Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Welcome everyone to Week 5, Term 3. It is hard to believe how far we are into the year. Our community is definitely enjoying hospitality, collegiality and outstanding learning and teaching. I enjoy coming to work every day, the smiles on our children’s faces and their desire to learn energises me. Today we have included some of our infants’ writing, Year 1 students; they were so beautiful when they came to my office to share their learning.

At St Anthony’s we are always striving to improve the learning and teaching in whatever way is necessary to support the learning needs of all students. The teachers meet every fortnight in their stages to discuss the following:

- Teachers’ professional learning
- ways to improve classroom practices
- the focus on Numeracy, Literacy and Spiritual formation for all students and staff
- identification of students at risk across the learning continuum - support and extension
- the conversations are robust in identifying problem solving and critical thinking strategies to develop a deeper understanding of learning and teaching that caters for all students
- protocols for meetings have been negotiated to ensure the professional nature of discussions and the accountability of teachers in working collaboratively together to maintain a high level of learning being delivered at St Anthony’s.
- the meetings are facilitated by the Learning Coaches and stage co-ordinators e.g. Early Stage 1 & Stage 1 - Mrs Ward and Mrs Digwood; Stage 2 - Mrs Peatman and Mr Barden; Stage 3 - Mrs Charlton & Mrs Brown.

The Quality Catholic Schools Survey data has been received and the staff of St Anthony’s are currently working through the data. It is important to view the data as a way of improving our school community.

As a staff we are in the process of analyzing the data and as you can appreciate it will take time to unpack, however, we would like to share with you a brief synopsis of the strengths and challenges for our school community.

The strengths and challenges for St Anthony’s school community are identified below:

**Our strengths are:**

- staff, students and parents see the importance of belonging to a Catholic community and they value participating in prayer, ministry and liturgy in St Anthony’s Parish.

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**SPRING FAIR COUNT DOWN**

16 Sleeps to go

Don’t forget Basket Stall Mufti Day tomorrow, come in your Favourite Team Colours

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**Gospel Reading of Sunday, 19 August, 2012**

*John 6:52-58*

The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life with you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

**Reflection**

At Mass, we receive eternal life as we eat the living bread of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist. This is the purpose of coming to Mass every Sunday: to gather together as God’s people, to remember and ratify God’s covenant of love and life for us, and to receive his life within us as we are nourished by the gift of his Body and Blood. Today and each Sunday we celebrate this mystery, which has been handed down from Christ through the ages until today. Within the Mass and the life of the Church, our Catholic faith celebrates and lives Christ yesterday, today, and always.

**Let us prayer together:**

Heavenly Father,  
you sent us your Son  
as the Living Bread come down from heaven.  
Increase our faith and open our hearts to welcome the gift of your life within us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen
• students view themselves as highly motivated towards their learning and this is supported by parent data
• staff are personally motivated and committed to the school goals.

Our challenge is:
• to build a more professional learning culture characterised by teamwork, role clarity, accountability and constructive feedback leading to improved learning outcomes.

As we continue to analyse the data more information will be forthcoming. In the future I will organise feedback to the Students and Parents. Our aim, with the repetition of the Quality Catholic School Survey each year, is to build on our strengths and to improve in all areas.

I wish to thank everyone in the school community for the wonderful way we celebrated the 2012 Olympic Games last Friday. Unfortunately the weather was not the best but community spirit prevailed and the day was so successful. The staff and students enjoyed the rotations and the Netball game at the end of the day.

As there were many parents and friends of our school community present I wish to advise that there was an incident late in the afternoon. Thankfully, with the quick thinking of the staff and some nearby parents the matter was under control. Unfortunately, incidents can often grow in their nature so I am writing to let you know that the matter was handled well. I have advised the Catholic Education Office and reviewed the circumstances with the aim to improve security in the school. Mr Barden was of great assistance on the day, and for your information he is well with no adverse health issues. I am blessed with a very supportive school community.

I would like to thank Mr Ross Howse for the wonderful way he planned and implemented the sporting activities and managed to organise over 400 gold coins for the students.

Tomorrow the students are wearing their favourite sporting team colours for mufti day. Each child is to bring in Basket donations for the spring fair. I remind you to sell your raffle tickets, it is so important, as the sale of the tickets is one of the biggest fundraising activities of the Spring Fair.

I am very excited to advise that a number of students at St Anthony’s are receiving their First Communion over the next two weekends. I wish the students and their families a wonderful experience and know that God will be with you.

The Year 6 students are currently preparing for the Voice of Youth program. The students will be presenting their speeches on 22nd August to Mrs Charlton, Mr Barden and myself. I wish them all the best in their endeavours.

A number of our students attended the Cumberland Zone Athletics at Blacktown on 8th August. Mr Howse and Miss Small supported them for the day with many parents from our school community.

This week I heard some great news regarding the Girraween Eagles Football Knockout day last weekend. The under 6’s, under 7’s, under 8’s, under 9’s had to play three games each. On the day all the teams were undefeated. They played against teams from Merrylands, Glenwood, and Mt Pritchard to name a few areas. The under 10’s and under 11’s will be playing this coming Sunday. I am always pleased to hear good news from the students.

Next week on Tuesday, 21st August over 90 students will be attending the Netball Gala Day. Miss Watson, Mrs Ward and Miss Small will be attending the day with the students. Many thanks to the teachers for training the students and supporting on the day.

I would like to remind parents not to leave any valuables in your cars when you collect your children from school. We have received a report that a parent’s car was broken into recently and their handbag and electronic items were taken.

Enjoy the week and may you live in word and deed.

God Bless

Cheryl Bless

Principal

RELIigious EDUCATION

First Communion
Starting this weekend, a number of young children from our parish, many of them from Year 4, will receive the Eucharist for the first time. Over the last few weeks at Mass, we have been listening to chapter 6 of St John’s gospel. In this chapter, Jesus speaks to those following him about he is “the Bread of Life”. The celebration of the Mass is the high point of our lives as Catholics, for it is at Mass that we receive the Bread of Life. Our young parishioners will now receive this special gift. Please keep the children in your prayers as they approach this important stage of their sacramental initiation.

Religious Literacy Assessment
Our Year 4 students are currently completing their Religious Literacy Assessment. Since the beginning of the term, they have been learning about the sacrament of Reconciliation. They have read stories about forgiveness and healing from the New Testament, particularly the story of Zacchaeus and the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Their task has been to choose a method of communicating their understanding of the message of these stories, and to explain how these stories relate to their own experience. There are a wide range of projects being undertaken, including sculptures, magazines, story books, photographic journals and movies. The students are showing great interest in their tasks. The challenge lies in trying to effectively communicate their message through their chosen medium, and ensuring that their work is completed within the given time frame. These are important skills that our students will need well into the future.
Beginning next week, Year 4 students will complete the second component of the assessment. This is a multiple-choice test of 35 questions, each of which relates to aspects of learning in Religious Education and Catholic culture. The test is completed online, and students will be allocated a time to complete the test over the next fortnight. Good luck to all our Year 4 students.

Liturgical Celebrations
Thank you to all the parents and friends who joined our parish Mass for the Assumption of Mary yesterday. We also invited all members of our school community, especially our fathers, to our Celebration of the Word for Fathers’ Day on Thursday 30 August at 9:15 am. Don’t forget also that this is preceded by a Fathers’ Day breakfast before school. A flyer has been sent home about these celebrations this week.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s
Creative Arts Presentation
Each year in August, St Paul’s College runs Creative Arts Nights to allow students to display their creative talents. This year St Paul’s has invited our Year 5 and 6 students to a matinee presentation on Thursday 23rd August from 12:45pm until 2:15pm. This event will be a wonderful opportunity for our senior students to view the various musical items the boys from St Pauls will perform and to see the many visual art works. It is also a great opportunity for the Year 12 students to perform their HSC performance pieces to a wider audience and present their HSC major works to the community. Permission notes will be sent home tomorrow. Please complete and return by due date.

Voice of Youth
On Friday the Year 6 students will participate in a class Voice of Youth competition to determine the candidates for the school competition that will be held on Wednesday 22nd August. Three students will be selected from the school competition to represent St Anthony’s at the cluster final. At the cluster final candidates are selected to compete in the Diocesan final. We wish all our Year 6 students every success in delivering their speeches. The students have worked very hard developing their speeches – refining ideas, researching and crafting a speech, editing, evaluating their speech against the set criteria and practising speech delivery.

Movie Team film the Silver Jubilee Performance
On Tuesday 7th August, four students from the St Anthony’s Movie Team were asked to film the Silver Jubilee Performance for the Parramatta Diocese. Vanessa Daher, Claire Burgess, Nic Jahshan and Reece Murray arrived at the Riverside Theatre to meet Ron Van Vliet in preparation for the evening. The students assisted with the setup of cameras and tested the cameras for angles and sound. During the evening Ron would communicate the angles and footage required to both teams via headphones while he monitored. The students worked very well to capture the entire evening and are looking forward to the editing process.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

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St Anthony’s School
Newsletter
**YEAR ONE WORK**

**Zebra**
Black stripes
run and gallop
Zebras eat some grass.
Excited.

*By Haydon Brown 1W*

**Rabbit**
White, fluffy
Hop, sniff and jump.
Rabbits eat and hop.
Happy.

*By Zara Haddad 1W*

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Catherine McAuley Westmead**

School Open Morning
9:15 – 11am
Tuesday 28th August 2012

Enrolments for Year 7 2014
Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2014. 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.

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**GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, CASTLE HILL**

Are hosting an Art and Photography Exhibition on Tuesday 14th August, 2012, 5 – 9pm
The exhibition will showcase the work of students from Years 7 – 12 who have engaged in the study of Visual Arts and Photograph and Digital Media.

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**PARISH NEWS**

**THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?**

**OR**

Have you a spouse, relative or friend who is not a Catholic and would be interested in finding out about our faith? Please let them know about this meeting. *Come along with them.*

**ENQUIRY NIGHT FOR R.C.I.A.**

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre (back of the courtyard beside the Church)

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**White Elephant Stall Collections**
You can drop your White Elephant items off on Saturday 25th August between 10am and 12noon in the staff carpark and Monday – Friday between 8am – 8:45am. For any enquiries please contact Louise on 0414 347 277.