From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Welcome to Week 2.

It is wonderful to be back into the swing of things. St Anthony’s Ignition Day has stimulated the learning activities in all grades. The students have been writing about their experience and sharing their knowledge with each other. The success of the ‘Ignition Day’ has far exceeded our dreams and expectations. I have received so much quality feedback on the event from parents, students, visitors to our school and professional colleagues in our diocese. The students are asking ‘What’s next, Mrs Brown?’ It is great to hear them being curious and asking questions.

We want all students to ask questions and search for answers in their minds. When you are curious about something, your mind expects and anticipates new ideas related to it. When the ideas come they will soon be recognised. Without curiosity, the ideas may pass right in front of you and yet you miss them because your mind is not prepared to recognise them. Just think, how many great ideas may have been lost due to lack of curiosity.

Why is Curiosity so important?
1. It makes your mind active instead of passive.
2. It makes your mind observant of new ideas.
3. It opens up new worlds and possibilities.
4. It brings excitement into your life.

Knowing the importance of curiosity, here are some tips to develop it:

1. Keep an open mind. This is essential if you are to have a curious mind. Be open to learn, unlearn and relearn. Some things you know and believe might be wrong, and you should be prepared to accept this possibility and change your mind.

2. Don’t take things as granted. If you just accept the world as it is without trying to dig deeper, you will certainly lose the ‘wonder of curiosity’. Ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of the world around you.

3. Ask questions relentlessly. A sure way to dig deeper beneath the surface is asking questions: ‘What is that? Why is it made that way? When was it made? Who invented it? Where does it come from? How does it work? What, why, when, who, where and how are the best friends of curious people.

4. Don’t label something as boring. Whenever you label something as boring, you close one more door of possibilities. Curious people are unlikely to call something boring. Instead, they always see it as a door to an exciting new world. If they don’t yet have time to explore it, they will leave the door open to be visited another time.

5. See learning as something fun. If you see learning as a burden, there’s no way you will want to dig deeper into anything. That will just make the burden heavier. But if you think of learning as something fun, you will naturally want to dig deeper. So look at life through the glasses of fun, excitement and enjoy the learning process.

6. Read diverse kinds of reading. Don’t spend too much time on just one world; take a look at other worlds. It will introduce you to the possibilities and excitement of the other worlds which may spark interest to explore them further. One easy way to do this is through reading diverse kinds of reading. Try to pick a book or magazine on a new subject and let it feed your mind with the excitement of a new world.

‘The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery everyday. Never lose a holy curiosity’.

Albert Einstein

Think of ways you can nurture the curiosity that your child was born with!

From the moment of birth, likely even before, humans are drawn to new things. If a child stays curious, he/she will continue to explore and discover and further develop their skills in the cycle of learning. At St Anthony’s we aim to inspire our students by providing tailored learning experiences to ignite their curiosity and pleasure in
discovery of new ideas. Encouraging a response and celebrating the learning is most important in building a sense of pleasure and pride in student learning.  
(source: excerpts from 4 Reasons Why Curiosity is important and How to Develop it)

As the First Days of school are so important in identifying our learning and teaching foci across all curriculum areas, our school is focused on providing explicit teaching of writing strategies for all students. Writing samples have been collected from all students based on an Information Report of the ‘Ignition Day’ stimulus. Today, at our weekly professional learning meeting the teachers of each grade presented writing samples to provide a snapshot of ‘What writing looks like in their grade’. All teachers have engaged in collaborative discussions with their grade partners to identify the writing focus for explicit teaching over the next two weeks. Then another writing sample will be collected and analysed to measure student improvement, reflect on teaching strategies and provide direction for future planning of teaching strategies in each grade. In sharing the data this morning the teachers were demonstrating knowledge of their students’ writing and articulating the future direction of explicit teaching to improve student writing. Below is a picture of the data wall.

All the teachers will be engaged in a book study this year, ‘Putting FACES on the Data’ What great leaders do! By Lyn Sharratt & Michael Fullan. The authors show how to develop a common language for sharing all students’ progress with teachers and leaders, and how to use ongoing assessment to inform instruction. St Anthony’s students, teachers and parents are on a learning journey in 2013, and I can confidently say that our students’ learning is at the heart of all our committed and professional teachers in every grade and all other staff that come in contact with you and your child.

I extend a special welcome to all those families who are sending their children to St Anthony’s for the first time and who are beginning their association with the school. You would have received your invitation to the Welcome Barbecue tomorrow night and we look forward to seeing everyone from 5:30pm.

Yours truly in Word and Deed.

Cheryl Brown
Principal

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Commencement of Year Mass**
Mass to celebrate the commencement of the school year will take place tomorrow at 9:30 am at the church. We will welcome all our new students, bless our new teachers and commission our 2013 student leaders. All are invited to celebrate with us.

**Ash Wednesday**
This day, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, is observed by many as one of the important days of the Church year. The marking of the cross on the forehead with ashes, made from burning the palms from Holy Week last year, is a sign of our desire to turn away from times of fault and failure in our lives and deepen our relationship with, and love of, our God.

Ash Wednesday this year is next Wednesday, 13 February. Kindergarten – Year 2 will celebrate with a Celebration of the Word at school at 9:30 am. Years 3 – 6 will celebrate with parishioners at Mass in the church, also at 9:30 am. All are invited to participate in these celebrations.

**The Angelus**
Bishop Anthony has asked all schools to restore the practice of praying the Angelus daily at 12pm. This prayer recalls one of the significant events in our salvation history, the Annunciation. Stopping to pray it at noon each day offers us an opportunity to remember and acknowledge the constant presence of God in the regular occurrences of our daily lives. Each class will learn more about the Angelus (and the Hail Mary, which is a major part of it), and will be taught to pray it over the course of this term.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

**From the Assistant Principal**

**What's Happening at St Anthony's**
Welcome to the 2013 school year at St Anthony’s. ‘St Anthony’s ignites learning’ (which took place on day 1) was a fantastic school initiative that piqued the curiosity and imagination of the students and engaged them in learning from the moment they entered the school grounds. One of our goals this year is to keep all our students enthused and excited about their learning throughout the year so that they will realize that we are all learners and that we can achieve ‘great things.’ Looking forward to supporting you in the education of your children in 2013.

**Volunteer Child Protection Sessions**
At St Anthony’s we depend on the generosity of our parents to help support us in many of our programs and activities. Parents have always been very keen to assist
the staff by undertaking a variety of roles, eg. helping in the classroom or canteen. We would love your support again this year. However, for any person to work in a school environment, in any capacity, there is a legislative requirement that “Volunteer Child Protection Cover” has to be obtained.

If you are a new parent to the school you will need to attend one of the scheduled child protection workshops. Parents who have already attended the mandatory workshop at St Anthony’s in previous years and have completed the relevant documentation do not need to attend the workshop. However, if your documentation isn’t current and you wish to volunteer again this year you can complete the ‘online’ child protection session. Once you have completed the online session you must submit the document with your signature to the school office. When submitting this document you must also bring along your driver’s licence for identification purposes. Please note that it is a legislative requirement that your Child Protection Cover must be completed every two years. If your cover has expired you must complete the online course or attend one of the workshops.

Session Times are as follows:

- **Monday 11th February at 2.30pm**
- **or**
- **Tuesday 12th February at 6.30 pm**

The session runs for approximately 30 minutes. Please keep in mind that attendance at a ‘Child Protection Workshop’ is mandatory should you wish to work with students/teachers as parents/carers can be quite disappointed if they are unable to participate/support in a school event or attend an excursion because they have not completed the compulsory course. To help in the organisation of the workshops I ask you to indicate on the tear-off slip at the bottom of this newsletter which session you will be attending.


**Meet and Greet**

St Anthony’s will again be holding Meet and Greets again this year.

The dates for these sessions are Wednesday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Friday the 22nd February. A letter will go home on Monday with details of the sessions. Please put these dates in your diary so you don’t miss this valuable opportunity to discuss your child’s needs with their teacher.

**Kind Regards**

**Patricia Charlton**

**Assistant Principal**

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Catherine McAuley Westmead**

**Enrolments for Year 7 2014**

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year.

There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 enrolments on:

**Tuesday 19 February and Thursday 14 March 2013 - 9.15 – 11am**

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day. To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

There will also be a Year 7 2014 Enrolment Information Evening on Monday, 18th March from 6.30 – 7.30pm. This evening will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting. Prior to the presentations there will be a further opportunity to tour the school with school tours running at 5.30pm and 5.45pm. Please RSVP for the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening by phoning the School Reception.

**DISCOVER WHAT A MERCY EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER**

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to its 2013 Open Day on Friday, March 8. Principal’s welcome and College tour at 10.30am, 1.30pm am and 4.00pm. Reservations are essential and can be made by visiting [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phoning the College Office on 8838 1263.

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**Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta**

**Information Evening**

**Wednesday 20 February 2013**

- 5.30pm sausage sizzle
- 6.00pm school tours
- 6.30pm Principal’s welcome and College tour

Reservations are essential and can be made by visiting [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phoning the College Office on 8838 1263.

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**Parramatta Marist High School**

**Year 10: 12 Catholic Systemic Boys’ School**

**Information Evening**

**Wednesday 20 February 2013**

- 5.30pm sausage sizzle
- 6.00pm school tours

Principal’s welcome and College tour at 10.30am, 1.30pm am and 4.00pm. Reservations are essential and can be made by visiting [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phoning the College Office on 8838 1263.

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**Daroji School**

**Information Evening**

**Wednesday 20 February 2013**

- 5.30pm sausage sizzle
- 6.00pm school tours

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SCHOOL BANKING NEWS
School Banking has resumed for 2013 on Tuesday mornings from 8.30am outside the Hub. Come join in the fun of being a supersaver. A display of the Redemption Prizes for 2013 are in the office – first redemption day for the year will be Tuesday 5th March. Any queries please contact Debbie Pooley-deepooley@optusnet.com.au

SCHOOL FEES
School fees will be posted out this week by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta and you should receive them early next week. They are due for payment by 8th March, 2013. If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees, please contact Mrs Brigden to make an appointment to discuss payment. Please contact us if you do not receive your account next week.

BOOK CLUB
This week students received brochures for Issue 1, 2013 of Book Club. Orders are to be sent to school only next Thursday 14th February. 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. Miss Katrina James, Book Club Organiser

CANTEEN NEWS
Please note that a new price list (blue form) went home last week. We are in urgent need of helpers for the Canteen so if you are able to help out at all, please fill in the tear-off slip below and return it to the office.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANTEEN HELPER</th>
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<tr>
<td>I [] am able to help in the canteen on the following day:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<td>Child’s Name: []</td>
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<th>CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP</th>
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<td>I [] will be attending the workshop on</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11 Feb -2:30pm or Tues 12 Feb – 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Name: []</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We ask that everyone please ensure their child has spare underwear in their bag in case of any little accidents that might happen here at school.