FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

St. Josephine Bakhita: The life of a modern-day African Saint

Josephine Bakhita was born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869. At nine, she was kidnapped from her home. This trauma caused her to forget her family surname. Her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita, meaning “fortunate.” Josephine was sold often and endured horrific brutality. In 1883, she was staying with the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of the Catechumens in Venice. It was there in 1890 that Bakhita heard the call to the faith and was baptized and confirmed, taking the name Josephine. She refused to return to her owner, and in a court case the judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, Josephine had been free since 1885. When she came of age, she declared her desire to become one of the sisters.

Josephine spent the rest of her life at a house in northern Italy, where she was known for her gentleness, ready smile, and modesty, keeping the faith during day-to-day work and routines. She started writing her memoirs in 1910. They were published in 1930. Appearances throughout Italy made her famous and helped recruit missionary nuns for Africa, whom she also helped train. Her last years were marked with pain and illness, and she lost the ability to walk. She died in 1947 on February 8 - her feast day - and was canonised in 2000. She is venerated as a modern African saint and as a saint with a special relevance to slavery and oppression. She is the patron saint of Sudan and refugees. This Sunday we are asked by Pope Francis to pray for all refugees, and for those who are trafficked or sold as slaves.

SEASON OF LENT

Next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of the Church’s season of LENT. Lent is the 40 day period of renewal and preparation for Easter.

The Lenten season has a two-fold character. It recalls baptism or prepares for it and stresses a penitential spirit for all. By these means especially, Lent readiness the faithful for celebrating the Easter resurrection of Jesus after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. During Lent, our renewal and penance should not be only internal and individual, but also external and social. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of Fasting & Abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing anyone of the following: Prayer; Self-Denial; Helping Others. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain. (Canon 1252)

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

All parents are warmly invited to join us to celebrate our opening school mass to be held at the Church on Friday 13th February at 11am Year 6 parents in particular are invited to see their children receive their Year 6 badges. All new school leaders will also be invested and receive their badges.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SAFETY

We are very fortunate to have the services of an RTA pedestrian crossing guard each morning and afternoon at St Anthony’s. Parents are reminded that any crossing on Targo Road should be via the supervised crossing. This ensures the safety of you and your children. It also acts as a model to your children about proper road safety. Thanks for ensuring everyone’s safety.

SCG NEW FAMILIES WELCOME DINNER

All new Families, both in Kindergarten and other grades, please keep Friday 27th February from 5:30pm free in your diaries. More information is coming home separately today.
MRS MARTIN’S LIBRARY NEWS
The library, or Hub, is changing and is now open to children at lunchtime from Monday to Thursday for reading, colouring and other quiet activities. We have also begun a program of children becoming Library Monitors. This role involves a variety of responsibilities such as borrowing, shelving, reading to children, setting up, monitoring and packing away activities organised for lunchtime. Children from years five and six were encouraged to apply for the positions. Sixteen places are available each term. Unsuccessful children can apply again for next term’s roster. It therefore gives me great pleasure in announcing our first library monitors for term 1 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronav Pillay</td>
<td>Alexandra Zammit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam Cosgrove</td>
<td>Marissa Mbarak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark Edillo</td>
<td>Beyonce Ama-Kywaah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana Haddad</td>
<td>Sam Touma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ally Leeder</td>
<td>Jade Lawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Jo</td>
<td>Sylvia Ghobar</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Seghabi</td>
<td>Vansh Thakker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Ahearn</td>
<td>Alex Jacobs</td>
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</table>

St Anthony’s Chess Club has begun and is off to a great start, with many interested students participating at lunchtime. Level of ability varies with many children assisting others. We currently have 10 chess sets available for the children at lunchtime. In Term two, students from St Paul’s Catholic Collage will be providing coaching for the club members while their TAS department will build us storage boxes for the sets.

HELP: The library needs assistance to cover new books purchased and readers. If you are able to help, please see Mrs Martin or Mrs Heness (Monday to Thursday) We will supply the contact and books for you to take home.

YOU & YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Thursday 12th February</th>
<th>Tuesday 17th February</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6:30pm Yr 2</td>
<td>6:30pm Yr 1</td>
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<td>7:30pm Yr 5</td>
<td>7:30pm Yr 4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6:30pm Kindy</td>
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CLASSROOM HELPERS AND CHILD PROTECTION VOLUNTEER MODULE
Would you like to help in the classroom, canteen, for excursions or carnivals? We’d love to have you! All parents are however asked to complete the Child Protection Volunteers Module before beginning. This is a mandatory condition to working with children. The module needs to be completed once every 2 years. You can access the module through the link below. After you have finished, St Anthony’s will receive notification of your completion.


Keep that smile on your dial this week.

Attila
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL SKILLS
This week’s social skill is:
BEING FRIENDLY – Getting Along With Others

Students, throughout the week, were asked to explore the many ways we can show friendliness to those around us in order to make people feel happy and comfortable in our company…… a wave, a greeting, use of manners, including others in our games, lending a helping hand and lots of smiles and laughter were the results!

The Week 4 social skill will be:
BEING COOPERATIVE – Working Well With Others

ST ANTHONY’S STUDENT AWARDS
Celebration of positive behaviour and achievements is a vital component of our approach to student management and wellbeing at St Anthony’s. Throughout each day many opportunities arise for recognising and praising a child’s efforts in the classroom or on the playground.

St Anthony’s also has a range of specific student awards that recognise and affirm children for their efforts and achievements in Christian attitude, school spirit, social skills, behaviour, learning and personal achievement or contribution. The different awards given to students throughout the course of the year are outlined below.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

[Links to website, Facebook, Twitter]
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT, SCG

It is an honour for me to take over as President of the School Community Group (SCG) and carry on with the great work that Louise Frenco and her committee has done in this office over the past 3 years.

The purpose of the SCG is to pull together not only parents but also extended family and friends to work with Mr Lendvai and his staff to organise events that celebrate our community and fundraise to help deliver better programs and equipment for our children. The SCG does not consist of a few - we are all members!

We had our first meeting on Monday this week where we discussed the calendar for 2015 that includes a disco, movie night, Mothers'/Fathers' Day stall, the Spring Fair plus 'other special events'. We have an exciting year ahead of us so don't miss out on the fun - get involved!

While we welcome your attendance at the SCG meetings, you don't need to attend to get involved. I will communicate with you on a regular basis through the School Newsletter to let you know what is coming up and what help is required. We have a great community here and this is a good opportunity to get to know each other and do something valuable for our children. We want them to be able to say that these were the best years of their lives!

Next Tuesday, we are organising a pancake breakfast to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Please contact Natalie Lette on 0419 638 095 if you are able to assist. Helpers will be needed from 7am until 8:45am and I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Warren Whyte
SCG President

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 fees have now been issued and are due for payment by 6th March 2015. Families have also been given a Flexible Payment Plan option. FPP Forms must be returned to the CEO no later than 27th February 2015. If you have not received a fees statement, please notify school as soon as possible. If you wish to discuss payment options, please contact Margaret Hopley on 9631 5283.

VALE

We extend our deepest sympathies to the PASCUA family (Liam and Kai) on the very recent passing of their Great Grandmother, Maria. Please keep the Pascua family in your prayers.

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.

NSW STATE ELECTION
Information from the council of Catholic School Parents

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic school parents in NSW paid $943 million in school fees in 2012.

You also contributed $161.5 million in school building levies and other capital funding that year.

That’s more than $1.1 billion invested by Catholic school parents in our state’s education system in just one year!

Despite this extraordinary support, Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs each year.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. All year 3, 4, 5 & 6 students will be attending the 9:30am parish mass in the church. All parents are warmly invited to join us for this celebration. All Kindergarten, Year 1 & 2 will be holding a prayerful celebration for Ash Wednesday at school. All Kinder, Year 1 & 2 parents are invited to join us.

SKOOLBAG APP

Are you new to St Anthony’s? More than 520 other people have found that the best way to stay in touch with all events, newsletters, calendar items and instant alerts is via the FREE smart phone app – SKOOLBAG. Simply search SKOOLBAG St Anthony’s Girraween on iTunes (iPhone users) or the GOOGLEPLAY shop. Download to install.

COMMUNITY NEWS

OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2015 Open Day on Sunday, March 1 from 10am to 2pm. Principal’s Welcome at 10am and 12pm. Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.
To reserve your place please visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300.

CATHERINE McCaULEY WESTMEAD ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7 2016

Closing Date for Year 7 2016 Applications 1st Round Offers is Friday 27th March 2015. There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2016 enrolments on Tuesday 10th February and Wednesday 5th March 2015 9.15 – 11am.

Tour mornings 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.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100. The school will also be holding an Open Afternoon/Evening on Tuesday, 17th March from 4.00 – 6.30pm. This will provide an additional opportunity to tour the school with classrooms open and school tours running throughout this time. Car parking for any of these school events will be available via Gate 3 off Darcy Road, Westmead.

TOONYTOTS PLAYGROUP (Ages 0-5 years)

We meet at St Anthony’s Primary School, 216 Targo Rd Girraween every Monday (during school term) 9.30-11.30am. Cost $2 per family. Bring morning tea and drink for your child. Strictly no nuts. Tea/coffee for parents provided. Contact Eve 0405 195 411 Linda 0411 147 568 School 9631 5283.

CANTEEN ROSTER
16th – 20th FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biddy O’Malley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michaela Tanner</td>
<td>Liz Phillips</td>
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Zooper Doopers are now 70c as per the new Price List that was sent home last week.

Reminder: Year 1 Morning Tea Meal Deal orders are due by tomorrow, 13th February, 2015.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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

Join the conversation #stantonysg
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Showing respect – speaking nicely and with manners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Valencia D'Souza</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Abbey Whyte</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Charlice Pascau</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Alyssa Talato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Rochelle Saldanha</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Klaudine Battikha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Ethan Jacobs</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Patrisha Margallo-Dela Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Bailey Clark</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Abuk Yaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Tayiah Hastings</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Sylvia Ghobar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Ben Ahearn</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Connor Salmon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to the following children who will be representing St Anthony’s at the upcoming Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival next week on Tuesday 17th February.

- Corey Zammit
- Zac Palmer
- Abbey O'Brien
- Ally Leeder
- Harry Knight
- Jessica Jurinario
- Hannah Hamilton
- Oscar Andree-Evarts
- Anthony Awkar
- Daniel Biswas
- Liberty Temmo
- Kye Russell
- John Higgins
- Chloe Whyte
- Taylor Toni
- Sebastian Seghabi
- Bailey Clark
- Madison Whyte
- Liam Hamilton
- Kory Toni

Good luck to all of our competitors.

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 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 and requires 1 weeks’ notice to enable stock to come in.

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES
The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 16th February, 2015 from 8:30am – 9:15am. Orders can be placed through the office at any time.

CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>Commencement of School Year Mass, 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>CENSUS DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PRAYER FORCE ONE
Friday 13th February – 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.
VENUE: St Anthony's Primary School
Activity: Outdoor Sports Night - Cost: $2.00
WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME
We welcome all our “new comers” to Youth Group by celebrating with an outdoor games night. Join us in the school grounds for a night full of competition and fun.
WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTS JERSEY/SHIRT

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au  facebook.com/StAnthonysG  twitter @StAnthonys_G
Join the conversation #stanthonysg
So many new things happening at St. Anthony's in 2015! Activities: Sand Pit, Games Club, Kinder Buddies... And that's just at LUNCH TIME!