FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we will hear of Jesus’ special twelve referred to as “apostles.” The word *apostle* is a Greek word meaning “one who is sent.” Jesus chose twelve men from among his disciples whom he sent to share in his ministry of preaching and healing. The first report of this is found in the third chapter of Mark’s Gospel, where the “Twelve” are also called apostles and the names of this select group are listed.

We who are Jesus’ disciples today have also been sent to share the Gospel with others. Perhaps our commitment to following Jesus as his disciple leaves us feeling tired and overwhelmed. In Sunday’s Gospel, we will hear Jesus affirm the importance of times of rest and renewal. Jesus wanted his disciples to come away and spend time alone with him, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” This is what we seek and find in our life of prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist. Why not take the family to Sunday mass this weekend?

Have a great week,

Attila
Principal

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. Parents 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.

SKOOLBAG UPDATE

We’re now up to 664 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! Simply search SKOOLBAG St Anthony’s in the Apple App Store or The Google Play store – it’s FREE!

NEW TERM THEME

Our new school term began with a new theme, “Write On in Your Learning” The children found ‘washing lines with a variety of writing stimuli as well as 2 mystery giant parcels!! The parcels had strange sounds coming from within. “What could be inside them?” “Where did they come from?” These and many other questions are fuelling a sense of wonder and creativity for our children and their writing. As children respond to these questions and take some of the stimulus sheets, they can then hang their work onto the ‘washing’ lines around the school. Parents are welcome to read the children’s writing whenever they are at school.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Our term 3 pupil-free day will be held on Monday 17th August 2015. This day will be a spirituality reflection day for staff and will be held off-site. Parents are asked to kindly make alternate arrangements for their children on that 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.

STUDENTS OF THE TERM
Our Students of the Term Awards for Term 2 will be presented on Friday 17th July at the 9:00am assembly. Parents and relatives of the recipients are warmly invited to attend and stay for the morning tea afterwards.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
LOOK WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS TERM?
LIFE EDUCATION – The Life Education van is coming to St Anthony’s from 24-31 August. Each class will visit Healthy Harold to learn all about living a healthy lifestyle through our personal health choices.

MUSICA VIVA – Get ready for ‘Makukuhan’! Students will actively participate in an Indonesian Musica Viva performance workshop on Wednesday 16 September. The workshop involves music and movement and is a culmination of music lessons that students will be learning with Mr Nguyen.

SCARF AND BEANIE DAY - Friday 24th July

* Wear your favourite scarf and beanie to school with your uniform
* Donate a NEW scarf or beanie or make a gold coin donation.

The money raised will be used to buy additional scarves and beanie and all items will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.

SOCIAL SKILLS
Throughout term 3, our social skills program will focus on the way of living associated with Mercy values. Through the explicit teaching of Mercy values we aim to foster and nurture a safe and supportive environment for all the students, staff and families in our school community. These are Catholic values centred around the traditions of Mercy heritage and encourage us to live our lives reflecting the values of Christ Jesus, Catherine McAuley and our patron, St Anthony of Padua.

Student of the Week awards given each Monday will be awarded to those students displaying the weekly Mercy Value.

On the last day of the term we celebrate Mercy Day, where we will present a Mercy Award to one student from each class in the areas of: Catholic Faith and Values, Personal Achievement, Social Justice or Community Service.

May God bless you all in this new Term.

Kind Regards
Linda Ducksbury
Assistant Principal

UNIFORM AND GROOMING
Thank you to all parents who are ensuring that their children are consistently groomed in their proper school winter and sports uniforms and who also ensure that their children’s hair is neat and appropriate for school.

SCHOOL HOURS
School hours are 8:30 – 3:15pm Parents are asked to drop their children to school NO earlier than 8:30am as there is no teacher supervision provided before this time.

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au   facebook.com/StAnthonysG   twitter @StAnthonys_G
Join the conversation #stanthonysg
SPRING FAIR NEWS
Our next Spring Fair meeting will be on Monday 20th July at 7:00pm in the school staff room. Thank you to everyone who has supported the recent meetings. We are however after a generous person to volunteer as the 2015 Fair secretary. Please contact our SCG President, Warren Whyte via the school office if you'd like more information or would like to put yourself forward. This year each class will be allocated a fair stall to work on. A roster is being established and we would expect that all families will be able to volunteer for at least 1 hour to assist on their particular stall. The grades and stalls will be as described below. An electronic volunteer roster will be live shortly.

| KG | Books  |
| KW | Silent Auction  |
| 1G | Get Plastered  |
| 1W | Gift Baskets  |
| 2G | Netball  |
| 2W | Preloved Toys  |
| 3G | Drinks/Ice-creams  |
| 3W | Hot Food  |
| 4G | Rides/Wristbands  |
| 4W | Showbags  |
| 5G | Devonshire Tea  |
| 5W | Tombola  |
| 6G | Kids Corner  |
| 6W | Kids Corner  |

Help Needed:
Any parent with a truck who will be able to pick up (and maybe return after the fair) Fair Stalls from Windsor in the week leading up to the Spring Fair, contact school office.

WOOLIES EARN & LEARN

Woolworths Earn & Learn program

Woolworths Earn & Learn is back and it is now easier than ever to earn valuable resources for St Anthony's. It's simple to participate. From now till Tuesday 8th September 2015, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers from the checkout operator or through an online order and place them on a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet. There'll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards). Once completed, simply place the Sticker Sheet in the Collection Box, either at school or at your local Woolworths.

KIDS PREFER MATHS WHEN YOU LET THEM FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES
by Peter Sullivan Professor of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education at Monash University

New research for primary and junior secondary schools shows kids prefer to nut out maths problems without the teacher's help. A common view is that students learn maths best when teachers give clear explanations of mathematical concepts, usually in isolation from other concepts, and students are then given opportunities to practise what they have been shown.

I've recently undertaken research at primary and junior secondary levels exploring a different approach. This approach involves posing questions like the following and expecting (in this case, primary level) students to work out their own approaches to the task for themselves prior to any instruction from the teacher.

The minute hand of a clock is on two, and the hands make an acute angle. What might be the time?

There are three ways that this question is different from conventional questions. First, it focuses on two aspects of mathematics together, time and angles. Contrasting two concepts helps students see connections and move beyond approaching mathematics as a collection of isolated facts.

Questions posed to students as part of the research are different to conventional math problems.

Second, the question has more than one correct answer. Having more than one correct answer means students have opportunities to make decisions about their own answer and then have something unique to contribute to discussions with other students.

Third, students can respond at different levels of sophistication: some students might find just one answer, while other students might find all of the possibilities and formulate generalisations.

The task is what is described as appropriately challenging. The solutions and solution pathways are not immediately obvious for middle primary students but the task draws on ideas with which they are familiar. An explicit advantage of posing such challenging tasks is that the need for students to apply themselves and persist is obvious to the students, even if the task seems daunting at first.

After the students have worked on the task for a time, the teacher manages a discussion in which students share their insights and solutions. This is an important opportunity for students to see what other students have found, and especially to realise that in many cases there are multiple ways of solving mathematics problems.

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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

Join the conversation #stanthonysg
It is suggested to teachers that they use a data projector or similar technology to project students' actual work. This saves time rewriting the work, presenting the students' work authentically and illustrates to students the benefits of writing clearly and explaining thinking fully.

Subsequently, the teacher poses a further task in which some aspects are kept the same and some aspects changed, such as:

The minute hand of a clock is on eight, and the hands make an obtuse angle. What might be the time?

The tasks given to students are appropriately challenging.

The intention is that students learn from the thinking activated by working on the first task and from the class discussion, then apply that learning to the second task. The research aims to identify tasks that not only are appropriately challenging but can be adapted to suit the needs of particular students. For example, there may be some students for whom the first task is too difficult. Those students might be asked to work on a question like:

What is a time at which the hands of a clock make an acute angle?

The intention is that those students then have more chance of engaging with the original task. Of course, there are also students who can find answers quickly and are then ready for further challenges. Those students might be posed questions like:

With the minute hand on two, why are there six times for which the hands make an acute angle? Is there a number to which the minute hand might point for which there are not six possibilities?

There might even be advanced students who could be asked:

What are some times for which the hands on a clock make a right angle?

The combination of the students' own engagement with the problem and the different levels of prompts means the students' work contains rich and useful information about what the students know. Teachers can use this not only to give the students feedback but also to plan subsequent teaching.

Students welcomed the challenge
The project found that students prefer to work out solutions and representations by themselves or with other students.

The project found that, contrary to the preconceptions of some teachers, many students do not fear challenges in mathematics but welcome them. Rather than preferring teachers to instruct them on solution methods, many students prefer to work out solutions by themselves or by working with other students.

The project also established that students learn substantive mathematics content from working on challenging tasks and are willing and able to develop ways of articulating their reasoning.

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The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you

If you or someone close to you has suffered ANY abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options.

You can contact us on:
- Phone: (02) 9933 0233
- Web: www.parrama.catholic.org.au/safeguarding
- Email: safeguarding@parrama.catholic.org.au
- Mail: PO BOX 3066 North Parramatta, NSW, 1750

For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police on 1800 333 000

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SCHOOL DISCO
The School Disco will be held on Friday 24th July. Mark the date now.

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JOKE DAY
Joke day - Monday 20th July Yr 6

What animal can jump higher than the Sydney Harbour Bridge?
All animals, because bridges can't jump!

Why do kangaroo mums hate bad weather?
Their joeys have to play inside!

Why did the boy stand in the corner when he was cold?
Because the corner was 90 degrees!
COMMUNITY NEWS

STARLIGHTS NETBALL CLUB

Fun to be had by all along with a major raffle, as well as prizes to be given out on the day. The first 30 people through the door get a complimentary gift bag, with all children to receive a goody bag on arrival and there is a photo booth with props. Loads of fun to be had.

Special Guest - Abbey McCulloch - current NSW SWIFTS player will be making an appearance at the High Tea and the girls will have an opportunity to meet Abbey and have photos taken with her.

You can purchase via stickytickets.com.au if you’d like to purchase with a credit card (there is a small booking fee) – just enter “Starlights High Tea” in the event search to be directed to the ticket sales.

So frock up and join us for a wonderful and fun afternoon.

PARISH NEWS

Mass Times:
Saturday 5:30pm Vigil Mass
4th Saturday of month: 5.30pm Youth Mass
Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am
Tuesday 7.00pm
Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am

Communion Service:
Mon, Tues, Sat 9.30am

Anointing of the Sick: By arrangement.

Children’s Liturgy:
Sunday 10.00 am during school terms

Baptisms:
By arrangement. A one night information evening is a pre-requisite. Ring parish office to make a booking.

Reconciliation:
Saturday 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm or by arrangement.

BOOK CLUB

Bookclub brochures have been sent home with students yesterday. The date for returning cash or cheque orders to school is ON Wednesday 22nd July. All credit card orders need to be made online by close of business on that same day. Please remember if you are ordering and paying online you do not need to send anything back to school.

CALENDAR

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<th>Mon</th>
<th>20th July</th>
<th>Numeracy Workshops</th>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>20th July</td>
<td>Spring Fair Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>24th July</td>
<td>Parish Mass at Church Kinder &amp; Yr 5</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>24th July</td>
<td>School Disco 6-8pm</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>25th July</td>
<td>First Communion Workshop @ 4:300m</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>26th July</td>
<td>First Communion Workshop @ 8:45am</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>27th July</td>
<td>Coffee morning after 9am Assembly</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>28th July</td>
<td>ICAS English Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3rd August</td>
<td>SCG Meeting 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7th August</td>
<td>Mass in Honour of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop in the Church at 12pm – all parents welcome</td>
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CANTEEN ROSTER

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Join the conversation #stanthonyssg
Reminder: Parent Numeracy Workshops are on
NEXT Monday or Tuesday (repeat session)

Your Child and Their Mathematics

Maths Workshop for K-6 Parents

Monday 20th July
9.15 (After assembly) - 10.00am

Tuesday 21st July
7.00 - 7.45pm (repeat session)

Come along to the Hub and work with teachers to:

Learn more about your child’s learning in Numeracy.
Experience what our daily Mathematics lessons look like.
Discover simple, effective ways to support your child’s numeracy development at home.
Find out about the new Mathematics syllabus implemented from 2015.