From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 25th August, 2013


[Jesus said,] “And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

Reflection

Today’s Gospel reminds us that we live the life of faith by participation. We need to accept God’s grace to live a life of faith. Our free choice and willing consent is a crucial step in conversion to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ calls us to enter into a loving relationship with God, not just to be aware of God’s existence. Jesus invites us to participate in the life of faith, by saying “yes” to this relationship every day through our words and deeds.

Let us pray together:

Dear God,

send us your Spirit to illuminate our path, and grant us the wisdom to choose your gift of life in our daily decisions.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Welcome to Week 6.

Today Fr Paul Marshall and Sophie Ryan, Director of System Performance, announced and introduced to the staff the new Principal of St Anthony’s Girraween. The staff welcomed Mr Attila Lendvai as Principal for 2014. He will commence in Term 1, 2014. Every family will receive a letter from Mr Gregory B Whitby, Executive Director of Schools, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta with today’s newsletter.

St Anthony’s students and teachers shone today with the fantastic presentations of their learning and talents. The Maths Challenge activities have really ignited the learning among the students and teachers. The grades were given their Maths Challenge at assembly on Monday morning. The Maths challenges have dominated the learning over the past few days. Mrs Charlton has been sending me photos of the challenge unfolding in the Year 6 classroom.

On behalf of the students and parents I would like to thank the staff for organising an innovative Open Day for Literacy, Numeracy and Book Week. Well done to everyone.
Our school community has a very exciting time ahead of us. Following are the events and items for your reference:

- I attended the Principal Masterclass last Thursday and Friday. Highly respected educators were sharing their leadership expertise over the two days. I was extremely impressed with George Couros, he is passionate about leadership and presenting innovative ways for leaders to inspire their staff and students in learning and teaching. I recommend that you visit his blog – The Principal of Change, Stories of learning and leading http://georgecouros.ca/blog/

- A number of staff are attending the Ann D Clark Lecture on the 29th August, 2013 Leading the self-transforming school by Professor Brian Caldwell. The lecturer will draw on themes from his recently published book with Jim Spinks, The Self-transforming School (Caldwell and Spinks 2013) which spans 50 years from (1988 to 2038) and combines a meta-analysis of factors contributing to school success and an examination of powerful mega-trends that are shaping developments in education. Professor Caldwell will provide evidence to support the view that all schools in all settings can secure success for all students in an era where society and the economy are constantly changing and dramatically outline the role of school leaders in shaping this self-transformation.

- All infant teachers will be attending professional learning over the next few weeks in the curriculum areas Literacy and Numeracy. The Catholic Education office is providing professional learning experiences for teachers focusing on 160 minutes of learning.
  - In all Primary schools Focus 160 expects schools to deliver as a minimum, 100 minutes of literacy instruction and 60 minutes of numeracy instruction each day for all year levels.
  - Focus 160 defines expected outcomes for student learning, teaching and school leadership supported by instructional leadership and teacher-learning professional learning structures.
  - Focus 160 articulates success criteria for K-2 Numeracy and Literacy – What you should see students doing, teachers teaching and school leadership leading.

- Parramatta Marist is hosting a Problem Based Learning (PBL) Conference for three days in November, 2013. The stage 3 teachers for 2014, Mrs Charlton and myself will be attending the Conference with the aim of investigating the learning and teaching paradigm. PBL World Australia will bring together educators who understand the PBL is a key strategy for creating effective and engaging 21st Century Learning. Following are the international speakers:-
  - John Mergendoller - his professional career encompasses teaching, research and evaluation, curriculum, pedagogical and professional development.
  - Glen O’Grady – his broad interests lie in constructivist pedagogies, both from a social and psychological perspective. His specific focus and research has been on problem based learning, small group facilitation, student assessment, blended and flexible learning and epistemology.

The school leadership team has decided to attend because the three-day program is not only for secondary. The workshops engage participants from primary setting in learning the principles for designing, assessing and managing standards-focused projects as well as using performance assessment to judge the relevant work generated by 21st century learners.

Please keep Mr Ross Howse in your prayers, he has recently undergone surgery and is recovering. Mr Howse will return to his teaching role in Term 4 when he has fully recuperated. I have respected Mr Howse’s privacy over the past few weeks and look forward to his return.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST COMMUNION

We congratulate all the students of St Anthony’s who have celebrated their First Communion over the past two weeks. These children can now partake of a very special sacrament.

Upcoming Dates
Friday 23 August Parish Mass, 9:30am, Kindergarten & Year 5 participating

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

Keep up with all the latest news and information

www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG twitter.com/StAnthonysG
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

Numeracy, Literacy and Book Week
Today at St Anthony’s we celebrated Numeracy, Literacy and Book Week with a variety of activities. One of these activities involved each grade presenting solutions to mathematical challenges that were given to each grade on Monday morning. Each grade had 3 days to solve the challenge and to present their investigations and findings to the school community. The tasks given to the students were engaging open-ended problem solving tasks and investigations that required an investigative approach to solve. An investigative approach to learning Mathematics engages students in open-ended tasks and investigations that: 1) encourage students to think, question, analyse, criticise and to solve unfamiliar problems; and 2) ask for more than recall of fact or the replication of processes thereby promoting a higher level of thinking.

Below I have listed a few examples of the challenges that the students were engaged in this week:

A square Rug (Year 2) My granny bought a square rug and each side measured 1 metre. When she got home it would not fit into the hallway so she cut up the rug and joined the pieces together again to make a shape that would fit. What might her rug look like now?

Well read! (Year 4) How many books would you need to make a stack that would reach the ceiling of your classroom. Estimate an answer. In your group discuss how you can check your estimate and decide on a strategy and carry it out.

Traffic Jam (Year 6) During peak hour traffic on a three-lane freeway a truck braked suddenly and rolled over, causing chaos. Within a short time, all vehicles on a three-kilometre stretch of freeway came to a halt. How many vehicles might have been caught in this traffic jam?

Student Behaviour Management and Wellbeing
St Anthony’s implements a number of programs throughout the school year to promote and maintain positive relationships with and between all students. All our staff follow the school’s policies on management of student behaviour and well being. However, it has come to our attention that some of our students need to be reminded about how to live out our school rules ‘Respecting Self, Respecting Others, Respecting the Environment in order to maintain a happy, healthy school environment where each and every student feels valued and included. This week some of our teachers along with Mrs Brown and myself have been talking with students about the behaviours that we all expect in a Catholic community. Over the next few weeks we will be talking with students in all grades to give them the opportunity to share with us their thoughts, ideas and concerns. For us to support and promote human relationships, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ we ask parents to initiate conversations with their children around friendships, building positive and healthy relationships, and about taking responsibility for one’s own actions.

Following are a few points for discussion with your child:

- Talk to your child about acknowledging the good behaviour of others;
- Ask your child if they feel safe at school, if they don’t please contact Mrs Brown or myself;
- Ask them on a daily basis how they made a positive difference to their grade peers and others in the St Anthony’s community;
- Encourage them to talk to the teacher, Mrs Brown or myself if they are aware of students who do not follow the rules and are impacting on the wellbeing of others.

The class teachers will closely monitor student behaviour. This may result in you receiving a reflection form if your child acts inappropriately.

If at anytime parents or students have a concern about ‘relationships’ please talk with the classroom teacher or contact myself or Mrs Brown.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Rupali Wadhwa</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Philippa Valentine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Lucas Smith</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Noah Talato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Alexia Touma</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Hayden Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Michael Salama</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Clare Saliba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Jasmine Sarkis</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Mithran Jeganathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Fatima Younes</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Josh Spehar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Bailey McLoughlin</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Amber Palmer</td>
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**UNIFORM SHOP TIMES**
The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 26th August, from 2:30pm – 3:15pm. You can place orders through the office at any time.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
26th – 30th August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Debra Lawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Alison Woolgar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Liz Phillips</td>
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If anyone is available to help in the Canteen on any day, it would be greatly appreciated. If you haven’t worked in the Canteen before but would like to find out what is involved, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Haigh.

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Aug</td>
<td>Parish Mass (Years K &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 26 Aug</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28 Aug</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 30 Aug</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Liturgy – 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Sep</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 3 Sep</td>
<td>Year 4 Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Sep</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 7 Sep</td>
<td>SPRING FAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Sep</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10 Sep</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Sep</td>
<td>Parish Mass (Years 1, 3 &amp; 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 15 Sep</td>
<td>School Family Mass (K, 1 &amp; 2) 10am at Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sep</td>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy Liturgy 12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sep</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 8 Oct</td>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
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</tbody>
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**CONDOLENCES**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Catherine McAuley Westmead School Open Morning**

9.15 – 11am
Thursday 29th August 2013

**Enrolments for Year 7 2015**
Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2015. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour and avoid the crowds in Term 1 next year.

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.

**Discover OLMC Parramatta**
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta would like to invite you to discover the College’s rich tradition and cutting edge education and enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ with the College Executive at the Open Morning Tour on Monday, August 26, 2013.

The College is now enrolling for 2014 and 2015.
Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://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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