FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to St Anthony’s! I hope that you had a restful and refreshing break where you managed to spend some quality time with your children and loved ones. Last Thursday, the first day back, the staff had this term’s theme, “BOUNCE BACK into YOUR LEARNING” all planned and prepared with a spectacular motivating event BUT the unpredictable weather meant that we had to postpone the activity until we can get a decent patch of dry weather. I know that your children will be eager to tell you when this secret event finally takes place! The start to the term was however still eventful with the staff wearing their best Hawaiian florals for the beach party atmosphere. The addition of 20 plus bouncy beach balls flying through the air further added fun and vigour for the return to school.

2015 is shaping up to be an exciting year of learning, renewal and adaption. As staff, we’re looking to further develop our skills in numeracy particularly in the way we use our assessments and data to challenge children to move outside of their comfort zones. Similarly we are endeavouring to capitalize on the learning we began in reading and apply this now to writing. We are also currently looking at our reporting procedures to try and make these clearer and more meaningful.

I look forward to meeting up with you throughout this term. I pray that you will find the Jesus in others and that others may find the Jesus in you.

Keep that smile on your dial this week.

Attila
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL SKILLING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

This year we will take a whole school approach to a social skills program that aims to focus on the range of skills and behaviours that our students need to maintain healthy relationships and grow and develop into successful young people.

Children who receive the ‘Student of the Week’ award at Monday assembly will receive this award for specifically demonstrating the social skill in the week prior.

Teachers will explicitly model and teach the social skill of the week in class and will refer to the social skill when engaging with students. A poster will be displayed in each learning space and around the school.

Students will show an increasing awareness of ways they can put this skill into practice by demonstrating it in their interactions with others at school, at home and in life.

Parents will be able to read about our social skill focus each week in the newsletter and are encouraged to discuss and promote it with your child at home in their interactions with family, friends and others.

The Week 2 social skill was: SHOWING RESPECT – Speaking nicely and with manners

At St Anthony’s, the social skill of the week is.....

SHOWING RESPECT

SPEAKING NICELY AND WITH MANNERS

Please Thank You Pardon
You’re Welcome Excuse Me May I...?
You go first Can I help you?
Good Morning
The Week 3 social skill will be:

BEING FRIENDLY – Getting Along With Others

Kind Regards

Linda Ducksbury
Assistant Principal

RECREATIONAL EDUCATION

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS
This Mass will be celebrated on Friday 13th February at 11am in the church. The new school leaders will be blessed and presented with their badges and new staff will also be blessed. All our year 6 children, as our senior students will also receive their badges during mass. We warmly invite all members of our school community to be a part of this celebration.

ASH WEDNESDAY
The season of Lent, which serves as a time of prayer, fasting and giving to others in preparation for Easter, begins with Ash Wednesday on 18th February. Years 3-6 will participate in the parish Mass at 9:30am in the church. They will be marked with ashes in the form of a cross as a sign of their commitment to live better lives. Kindergarten - Year 2 will gather at school to listen to God’s word in the scriptures and to also be marked with ashes. All are welcome to participate in either celebration.

FR ARTHUR VISITING
With a new year beginning, and with our Parish Priest, Fr Arthur, now settled in at Toongabbie, he is looking forward to making some more visits to the school. Fr Arthur will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Year 6 in March. In addition, Fr Arthur will be visiting classrooms at different times during the year to meet the students and to see the great learning that is taking place in our classrooms. We look forward to seeing Fr Arthur around the school soon.

HELP NEEDED
Do you know your way around a sewing machine? We need some help cutting and hemming material for use on our class prayer tables. If you can help, please see me, phone the school or email girraween@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION
This year marks 500 years since the birth of St Teresa of Avila, the founder of the Discalced Carmelites. Here is one of her most famous texts:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,

Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ’s compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing
good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

Upcoming events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th Feb</td>
<td>Commencement of School Year Mass, 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday – Parish Mass, Years 3-6 attending, 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th</td>
<td>Confirmation Enquiry Meeting, 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th</td>
<td>Confirmation Enquiry Meeting, 7:30pm</td>
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Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Co-ordinator

SCHOOL BANKING
A reminder that school banking takes place every Tuesday from 8:30am outside the school library. Many thanks to Deb Pooley, Emma McKenna, Mel Jacobs and Dana Higgins for running this activity.

This year the bank are running a competition to win a family trip to Disneyland with $2,000 spending money. Redemption prizes for first term are a planet handball and a DVD of ET.

UNIFORM AND GROOMING
At St Anthony’s we pride ourselves on our school uniform. Please ensure that your children are ALWAYS in their proper school uniform. This includes predominately WHITE sports shoes (No coloured laces), black, polishable school shoes, NO jewelry except for plain, metal stud/sleeper earrings, watch, signet ring and or religious medal worn UNDER the shirt or tunic. Hair should always be neat, of its original colour and a haircut of an even grade - No extreme cuts. Thanks for your help and co-operation.

LATENESS AND ABSENCES
School is compulsory and as such regular attendance and punctuality is essential. ALL children are expected to be at school unless they are ill or a suitable request for leave has been applied for. Leave request forms are available from the school office. Children arriving at school even 5 minutes after 9am are LATE and we are legally obliged to enter the lateness into the school attendance rolls. Parents of children who are consistently late will be contacted as this seriously affects their child’s learning.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au facebook.com/StAnthonyssG twitter @StAnthonyss_G

Join the conversation #stanthonysg
NSW STATE ELECTION
Information from the council of Catholic School Parents

DID YOU KNOW?
On average, it costs around $13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school.
In most Catholic schools, school fees cover less than a quarter of this cost.
The rest comes from taxpayers like you!
This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING
Monday 9th February will be our first SCG meeting beginning at 7:30pm in the library. A warm invitation to all our parents but especially our new parents. We’d love to see you become a part of our wonderfully active parent group.

STAFFING UPDATE
Welcome to our new 2015 staff - Lyn Wainwright – our new school counsellor who works each Monday; Thanh Nguyen – specialist music teacher (Wed, Thu, Fri), Mel McCauley – specialist sports teacher, Caitlin Dooley – new Year 5 teacher and Karen Locke – teacher’s assistant working in Year 2.

SCHOOL HOURS & TERM DATES
Teacher supervision before school begins at 8:30 until school begins at 9:00am. Parents are requested NOT to drop their children before 8:30. Supervision after school lasts until 3:45pm however NO child will ever be left on their own. The last day for term 1 will be Holy Thursday 2nd April. School will then resume on Monday 20th April 2015.

SKOOLBAG APP
We now have 500 subscriptions to Skoolbag. If you have a smart phone (iPhone or Android), download the free Skoolbag app to keep in touch with everything that’s happening!

YOUR CHILD & THEIR LEARNING EVENINGS
Flyers were sent home yesterday advertising this new initiative which will give parents a better insight into their child’s learning. These meetings will begin next week. We hope to see ALL parents come along and share in these evenings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Wednesday 11th February</th>
<th>Thursday 12th February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6:30pm Yr 3</td>
<td>6:30pm Yr 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30pm Yr 6</td>
<td>7:30pm Yr 5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
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<td>6:30pm Kindy</td>
<td>6:30pm Yr 1</td>
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<td>7:30pm Yr 4</td>
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Simply search for Skoolbag St. Anthony’s in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

Simply search for Skoolbag St. Anthony’s in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

http www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au facebook.com/StAnthonyssG twitter @StAnthonyss_G
Join the conversation #stanthonysg
SCHOOL FEES
School Fee Statements will be issued next week. If you do not receive a statement by 13th February 2015, please advise the school office. Flexible Payment Plans will once again be offered to families. Please ensure you return the Flexible Payment Plan Form to CEO by Friday 27th February 2015, if you wish to use this option for payment. Term 1 Fees are due on 6th March 2015.

LIBRARY NEWS
Our library is changing!! You’ll already notice a difference. Why not pop in when you can to see the beautiful under the sea display? The library is also open at lunch times for a variety of options including, chess, reading, borrowing, craft with other activities coming soon. Many thanks to Mrs Belinda Martin, our Teacher Librarian for her wonderful resourcefulness and creativity.

GIRRAWEEN EAGLES RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB
Registrations for the 2015 season will take place this Saturday 7th February between 10am - 2pm in the school library. All primary age players welcome.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS
With today’s newsletter you’ll also be receiving your child’s grade CURRICULUM OVERVIEW. This is a great resource to keep at home to keep up with what is being learned at school. All subjects or Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are described. This can then also serve as a handy reference to discuss specifically what your child is learning when they come home from school each day. Why not post it onto the fridge?

JOKE DAY
The best way to begin our week with a smile on our dials is with a good funny joke or riddle. Each Monday is Joke Day where a specified grade has the opportunity to share a joke on the microphone with the school. Next Monday 9th February is Year 6’s Joke Day!

TROPHY DAY
We’d love to know about a special achievement your child has managed. Each Monday we have the opportunity for Trophy Day! Children can bring their recent medals, trophies, certificates etc to show and talk about at the Monday assembly. As a community we can then all share in the achievements of our children.

COFFEE MORNINGS
Coffee & Chat mornings are every Monday fortnight in the Hub after assembly. Come along for a cuppa and chat with Mr Lendvai, Ms Ducksbury and meet other parents. The next Coffee & Chat will be Monday 9th February.

NEW BABIES!
We love to celebrate the birth of new babies in our community. Please provide us with any birth details including name and birth dates.

PANCAKE DAY (SHROVE TUESDAY) IS COMING!
Tuesday 17th February is known as Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday which begins the Catholic Church’s season of LENT. Lent is a period of frugality and fasting and traditionally all the luxury foods were consumed prior to this day. Our School Community Group SCG will be organizing their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast morning for this day between 7:30 – 8:45am. The breakfast is a great family / community event. Mark this date now and come and join us! More details next week.

CANTEEN ROSTER
9th – 13th FEBRUARY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Biddy O’Malley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Margaret Sainsbury</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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CANTEEN NEWS – BIRTHDAY TREAT BUCKETS NOW AVAILABLE
What better way to celebrate your child’s birthday in the warmer seasons with their classmates! We are introducing a Bucket of Birthday Treats. They are great for children with allergies and they are fuss free – just pre order from the canteen/office and they will be delivered to your child’s classroom.

The options are:
- Lemonade Icy Poles
- Ice Cream Cups
- Juicy Tubes

This is all available for $1 per child.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES
The Uniform Shop will next be open on Monday 9th February, 2015 from 2:30pm – 3:15pm. Orders can be placed through the office at any time.

CALENDAR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>9th Feb</th>
<th>SCG Meeting, 7:30pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>Commencement of School Year Mass, 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>CENSUS DAY</td>
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