FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week I’ve had a few woes, mainly some back issues that have laid me out for the week and it’s easy to become self-consumed by these things. So I started to read and reflect on this Sunday’s gospel instead, That led me to a gospel inspired prayer ‘Take from my heart all painful anxiety’ It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew that a troubled heart is an ever-present possibility. Just as we deal with one problem another comes along. When we don’t have any serious worries in the present, we are then often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having worries and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. This Sunday’s gospel begins with Jesus’s words, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Jesus points out the path to an untroubled heart: ‘Have faith in God and faith in him.’ The faith of the disciples was grounded in his care for them, both in the present and also into the future: “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also’. Thomas said to Jesus, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. In this context, Jesus offers us the same cure to our troubled hearts as well as the eventual guide to God – that is through faith in God and him. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was once asked why she did what she did. Her reply was poignant and brief, "I do it for Jesus!" That is real unconditional faith. He is the life that is the light of all. That then is our challenge, to lay aside worries and troubled hearts and take that leap of real faith in God but led by Jesus. The challenge is great but the promise of heavenly reward is greater. Live life in faith,

Have a great week.

Attila Lendvai
Principal

IT UPDATE

This week we added 70 new Apple iPads to our overall IT hardware – 10 new ipads for each grade! Teachers are working hard to select suitable apps to further enhance your children’s learning via this technology and involve them in deeper learning. I hope the children come home with greater enthusiasm about their learning. Talk to them about what they are doing!

TRIVIA NIGHT

“What brand of underwear does Marty McFly wear in Back to the Future?” □ Armani; □ Calvin Klein; □ DKNY; □ Hanes??

If you answered “Calvin Klein”, you’re correct and you should be coming along to our BIG MOVIE Trivia Night on Friday 23rd May! Loads of fun to be had and don’t worry it won’t be all movie trivia. We’ll also have Music, Sport, Science, History, Miscellaneous etc. It’ll be a great way to meet new friends. Don’t worry if you can’t make an entire table, we’ll organise you onto a very friendly table anyway. It is an adults only night - no kids! It’s also a themed night so dress up as your favourite movie character – maybe Snow White & the 7 Dwarves; The Hunger Games; Mary Poppins; Star Wars; Toy Story or even Alice in Wonderland! Have fun with it! Tickets $8 each or a table of 8 for $60 BYO nibbles and refreshments. Great FUN and PRIZES!!

NAPLAN

Our Year 3 & 5 students completed their NAPLAN assessments today. Many thanks to the children for the wonderful way they entered into the assessments. Thanks also to the staff for accommodating the changes to make NAPLAN happen so smoothly. And finally thanks to our parents for ensuring their children were at school on time each day. Results are usually due in September. The following article is a very worthwhile piece from the General Manager of ACARA, the authority who manages NAPLAN. I would urge ALL parents to read his thoughts.

NAPLAN: Something for Everyone

Peter Adams
General Manager, Assessment and Reporting, ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority)
NAPLAN certainly gets people talking. Just about everyone I meet has heard of NAPLAN and nearly all of them have an opinion on it. That people know about it is a good thing, and that people have views on it is also a good thing. Both are healthy signs.

Before exploring different perspectives on NAPLAN it is worth taking a moment to consider a few of the alarming statistics associated with illiteracy:

- Illiteracy costs the global economy more than one trillion US dollars each year.
- More than 796 million people in the world cannot read and write.
- Illiterate people earn 30–42% less than their literate counterparts.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past age five.
- Estimates, in various nations, show that 60–80% of prisoners have reading and writing skills below basic levels.
- Up to 85% of juvenile delinquents are functionally illiterate.

So it is vital to know how our young people are developing in their literacy and numeracy skills. The critical importance of literacy in particular is underscored by the fact that NAPLAN tests include assessments in reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, and spelling, which are all key components of literacy. Numeracy is tested at year 3, and the development of students’ knowledge and skill is measured by further numeracy assessments at Years 7 and 9.

If literacy and numeracy are clearly so crucial to a young person's success at school, why is there so much debate about NAPLAN? I think the answer lies in the different views people have on how best to measure literacy and numeracy. In this article I want to focus on explaining some of the aspects of NAPLAN that do not feature prominently in the public debate, and also address some of the misconceptions about the program and the tests themselves. My purpose in doing so is to demonstrate that, when understood in context, NAPLAN has much to offer that is positive and of real benefit to students, schools and parents. I hope this article helps to inform the wider public debate over the NAPLAN tests.

The NAPLAN program was introduced in 2008, after agreement by all ministers, to enable fair and informed comparisons of performance between states and territories, and to measure national performance in literacy and numeracy annually and over time. NAPLAN replaced state and territory tests, some of which had been administered for many years. This basic purpose of NAPLAN seems at times to get lost in the debate.

NAPLAN tests are developed by experts. They are experts because they specialise in test development, they apply rigorous processes and principles to item development and test construction, and they comply with strict specifications. It is worth noting that almost invariably test developers have themselves been teachers. The process for reviewing test items includes a very large panel of people from across Australia, most of whom have also been teachers. These experts know about young people and their learning, and what they can and should know at different levels. The test specifications have been developed against state and territory curriculums and will eventually be based on the common Australian Curriculum. So students are not confronting test content that they have not been taught.

How do we confirm this? Every item used in a NAPLAN test has been field trialled with a large, scientific sample of students in the relevant year levels. The item performance statistics must meet rigorous technical standards if they are to find their way into the tests. As NAPLAN is a ‘range’ test, it measures student performance across a broad spectrum of ability typically evident in a large population like the one doing the tests – over one million students. In the process of test development, close attention is also paid to the cultural appropriateness of items for the different ethnic groups and our indigenous students. This ‘screening’ of items for cultural appropriateness is undertaken conscientiously and sensitively. Test developers don’t always get it right and at times some items have been subjected to legitimate criticism in this respect. The ultimate test of the quality and suitability of the tests is the analysis of the student performance data they produce. Every year that analysis confirms that the tests have worked successfully.

The diagnostic function of NAPLAN data

So the next key question is: how is test data useful to schools, parents and students? This is where the ‘diagnostic’ dimension to the tests comes to the fore, although once again not without some misconceptions and mixed understandings. A medical diagnostic test is performed to aid in the diagnosis or detection of disease. Diagnostic testing is also an important tool for educators who want to know where their students are academically in order to bring those students to where they need to be. If you want your students to move forward, you need to identify where they have started; diagnostic testing is a way to do this.

NAPLAN data is diagnostic to the extent that it provides detailed item-by-item information about each student’s performance. The data can also be aggregated up to a group, class, year level and school level where it informs different and important decisions. NAPLAN data at these different levels of aggregation provides an evidence-base to inform teaching programs, and the use of valuable resources.

One concern about NAPLAN is the time that elapses between students sitting the tests and receiving the performance data: a delay of approximately 17 weeks. Authorities are considering how this time lag might be
Parents consistently express their support for the information the NAPLAN data provides on the performance and progress of their sons and daughters. Parents want honest and reliable advice that is also objective. What needs to be continually reinforced in any messaging to schools, teachers and parents is that test drills or excessive practicing are counter-productive and detrimental to the school’s program, and quite unnecessary. Students need to be reassured often that they need only do their best once having become familiar with what the tests look like and what they are being asked to do. It is all about keeping NAPLAN in context.

In summary then, NAPLAN is a very high quality assessment and the tests do what they are intended to do. The data produced by the program is valuable when used effectively and thoughtfully. It is better to make decisions on the basis of evidence wherever possible. And finally, NAPLAN data is just one source of information alongside everything else schools and parents know about the skills, knowledge and talents of our young people.

Can we be surprised, then, that Australia is not gaining momentum in school performance?

JOKES OF THE WEEK

Next Monday is Year 3’s Week!

J. What has no legs but can walk?
A. A shoe.  
Michael Salama

J. What room has no doors, no floors and no windows?
A. A Mushroom.  
Beyonce Ama-Kywaah

J. Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road?
A. Because he didn’t have the guts.  
Charbel El-Zreiby

J. What happened to the Goblin when his left arm and leg fell off?
A. He’s OK he’s all right now.  
Maia Hartikainen

J. What do police eat for dessert?
A. Copcakes.  
Mr Barden

WORMIES thank Anne Grieve

Congratulations to our environmental Wormies group who honoured and celebrated our Gardener Anne Grieve last week. The Wormies Team, Tatiana Haddad, Jessica Jurinario, Daniella Touma, Abigail Mikhail-Wallis, Jasmine Sarkis, Hannah Hamilton, Abbey O’Brien, Bianca Simonetta and Clara Kristanda invited Anne to a surprise party to thank her for her wonderful help and support over her many years at St Anthony’s. Anne was very surprised and thankful for the wonderful celebration.

SPRING FAIR

Our next Spring Fair Meeting will be on Monday 26th May at 7:30pm. We’d really like as many interested parents to be a part of this meeting. If you don’t feel that you can run a stall, your help would still be very much appreciated. Our annual Spring Fair is our MAJOR fundraiser and so everyone needs to lend a helping hand. Hoping to see YOU there!

SCHOOL COMMUNITY GROUP – CHANGE OF DATE

Our next SCG meeting will now take place on Monday 19th May at 7:30-8:30pm. All parents are warmly invited to come along and participate.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au  
facebook.com/StAnthonyssG  
twitter @StAnthonyss_G
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

ICAS Dates for term 2
If your child in Years 3-6 has registered for any of the ICAS competitions, please note the dates below as the following assessments are scheduled throughout term 2. Parents who have registered their children should ensure that their children are at school on that day as making up the test is generally not permitted.

Computers - Tuesday 20 May
Science - Wednesday 4 June
Writing – Monday 16 June
Spelling – Tuesday 17 June

2014 SCHOOL PHOTOS – SAVE THE DATE
The 2014 School Photo day will be on Tuesday 8th June (after the long weekend). Photo order/payment envelopes will be distributed to students next week.

WINTER UNIFORM
Thank you to all parents who have their children dressed smartly in the correct winter school uniform. The transition to winter uniform occurred this week. All items can be purchased from the uniform shop by contacting the office. We do ask that students are dressed in the St Anthony’s uniform items and not in generic green clothing items such as jumpers and tracksuit pants.

For details of the correct uniform items for boys and girls for winter and sport uniforms, please refer to the parent handbook:
http://www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au/parent-handbook

Kind Regards
Linda Ducksbury
Assistant Principal

RENEWED EDUCATION

OPERATION ANDREW
Operation Andrew is our parish community’s effort to invite others to share in a deeper relationship with Christ. Andrew was the disciple that introduced Peter to Jesus.

Pope Francis calls us to be disciples - to share our faith with others, to interact with others in our faith community, and to ask people to be involved.

This week, we have been asked to reflect on how we can ask others. Let us make the effort to invite each other to participate in our school and parish Feast Day celebrations next month - keep an eye out for news about our celebrations over the coming weeks.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND – FAITH AT WORK
During the month of May, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith@work, this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this appeal. Donations $2 and over are tax deductible. If you still wish to contribute, please return your envelope to school by the end of this month. If you have misplaced your envelope, you can still make your donation through the school office (in person or using a clearly marked envelope), or online at www.faithatwork.org.au.

MOTHERS’ DAY
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mothers’ Day Liturgy. It was wonderful to see people participate in such large numbers. Thank you also to Mrs Law, Miss Geracitano and Year 3 for preparing and leading the celebration.

Upcoming events
Sat 17th May Confirmation Workshop, 4:45pm
Sun 18th May Confirmation Workshop, 8:45am
Fri 23rd May Parish Mass, 9:30am – Years 2 & 4 attending
Sat 24th May Confirmation Workshop, 4:45pm
Sun 25th May Confirmation Workshop, 8:45am
Fri 30th May Parish Mass, 9:30am – Kindergarten & Year 5 attending
Sat 31st May Confirmation Workshop, 4:45pm
Sun 1st June Confirmation Workshop, 8:45am
Sat 7th June Confirmation Rehearsal, 11am
Wed 11th & Thur 12th June Sacrament of confirmation, 7:30pm
Fri 13th June St Anthony’s Feast Day Mass and Celebrations

Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

THANKYOU FROM THE SCG
We would like to thank Francis Lay, Lewis Borg, David Young, Rob Brownlow and Brad Sutton for cooking and serving breakfast for the Mums and their families on Friday morning. Thankyou to those who also helped at the breakfast and Mothers’ Day Stall throughout the day and with the wrapping of the gifts on Thursday – Kate
Herc, Tina Young, Helen Seghabi, Josette Diri, Steph King, Miki Luong, Bernadette Whyte and Julia Parkes. All of these people along with the School Community Group Members Julie Brownlow, Rhonda Niutao, Cath Hall, Louise Frendo, Rachael Sutton, Leah Smith, Deb Lawler, Deb Harris and Deb Pooley, generously gave of their time to help and for this the School Community Thanks You. We couldn’t do it without you.

COMMUNITY & DIOCESAN NEWS

ANNULMENT INFORMATION NIGHT
Each year the Catholic Tribunal Staff and CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry present Information Sessions to help people understand how the process of Annulments in the Catholic Church is conducted. Questions are answered on details such as the length of time it takes, the cost, the role of witnesses, the number of interviews required, the grounds for an Annulment, how to start the process, etc. The evening is open to anyone at all who is interested in gaining more information about the Annulment process in the Catholic Church. Venue: CCSS Centre, 2 A Villiers St. Parramatta. Date: Tues 20th May. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 9933 0205. Later in the year we will advertise more details of the same Seminar to be held in Springwood on 14th October.

Reunion of Catherine McAuley Westmead - Class of 1972: 9 August
Seeking ex-students and teachers who were at McAuley from 1969 to 1972 for a reunion. Don't be shy! We have located about 50 of our classmates and would love to find 100% of the girls in our year. Please pass on this message to your daughter, other family members or friends if they attended the school. Email Trish Lohan at lohan@yahoo.com or find us on Facebook: Catherine McAuley Westmead Alumni Association

Faith at the Fiddler: 29 May
A forum for young people aged 18-35 to come together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Sydney's most famous pub. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education Parramatta. The speaker is well-known journalist Miranda Devine. Topic: Communicating Virtue – How young people are hungry for meaning in an amoral age. From 5pm-7pm at The Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta, sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au

Celebrating the Early Years of Marriage: 18 May
Couples are invited to attend a special Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Parramatta at 11am. This Mass will recognise, celebrate and be offered for couples celebrating wedding anniversaries between one and 20 years. Those celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th or 20th wedding anniversaries will be given a commemorative certificate. Couples and their families are invited to a light lunch in the Cathedral hall afterwards. Book with your parish office or contact Lyn Keane at CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0222.

An evening for couples: 29 May
Do you find it difficult to make decisions as a couple? Does one or both of you end up feeling compromised and without an equal voice? Do your discussions often result in unpleasant arguments or cold wars? Come and learn a method for making couple decisions. This unique Values Based Decisions Making framework will help you to learn how to connect with your deepest values for love and unity so that your choices become true couple decisions. Francine Pirola, an experienced marriage educator, a director and founder of the Smart Loving series courses, will give this presentation. From 7.30-9pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown. Admission is free. Bookings: Karin at CatholicCare Parramatta (02) 9933 0222. Marriage@ccss.org.au

FEEDER SCHOOL NEWS

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta
Discover rich tradition and cutting edge education at OLMC Parramatta during an Open Morning Tour on May 19th. In this special 125th anniversary year, join us for a tour of the College before enjoying a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2015 and 2016. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES
The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 19th May, 2014 from 8:30am – 9:15am. Orders can be placed through the office at any time.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
Applications for enrolment at St Anthony’s are now available. Application forms and information packages are available from the school office and need to be returned by Friday 30th May. Please contact Mrs Laurie on 9631 5283 if you have any questions.

Please note that, even if an older child is attending St Anthony’s, forms must still be returned by 30th May.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonyssirraween.catholic.edu.au facebook.com/StAnthonysG twitter @StAnthony_G
**CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 20th May</td>
<td>ICAS – Computers</td>
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<td>Fri 16th May</td>
<td>Euchre Tournament at the Parish</td>
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<td>Fri 23rd May</td>
<td>School Trivia Night – see flyer</td>
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<td>Tues 27th May</td>
<td>Stage 3 Boys Soccer</td>
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<td>Fri 30th May</td>
<td>Parramatta Knockout Football</td>
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<td>Mon 2nd June</td>
<td>Kinder excursion</td>
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<td>Wed 4th June</td>
<td>ICAS – Science</td>
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<td>Mon 9th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend</td>
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<td>Tues 10th June</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Fri 13th June</td>
<td>SCG Mother/Child Night Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16th June</td>
<td>ICAS – Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17th June</td>
<td>ICAS – Spelling</td>
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<td>Wed 18th June</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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<td>Thurs 19th June</td>
<td>Year 6 excursion to Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th June</td>
<td>Year 6 return from Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th June</td>
<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
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**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Zainab Kamara of 5G and her family on becoming Australian citizens on 7th May, 2014. Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi!!

**ST ANTHONY’S SKOOLBAG**

Have you downloaded the FREE St Anthony’s Skoolbag app to keep updated with all events and news? We’re up to 252 downloads and counting! Download it now.

**How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone**

**iPhone Users**

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

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

**Android Users**

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play 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.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Matilda Qorraj</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Rhiannon McFarlane</th>
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<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Tharan Prabakaran</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Abhi Putta</td>
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<td>2G</td>
<td>Riya Rozario</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Rihana Boulos</td>
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<td>3G</td>
<td>Lumena Battikha</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Alex Kougelis</td>
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<td>4G</td>
<td>Liberty Temmo</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Beyonce Ama-Kywaah</td>
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<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Jasmine Sarkis</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Liam Cosgrove</td>
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<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Antony Touma</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Diana Lazro</td>
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**PARISH NEWS**

Are you a Euchre player? Would you like to be part of our Euchre Tournament tomorrow night starting at 7:30pm sharp in the Church Hall. Entry cost of $15 will include a light supper with tea/coffee. Prizes for first three places. If you are interested or have any queries please phone Bill Ryan on 9636 3120.