FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony's,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 1st December, 2013

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field: one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day the Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Reflection

Advent refocuses us on our great hope in the coming of the Lord. We long for his return as the time that puts an end to all that we lack, all that we suffer, all that leaves us restless at best and tormented at worst. During this Advent, may our longing for the fullness of Christ’s glory shape us into a people of hope and expectation, joy and trust in the glory that is yet to come.

Let us pray together:-

God of hope,
the anticipation of Christ’s return fills us with deep longing and a profound hope.
May we live in light of this desire for the fullness of the glory of your Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Today was a wonderful day for the St Anthony’s School Community, twelve students, six boys and six girls, presented a speech in front of the Years 3, 4 & 5 students and teachers. The speeches were to persuade the audience to vote for them to be the 2014 School Captains. Mrs Charlton and myself were so proud of every candidate. The quality of their speeches was outstanding. They all talked about their long association with the school and how important school and family life was in contributing to their wellbeing and academic abilities. Every one of them have outstanding qualities that would support them in the role of School Captain. Unfortunately, the selection process will elect two School Captains, two Vice School Captains and four Student Counsellors. The election result may not be published today in the Newsletter but it will be announced shortly. I wish to express my admiration for all students and I want the students to know that I would have been proud to have any one of them to lead the school in the Captain role.

LEAVE/EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

It is a NSW Government requirement that absence or leave from school be approved in accordance with State guidelines. Approval for absence other than illness must be applied for prior to the leave commencing. An Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form must be completed and submitted for approval by the principal. This form can be collected from the office, or downloaded from our school website. The principal (or the Catholic Education Office for longer periods of leave) may only grant approval for leave under particular circumstances. After your application is received, it will be reviewed, and the outcome communicated to you in writing. If you are planning on taking extra leave prior to the end of school, please collect your form from the office as soon as possible.
The School Community Group Annual General Meeting was held last Monday night, unfortunately the number of parents who attended was disappointing. Thank you to the regular parents who attended and I was very excited to see a new parent from Year 2. There is always hope for newcomers to attend the meetings.

During the meeting there was an opportunity for the attendees to give their thoughts and opinions on ‘Hopes and dreams for 2014’ and ‘Ideas for the Spring Fair for 2014’. The elections for the 2014 team were completed and below are the parents who have were nominated and seconded:

Results of Elections and Committee for 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Nomination</th>
<th>Nominated by</th>
<th>Seconded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Louise Frendo</td>
<td>Deb Pooley</td>
<td>Deb Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Warren Whyte</td>
<td>Deb Harris</td>
<td>Deb Pooley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Rachael Sutton</td>
<td>Louise Frendo</td>
<td>Leah Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Cathy Hall</td>
<td>Deb Pooley</td>
<td>Julie Brownlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Rhonda Niutao</td>
<td>Natalie Tighe</td>
<td>Louise Frendo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC Rep</td>
<td>Siva Veluppillai &amp; Warren Whyte</td>
<td>Julie Brownlow</td>
<td>Louise Frendo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care Team Leader</td>
<td>Julie Brownlow</td>
<td>Louise Frendo</td>
<td>Deb Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Committee Leader</td>
<td>Deb Pooley</td>
<td>Deb Harris</td>
<td>Leah Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity Officer</td>
<td>Deb Pooley</td>
<td>Self nominated</td>
<td>Natalie Tighe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester 2 reports for all students will be distributed next Friday, 6th December, 2013. Teachers will be available during week 10 for any parents who wish to discuss the report. A letter will be sent home providing details on how to organise a meeting if necessary.

As the term draws to a close there are still many events to be completed before the last day of school:

- Fri 6/12 SCG Christmas Breakfast – 7am
- Fri 6/12 Reports go home
- Mon 9/12 Morning Assembly to Announce School Leaders
- Mon 9/12 Parent Helpers Morning Tea
- Tues 10/12 Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner.
- Wed 11/12 School Christmas Carols – Michael Mangan
- Mon 16/12 Year 6 Outing
- Mon 16/12 Year 5 Excursion
- Tues 17/12 Class promotions
- Wed 18/12 Thanksgiving Mass – 11am
- Wed 18/12 2:45pm Year 6 Guard of Honour
- Thur 19/12 Staff Development Day
- Fri 20/12 Staff Development Day

The staffing for 2014 will be announced shortly. As you can imagine organising the staff is a very important task. My goal is to base the decisions of staffing in light of the students’ needs. St Anthony’s is a great school. I wish to thank the teachers for their wonderful commitment and support to our students. Before the end of the term the 2014 grade teachers will be released to plan together in preparation for their new students.

Enjoy the week and may you live in Word and Deed

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Advent
This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. The weeks of Advent serve as a reminder for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives. With the newsletter today is some further information about Advent from the parish, including an invitation to make an Advent wreath for your home and have it blessed at Mass this weekend.

First Reconciliation
Congratulations to the students in our school who are celebrating their First Reconciliation last night and this evening. This is an important part of the journey of faith for our young people.

I had the privilege of being part of Wednesday night’s celebration. One of the moving parts of the celebration was watching the children returning to their parents, who warmly hugged and greeted their children after celebrating the sacrament for the first time. It was a clear reminder that it is from you, their parents, that your children first learn about and witness the love, compassion and forgiveness of God.

Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
During October, Pope Francis decided to consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In doing this, Pope Francis prayed that the world be placed in the care and protection of Mary, the Mother of God. Bishop Anthony later likewise for our Diocese of Parramatta. Going home today with this newsletter is a prayer card commemorating this occasion. Cards and mementos such as these are good for your children to keep at home, perhaps in a prayer book; the images and prayers providing reminders of our faith.

Congratulations Fr Paul
Fr Paul recently celebrated 25 years since his ordination as a priest. On Tuesday Fr Paul will join us so we can celebrate this significant milestone with him. We pray that God will continue to bless him as he continues to live out his priestly vocation in the years to come.

Make Your Own Advent Wreath
You’ll need:
3 purple candles
1 pink candle
greenery (evergreens are preferred)
ing ring of wood, wire stand, or Styrofoam

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The purple represents a time of penance, although a different sort of penance than that of Lent. This is more of a longing, a realization of the need for Christ in our lives. The pink candle is for the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday when we shout for joy at the promise of the Saviour being fulfilled soon. Green is the colour of hope and a symbol of eternal life in Christ. The ring is a symbol of the eternal nature of God.

Place the candles in the ring, and decorate with the greenery. White ribbons could be added as a symbol of divine innocence.

The third Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing. Beginning on the fourth Sunday, all four candles are lit, and on Christmas Eve, the Christ candle burns as well. The Advent wreath appears at this time of year in homes as well as churches.

Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

FAMILY PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS THROUGH ADVENT

On Sunday 1st December we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. This day is the first day of the new Liturgical Year of the Church.

Advent is such a busy time of the year with shopping and preparations being made for holidays and celebrations. A family Advent wreath and Prayer time is a great way to help us to keep in mind the meaning behind the coming season of Christmas.

You are invited to make your own Family Advent Wreath and bring it to Mass on Sunday 1st where it will be Blessed by Father, and you will receive an Advent Prayer sheet to take home.

You can make your own Advent Wreath:

- 3 purple candles
- 1 pink candle
- greenery (evergreens are preferred)
- ring of wood, wire stand, or Styrofoam

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The purple represents a time of penance, although a different sort of penance than that of Lent. This is more of a longing, a realization of the need for Christ in our lives. The pink candle is for the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday when we shout for joy at the promise of the Saviour being fulfilled soon. Green is the colour of hope and a symbol of eternal life in Christ. The ring is a symbol of the eternal nature of God.

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Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

Project-Based Learning
A group of teachers (Mrs Brown, Mr Barden, Mr Mackey, Miss Younes, Mrs Francis and Mrs Charlton) attended the Project Based Learning (PBL) World Australia Conference hosted by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. This event was held at Parramatta Marist High School over a three day period 12th November to the 15th November and was well attended by educators from all over Australia. Project Based Learning is a way of learning. In PBL students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. The rigorous projects that the
students undertake are planned, managed and assessed by teachers to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st Century skills, for example collaboration, communication and critical thinking; and create high-quality and authentic products and presentations of their work. The key note speakers and the facilitators of the workshops presented research and testimonials that supported the belief that through Problem Based Learning students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts and content and are more engaged in the learning process. Engagement is strengthened because students are working on projects that are both challenging and of interest to them. The teachers of St Anthony’s developed a mini project that they may implement in their stage in 2014.

Leadership Team Meeting
Members of the leadership team (current and incoming 2014 team) met this week to review St Anthony’s strategic implementation plans and strategic goals (2013) to determine the goals and direction for 2014. The team had some good discussions and began developing an action plan for moving the educational agenda forward next year.

Transition
It’s hard to believe but we are coming to that time of the year again where we prepare our students for promotions for 2014. The Year 6 teachers have met with the Year coordinators from the respective high schools that the Year 6 students will be attending next year. The teachers spent time in discussing each student’s overall development and their learning needs. All teachers at St Anthony’s are in the process of collating all their reports, data, profiles, notes gathered throughout the year to pass onto your child’s teachers for 2014. A ‘transition’ time has been allocated for teachers to share this relevant information. The next step in the transition process will be the ‘promotions’ day where the students spend sometime with their teachers / classmates for 2014.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

TOONIE TOTS PLAYGROUP (Ages 0 – 5 years)
We meet at St Anthony’s School every Monday (during school term) 9:30am – 11:30am. Bring morning tea and drink for your child. Strictly no nuts. Tea/coffee for parents provided. Cost $2 per family. Contact Eve 0405 195 411 or Linda 0411 147 568.

Prayer Force One
30th November 2013 - Party

Activity: It’s party time! At this time each year we hold a huge party to celebrate another great year at youth group and Christmas. It is always a fun event!
Venue: Drop Off & Pick Up at Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Pl, Old Toongabbie
Time: 4pm-8pm (Please note the time or you will miss out on fun!!)
Food: Sausage sizzle and party food
Cost: $6

Families are also invited to join in the fun.
This will be our last meeting for 2013. Be sure not to miss the grand finale for the year!!

Youth Group will break for school holidays and reconvene in 2014. We will advise the starting date via email and the Church bulletin

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES & NEWS
The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 2nd December from 2:30pm – 3:15pm. You can place orders through the office at any time.

All stock of the old uniforms are on sale until the end of the year. Prices range from $10 - $15 each.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK - 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Rhiz Rubenecia</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Jade Seghabi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Veronica Veidre</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Pradeepan Nadhan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Yoaquin Satorre</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Lucas Pascu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Sylvia Ghobar</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Cameron Frendo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Jessica Jurinario</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Aman Dimo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Bhuvan Gaddi</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Scott Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Nathan Gordon</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>James Aquilina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT OF THE WEEK - 6

KG  | Kripa Joshi
1G  | Trenton Odtojan
2G  | Marco Yousef
3G  | Taylor Toni
4G  | Jasmine Sarkis
5G  | Keeley Miskell
6G  | Reece Murray

KW  | Aarush Patel
1W  | Darragh McKenna
2W  | Joelle Azar
3W  | Jessica Barnes
4W  | Liam Cosgrove
5W  | Leo Tichepco
6W  | Alannah Guerrero

STUDENT OF THE WEEK - 7

KG  | Badawi Goro
1G  | Abiye Akol
2G  | Vishaal Kannori
3G  | Aaroh Purani
4G  | Bianca Simonetta
5G  | Hania Goro
6G  | Kara Jones

KW  | Jacob Luong
1W  | Elizabeth Sarkis
2W  | Goro Goro
3W  | Grace Pooley
4W  | Tatiana Haddad
5W  | Thomas Aquilina
6W  | Thomas Aquilina

CALENDAR

Mon  | 9 Dec  | Assembly announcement of School Leaders
Mon  | 9 Dec  | Parent Helper Morning Tea
Tues | 10 Dec | Year 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
Wed  | 11 Dec | School Christmas Carols – Michael Mangan
Fri  | 13 Dec | Last day for Canteen
Mon  | 16 Dec | Year 5 Excursion to Camp Yarramundi
Wed  | 18 Dec | End of Year Mass – 11am at Church
Wed  | 18 Dec | 2:45pm Year 6 Guard of Honour
Wed  | 18 Dec | Last day of Term 4 for students
Thurs| 19 Dec | Staff Development Day – English Curriculum workshop
Fri  | 20 Dec | Staff Development Day - English Curriculum workshop
Tues | 28 Jan ’14 | Kinder – Year 6 MAI Assessment Interviews – 8am – 4pm
Wed  | 29 Jan ’14 | Kinder – Year 6 MAI Assessment Interviews – 8am – 4pm
Thur | 30 Jan ’14 | Years 1 – 6 First day of school
Thur | 30 Jan ’14 | Kinder MAI Assessment Interviews
Fri  | 31 Jan ’14 | Kindergarten – First day of school

CANTEN ROSTER

2nd – 6th December

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday | Rachel Christie

Thursday

Friday | Sue Adams

Please see the note on the back of this Newsletter regarding the Canteen.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2014

We are in the process of finalising classes for 2014 and have been advised of a few students who will not be returning in 2014. To enable us to prepare our classes for 2014, it would be appreciated if you would kindly notify the School Office if you know your child/children will not be returning to St Anthony’s Girraween next year. If you are planning to return to St Anthony’s, however, you are extending the holidays, please write a letter stating the reasons for your late return, and hand it into the School Office as the Census will be completed early in February 2014.