From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 24th March, 2013
Luke 19:36-40

As [Jesus] rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed: / “Blessed is the king who comes / in the name of the Lord. / Peace in heaven / and glory in the highest.” / Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He said in reply, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!”

Reflection

Branches – palm, olive, or even budding willow – are ancient symbols of victory, hope, and triumph, as well as of new life. The procession celebrating Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem overflowed with praise and excitement, as onlookers waved these branches. Yet, in a few days, they will cry “Crucify him!” The crowd’s change of heart illustrates the problem of holding God to our expectations. The crowd expected the Messiah to free them from Roman oppression. Jesus instead takes up his Cross and invites us to do the same. Through his Death and Resurrection he is a liberator from death and sin. As we enter into Holy Week, Palm Sunday shows us that we need to trust in God’s wisdom.

Let us pray together:-

Glorious God, as we approach Easter,
grant us the fervor in faith to recognising your glory in our midst and to praise you wholeheartedly for all the ways you reveal yourself to us.
We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Welcome to Week 8.

It has been a very busy couple of weeks at St Anthony’s. Last week the staff, students and a number of our parents / carers celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a range of activities and learning experiences that showcased our school. I would firstly like to extend our appreciation to our parents and carers who took the opportunity to visit St Anthony’s during the week. I hope you found the experiences rewarding. Secondly, I would like to thank all the staff of St Anthony’s for their efforts and commitment in preparing for the week’s activities. Your enthusiasm and commitment is very much appreciated. Our Year 5 and Year 6 completed the Quality Catholic Schools surveys on Wednesday. The students were eager to participate and they approached the task with real sense of maturity. Their comments and opinions are valuable to us and will assist St Anthony’s in further improving our practices.
On Tuesday St Anthony’s hosted a Diocesan professional learning day for Principals and System Leaders. Dr Lyn Sharratt, a Canadian based educational expert (engaged by the CEO) facilitated the day. Lyn is highly credentialed in the education arena; she has co-authored two books focusing on educational reform alongside special advisor to Ontario’s Premier and Minister of Education, Michael Fullan – Realisation – The Change Imperative Reform and Putting Faces on the Data. Her work with school leaders on Tuesday focused on an approach to school improvement ‘Instructional Walks and Talks.’ Instructional Walks and Talks provide an opportunity for administrators to be involved in a program developing and enhancing ‘leadership’ competencies. It is an approach for leaders to use to engage in reflective inquiry with teachers to impact student achievement and support the learning culture within schools. It focuses on a process of ‘classroom’ walks to observe and talk about teaching decisions in and across classrooms that promote learning together as teachers and administrators. Instructional Walks and Talks help instructional leaders (Principals) understand how they can best support assessment-based instruction that takes place in classrooms every day. During the day Principals (45 in total) participated in a number of practice sessions that focused on the following:

- Understanding classroom practice;
- Building a common language; (for professional dialogue)
- Reflecting on developing patterns and trends in schools;
- Asking reflective questions about practice;
- Giving constructive feedback to formulate a plan for next steps; and
The professional learning day held for principals at St Anthony's (on Tuesday) is the first of a number of these learning opportunities for system leaders and principals across the diocese. Both Mrs Brown and I found it a valuable experience in helping both of us build our capacity (as leaders) and skills so that we, along with all system leaders and teachers, can continually engage in the robust conversations about what good teaching and learning looks like and how it is achieved. “If we want whole school systems to achieve with every child, then we need collective capacity; and collective capacity involves system leaders, school leaders and teachers working together to achieve common goals.” (Lyn Sharratt, 2013).

Both Mrs Brown and I felt privileged to have the opportunity to work alongside Lyn Sharratt and to host the event at St Anthony’s. It was a great opportunity to receive feedback from our peers. We received many positive comments in regards to the learning that was evident in the classrooms; the learning spaces; the welcoming atmosphere in the school, the manner in which our student leaders engaged with the principals and the hospitality extended to all our visitors.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP
We want to make parents aware that there is a Pastoral Care Group at St Anthony’s. The purpose of the Pastoral Care Group is to support the school and parish in building a Christian community whereby we strive to live out the Gospel of Christ by loving God and our neighbour.

We do this by:
- Welcoming new families to the school and encourage their integration into school community
- Providing opportunities for parents to get to know each other at out “Parent Night Out” dinners
- Support families in times of illness, bereavement, birth of a new child etc.
- Encourage all to feel valued members of our school community

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Acting Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
HARMONY DAY
Today we celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day occurs on the 21st March every year. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia.

At St Anthony’s we promote social justice and one way we do this is to show compassion to people who are less fortunate than we are. The gold coin donation was used today to make an outline of a large hand on the playground. The hand symbolized reaching out to help others in need. The money raised will be donated to Project Compassion. The students wore the colour orange, which is the Harmony Day colour, to help remind them of the importance of this day.

Students also participated in a variety of activities during the day that has made them more aware of the many difficulties that people face in our world today.

Please note that all Project Compassion boxes that are at home can now start coming back to school so that we can tally a total and send a cheque to Caritas Australia. Thank you for promoting social justice within your families and showing compassion towards people who are less fortunate than we are.

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 March</td>
<td>Holy Week Begins (Palm Sunday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 31 March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6th April OR</td>
<td>Confirmation Enquiry 12 noon session, Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 April</td>
<td>Confirmation Enquiry 7:30pm session, Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<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 Acting Assistant Principal

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
It was wonderful to see staff, students and parents get into the spirit of celebrating Catholic Schools Week last week. The various opportunities that were prepared were a great reminder of the quality Catholic education that we strive to provide for all students. From our liturgical celebrations, to our open classrooms, our book fair and Storyfest, there was much for us to be proud of. On behalf of Mrs Charlton and the Leadership Team, I would like to thank all the staff and students for their amazing preparations and participation, and to all our parents who took part.

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au  www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG  twitter.com/StAnthonysG
It has continued to be a busy and exciting week this week. Lyn Sharrat’s workshops with principals here on Tuesday will help us all to focus even more closely on improving learning outcomes for every student – a clear reminder of our Catholic Schools Week theme for 2013, that Every Child Counts.

CROSS COUNTRY
Catholic Schools Week concluded with our Cross Country Carnival and Infants Fun Run. Both events were a success - something that would not have been possible without the hard work of our staff and the support of parent helpers. I wish to thank all our parent helpers for their participation, and thank Mr Mackey, Mrs Henebery and Miss James for organising the events.

Congratulations to all the students who have qualified to represent St Anthony’s at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival on 7 May at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek. We wish you all the best.

KidzFlicks 2013
The major works of our school movie team are in the running for four awards in the children’s film festival, KidzFlicks 2013. We have been nominated in the categories of “Best Film Submitted by a School”, “Best Camera Operation”, “Best Sound” and “Best Script”. The first category is determined by popular vote at a viewing session, while the latter three are critically judged.

Our movie team travelled to Event Cinemas Bondi Junction on Tuesday to view the films that have been entered into this year’s festival. Awards will be presented at a ceremony at the cinemas next Monday afternoon. We wish our movie team the best of luck. I also wish to thank Miss Younes who has worked with the movie team in her role as Learning Technology Support Teacher, and to Mr Mackey, who has also worked with the team on various occasions. More details about KidzFlicks are available online at https://www.facebook.com/BardicStudio. You will also find a news story on our website.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY
A number of parents recently received a request to complete the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey for 2013. A group of parents is selected at random to provide feedback on the culture and practices of the school.

Thank you to all the nominated parents who have completed the survey. Your feedback is important in guiding our school improvement. If you have not completed the survey, please do so – either online or using the paper copy provided – by TOMORROW.

EASTER HAT PARADE
Our Easter Hat Parade will be held next Wednesday at 9:30 am. Parents and carers are invited to join us for the festivities. We hope all students will get into the spirit of the event by wearing an Easter hat of some kind. It can be as simple as a pair of Easter bunny ears. Please refer to the note sent home earlier this week for more information.

HOLY WEEK
Next week is also Holy Week, the most important time in the Church’s liturgical year. The celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are central to our lives as Catholics, for they commemorate Christ’s sacrifice of his own human life so that sin and death may be overcome. Jesus’ gift of eternal life is one beyond our understanding and is the ultimate sign of God’s unconditional love for us. Classes will participate in a Holy Week Pilgrimage on Tuesday and Thursday next week to recall and celebrate the passion and death of our Lord. This will be followed by an Easter celebration the following week when we return to school. Thank you to Mrs Awkar for her preparation of these celebrations.

AFTERNOON CAR PICK UP
The safety of every member of our school community is a high priority. It has been concerning, therefore, to see the safety of children put at risk at the afternoon car pick up in recent days. It is essential that all parents and carers follow our pick up procedure to ensure the safety of every child.

1. Teachers will call students to the footpath according to the signs displayed in car windows.
2. Parents are to remain in their car and move forward as cars at the front of the queue depart.
3. At the direction of teachers, students will enter their car from the footpath side only.
4. Only the first three cars in the queue will be loaded at any time; other students and parents must wait their turn. Parents may assist their children with seatbelts, etc.
5. The first three cars must then depart the pick up area in order. Please remember to check your mirrors and blind spots for passing traffic before pulling out.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience in these matters. Following these procedures is the most effective way of ensuring that everybody gets home safely and efficiently. Double parking and pulling out into traffic without giving way is illegal at all times and leads to potentially dangerous situations both before and after school.

Another major concern is parents taking their children through the queue of cars to cross Girraween Road. This is extremely dangerous. Please set a good example for your children by walking up the road to a safer crossing point.

I ask all parents to ensure that these procedures are observed at all times.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Acting Assistant Principal

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG twitter.com/StAnthonysG
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Diocese of Parramatta will be holding a Staff Development Day on Monday 29th April to unpack the new Syllabus. We ask that you make suitable arrangements for your child / ren on this day as they are not required to attend school.

COMMUNITY NEWS

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm! You are very likely to be supported and helped through the sharing of experiences on matters such as “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. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolments for Year 7 2014

Catherine McAuley Westmead will be holding a final School Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2014 enrolments on:

Tuesday 2nd April 2013

9.15 – 11am

This morning will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or enrolment forms may be lodged.

To RSVP for a school tour please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

DISCOVER WHAT A MERCY EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites prospective families to the Year 7, 2015 Enrolment Information Evening at 4.45pm on April 3. Tour the College, collect an Enrolment pack, attend an information session, meet the Principal and College staff and enjoy a BBQ with the OLMC P&F. Enquiries please contact the Registrar on 8838 1222 or email registrar@olmc.nsw.edu.au Limited places also available for Year 7 2014.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG  Klaudine Battikha
KW  Christopher Fahmy
1G  Elizabeth Ashor  1W  Mariel Leopando
2G  Erin McFarlane  2W  Lorraine Samuriwo
3G  Sylvia Ghobar  3W  Kriselle Rodrigues
4G  Renata Busic  4W  Mithran Jeganathan
5G  Diana Lazro  5W  Cynthia El-Zreiby
6G  Damon Mock  6W  Ronan Lipping

CANTERBURY EAGLES

Join one of the friendliest footy clubs in the West! Registrations are CLOSING SOON for the 2013 season of the St Anthony’s Girraween Eagles JRLFC - ages 5-11 years, boys and girls. We are particularly looking for additional Under 6's and Under 11's players! Our children play a SAFE, MODIFIED game of rugby league that fosters team work, sportsmanship and FUN! Great social activities for the whole family.

$90 registration fee with the best value player kit around. Google “Girraween Eagles” for more info or call Natalie (m. 0400 376 270) or Andrew (m. 0417 445 429).

BOOK CLUB

Book Club orders need to be returned tomorrow, Friday 22nd March. This will be the last book club for the term. Thanks for your co-operation.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

The Uniform Shop will be open next Monday 25th March from 2:30pm – 3:15pm.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au  www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG  twitter.com/StAnthonysG