From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

_Gospel Reading of Sunday – 28th July, 2013_

_Luke 11:1-4_

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name, / your Kingdom come. / Give us each day our daily bread / and forgive us our sins / for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, / and do not subject us to the final test.”

_Reflection_

Jesus Christ both witnessed for us the importance of prayer and taught us to pray in the Lord’s Prayer. Prayer is like an encounter with a beloved friend. Even though there is a friendship between us, we still make dates to meet and to enjoy one another’s company. These meetings help us to grow deeper in the relationship we enjoy. In prayer, meeting with God is like meeting with a beloved friend. Like a meeting, prayer can take many forms, as long as it contributes to the relationship of love that exists between God and us. Like seeing a beloved friend, time spent with God in prayer is essential for our relationship to grow, mature, and continue to support us throughout our lifetimes.

_Let us pray together:-_

Our Father in heaven,
the words of the Lord’s Prayer teach us to
love and honour you.
From those words, we have learned to put our
trust and hope in your care for us.
Grant us the reverence to pray the Lord’s
Prayer, so that its words may shape our lives.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
_Amen._

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for Term 3. Last week all families would have received a letter from the Catholic Education Office advising you of my appointment to a new principal position at St Joseph’s Primary School, Schofields commencing January, 2014.

While I am excited by the challenges that lay ahead I will be very sad to leave St Anthony’s School community.

Over the past 6 years I have enjoyed many wonderful times at school. I will miss many things about St Anthony’s but most of all the wonderful students who make everyday a delight for me.

Whilst my new position commences in 2014 I will continue to lead St Anthony’s School community with all the passion and commitment that I always have. There will be opportunities later in the year for saying goodbye. But for now, it is business as usual, yours sincerely.

This week the whole school community has continued unpacking the St Anthony’s Ignites Learning adventure at Blaxland Riverside Park at Olympic Park.

Below are a few samples of writing from Kindergarten.

Kindergarten students are writing recounts using time sequencing e.g. First, then, next. Great work!
Mr Patrick Mackey has been appointed to the position of Learning Technologies Support teacher for the remainder of the year. Mr Mackey will be off class on Tuesdays, and Mr Ross Howse will release him.

St Anthony’s is very fortunate to have quality teachers working with our students and I trust you will welcome and support the above new roles in our school. Please contact me if you require any further information.

I also wish to recognise the significant work the support staff, Mrs Balada, Mrs Bowen, Mrs Buhagiar, Mrs Hanlon, Mrs Heness and Mrs McKinnon, do everyday in St Anthony’s classrooms. The support staff assists teachers and students with their learning and teaching experiences. Thank you to them all for their professionalism and great skills.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY
I look forward to seeing you on Friday at the Grandparents’ Liturgy, Lunch and Concert beginning at 12.45 pm in the Assembly area. The Kindergarten teachers and students have prepared the Grandparents’ Liturgy. Each grade will present an item in the Concert to be performed for the Grandparents.

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO CANBERRA
At the end of Term 2 the Year 6 students travelled to Canberra to visit many historical, educational and interesting venues. The students displayed exemplary manners at all times and were great companions on the journey. Mrs Flood and Mrs Blakika had so much fun with the children especially trying to get them to sleep on Thursday night. The teachers and students were supported by two fantastic dads, Mr Jones and Mr Gatti. Both dads were greatly appreciated for the giving of their time and participating in the excursion.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
On Monday 15th July all the staff of St Anthony’s engaged in professional learning in Mathematics. Mrs Ward and Mrs Roosen facilitated a mathematical workshop. It was a very productive experience for all teachers and support staff. The Quality Catholic Survey data was received last term and the staff engaged in a workshop in unpacking the survey data. More information will be made available over the coming weeks with a parent opportunity to view the parent survey results.

MRS BETTY BARKER RETIREMENT DINNER
Last Friday night a number of past and present staff gathered together at Lily’s Function Centre at Seven Hills to celebrate Mrs Betty Barker’s retirement dinner. The evening was a wonderful way to celebrate Betty’s commitment to the students of St Anthony’s over the past 32 years. I wish to thank Mrs Carole Bridgen for assisting in the organization of the event. Mrs Barker received a Pandora watch from the St Anthony’s School community. Mrs Barker extended her commitment to St
Anthony's by being a regular member of the School Community Group going back to its inception. Mrs Louise Frendo, President of the SCG, purchased a Crystal necklace which was presented by Mrs Vicki Baiada on the evening. The speeches were well received by Betty, both Mrs Lehnar and myself shared many experiences and honoured her time at St Anthony's Girraween.

HABITUAL LATENESS
This week I am saddened by the number of letters I have had to write to parents regarding habitual lateness of their child coming to school. It is so important for children to maintain regular attendance at school. Supervision of children starts at 8:30am each morning and lessons start promptly at 9am. During the morning time children play with their friends and settle into the school day.

If students are late some children are quite distressed and feel uncomfortable in entering the classroom late. The lessons have already started and children are missing out on important learning. I ask all parents to be vigilant in ensuring your child comes to school at the appropriate time.

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

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SEASONS FOR GROWTH
Seasons for Growth, a grief and loss program, begins this week. This program is for small groups of students with identified needs. We thank our Pastoral Associate, Mary Cook and the parish for securing the funding for, and supporting this important program. Mrs Flood and Mrs Francis, who are both trained facilitators, will lead the groups.

FEAST OF STS JOACHIM AND ANN
Tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of Sts Joachim and Ann, the parents of Mary. We celebrate the gift of grandparents on this day each year, as Joachim and Ann are grandparents to Jesus. Our Celebration of the Word will begin at 12:45 pm. Thank you to Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Sheraton, our Kindergarten students, and all involved in preparing and leading this celebration.

GOD IS WITH US
Last week, families received a copy of God is with us, a prayer book for families, a book of prayers for use in the family home. Along with traditional and daily prayers, there are prayers for special occasions. Special reference is made to the devotion of The Angelus, which is prayed daily in every Catholic school in the diocese.

FIRST COMMUNION
Many of our Year 4 students and their families are preparing for First Communion as part of the parish sacramental process. They are currently participating in workshops each weekend, followed by participating in Mass and seeing what they have learnt in action. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Loving God,
You give us the gift of your Son, Jesus, in the Eucharist
Bless those who are preparing for their First Communion.
May they come to know your unconditional love for them and come to your table eager to receive your Body and Blood.
Amen.

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 July</td>
<td>Celebration of the Word, Feast of Sts Joachim and Ann, 12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 27 July</td>
<td>Parish Youth Mass, 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturdays 27 July, 3 August</td>
<td>4:30pm - Parents and Children followed by 6pm Mass - First Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays 28 July, 4 August</td>
<td>8:30am - Parents and Children followed by 10am Mass - First Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 August</td>
<td>Celebration of the Word, Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 August</td>
<td>Reconciliation for Year 4 at Church - 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 August</td>
<td>Mass, Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 August</td>
<td>Reconciliation for Year 4 at Church - 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 August</td>
<td>Parish Mass, 9:30am, Kindergarten &amp; Year 5 participating</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au  www.facebook.com/StAnthonyS  twitter.com/StAnthonyS
PRAYERS OF THANKS

Dear God
Thank you for the good weather on Ignition Day.
The flowers had water and it was sunny so we
didn't slip over. I also thank you for the
parents for helping in the activities.
Thank you for fantastic day because
we all had fun.
Amen.

Sarah Kim 2W

Dear God
Thank you for the weather yesterday because
everyone had good condition no one
had broken ankles. I also thank God
for the principal because she thought of the
wonderful idea. I thank God for
giving us the parents that came to help
on Ignition Day.
Amen

Abuk Yaac 2W

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
What's Happening at St Anthony's

St Anthony's Ignition Day
As you would all be aware St Anthony's students and
teachers (with the support of parent helpers) ignited the
learning for Term 3 with an excursion to Blaxland Riverside Park at Newington. The park, which is part of
the Newington Armory, (formerly the Royal Australian
Naval Armament Depot) is situated between the
southern bank of the Parramatta River and the former
Olympic Village. The site, which comprises over 50
hectares has many features on offer - there is an easy
walk or bike ride along the Parramatta River, barbecue
facilities, a range of outdoor recreational apparatus /
play equipment (spinning dish, flying fox, rock climbing,
tree house) a café, armory gallery, theatre and
amphitheatre. Newington Nature Reserve which is
within the precinct has significant ecological values -
estuarine wetland and forest that is home to many
species of birds and to the Golden Bell Frog. This area

provides a valuable resource for environmental research
and is worth a visit.

The purpose of our excursion was to give our students
an experience that was both educational and at the
same time exciting. I think we achieved our aim.
Students continue to speak enthusiastically about
the event and have been able to describe their experiences
through their talking and listening activities as well as
their writing. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6
have written a factual recount of the day when St
Anthony's ignited the learning. Different activities/games
at the park supported and stimulated different aspects of
learning, particularly in numeracy (geometry, ratio, time,
chance and data, measurement, tessellation, distance,
length, mapping etc) This week the students in Year 5
have been exploring time. Their learning intention for
the week was to create a timetable to travel to Blaxland Riverside Park by train and back again. This open-
ended task engaged the students in a number of
valuable learning experiences - reading train timetables,
calculating distance using google maps and exploring
time concepts. Year 6's learning intentions in numeracy
this week has focused on planning and mapping - the
students had to draw a plan of the park showing where
the equipment is situated and determine the cost of each
individual piece of equipment if the total cost is $1.65
million. The above is only a few samples of some of the
learning that came from the experience. I encourage
you to ask your children to share with you what they
have been learning in their class this week.

Year 5 Personal Development and Health Program.
On Wednesday evening Miss Stone and Mr Mackey
hosted a parent information night on a program for grade
5 addressing the changes associated with puberty. The
sexuality program used by the school, "Things are
Changing" attempts to involve parents in this very
important educational phase of their child's life.
The information gained from the evening from the DVD
materials, the course objectives explained, and
questions answered, provides parents with the
opportunity to be equipped and educated with the
information and confidence necessary to teach their
children about puberty. Please note that the program we
use is taught from a 'Catholic' perspective and has been approved by the Catholic Church.

Some of the key learning objectives for the program are as follows:

- Understand the physical, emotional, social and psychological changes that occur during puberty
- Identify puberty as a positive and exciting time of life in which a child begins the process of becoming an adult
- Understand that while everyone will go through puberty, it is normal that everyone will develop at different rates
- Understand the gift of fertility and the value of the person
- Understand that life is sacred

We would like to thank the parents/carers for participating in the evening. Parental involvement is critical to the success of any sexuality education program. The likelihood of positive outcomes is powerfully increased when your children are receiving a consistent message from within their peer, home and educational environment. I would also like to thank Mr Mackey and Miss Stone for preparing and facilitating the evening. For parents who wish to follow up with sessions at home there is a resource available from www.choicez.com.au/products/puberty.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL EXCURSION

Year 6 students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participated 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 parents in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of $20 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program. Activities undertaken as part of the educational tour were outlined in last week's newsletter.

The excursion was a rewarding experience for all students.

CALENDAR

| Fri   | 26 July | Sts Joachim & Ann Liturgy |
| Mon   | 29 July | Peer Support continues    |
| Fri   | 2 Aug   | Parish Mass (Years 2 & 4) |
| Fri   | 2 Aug   | School Disco              |
| Mon   | 5 Aug   | Peer Support continues    |
| Mon   | 12 Aug  | Peer Support continues    |
| Tues  | 13 Aug  | ICAS Maths exam           |
| Thur  | 15 Aug  | Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Mass 12noon |
| Mon   | 19 Aug  | Peer Support continues    |
| Mon   | 19 Aug  | Year 6 - Voice of Youth – Greystanes |
| Tues  | 20 Aug  | Netball Gala Day – Penrith |
| Fri   | 23 Aug  | Parish Mass (Years K & 5) |
| Mon   | 26 Aug  | Peer Support continues    |
| Fri   | 30 Aug  | Fathers’ Day Liturgy – 9.15am |
| Mon   | 2 Sep   | Peer Support continues    |
| Mon   | 9 Sep   | Staff Development Day     |
| Tues  | 10 Sep  | Peer Support continues    |
| Fri   | 13 Sep  | Parish Mass (Years 1, 3 & 5) |
| Sun   | 15 Sep  | School Family Mass (K, 1 & 2) 10am at Church |
| Fri   | 20 Sep  | Our Lady of Mercy Liturgy 12.45pm |
| Fri   | 20 Sep  | Last day of Term 3        |
| Tues  | 8 Oct   | First day of Term 4        |

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonyssirraween.catholic.edu.au  www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG  twitter.com/StAnthonysG
CANTEEN ROSTER
29th JULY – 2nd AUGUST

Monday
Debra Lawler

Tuesday

Wednesday
Julia Parkes

Thursday

Friday
Liz Phillips

If anyone is available to help in the Canteen on any day, it would be greatly appreciated. If you haven’t worked in the Canteen before but would like to find out what is involved, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Leigh.

CANTEEN NEWS
GRANDPARENTS’ DAY

The Canteen will only be selling drinks, ice-creams and chips on Friday 29th July at recess and lunch. No lunch orders are to be sent in as the children will be receiving one beef sausage on bread. If you feel that your child requires extra food, we ask that you send extra food for them.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 29th July, from 2:30pm – 3:15pm. You can place orders through the office at any time.

COMMUNITY NEWS
WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

A relationship enrichment weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Weekend date: 6 – 8 September at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel: 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: website www.wmme.org.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

On the last Tuesday of each month CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?” Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Date: 30/7/13 Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Cost: $5.00 Registration: solo.parentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 9933 0205.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR THOSE WIDOWED

CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry is running its next Seasons for Growth Program for adults in Parramatta, commencing on Tuesday 13th August. The Program will run for five consecutive weeks and is a means of helping those who are grieving the death of their spouse or partner. Through input and small group sharing you will be supported and assisted in understanding and working through some of the aspects and effects of your deep sadness, loss and grief and as you make the necessary adjustments to a new life without your soul mate. Venue: 2A Villiers St North Parramatta. Date/Time: Tuesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm. Cost: $80.00. Contact and Registration solo.parentministry@ccss.org.au Ph. 9933 0205.

OFFICE NEWS

REMINDER

If you have changed your phone number recently, could you please let the school office know as you never know when we might need to get in touch with you about your child.

BOOK CLUB

Coming home with students today are brochures for Book Club. Orders are due in next Friday 2nd August. As ordering takes place online on that day, please DO NOT send orders to school before or after the due date. Parents are also asked to include the correct amount of payment with their order if at all possible.

Kind Regards
Miss Katrina James,
Book Club Organiser

BABY NEWS


PRAYERS PLEASE

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the Veidre family (Veronica 1G) on the recent death of her Grandmother in Fiji. Please keep this family in your prayers.

COMING HOME TODAY

Class Overviews
Muffin Day Flyer for Craft Stall
SCG – notice of next meeting
Gospel Action of the Week
School Disco Flyers

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG twitter.com/StAnthonysG