FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents and members of our school community are invited to place special prayers into our community Prayer Book. These prayers are shared with our entire school community as we come together to pray.

Over the last few weeks the Gospel has recounted stories about Jesus and food. This week’s Gospel follows directly on from last week’s account. Here Jesus describes himself as “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” (John 6:51) The bread from heaven is a pure gift, as was the manna in the desert for the Israelites, however, the manna was only a temporary gift for a particular time and a particular need. Jesus, as the bread of life, is for all people at all times and in all occasions of need. However Jesus’ words caused a major dispute amongst the Jews present. Jesus’ words sounded like cannibalism, something abhorrent to the Jews. In every age people have been disturbed by Jesus saying that "you must eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood" however this is the language of Eucharist! Flesh and blood, stand for the totality of the person, flesh, a metaphor for weak, earthy, poor, and temporal; blood, a metaphor for life, mystery, and kinship. Let me solemnly assure you”, old translations used, “Amen, Amen, I say to you.” This is a non-negotiable, the life we call Christian depends on complete union with Christ symbolised by eating and drinking. If our nourishment is not Christ we are not of the same vine, the same life must course through our spiritual veins. As St Augustine hears Jesus say to him in prayer, “You will not convert me like common food into your substance, but you will be changed into my substance, me”. This life of Christ is inherited from God. God's life, Christ's life, our life, we are of the one blood. It is sometimes not easy to understand where the word “Eucharist” fits in. It is an attitude rather than the name of a ritual. Our Sunday worship is inherited in part from our Jewish origins. It is most important that we stay linked to the tradition that nourished Jesus. In all the stories around Jesus and food we see some common elements. With Jesus it is a case of so little for so many. In every case Jesus lifts his heart and mind to God in the word berakah, it is this word that is translated as “eucharist”. The word berakah can have three meanings, To praise, to thank, or to bless. To have an attitude towards God expressed by berakah is to have an abiding sense of gratefulness. A good Jew was encouraged to repeat berakah a 100 times a day, the idea being that gratefulness needs to be learned. To approach Eucharist with a grateful heart requires that we celebrate what we practise. For our families, our communities, our world, we praise you, we bless you, we thank you. Let this be our prayer.

Have a great week,

Attila
Principal

PUPIL FREE DAY

Our term 3 pupil-free day is next 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. Girraween Activity Centre will be open on that day. Please contact them on 9896 1466 to make a booking.
DIOCESAN MEDAL OF HONOUR
Congratulations to the 7 members of our parish community who received the Diocesan Medal of Honour in a very special liturgy last Friday at the Cathedral. Congratulations to Sr Joyce, Peter Gardiner (Local St Vincent de Paul), Shirley Stewart, Maureen & John Knight (Grandparents of Harry & Ruby 6G & 1G), Tony Lette (Grandfather of Alyssa 2G) and our very own teacher’s aide, Vicki Baiada. All were honoured for their long standing work within the Girraween / Toongabbie community. All these parishioners are also former parents of St Anthony’s, except for Sr Joyce Vella who has been involved in our Parish for years, and was one of the founders of Mamre House Project. We are very proud to have such generous and giving people in our community today.

PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NEWS (PRC)
The Term 3 PRC meeting was held last week on the topic of NAPLAN. Sue Walsh, Director of Systems Learning CEO at Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and Dr Elizabeth Ricketts, Principal of St Aidan’s Primary School, Rooty Hill, delivered a presentation on “Unpacking NAPLAN and a Case Study for Improvement” to help parents have a better understanding of the NAPLAN tests. The NAPLAN results are due to be released on 18th August.

Elizabeth talked about her approach in achieving better results at her school, while Sue talked about the challenges and responsibilities of the NAPLAN tests. They both highlighted the fact that education is a partnership between children, teachers and the parents. Sue also talked about the responsibilities under the Australian Education Act and the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA). This includes quality teaching, quality learning, empowered school leadership, meeting student needs, transparency and accountability. Meeting students’ needs is the greatest challenge. She explained why the NAPLAN test results are useful. The Systems Learning Team looks at the results for any learning progress across years 3, 5, 7 and 9. They compare the patterns and allocate resources, meet student’s needs, partnership with the community, continue existing reform, adopt equitable funding model, strengthen parents and provide inclusive education.

At St Aiden’s, Elizabeth utilises various techniques to achieve her goal, over an 8 year principalship. Elizabeth said “NAPLAN preparation starts from Kindergarten, however we don’t teach NAPLAN, but we teach the syllabus commencing from Kindergarten”. NAPLAN preparations are carried out 3-4 weeks prior to the tests, teachers set some work in the style of NAPLAN, and this includes writing. Teachers may also share some past papers to the students two weeks before the test so that there are no surprises for the students. The parents at St Aiden’s are working with the teachers to support their children in learning. Parents are urged not to put undue pressure on the children or have unrealistic expectations. Elizabeth believes that each of the students is capable of learning something. She went on to say that the MAI (Maths Assessment Interview) also helped with understanding numeracy ability and progress. She has also used holiday packs, solid, uninterrupted blocks for literacy and numeracy each day, reading recovery program, EMU Numeracy intervention, robotics program and their own community radio program to help students with their learning.

Elizabeth also praised the support she received from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The Diocesan Focus 160 approach for learning has provided excellent professional learning for teachers and leaders.

Other Business: The Council of Catholic School and Parents (CCSP) is the peak representation body for the parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW. Its website http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ has lots of valuable information related to parents and children. Please visit the web and also fill out the online survey so that they can improve and serve you better.

Siva Sutha Velupillai
PRC Rep

THANK YOU!
A very big thank you to Cecilia Ferrer, Maryam Mata and Elena Satorre for answering the recent call for sewing help! They have been helping to create “Prayer Bags” for each grade. Our new Religious Education Co-ordinator, Miss Rebecca Boidin will be launching the use of these Prayer Bags very soon. Keep an eye out for when one comes home to you!

CRAZY HAIR DAY
Friday 14th is our CRAZY HAIR Mufti day to support our Spring Fair. Kids can wear their hair in any temporary style or colour but need to bring in their nominated grade item to donate to the Fair. This is another opportunity for
ALL families to get behind our Fair and show their support. We hope to have LOADS of items donated on Friday!! Children can also wear play clothes on the day but must wear closed in shoes and a hat.

Please bring in the following NEW items:

- **Kindergarten** – Toys/Books
- **Year 1** – Craft items (stickers, colour paper, paint, glitter, etc)
- **Year 2** – Confectionery/Chips
- **Year 3** – Kitchen/BBQ (cake mixes, utensils, cake tins, etc)
- **Year 4** – Garden (pots, pkts of seeds, gloves, tools, etc)
- **Year 5** – Mum & Dad (toiletries, mugs, jewellery, candles, etc)
- **Year 6** – Gift Boxes/Baskets

**FATHER’S DAY**

Father’s Day is rapidly approaching and we again need your community help! The Father’s Day Stall will be held on Thursday 3rd September. Gifts will be priced $2, $4, $7, $10 and $15. Raffle tickets will also be on sale soon. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1

Our Social; Co-ordinator, Natalie Lette is still looking for helpers to assist in wrapping gifts and setting up the stall on Wednesday 2nd September; manning the stall on Thursday 3rd September and also assisting at the Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast from 7:00am on Thursday 3rd September. All Dads are warmly invited to join us for the BBQ breakfast as well as the Father’s Day Prayer liturgy at 9:15am after the breakfast. See flyer coming home today.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

ST ANTHONY’S HAS 2 PUBLISHED AUTHORS

On-line magazine, PK’s July edition has just been launched, and St Anthony’s features several times in this edition. Earlier this term, year 3 engaged in a Skype interview with the famous New York author Max Brallier. See the whole interview with some of our year 3 students asking questions on the website.

Two of our students, Lewis Ward 3W and Chiara Simonetta 4G submitted written works for this edition. Lewis’ Anzac poem “I Am”, and Chiara’s imaginative story, “Ivy’s Adventure” have been included in this month’s edition. Chiara’s story will also be continued in the next edition! PK Mag sent the school several new books for students to read and write reviews for the next edition. It is wonderful to see our students engaging in writing wonderful stories, poems and reviews and seeing their work published in the Magazine. These opportunities are open to all St Anthony’s Children so sharpen those pencils, get writing and show your teachers. Check out the magazine and past editions for inspiration, book reviews, author information and much, much more. Copy the link below to go straight to St Anthony’s access to PK mag.


**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY**

All grandparents are warmly invited to a special day of celebration at St Anthony’s for Grandparents’ Day, Book Week and National Literacy / Numeracy Week on Thursday 27th August. The day will have 4 main parts:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Book Week Parade by the children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Open Classrooms – Numeracy/Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Liturgy – led by Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Family morning tea with parents and grandparents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The children should be bringing home a personal invite for their grandparents this week.

**VOICE OF YOUTH**

The Diocesan Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition is an annual competition for Year 6 students. This competition sees ALL year 6 children from across the diocese preparing speeches and delivering some of the most captivating talks you will hear from 11 year olds! A selection of our Year 6 will be delivering their speeches next Tuesday 2:15pm in the year 6 classrooms. 3 children from this ‘speak-off’ will be selected to represent St Anthony’s at our cluster final at OLQP Primary School on 26th August, 2015. All parents are welcome to attend.

**SPRING FAIR NEWS**

The next Spring Fair meeting will be held on Monday 24th August at 7pm in the school staff room.

We are still after donations of Books, DVDs, CDs and pre-loved toys. Keep bringing these in as soon as possible.

Helpers for ALL stalls are really needed now! We would expect that EVERY family can help to support the fair with at least one hour on a stall. Please volunteer your hour via the on-line process by going to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and entering the code Z9MBH.
Our Major Raffle is coasting along but we would love EVERY family to try to sell some tickets even if they can’t sell an entire book. Additional books are available from the school office.

Remember every dollar we raise will go back to helping YOUR children, so let’s all get behind our MAJOR fundraising initiative for the year – Many hands make light work!

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL SKILLS
This week’s social skill is:

**STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

“We can never say it is enough”
Catherine McAuley

Stewardship is simply love in action. It is the grateful and responsible celebration and use of the sacred gifts God has given us, to do the work he is calling us to do.

Next week’s social skill is: **SHOWING COURAGE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE STUDENTS OF THE WEEK WHO SERVED ONE ANOTHER

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

2015 SPRING FAIR TALENT SHOW
We have been overwhelmed with the amount of children that have auditioned for the Spring Fair talent show each day this week. We had forty eight acts audition over the four days and many that were solo performers. While there was plenty of it, it wasn’t the talent that we noticed the most, but the courage, confidence, creativity and willingness to give it their best shot that impressed us. There was everything from musicians, dancers and singers to bands, musical theatre, gymnasts and magicians. Unfortunately, we do not have the whole entertainment schedule on the day of the Spring Fair and will only be able to select about 25% of these acts to perform on the day. These finalists will be announced very soon. A huge congratulations and thank you to all students who auditioned, you should be extremely proud of yourselves!

ICAS SCIENCE RESULTS
Congratulations to all students who completed the ICAS Science examination. All children received their personal results last week as well as a certificate of either Participation, Merit, Credit or Distinction.

**Distinction:** Lucas Smith, Alex Jacobs and Aaroh Purani – Congratulations!

**Credit:** Jemma Abdilla, Zac Palmer, Abhinav Saravanan, Jasper King, Brenevan Padmeswaran, Sebastian Carlos, Isabella Falzon, Devansh Gupta, Clare Pooley, Isabelle Talato, Ryan Sajan, Tanush Vellupillai and Jai Wadwa – Well done!
GRANDPARENTS’ DAY – Thursday 27 August

We would like to invite you to a special day of celebration at St Anthony’s for Grandparents’ Day, Book Week and National Literacy and Numeracy Week!

9:00am Book Week Parade
9:45am Open Classrooms – Numeracy/Literacy Activities
10:30am Grandparents’ Day Liturgy – led by Kindergarten
11:00am Family morning tea with parents and grandparents

We can’t wait to see you there!

Kind Regards
Linda Ducksbury
Acting Principal

Woolworths Earn & Learn

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 Thursday 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.

SKOOLBAG APP UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc).

This makes the app even more accessible than before with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.

To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find our school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

This year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge finishes next Friday 21st August. We already have 28 Students who have completed their challenge and have had their reading records validated. If your child has entered the challenge and is still to complete their log please ensure that their books have been entered through the website no later than midnight on Friday 21st August. You will not be able to enter books after this time. Anyone with problems should see Mrs Heness, no later than 3:15pm on Wednesday 19th August.

Premier’s Reading Challenge Team

COFFEE & CHAT MORNING

Monday 24th August is our next Coffee & Chat Morning straight after the 9:00am assembly. Come and have a cuppa and chat with Mr Lendvai and Ms Ducksbury. Many thanks to our SCG ladies for keeping this initiative going every fortnight.

JOKE DAY

Next Monday is Year 2’s Joke Day.

J. How did the baseball player lose his house?
A. He made his home run.

Darragh McKenna

J. What did the pencil say to the other pencil?
A. To be or not to be

Tanush Veluppillai

J. What roads do zombies like best?
A. Dead Ends.

Liam Hamilton

J. What do you call a man in the pool with no arms and no legs?
A. Bob

Lewis Ward

CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>14th August</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>17th August</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21st August</td>
<td>Parramatta Diocese Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>27th August</td>
<td>Grandparents’ Day</td>
</tr>
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SCHOOL FEES

Term 3 fees have now been issued and are due for payment by Monday, 17th August, 2015. Thank you to families who have already made payment. If you are experiencing any difficulty with payment, please contact Margaret Hopley in the office to discuss payment options.

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

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

Join the conversation #stanthonysg
COMMUNITY NEWS

SEMINAR: UNDERSTANDING FAMILY LAW
CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding the 2nd session of our Seminar on Understanding Family Law with an overview of the Family Law Act in relation to Separation/Divorce. The focus for this session is on Property Settlements and Spousal maintenance. Date: Wednesday 12th August Time: 7.30pm-9.30pm Venue: Diocesan Assembly Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown Cost: $7.00 — Registration Essential: Eileen or Rita Ph: 9933 0205 or email: soloparentservices@ccsss.org.au

GOSPEL CONCERT ‘SPIRIT OF JOY’
Gospel Concert ‘Spirit of Joy’ is presented in association with the Sydney Sacred Music Festival http://www.sydneysacredmusicfestival.org/program/. It will be held on Saturday 5 September 2015 from 3pm-5.30pm at Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre. It aims to bring together people of all religious traditions to feel the joy of God, through spiritually uplifting/upbeat music and song. Tickets: $12 adults, $8 school-age children, $35 family — two adults with up to four school-age children, children under five free. Bookings http://www.trybooking.com/144537 For further information please contact Ann-Maree Timmings tel (02) 4773 8338 ext 236 or send an email to manager@schoenstatt.org.au

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE NOTICES
Enrolments for Year 7 2017
Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2017. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on either of our two upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2017 applicants but open to any year group.

Our Open Morning is a great opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend. Our school tours will leave at 9.15am and car parking will be available in the visitor’s car parking area via Gate 3 from 9am onwards. Ask for details when making your booking.

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.

KIND PERSON NEEDED
Charlie is a 5 year old neutered female mini fox terrier. Loves people, is used to living with adults and has her own kennel. She desperately needs a new home. If you can help her please call Alison on 0421 079 177.

Keep up with all the latest news and information
http://www.stanthonyssgirraween.catholic.edu.au facebook.com/StAnthonyssG twitter @StAnthonyss_G
Join the conversation #stanthonyssg