From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 19th May, 2013
John 14:15-16, 23b-26

[Jesus said,] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.”

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.”

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

Reflection

As the 50 days of celebrating Christ’s Resurrection come to a close today, another new beginning bursts forth powerfully into our lives: the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost invites us to consider the movement of the Spirit in our lives: in Baptism and Confirmation we have welcomed the Spirit, who continues to vivify us in the Christian life every day. How is the Spirit enabling us to proclaim the Gospel today?

Let us pray together:-

Almighty God,
we are inspired by the faith of our ancestors
who took the good news of salvation to
all the earth.
We pray that we may faithfully carry out this
same call to share the Gospel as we strive
to follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
in our lives.
We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever.
Amen

Welcome to Week 3.

This week the Year 3 & 5 students participated in the 2013 NAPLAN Testing. Thank you to Mrs Charlton, Mr Mackey, Miss Stone, Miss Younes, Mrs Law, Mrs Peatman and Ms Robertson for the wonderful support they provided in leading up to the NAPLAN Testing. The students were very calm and well prepared.

In today’s newsletter I have had to raise two very important matters that impact on student learning and safety. I wish I didn’t need to write about these matters so publicly. Usually when matters need to be addressed I can speak to the students, staff or parents concerned and the matter is resolved with a positive outcome.

So today I expect parents to read about these matters and heed the information and expectations that I have presented. I suspect that there will be many parents who may think Mrs Brown is not writing to me! But I am, even parents who follow the rules I encourage you to talk to your friends and promote a more conscientious effort in committing to their children’s welfare in relation to learning and safety.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Parents are responsible for ensuring that children in their care who are aged between 6 and 17 years old attend school. It is most important for children to be available to start learning at 9am through to 3:15pm. Parents should work in partnership with the school to support student learning.

I am very concerned with the number of children who come late to school or leave early. So I have researched data and found the following information.

Since the beginning of Term One 688 Partial Absent Notes have been issued. There have been approximately 66 school days since the beginning of the year. The frightening news is that the average number of Partial Absent Notes is approximately 10 per school day. For me this means that there are far too many children missing quality learning time. If you are a parent who brings their child late for school you are jeopardizing your child’s learning.

I know that on occasions there are extenuating circumstances for being late or going home early, however, officially I need to advise you that there are strict attendance register codes which all New South Wales schools have to adhere to. If a child is absent or part absent for a day of school the code is A for absent automatically. When the parent provides a letter to advise of the reason it can be re-classified in the following way:-
S - due to sickness or a result of a medical appointment. In these cases:

i) a medical certificate needs to be provided to the school
ii) the absence was due to sickness and the principal accepts this explanation

Principal may request a medical certificate in addition to explanations if the Explanation is doubted or the duration of the absence is more than four days.

M The student was exempted from attending school. A special form needs to be filled out and approved by the Principal. This would be required if you are planning to take your child on a holiday, long weekend etc.

L The student’s absence may be:

- misadventure or unforeseen event
- participation in special events not related to the school
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- attendance to funerals
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions.

As you can see there are very strict guidelines which came into effect in January 2012. When a certain number of ‘A’s are recorded on the Attendance Roll there is a procedure that will be followed to work with parents to ensure their child attends school.

KISS AND DROP PROTOCOLS

You have probably noticed the new signs at the Kiss and Drop area. These signs have been supplied by the Holroyd Council to support the children of St Anthony’s to ensure that parents are aware of the safety requirements when dropping off and picking up their child.

I have so many parents complaining about the behaviours of drivers using the Kiss and Drop zone. I have seen it for myself, the way some parents are not considerate of others, do 3 point turns into drives from the Kiss and Drop line up zone. There are many other unsafe driving habits that parents display in front of their children. What are you modeling to your child?

I have been requested to contact the Police and Holroyd Council Rangers to visit our school to monitor, and book if necessary a driver when they are not following the Road Safety rules.

I firmly believe that it is the parent’s responsibility to follow the rules and guidelines otherwise the St Anthony’s Kiss and Drop zone may be taken away by Holroyd Council. I would not like this to happen, as many parents benefit from the service, it is a minority of parents who do not follow the rules but the consequences of their actions impacts substantially on the effectiveness and safety of the Kiss and Drop zone.

KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE AND DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

NEWSLETTER AND NOTES

From Week 4 all notes for parents will go home on a Thursday. There have been many parents concerned that notes have gone astray and sometimes notes can be in left in bags. Therefore a decision has been made that all notes will only go home on Thursday. This will alert parents to check school bags and pollywollies on Thursdays. It will be only in an emergency that a note will go home on another day of the week. The message is: CHECK SCHOOL BAGS ON THURSDAY

All notes that go home will also be uploaded to the St Anthony’s School Website as well.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This Sunday, the church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. This feast celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, thus fulfilling Christ’s promise that he would be with them- and us –forever. The following reflection comes from the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Spiritual Reflection Guide, May – August 2013.

What a time of challenge year two thousand and thirteen is for our community of believers who are facing human weakness, loss of trust and fearfulness in the face of dramatic change. And at the same time, what possibilities today’s followers of Jesus have to be aware of and to reach out to the very ends of the earth.

There is a parallel between this time in 2013 and the period of waiting by the disciples after the departure of Jesus at his Ascension. For the first time in more than 600 years, the Christian community has seen its leader withdraw voluntarily from the office of the Papacy, creating a climate of uncertainty and unease. The promise remains, though, as it has always been, “Do not be afraid, I am with you, even to the end of time.”

The spirit is with us. A new beginning has been made by the Church. We now have a new bishop of Rome, Francis, who has become the focus of Church unity.

Priests, Principals and RECs Forum

On Thursday 9th May, Fr Paul, Mrs Brown and myself attended this Forum.

Session One outlined the Religious Education Review, which is to occur in the Parramatta Diocese over the next year. The review will be conducted in three phases:

1. A review of Catholic education and religious education contained in authoritative Catholic Church documents from Vatican II to the present;
2. A review of contemporary methodologies will be analysed from the perspective of consistent themes identified in the review of magisterial teaching; and
3. A theological and philosophical evaluation of the content and methodology of Sharing Our Story.

Session Two focused on Bishop Anthony’s request for an update on the progress of the implementation of Catholic Schools at a Crossroad. Questions discussed fell into four categories: The New Evangelisation, The New Evangelisers, Students and Families and School Culture and Curriculum. The goal of this session was to devise concrete strategies that respond directly to improving relationships between parish and schools.

The day was very rewarding for myself and I am grateful for the experience. A question that was raised in my mind and I now put

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forward for your consideration was: How can we form the students so that they stay connected with the Church?

Prayer

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

Saint Augustine

Upcoming Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 May</td>
<td>11:30am Yr 6 Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 19 May</td>
<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20 May</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer, Pentecost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 May</td>
<td>11:30am 5G Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Thursday 23 May</td>
<td>Vinnies Winter Appeal - Scarf or Beanie Day</td>
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<td>Friday 24 May</td>
<td>Feast of our Lady Help of Christians</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 May</td>
<td>11:30am 5W Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31 May</td>
<td>The Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary – 9:30am Year 1, 3 &amp; 6 to attend Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 June</td>
<td>Memorial Mass at Parish Church for Miss Watson – 6pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 10 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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Kind Regards

Sonia Awkar
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

On Friday 3rd May the students of St Anthony’s had the opportunity to participate in the ‘Bully Bull-Ring Anti-Bullying Show.’ The Show, which uses a number of ‘animal’ characters to demonstrate acceptable and unacceptable behaviours, is full of song and dance numbers to help ‘Bellamy’ (a young bison) and the audience understand different approaches to resolving the issues of bullying. The key themes addressed are bullying, racism, problem solving, confidence when implementing intervention programs and strategies.

The production company (Tony Bones Entertainment) came highly recommended. Tony Bones Entertainment is a children’s theatre company owned and operated by qualified teachers. They specialise in education across Australia. The company director (who is also one of the performers) has practical experience teaching in both primary and secondary schools, as well as a distinguished career in contemporary, musical and children’s theatre throughout Australia. We would definitely engage their services in the future.

NAPLAN

The students of Year 3 and Year 5 participated in the NAPLAN testing this week. Friday is set aside for ‘catch up’ for any students who were absent. All our students tried their best and we congratulate them for their positive attitude.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

A number of professional development opportunities are available to teachers this term. Some of our teachers will be involved in the following:

EMU training – Mrs Digwood, Mrs Ward, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Henebery and myself will be furthering our understanding of the EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) model of Numeracy. We will be exploring the strand of Space and Measurement.

Mrs Ward and Mrs Digwood will also continue with the EMU specialist teacher course.

Mrs Tammy Roosen (leading educator from CEDP) will once again work with teachers towards improving their practices in the classroom.

Google Boot Camp - Mr Mackey, Miss Younes and Mrs Awkar are registered to take part in a two day ‘boot camp’ on the use of ‘Google’ and its applications for teaching and learning.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders - Miss Younes and Mrs Henebery have registered in a course titled Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders. They attended the first workshop today.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders is one of several courses offered through Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) to support primary and secondary classroom teachers and other educational personnel in responding to the diverse learning needs of students. The course has been designed to develop teacher knowledge and instructional strategies for students with ASD in the classroom and wider school environment. The course content is divided into four areas: 1. Understanding ASD 2. Assessment for learning 3. Interventions 4. Case studies. The objectives of the course are as follows: For teachers to be able –

- to develop knowledge and instructional strategies for students with ASD in the classroom and school environment
- to be able to set goals and assessments for learning
- to understand and gain confidence when implementing intervention programs and strategies.

There are two components to this course an online component and face-to-face tutor-led workshops.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

The Uniform Shop will be open next Monday 20th May from 8:30am – 9:15am.

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CANTEEN ROSTER  
20th – 24th May  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Alison Woolgar</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Emma McKenna</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sofie Tjahjakusuma</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>SPORTS CARNIVAL – No Lunch Orders</td>
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SCHOOL COMMUNITY GROUP  
ENTERTAINMENT BOOK  
The SCG are selling 2013/2014 Entertainment Books as a fundraiser this year. You can order your books online [www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/214s888](http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/214s888) or by completing and returning the form that will be sent home next week. If you would like to have a flick through the book you can on this link [http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/flickbook/sydney-west](http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/flickbook/sydney-west).  
When you order your book you can have it delivered direct to you for a $9 delivery charge or can collect from school. Once your book has come into school it will be sent home via your child unless you state otherwise. The books will be available after 8 April. For more information please contact Louise Frendo, 0414 347 277 or stanthonysscg@gmail.com.

CALENDAR  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17 May</td>
<td>Makeup Day – NAPLAN</td>
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<td>Tues 21 May</td>
<td>Uni NSW Competitions - Computers</td>
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<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival – Gooden Reserve</td>
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<td>Mon 27 May</td>
<td>Spring Fair Meeting</td>
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<td>Tues 28 May</td>
<td>Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day</td>
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<td>Fri 31 May</td>
<td>Last day to lodge Kindergarten 2014 Enrolment Applications</td>
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<td>Sat 1 June</td>
<td>Memorial Mass for Miss Watson – 6pm at the Church</td>
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<td>Wed 5 June</td>
<td>Uni NSW Competitions – Science</td>
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<td>Thurs 6 June</td>
<td>Walkathon</td>
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<td>Fri 7 June</td>
<td>Rugby League – Parramatta All Schools Knock Out</td>
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<td>Tues 11 June</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Fri 14 June</td>
<td>School Reports coming home</td>
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<td>Fri 14 June</td>
<td>Parent Night Out</td>
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<td>Mon 17 June</td>
<td>Uni NSW Competitions – Writing</td>
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<td>Mon 17 June</td>
<td>SCG Meeting</td>
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<td>Tues 18 June</td>
<td>Uni NSW Competitions – Spelling</td>
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<td>Tues 18 June</td>
<td>Student Led Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 June</td>
<td>Student Led Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 June</td>
<td>Dance Fever at Sydney Olympic Park</td>
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<td>Mon 24 June</td>
<td>Spring Fair Meeting</td>
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<td>Tues 25 June</td>
<td>Yrs 5 &amp; 6 Peer Support Training day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 June</td>
<td>Yrs 5 &amp; 6 Peer Support Training day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 27 June</td>
<td>Year 6 excursion to Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 June</td>
<td>Year 6 excursion to Canberra</td>
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KINDER ENROLMENTS – 2014  
The Enrolment period for 2014 has commenced and will run until Friday 31st May. Parents wishing to enrol their child should collect an application package from the school office. For enquiries please contact Mrs Laurie on 9631 5283, email: Girraween@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Holroyd Council Keeper of the Stone Competition  
Each year Holroyd Council present Heritage Awards. One category is the Keeper of the Stone competition. The aim of the competition is to educate and involve children in Holroyd’s local history and heritage. The competition is open to children between 5 and 13 years of age. This year the Keeper of the Stone activity involves colouring in a stencil of Guildford Railway Station which was the first train station to open in Holroyd in 1876. The winner will be titled “Keeper of the Stone” and will be given the Holroyd Heritage Stone to take care of for the next year, teaching them to look after a piece of our history. The winner will also have their name engraved on the stone, be given a framed certificate and receive a $200 book voucher.  
Competition closes on Monday 3rd June 2013.  
To enter, children should colour in the stencil, complete the details on the back of the form and return to Council. Details of where to return the forms to is on the back of the forms. Parents to return forms to Council themselves. Thank you for your assistance with this competition. Regards, Frances.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
KG Alisha Whitaker  
KW Cooper Knight  
1G Madison Whyte  
1W Ishpreet Kaur  
2G Chivonne Asamoah  
2W Clara Kristanda  
3G Luk Theph  
3W John Higgins  
4G Anthony Awkar  
4W Josh Spehar  
5G Diana Lazo  
5W Emma Norris  
6G Celeste Carozza  
6W Emma Norris

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