FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

There was once a bag of seed. A farmer took it and began to walk across his field casting the seed to the left and right. Some landed on the path, a gift to the birds that were following closely behind the farmer. Some fell on the stony ground at the corners of the field, the warmth germinated the seed but as the ground was too hard the little shoots perished after a day.

Some seed fell in the thorn bushes, they were sheltered for a time but the stronger thorns soon choked the wheat. Much seed fell in the good soil, there it flourished and was fruitful.

A good parable is a gift. We are meant to take it and wrestle with it. Its like a hard centred chocolate, it lasts and goes on releasing sweetness. A story has us asking questions. What was that? Why? How?

In a long explanation Matthew describes what he understood the parable meant for his community. It might not mean the same for us. The seed is the word of God, offered freely to the people by Jesus, without distinction.

The gift of God is offered freely, so why don’t people hear it and respond? The community of Matthew were challenged by the mystery of acceptance and rejection. Why do good people, religious people shut their hearts to the movement of the Spirit preferring the security of the old ways. Something of their dilemma faces Christians today as young people seek to return to old ways which are a kind of perpetual childhood. There are leaders who even encourage such movements.

The Gospel story uses metaphors to show how different people encounter and respond to the Word of God. The hard-hearted cannot hear, they believe in their own righteousness. The shallow-hearted, embrace the new but don’t seek a deep understanding. The crowded-hearted hear but don’t discern.

The open-hearted hear the Word of God and recognise that real hearing requires transformation and action. They recognise that the Word of God is active, it reaches out to proclaim Good News, to inspire, and to serve. Even among the disciples there will be differences in the passion with which they respond.

What is pictured for us is a typical mixed community; in fact any parish, anywhere, anytime. People join a group for a variety of reasons. People stay in groups for other reasons. People followed Jesus because they liked him, some enjoyed the supportive fellowship, some thought it was a revolutionary movement, only a few grasped the vision of the reign of God. They recognised that they were called to be more than followers, they were called to be other Christs.

It shouldn’t surprise us that our groups are similar. Let God attend to the harvest - we are the labourers. All we are asked to do is to cooperate with the grace of God according to our abilities. Our parish mission activity, The Catholic Guy, may be just what you’re missing in your life. Why not take the challenge and see what ‘seeds’ he may spread into your soil?

Enjoy the week

Attila Lendvai
Principal

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT
Our Annual School Report (ASR) is now available for download from our school website under the School tab. Hard copies are also available from the school office upon request.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Can you help? We'd like to build a large, sturdy sand pit in our Friendship garden but need some mums or dads who have some building / carpentry experience. We also require the services of someone who can weld. A small section of hand railing needs some maintenance. Please contact the school office if you could assist.

TERM 3 STARTS WITH A SURPRISE!
The children and some parents received quite a surprise when they returned to school this week. Instead of the usual school playground, kids and parents were met with construction tape, traffic cones, road barriers and a huge flashing sign! The school was closed for maintenance. It was just a way of highlighting our term 3 theme, Construct Your Learning! This theme is about how we put our own learning together. It includes being ready for each day; collaborating and co-operating as well as taking a responsibility for your own learning. The kids really enjoyed the theme. Thanks to all the staff who donned their finest fluro work gear and joined in the fun. We'll now have to wait and see what theme will greet the kids for the beginning of 4th term!
STUDENT LED CONFERENCES
Many thanks to everyone who attended the recent Student Led Conferences at the end of term 2. We conducted an exit survey for parents who attended and also surveyed parents who chose not to attend. Results of the survey will be published next week.

SCHOOL DISCO
Many thanks to the School Community Group for the wonderful school disco they provided at the end of last term. Hundreds of children had a great time dancing and socializing the night away. Loads of food including yummy sausage sandwiches was also provided. Thanks to all the parents who worked so hard and also to everyone who supported the event. Special thanks to Josh Spehar for being the senior disco DJ. You did an awesome job Josh!

CROSS COUNTRY
We wish Hannah Hamilton well as she competes this Friday at the State Cross Country Championships at Eastern Creek. We know that she will do herself and St Anthony’s proud!

SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS
Congratulations to Claudio Margione (KG) who became the NSW State U/6 Champion 1st for Brazilian Ju Jitsu! Well done on your fine efforts!

Special Congratulations to Ms Ducksbury who ran her first 10km run at the Gold Coast during the holidays. She created a new personal best time. Well done!

INDUSTRIAL ACTION
As you may be aware, there is a planned 3 hour stop work meeting for Catholic School teachers scheduled for next Wednesday 23rd July from the commencement of school. This action involves members of the Independent Education Union (IEU) meeting to discuss concerns regarding the proposed new Enterprise Agreement for teachers. We do not expect any interruption to school attendance and supervision will be provided however normal lessons may not occur. More details will follow this week.

LATENESS AND ABSENCES
Sadly, on the first day of this term we had more than 50 children absent from school! Last term we had 100’s of children regularly late to school! This is definitely not a great way to have consistent learning. We ask that parents ensure that their children are at school well and truly before the 9:00am bell and that absences are kept to a minimum. This is a legal requirement. Parent are also asked to keep informed about school times and return dates via Skoolbag, the school newsletter, Facebook and our school website. A number of children said that their parents didn’t know that school began on the Monday! Thanks for your co-operation.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY
Our next Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil-Free day) will be held on Monday 8th September 2014. This day will be our annual staff spirituality / formation retreat where we will examine our own faith and spirituality in the light of sacred scripture. Please note that there will not be any staff at school on the day and that parents will need to provide alternate care for their children on the day.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS
With today’s newsletter, you will receive a copy of your child’s Curriculum Overview. This sheet outlines the learning planned for your child. I would ask that you keep the sheet handy and refer to it regularly throughout the term. This is a great way of talking specifically to your children about their learning.

SKOOLBAG UPDATE
We’re now up to 369 app downloads!! Please encourage your school friends to download if they haven’t already done so. It’s one of the most instant ways to stay in touch!

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

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

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

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook: Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

JOKES OF THE WEEK
Monday 14th July is Yr 5’s Week!

J. Why does Argentina always need to clean up?
A. Because they got Messi.
Jordan Brownlow

J. What has a neck and body but not a face?
A. A bottle.
Kristen Dib

J. What kind of dog takes a bath?
A. A Shampoodle.
Ray Bates

J. How can you double your money?
A. Put it in front of a mirror.
Adriana Busic

J. What did the Mexican Fire Chief call his two sons?
A. Hose A and Hose B.
Manasseh Samuriwo

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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RELIgIOUS EDUCATION

THE CATHOLIC GUY MISSION EVENT

Today marks the beginning of our Parish Mission Event. All are invited to take part. There will be supervision of children available in the Parish Hall during the sessions. You will need to bring something for your children to keep themselves occupied.

SESSION TIMES:
- **Session One**
  - Thursday 17th July at 10:00am or 7:30pm
- **Session Two**
  - Friday 18th July at 10:00am or 7:30pm
- **Session Three**
  - Sunday 20th July at 11:15am or 7:30pm
- **Session Four**
  - Monday 21st July at 10:00am or 7:30pm

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
- Do I need to come to all sessions? No, come to as many as you wish. However, you will have the best experience if you come to all four sessions as they do follow a journey.
- Will I have to do anything? No. Nobody will put you on the spot and nothing will be awkward or threatening. Come just as you are.
- Who is this event for? Everyone. Women, men, young, old, Catholic and non-Catholic. Everyone will love this event.
- How long do the sessions go for? Each session is approximately 1.5 – 2 hours in length.
- What actually happens at the sessions? Each session includes a mix of talks, prayer, music and the arts. Some sessions will also include interviews and other special items. You will also laugh more than you expect.
- If admission is free, how is it funded? A collection will be taken for anyone who wishes to contribute. The Catholic Guy Ministry also receives additional donations that enable these events to take place.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY
St Anthony’s will celebrate the gift of grandparents on Tuesday 29th August. All of the day’s events will take place at school, starting at 12:30pm:

- 12:30 pm Mass
- 1:30 pm Lunch - parents and grandparents are welcome to share lunch as a family
- 2:15 pm Choir performance & Open classrooms

We invite all grandparents to come and join us on this day as we give thanks for the special role you play in our lives.

Upcoming events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 17 July</td>
<td>Catholic Guy Mission Event, 10:00 am or 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Parish Mission Youth Event, 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Sat 26 and</td>
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<td>Sun 27 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 29 July</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Mass and celebrations from 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31 July</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation, Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 2 and</td>
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<td>Sat 23 and</td>
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<td>Sun 24 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 4 Sept</td>
<td>Celebration of the Word in Thanksgiving for Fathers, 9:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Spiritual Formation for Staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School will be closed on this day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM TERM 3

BOUNCE BACK!
This term all grades K-6 will be participating in a whole school social and emotional learning program called Bounce Back! Bounce Back! is an award-winning wellbeing and resilience class-based program. It offers practical strategies to help children and young people function well at school and in life. It promotes positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for students and teachers with a focus on safe and supportive class and school learning environments. With themes such as integrity, support, cooperation, acceptance, respect, friendliness, elasticity, people bouncing back, courage, looking on the bright side, emotions, relationships, humour, no bullying and success. Look out

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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for the Bounce Back theme of the week in the newsletter and share the discussion and practice of these characteristics and skills at home.

To kickstart our Social Skills program for term 3 we will be having a visiting show called The NED Show......

The NED Show is a character education program delivered as an all-school assembly. It is presented through storytelling, humour, visuals and audience participation. The NED Show motivates... encourages... INSPIRES your kids to become Champions at school and in life.

We teach three vital yet simple skills that bring out the champion in every kid by sharing the story of NED, whose name is also an acronym:

**The NED Formula**

- NEVER GIVE UP (focus & persistence)
- ENCOURAGE OTHERS (kindness & shared learning)
- DO YOUR BEST (diligence & excellence)

**The NED Show**

Wednesday
23rd July, 2014
Assembly Area
2:15pm
Parents Welcome

Champion Behaviour at School and Home

Every child can be a champion if they remember the message of NED and apply it to their lives. We partner with parents to give you and your child opportunities to interact over the NED message and open doors to conversation about character and champion-behavior. After all, home is the heart of character education. After your child sees the assembly, invite NED into your home with the resources we offer. Visit [http://www.thenedshow.com/parents](http://www.thenedshow.com/parents) to find out more.

A note will be sent home next Monday with more information about the NED Show.

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**HOLIDAY COUNTING CHALLENGE**

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the holiday counting challenge and kept their mathematical minds thinking and counting during the holidays! Great work!

Shaneel 1W used counting when she was cooking and preparing a large meal.

“I am going to cook and count by 9’s to 27... I got a big bowl of plain rice and put that into 9 small bowls. I got some chicken and put that into 9 bowls so I counted on from the first 9 bowls...10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Then it was time for the vegetables so I got my onions, tomatoes and cucumber and I counted on from 18......19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. If I had another 9 bowls that would be 36! Yum!

3 rows of 9 bowls is 27 bowls
Count by 9’s is 9, 18, 27
9 + 9 + 9 = 27
3 x 9 = 27

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**CALENDAR**

<table>
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<td>Sat &amp; Sun</td>
<td>First Communion Workshops</td>
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**KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 1 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

All parents and families are welcome to join us for the Kindergarten and Year 1 Athletics Carnival. The carnival will have a Commonwealth Games theme so join us for some fun and fitness. Assistance from parents helpers will be greatly appreciated, more information to come.

Date: Friday 1st August, 2014
Time: 11.30am-1:15pm Sports Activities
      1:15-1:45 Picnic Lunch with Families
Venue: Playground

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Keep up with all the latest news and information

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[facebook.com/StAnthonysG](http://facebook.com/StAnthonysG)  
[twitter.com/@StAnthonysG](http://twitter.com/@StAnthonysG)
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 Rebatge 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.

The excursion was a rewarding experience for all students.

BOOK CLUB

Book club brochures will be coming home this week with the Students. Orders are only to be sent to school next THURSDAY 24th JULY. 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
Book Club Organisers

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 21st July, 2014 from 8:30am – 9:15am. Orders can be placed through the office at any time.

UNIFORM STOCKTAKE SALE

Take advantage of the stocktake sale and purchase items at reduced prices:

- Tracksuit pants $30
- Tracksuit jackets $40
- V-neck sloppy joes $35

This sale will be from Monday 14th July to Friday 25th July, 2014.

CANTEEN ROSTER

21st – 25th JULY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Biddy O'Malley, Annemarie Saliba</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Emma McKenna</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Linda Knight</td>
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SPORTING NEWS

Bronte Miskell (Year 3) and Harry Knight (Year 5) will be heading to Perth for the Australian National Karate Championships from 30th July – 4th August.

Bronte will be competing up an age group in the 9 years Girls Kata, whilst Harry will be competing in Boys 11 years Kala & Kumite.

Bronte is currently on her 5th Kyu (Blue/Green belt) and Harry on 2nd Kyu (Brown belt).

Both have been training exceptionally hard with the state team, and with Sensei Ricky at PDK Dojo in Seven Hills, their home dojo. There are 9 representatives from PDK in the NSW team.

We wish them the best of luck and hope that their dedication and hard work lets them perform to the best of their ability.

MILO CRICKET T20 BLAST

The T20 Cricket Gala Day will be on Wednesday 20th August at Morgan Power Reserve, Seven Hills. The gala day is for students in Years 5 and 6. We will be entering 4 teams made up of 10 boys, who will participate in a number of games throughout the day. If there are any parents that are able to assist with coaching teams please contact Mrs Law through the School Office.

NETBALL

The Netball Gala Day will be on Tuesday 19th August at Penrith. We are still looking for parents to assist with training sessions and on the day please contact the office with your details if you can help.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Discover OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to attend the August Open Morning Tour in this special anniversary year when the College celebrates 125 years of Mercy Excellence. Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, College Open Morning Tour on Friday, August 1. Tour the College and discover contemporary learning and academic excellence in the Mercy tradition and enjoy 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.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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