm

Room 2, Memorial Hall, Building 1

### Face to Face: 10 minute drawing sessions with Peter Gonzalez

Local artist Peter Gonzalez will be drawing your portraits in an art studio setting. Come, chat and model for an experienced portrait artist and take home an accomplished artwork.

## 1:30- 2:15pm

Senior Citizens Centre, Building 4

### History - The Musical

*History - The Musical* is a short musical comedy telling the tale of three musical theatre enthusiasts who attempt to tackle the entire history of the world in 40 minutes. Holly Horsley (Jade), Luke Holland (Benson) and Alexandra Chambers (Anna) share a passion for musical theatre and all are creative artists within the field. This highly educational, enlightening and funny performance is free. Children of all ages welcome. Parents are welcome to stay and have fun as well!

## 2:30 - 3:30pm

Senior Citizens Centre, Building 4

### Traditional Philippine Folk Songs and Dances

Presented by Penrith Community Filipino School students, Philippine Language and Cultural Association's (PLCAA) Cultural Dancers and PLCAA Magic 4, a part of the rich cultural and heritage PLCAA's activities. The performances feature beautiful traditional music and dances wrapped in colourful traditional costumes. The performance is suitable for all ages.

## 6-8pm

Memorial Hall, Building 1

### Intersections - Artists Regional Networking

Intersections is an opportunity for local and regional artists, artisans, art students and creative industry professionals to meet, showcase their work and exchange their ideas around their current art practice and future creative projects and collaborations. The event features digital presentations of artists' works across different art forms and creative disciplines. Artists who have responded by the RSVP date will be part of this year's program.



**ST MARYS CORNER**



**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY  
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS  
UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS PROGRAMS**

**KIDS FUN DAYS**

**Wednesday 16 April (10 am – 12 noon) - Rockets**

Make and launch your own paper rockets and watch water rockets being launched

**Wednesday 23 April (10 am – 12 noon) – Star Stuff**

A short multimedia presentation followed by hands-on science activities

**KIDS ASTRONOMY NIGHTS**

**Saturday 19 April (7pm – 9 pm) – Mars Rovers**

Come along and find out, why we are sending rovers to Mars

**Saturday 26 April (7pm – 9pm) – The Lives of Stars**

Where do stars come from and where do they go?

In addition to the multimedia presentation all programs will include a 3D astronomy movie and either safe viewing of the sun (day program) or viewing of the night sky through the University's telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

**Cost:** \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession and \$40 family.

**Bookings are essential:** Book and pay online: [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory), What's On

**Enquiries:** Phone (02)4736 0135 or email [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au)

[www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory](http://www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory)

Roslyn McCourt | Administrative Officer

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Email: [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au) | [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory)

**Easter TRIDUMN Services at Good Shepherd, Plumpton**

Wed, April 9	2 <sup>nd</sup> RITE Communal Reconciliation—7:30pm
Thur, April 17	HOLY THURSDAY—7:30pm
Fri, April 18	Good Friday Stations of the Cross (Parish Hall)— 10am Commemoration—3pm
Sat, April 19	Easter Vigil—7:30pm
Sun, April 20	Easter Sunday—7am / 9am / 10:45 am Vietnamese / 6pm



**URGENT MESSAGE**

From time to time the school will need to contact parents/guardians for emergencies or illness of students.

If you have not notified the school of a change of contact details, please fill in this section and hand back to the school office. Thank you.



**CHANGE OF STUDENT/FAMILY DETAILS**

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Learning Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone/mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: work phone/mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: work phone/mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_