FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 8th September, 2013

Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’ Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

Reflection

Christianity has a radical challenge for us: embrace the cross, and trust in God to help you with it. Only by taking up the cross, which is our symbol for the frailty of the human condition, can we look with hope beyond it. Christ took up the Cross and rose to glory, shattering the bonds of death over all of creation. His victory gives us hope not to fear the troubles of this world, because these no longer have the final say over our lives.

Let us pray together:-

Our Father ……
God our refuge and strength, help us to carry our crosses with trust and courage, hoping in you always to remain faithful to your covenant of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Amen.

Are you ready for the St Anthony’s School and Parish Spring Fair?

I am looking forward to seeing all our parents, students, teachers and the wider community at our 2013 Spring Fair.

Over the past months the momentum has been building and lots of preparation by the team led by Mrs Louise Frendo, Spring Fair Coordinator, has come together and we are all ready to enjoy the fun and raise money to aid in fulfilling our dreams and aspirations for new learning equipment and environmental improvement.

Over the past years the funds raised by the Spring Fair have contributed to the following:

- purchase of additional technology to meet the needs of students and teachers in the delivery of learning and teaching
- replacement of classroom furniture for Infants’ classrooms
- purchase of quality reading material to support the school’s focus on reading and comprehension
- purchase of mathematical equipment to support Numeracy across the whole school

and I am very excited to advise you that funds have been budgeted during the past 3 years and contractors
have been engaged to carry out project work on Area C as follows:

- installation of synthetic grass 2200 square metres
- A 5 metre square timber platform encompassing the Jacaranda tree. This focus area will be a good rest area for students to sit in the shade, passively play and could be used as a small stage area
- The Out of School Hours Care centre sandpit will be relocated to open up the field, providing more opportunities for multiple games being played simultaneously.
- Sprint lane markings will be incorporated for running practice.

The work will start next week and Area C will be out of use for the next two weeks of school and one week of the holidays. The project will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

The whole school will return to a new playground area for Area C. We are very excited; no more dust bowls, uneven playing ground, lack of access to area C when it has been raining.

THEREFORE we need you to bring as many people as you can to our 2013 SPRING FAIR to raise money for future projects.

The Religious and Education Agendas are always forefront in our vision for St Anthony’s as well.

- This week Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 teachers, Ms Robertson, Mrs Peatman, Mrs Charlton and myself attended the Focus 160 Workshop. 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.
- Year 6 students and teachers are actively organising resources for a Mercy Day on the last day of this term, Friday 20th September, 2013. A flyer will be coming home soon.
- The Year 6 leaders will be attending a Mercy Summit meeting next Wednesday accompanied by Mr Barden and Mrs Battikha.
- This coming Monday, 9th September is a STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY dedicated to Social Justice teachings. Mr Barden will be leading the staff on a spiritual journey leading to action with Social Justice for St Anthony’s Girraween.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On the last day of this term, St Anthony’s will celebrate Mercy Day. The feast day of Our Lady of Mercy is on 24th September. This is significant to the Sisters of Mercy as it is the day that their foundress, Catherine McAuley, opened the House of Mercy in Dublin, a place of refuge and outreach to the poor and vulnerable. From this, the Sisters of Mercy grew to live the mission of Jesus across the world, including in Girraween, where they established St Anthony’s School.

Our Year 6 leaders attended a Mercy Summit in Term 1 where they learnt about the Mercy story and began to plan a Mercy project they would undertake this year. Already they have shared the story of Catherine McAuley with their classmates. The Year 6 students have since shared this story with the rest of the school through presentations in each class.

As demonstrated in Catherine McAuley’s own life, social justice is integral to the Mercy story. Our staff will be exploring this further on our Staff Development Day on Monday. Additionally, on Mercy Day, our Year 6 students will be running a Mercy Market. They are eagerly preparing stalls of food, gifts and sporting activities for all students to choose from, with funds raised going to support Mamre House, a Mercy sponsored work in Orchard Hills that runs programs to encourage social inclusion and enterprise. Everyone is invited to celebrate Mercy Day with us.

Mercy Day Celebrations – Friday 20 September

11:40 Celebration of the Word
12:20 Mercy Market, Kindergarten – Year 2
12:50 Mercy Market, Years 3 – 6
2:15 Annual Staff v Students Netball Match for the “Mercy Cup”

Watch a video of what Year 6 has been doing on the News & Event: Galleries page of our website. If you have a smartphone or tablet, you can scan this QR code to be taken directly to the page.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

Keep up with all the latest news and information

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

Join the conversation #stanthonysg
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

Ann D Clark Lecture
A number of teachers attended the annual Ann D Clark Lecture which was held last Thursday evening. This event, which is provided by CDEP (Catholic Diocese Education of Parramatta), is to further support the professional development of all teachers in the diocese. This year’s guest speaker was Professor Brian Caldwell – Managing Director and Principle Consultant at Educational Transformation, Australia, and Professional Fellow and former Dean of Education at the University of Melbourne, Australia. The subject of the lecture was about Professor Caldwell’s newly released educational book (co written with Jim Spikes, a former principal and Director of All Across the Line) "The Self-Transforming School". During the lecture Professor Caldwell explored the factors that contribute to the success of schools and the powerful mega-trends that are shaping developments in education policy and practice.

Professor Caldwell and his co-writer Jim Spikes argue that all schools, in all settings are able to ensure success for all students in today’s ever changing society through developing leadership of the highest calibre. “Leadership of the highest quality needs to be deeply embedded in schools and their systems.” Professor Caldwell’s described his vision of a transformed school as being innovative, understanding the relationship between innovation, reform and change; searching out and sensibly adopting or adapting best practice and next practice.

He purports the belief that through educational leaders understanding trends and megatrends in society and economy, strategically navigating so that the school is always well-positioned to meet current expectations and future needs; understanding change theory and choosing appropriate strategies for change and approaches to measurement; minimising dysfunctional approaches in each instance, schools and school systems can be transformed. Professor Caldwell’s views gave us a lot to think about. His book would make a worthwhile read.

Focus 160 Professional Development
All our teachers from the ES1 and Stage 1 (Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Sheraton, Mrs Ward, Miss James, Miss Peppin, Mrs Awkar, Mrs Francis); learning coaches (Ms Robertson, Mrs Peatman, Mrs Charlton) and Mrs Brown have completed a two-day professional development course titled Focus 160. Focus 160 is a K - 2 initiative of the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that has a focus on Literacy and Numeracy. A number of schools in the Parramatta Diocese were selected as part of a pilot project either in Literacy or in Numeracy. St Anthony’s has been a part of the Numeracy project for 3 years and though we weren’t in the Literacy pilot program we did adopt the model in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 in 2012. It is an expectation by CDEP that by the end of 2014 the Focus 160 literacy model will be implemented across all grades K – 6. The two day course was a valuable experience for our teachers. It provided teachers with strategies, ideas, best teaching and practices and the theories that contribute to ensuring that our school has a robust and balanced literacy block which incorporates all the components of literacy instruction.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

FROM YEAR 2

Acrostic Poems about Reconciliation written by Year 2.

Religion
Reconciliation is when you confess your sins
Every month we should go to confess our sins to God.
Care and look after people who are in need of our help
On Sunday is the day that we should spend with God and family
Never tell lies
Consider other peoples feelings
It is better to give
Love God with all your heart and mind.
Always tell the truth.
Talk out your problem with the people that upset you.
I love God and my family
Open your mind.
Never try to hurt others in words and actions.

By Clare Tran

Religion
Reconcile with God
Experience God’s forgiveness.
Consider what Jesus would do.
Open your heart to God
Care for others
Intend to do good things
Listen to God
In the church you will tell God the things you have done wrong.
A priest will say a prayer for you.
Tell God your sins
Instead of making bad choices you should make good choices.
Only say sorry when you mean it.
No one is unloved by God.

By Isabelle Talato
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Siddhesh Vengurlekar</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Tharun Prabakaran</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Lucas Smith</td>
<td>1W</td>
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<td>2G</td>
<td>Evan Luong</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Chansi Chauhan</td>
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<td>Tarni Sutton</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Deepan Nadhan</td>
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<td>4G</td>
<td>Ronav Pillay</td>
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<td>Maddison Sengstock</td>
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<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Robert Kusi</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Angelyn Veniegra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Theph Theph</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Selin Hurriyet</td>
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STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

A reminder that there is a STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY on Monday 9th September, 2013. We ask that you make suitable arrangements for your child / ren on this day as they are not required to attend school.

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<td>School Family Mass (K, 1 &amp; 2) 10am at Church</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Our Lady of Mercy Liturgy 12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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UNIFORM SHOP TIMES

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 16th September, from 8:30am – 9:15am. You can place orders through the office at any time.

PEER SUPPORT

Session 8
The Peer Support Program concludes this week. Children have the opportunity to practise some of the things they have learned over the past 7 weeks, including what bullying is and what they can do about it. The children will be encouraged to realise that sometimes it can take a while to see that change is taking place, so they must persevere with their new skills.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: A relationship enrichment weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Weekend date: 8 – 10 November at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: website www.wwme.org.au

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the Wilson family (Cooper 1W) following the recent death of his paternal grandfather. Please keep this family in your prayers.

BOOK CLUB

Coming home with students today are brochures for Book Club. Orders are due in next Friday 13th September. 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
Miss Katrina James,
Book Club Organiser

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