Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony's

A Reading from the Gospel of John 10:11-16
Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to the fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd."

Reflection

Jesus reveals the mystery of who he is through the image of a shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who guides and protects his sheep, who calls them by name and who leads them out to green pasture. Jesus knows his sheep in the same way in which the Father knows the Son. We, too, are called into finial love with God. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for his sheep and calls all peoples so that they may be part of one flock, one sheepfold.

Let us pray together...

Lord Jesus,  
You are our Good Shepherd  
Who cares for us and protects us.  
In the Eucharistic celebration,  
You lay down yourself to us through  
The gifts of bread and wine.  
Lead all peoples to come into unity with you.  
You live and reign forever.  
Amen.

We are all called to have a little shepherd in us. If one of us falls, the rest of us stop and pick him up and put him on our shoulders. If one of us strays, the rest call out and point the way (as best we know it). But we don’t follow each other. Together, we follow Jesus, for there is but one flock, and one Shepherd.

The ‘Gospel Action’ for week 2 is ‘Listen to Jesus’. Jesus calls each one of us... How do you answer his call? What actions do you do to make our school community and the world a better place? Each one of us is called to ‘be more’.. I encourage you to talk to your child about the ways they can care for themselves and others in their community and beyond.

I hope you experienced an enjoyable break with your family. I had a quiet holiday at home and I achieved a few goals that I have wanted to do for ages.

The St Anthony’s staff and students have settled back into the school routine so smoothly. During the holidays I reflected on all the wonderful things we do at our school and how important it is to realise the great potential for every child in our care.

Learning and fun go hand in hand at St Anthony’s. Since the beginning of the year we have been focusing on introducing new and exciting experiences to re-ignite the passion for learning for students and staff. The introduction of extra curricula activities has encouraged the students to engage with others in a different type of learning environment. It is also the goal to encourage teachers to view professional learning as meaningful and thought provoking. The dizzying speed of the modern world puts education at the heart of both personal and community development; its mission is to enable everyone, without exception, to develop all their talents to the full and to realise their creative potential, including responsibility for their own lives and achievement of their personal aims.

Firstly, I wish to talk about the professional learning experiences we are promoting at our school. Over the past few years we have celebrated a tremendous growth in our students’ learning. This is evident in our routine assessments, MAI and Naplan results. The goal is to align the professional learning for teachers to improving our students’ learning and consequently impacting on student outcomes. Assessing effectiveness of learning and teaching experiences and student achievement is not a periodic event outside regular daily activities. It happens on a lesson-by-lesson, weekly-by-weekly and more long-term basis. The lesson-by-lesson check assesses students’ immediate understanding of a particular lesson and what changes need to be made for the next lesson. Longer-term assessment ensures that the progress made is adequate against agreed benchmarks and identifies which areas need further work. Helen Timperley (author of Realising the Power of Professional Learning) states ‘at a minimum leaders need to be sufficiently involved in the teachers’ professional learning that they know and what they should do to challenge and support their teachers’.

I hope you experienced an enjoyable break with your family. I had a quiet holiday at home and I achieved a few goals that I have wanted to do for ages.
To achieve our school goals we, as a learning community, follow a particular framework, an inquiry and knowledge building cycle.

The best evidence synthesis on professional learning and development identified how cycles of inquiry and knowledge-building can improve students’ engagement, learning and well-being (See Figure 1.1). When teachers have a deep understanding of the profiles of their students, they then move to inquire about what knowledge and skills they need if they are to be more effective in addressing the needs of individuals and groups of students, particularly those not achieving as well as others. Through engaging in ongoing cycles of inquiry and building knowledge, teachers develop the adaptive expertise required to retrieve, organise and apply professional knowledge when old problems persist and new problems arise. Adaptive experts continually expand the breadth and depth of their expertise and are tuned into situations in which their skills are inadequate. Teachers with adaptive expertise, therefore, have the capability to identify when routines do not work and to seek new information about different approaches when needed.

Leadership and professional learning in schools today needs to be heavily grounded in the classroom experience, working alongside the teachers and students. This is what is happening at St Anthony’s. The focus at our school has been to increase the teaching support across all stages by resourcing learning coaches in each class for a number of hours per week. Mrs Charlton, Mrs Barker, Mrs Peatman and Mrs Ward teach alongside the classroom teacher with additional support of teachers’ aides to coach and support teachers and students in the learning environment.

The goal for us this year is to further develop the professional learning at St Anthony’s to be more specific and grounded in evidence based synthesis of data using the inquiry and knowledge building framework so that:

- knowledge and skills teachers need to meet these concerns;
- knowledge and skills leaders need to help teachers to meet these concerns and who can help.

Staff meetings and Staff Development Days (e.g. pupil free days) will focus on providing professional learning experiences for all staff in the following areas:

- **Numeracy** – place value. In our decimal number system, the value of a digit depends on its place, or position, in the number. Each place has a value of 10 times the place to its right. A fun website: - [http://www.funbrain.com/tens/index.html](http://www.funbrain.com/tens/index.html)
- **Writing** – Effective Instruction in writing. Writing instruction has four main goals for student achievement:
  1. To write clearly and creatively to convey a message
  2. To communicate ideas, thoughts, feelings and experiences
  3. To understand that writing is a reflective and interactive process
  4. To understand the different purposes, audiences and forms of writing
- **Formation** - To promote St Anthony’s School as a place where we reflect upon the Word of God, and respond through deeds of mercy, compassion and justice.

Secondly, I wish to highlight the up and coming Catholic Schools Week. The fun of showcasing the wonderful things we do at St Anthony’s. Our students and teachers are very talented people and the CSW celebrations gives a venue to demonstrate who we are at St Anthony’s. Everyone is welcome! Mrs Charlton has included information and times in the newsletter. So I look forward to seeing you there!

Extra curricula activities continue this term. A new group of activities will be available on Monday and Thursdays beginning in Week 3 and continuing for 4 weeks. The activities will be advertised to the students in Week 2. On behalf of the students I wish to express our appreciation of the teachers who volunteer to facilitate the activities during the term.

Last term we held the St Anthony’s Open Day. I was very excited because we had approximately 42 families visit the school. I was very grateful of the teachers and students who assisted in making the day very successful. The St Anthony’s School Community Group supported the day by providing a sausage sizzle for our visitors. Thank you so much for the parents who volunteered their time on the day, I am most appreciative of your support and love of the school community.

The School Banking continues this term. Every Tuesday morning Mrs Pooley and Mrs McKenna greet the students with wonderful smiles 😊😊😊. Thank you ladies!

It is important to promote a healthy and happy environment for parents, students and teachers. I have been subscribing to a resource called ‘Happy Schools’. The site provides monthly circulars on promoting wellbeing
for staff. This month’s edition discusses the importance of a healthy diet and the amount of sleep you get. I felt this is important to share with you so you can promote the same for your children.

What you eat and when you eat it, the amount of exercise you take and the amount of sleep you get are among the key factors that affect the production of neurotransmitters. This means that by controlling these factors you can control your internal ecology to maintain abundant supplies of your feel-good chemical, serotonin.

Make sure you provide your body with the right environment to function on a sustainable, natural high by doing some of the following:

- Think good thoughts about yourself: defend against irrational thoughts that sabotage your calm
- Maintain a sense of humour. Don’t take things to heart and don’t let yourself dwell on the dark side.
- Educate yourself and others. Learning broadens your thinking and helps you to develop behavioural flexibility. Don’t let shyness stop you from asking questions. Stimulate your curiosity by reading lots of different types of material.
- Build others up. You can build your children, friends or co-workers up by avoiding criticism and being a good listener. Earning someone’s gratitude or appreciation can deliver a powerful boost to your self-esteem.
- Get on with a variety of people. Encourage yourself to think differently by mixing with different types of people. Having a mix of friends and pursuits helps you to develop different aspects of your personality.

The little things in life that bring you pleasure can add substantially to your quotient of happiness. Make a list of your favourite things and make sure you enjoy at least one of them every day. Get clear about what you want, make choices and take action towards achieving what you really want, do the things you need to do in the correct order, bring all the parts of your life together and focus on doing the things that will bring you the biggest return, ignore the rest!

I wish to acknowledge the sources of information that I have referenced in this newsletter. ‘Happy Schools’ www.happyschool.com.au and ‘Realising the Power of Professional Learning’ by Helen Timperley.

In closing this week, I wish everyone a wonderful term and look forward to seeing you around the school.

God bless and keep safe.

Mrs Cheryl Brown
Principal

GOSPEL ACTION - WEEK 2 – LISTEN TO JESUS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT REMINDERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dear parents and carers, I wish to remind you of a few items that need your attention:--</td>
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- ROAD SAFETY. For the safety of our students, staff and parents I urge you to drive safely and follow the road rules when dropping off and picking up your child. The council has installed new signage and has been vigilant by randomly visiting our school during these times.

- EMERGENCY CLOTHING. I ask all parents of infant students, especially Kindergarten, to include a spare pair of underpants in the school bag in case of an accident during school hours. We have had a number of instances due to the change in weather and we have been caught short of spare underwear for the children.

- SPORTS UNIFORM. It is a requirement that all students, especially girls, wear the correct sports uniform. Sports uniform criteria:-
  - Unisex sport shorts
  - Netball skirt and bloomers e.g. fibs in green or black, (girls only)
  - White polo shirt
  - White ankle socks only – ‘No show’ socks are not permitted
  - Predominately White Sandshoes/joggers
  - Please ensure children wear appropriate underwear at all times.

I urge parents and student to follow the sports uniform guides for safety and modesty.

REMEMBER TO ORDER OUR 2019 SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

Seasons for Growth
During our lives, we all have times when we experience grief and loss. The resurrection of Christ reminds us that hope is not lost, and that experiences of loss in our lives can also offer us opportunities for growth.

Part of our commitment to Pastoral Care and the wellbeing of all members of our school community is the support and care of people who have experienced loss in their lives. It is one way also that we live out the mission of Christ through the Mercy charism; caring for those in need in the same way the sisters have done in their religious lives for so many years.

In 2012, St Anthony’s Parish and School are committing themselves to engaging in the Seasons for Growth program. This involves a 30 minute session each week for six weeks. It is a program specifically designed to support people in coming to understand and come to terms with significant loss in their lives. This may be the result of a death in the family, or the separation or divorce of parents, or a range of other situations. Teachers from the school will be formally trained to lead small groups, and we intend to run groups for students, and, in conjunction with the parish, adult groups as well.

If you think that such a program would be worthwhile for your child to participate in, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return to school tomorrow. This is only an expression of interest at this stage, but it is important as it will help us calculate the number of groups
we are able to support, and thus the funding that will be required to run the program.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that all our students and their families had a happy and holy Easter and a restful holiday break. It would appear that Term 2 will be another busy term. Some events for this term include: NAPLAN testing, Year 5 and Year 6 camps, The university skills tests, The Brainstorm production on bullying, walk safely to school day and of course Catholic Schools Week.

**Catholic Schools Week**

I would like to remind all our families that St Anthony’s will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week with a number of activities starting on Monday 30th May. A schedule of events was sent home on the 29th March for your reference. St Anthony’s staff and students would like to extend a very warm invitation to all our parents, carers, grandparents and friends to come along and join in the fun. We will start our celebrations with a liturgy on Monday morning, followed by morning tea and open classrooms. The concert on Wednesday should be very entertaining with hip-hop dancing, singing, performances by our very own instrumentalists and much, much more. The students are also looking forward to the craft afternoon, which has been organized for Friday. If you have time to spare please visit your school, St Anthony’s to see all the wonderful learning that is taking place.

**Monday**
Community Invited to these events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Whole School Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Morning Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Open classrooms showcasing IT (ipads, laptops, interactive whiteboard) focusing on numeracy and or literacy (Rotational activities)</td>
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**Wednesday**
Community Invited to these events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert showcasing extra-curricular activities – skipping to music, cooking, knitting, dance and choir items, Year 6 Models, Passive Play group – gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Picnic Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Rug Reading across school</td>
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**Friday**
Community Invited to these events

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>Whole School craft session</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Staff to nominate craft activity – students participate in an activity of their choice.</td>
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**NUMERACY NEWS**

This week an invitation will be sent home to all parents to attend the Numeracy information session on **Monday 7th May** at 2:15pm or 7pm. During the session parents will experience hands on activities that the students are using in the classroom and parents can use at home.

Attending the information session will be Mrs Tammy Roosen, our Numeracy Educator from the CEO at Parramatta. Mrs Roosen will be sharing her expertise in the area of Numeracy.

We hope to see many parents participate in this opportunity to learn some new games to help support their children at home.

Joanne Digwood
Numeracy Coordinator

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Catherine McAuley Westmead Open Day**

**Saturday 5 May 2012**

9am-1pm

Our Open Day will have school tours, lots of fun activities and student demonstrations. A simulated archaeological dig will be run by the History Department, lino printing and fabric stencilling by the Visual Arts and TAS Departments, lots of hands on science experiments organised by the Science Department, a Japanese cultural demonstration by our Year 10 Japanese students and lots of delicious treats made by our Hospitality students in our new commercial kitchen.

Principal presentations at 10am and 11am

Our Open Day is also an opportunity to view our new building and how it is enhancing learning opportunities at Catherine McAuley.

Car parking available on site via Gate 3, Darcy Road. Additional car parking available at the paid UWS carpark, entrance via Hawkesbury Road.

Contact our School Reception on 9849 9100 for further information. We are located opposite Westmead Private Hospital at 2 Darcy Road, Westmead.

Have you seen our new school website? Go to [www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au)

**Mary MacKillop Place Open Day**

**7-11 Mount St, North Sydney**

**Sunday 29 April 2012 (10am - 4pm)**

- Visit the historic Chapel and Mary MacKillop’s tomb
- Enjoy the museum’s new gallery with FREE admission
- Take a guided tour and explore the Kids’ Space
- Relax in the Gift Shop & Cafe
- Sausage sizzle & Devonshire Tea
- Enjoy a day with the family in the beautiful grounds!

For more information about programs and events at Mary MacKillop Place, please visit our website [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal
CALENDAR UPDATE

Mon 30 Apr  Catholic Schools Week begins with Liturgy and Assembly at 9:15am

Tues 1 May  Diocesan Cross Country

Wed 2 May  CSW Concert & Rug Reading

Fri 4 May  CSW Activities Afternoon

Fri 4 May  Gift wrapping day for Mothers’ Day Stall

Mon 7 May  EMU parent meetings 2:15 – 3:15pm & 6:30 – 7:30pm

Fri 11 May  Mothers’ Day Breakfast 7:30am

11 May  Mothers’ Day Liturgy at 9am

11 May  Mothers’ Day Stall 10am – 12noon

Sun 13 May  Mothers’ Day

Mon 14 May  School Community Group Meeting 7:30pm

Tues 15 May  NAPLAN exam

Wed 16 May  NAPLAN exam

Thur 17 May  NAPLAN exam

Fri 18 May  Survey Results due back

Fri 18 May  Walk to School Safely Day

Tues 22 May  ICAS Assessment – Computer

Fri 25 May  School Disco – 2 sessions 5 – 6pm Kinder, 1 & 2 6:30-8pm Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6

Mon 28 May  Spring Fair Meeting 7:30pm

Tues 29 May  Confirmation 7:30pm

Wed 30 May  Year 6 Canberra excursion

Thurs 31 May  Year 5 Bathurst excursion

Wed 6 June  ICAS Assessment – Science

Mon 11 June  Queen’s Birthday – no school

Tues 12 June  Staff Development Day – Pupil Free

12 June  School Community Group Meeting 7:30pm

Wed 13 June  St Anthony’s Feast Day – Picnic Day

Fri 15 June  Reports go home

Mon 18 June  ICAS Assessment – Writing

Tues 19 June  ICAS Assessment – Spelling

Tues 19 June  Student-led conferences

Wed 20 June  Student-led conferences

Wed 20 June  Maths Olympiad

Fri 22 June  Year 3 excursion to Warragamba Dam

Mon 25 June  Spring Fair Meeting 7:30pm

Mon 25 June  Cerdon students visit school for week – Volunteers in Action

Tues 26 June  School Photos

Wed 27 June  Brainstorm – 9:15am

Fri 29 June  Last day of Term 2

Fri 29 June  Mrs Leach begins Maternity Leave

Mon 2 July  Staff Professional Learning Day – in holidays

Mon 16 July  First day of Term 3

Thurs 26 July  Grandparents’ Day – more details to be advised

Mon 30 July  Life Education Week – Van on site

Tues 7 Aug  Captivate Showcase

CANTENE ROSTER – APRIL 30 – MAY 4

Monday  Judi Adams, Kathy Grivas

Tuesday  Parveen Atwal

Wednesday  Rachael Christie, Denise Andree-Evarts

Thursday  Sav Cosgrove, Sue Adams

UPDATE: Unfortunately SMALL LASAGNE is no longer available due to discontinuance by manufacturer.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Spray Jackets have now arrived. If you only paid the deposit, could you please pay the outstanding money at the office as soon as possible.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

I am interested in my child / ren participating in the Seasons for Growth Programme.

Child’s Name: __________________________ Class: ______

Child’s Name: __________________________ Class: ______

Parent’s Name: __________________________

Contact Number: ________________________

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter