Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony's

SPRING FAIR
COUNT DOWN

2 Sleeps to go

MONDAY
3RD SEPTEMBER, 2012
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY CANCELLED
NORMAL SCHOOL DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

Gospel Reading of Sunday,
2nd September, 2012
Mark 7:14-15, 21-23
Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

“From within the man, from his heart, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All of these evils come from within and they defile.”

Reflection
In our Christian witness it is important to exemplify integrity of life. Thus, our external practice is an expression of our interior disposition. In today’s Gospel, Jesus criticizes religious practice that merely honours God with the lips while the heart is far from the Lord. Our beliefs must overflow in good word and deed, rather than the hypocrisy the Lord warns us to avoid.

Let us prayer together:-

Heavenly Father,
may the grace of the remembrance
of the Resurrection take root in our lives
and overflow in good works of charity
and service.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Welcome to Week 7. I’m sure everyone will agree that our Book Week Parade was another amazing community event. It was great to see the fantastic character costumes. Congratulations to all our staff who, on a daily basis, live out their ministry as educators with joy and enthusiasm. Top marks to Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Charlton and Mrs Awkar for the wonderful coordination on the day. The winners of the poster competition are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Rihana Boulos</th>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Joshua Abdilla</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Grace Pooley</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Paige Cunneen</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Adriana Busic</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Ronan Lipping</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Nancy Nirmal Raj</td>
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Today our community welcomed the fathers and grandfathers of our students for a scrumptious breakfast, after which we gathered together to participate in a prayerful liturgy. It was a wonderful experience listening to the students’ reflections about their fathers. It was clearly evident that our fathers and grandfathers are loved and respected by their children, particularly when the students proudly stood beside them in front of the assembly area.

This weekend we celebrate Fathers’ Day. The first observance of Fathers’ Day is believed to have been on June 19, 1910 in the United States. It was inaugurated to complement Mothers’ Day and celebrates fatherhood and male parenting, as well as honouring and commemorating fathers and forefathers.

We often forget the sacrifice of our fathers and the roles they have played in shaping our lives. Fathers’ Day gives us the opportunity to show and express our love and care for the men in our lives who most deserve our support. Fathers’ Day is also an appropriate opportunity to make us look beyond ‘our own’ family and honour all those men in our lives who have brought us joy and happiness. Fathers’ Day is a day to honour not only one’s own father, but all men who have acted as a father figure in our life – whether as Stepfathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, or “Big Brothers.” In this way ‘fathers’ are often associated with guidance and protection, a person who can be loved, respected and looked up to.
The following prayer by Kirk Loadman captures the many and varied men who may carry the title of father, all of whom we celebrate and give thanks for on Sunday.

Let us praise those fathers who have strived to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice. Let us praise those fathers who, lacking a good model for a father, have worked to become a good father.

Let us praise those fathers who by their own account were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those children, now grown, their love and support. Let us pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect and hostility of their children.

Let us praise those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children’s lives. Let us praise those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing.

Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their step children’s love and respect. Let us praise those fathers who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart.

Let us praise those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own.

Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.

And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.

The Annual School and Parish SPRING FAIR is the other exciting event that is happening this weekend. I look forward with enthusiasm in gathering together with all school community members in preparation for our school’s biggest annual event.

The excitement is growing and many hands are busy in preparation.

I invite all students, parents, friends and the wider community members to come and join in an amazing experience where:-

- the food is scrumptious
- everyone can be a winner
- there are lots of goodies to buy
- Mrs O’Malley’s Devonshire Tea is worth waiting for
- the Girraween Eagles provide wonderful prizes to choose from on the Chocolate Wheel
- the Major Raffle is the highlight of the day
- rides, rides, rides and more rides that will entertain everyone
- many stalls with interesting items to tempt you
- a SILENT AUCTION with valuable items that will tempt you
- there is heaps more … SO BE THERE!!

The Spring Fair is St Anthony’s major source for fundraising. Past years’ fortunes have provided quality technology (macbooks, ipads, ipods, interactive whiteboards), classroom furniture, mathematical equipment, reading materials to name a few. There are many ways we can spend the profits of the Spring Fair that will benefit our school. There are a number of items on our wish list, for example

- Film making equipment
- Extension of Shadola
- Outdoor furniture – tables and chairs
- Musical instruments
- Outdoor blinds for protection
- Sporting and playground play equipment
- Artificial grass on area C

(these are only a few ideas and not in any order).

**STAFF INFORMATION**

I wish to provide an update on some staffing changes:-

- Mr Ross Howse is on long service leave and he is replaced by Ms Sheldon Howse. Yes we are keeping it in the family, we welcome Sheldon, Mr Howse’s daughter, and are very pleased that she will be sharing her giftedness in the area of Sport.

- Mr Patrick Mackey is back. He has just returned from being overseas and will be replacing Mrs Amanda Khoury in Year 3. On behalf of the staff I wish Amanda the best as she begins a new adventure, motherhood. It is with sadness that I advise that her contract is ending, as Amanda has been a wonderful asset to the St Anthony’s staff and school community. We will miss her very much.

- Mrs Sheraton has been absent from school over the past two weeks due to illness. She is on the road to recovery and hopefully she will return next week. I know that she has missed the Kindergarten students and her grade partner, Mrs Awkar. Please keep Mrs Sheraton in your prayers.

- I ask you to pray for the following staff as they have family members who are in need of our prayers:- Mrs Digwood, Mrs Francis, Mrs Ward and Mrs Baiada.

- Miss Renee Small is preparing for her wedding on 15th September, 2012. Mrs Annette Peatman will be taking Miss Small’s class in her absence. Miss Small will start her leave on 12th September and return on 8th October, 2012.

- Mrs Lyn Stevenson will be on leave in Week 8 and 9. I wish her well on her long service leave.

I am looking forward to next Monday, 3rd September, when our Year 5 students will be attending the 2012 Primary Voices Choral Celebration. It is being held at St. Dominic’s College, Gascoigne Street, Kingswood (Warner Hall). All Year 5 students have been rehearsing a number of items over the past months in preparation for the event. The concert features 8 primary schools involved in the CAPTIVATE Choral Development Program, delivered by
'a3 Australian Arts Alive', the education program of the Australian School of Performing Arts.

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

God Bless

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Today, our school community gathered in prayer to give thanks for the gift of fathers. Fathers reflect the love of God through the care, protection and encouragement they give to their children. I wish to thank all the students and teachers for their participation in today’s celebration, and for the special roles they undertook. I also wish to thank all the parents and friends, especially dads, for their participation in today’s celebration.

First Communion
We congratulate all the students of St Anthony’s who have celebrated their First Communion over the past two weeks. As Fr Sunil explained in his homily at Sunday’s Mass, these children now partake of a very special sacrament. Jesus promises us himself, the bread of life, nourishment that is better than any other food.

First Reconciliation
Information was also sent home recently to Year 3 parents to advise them about First Reconciliation, which children may prepare for and celebrate over the coming months. Information was also sent home to parents of children in older grades who may not have celebrated this sacrament yet. The celebration of First Reconciliation this year is necessary for any child intending to celebrate First Communion next year. For further information, contact the parish sacramental coordinator, Kristen Borg, at the parish office on 9631 3316.

Exploring Scripture
Part of this year’s school goal for formation is to promote St Anthony’s as a place where we reflect upon the Word of God. We have done this for some time now with our staff, particularly through some key strategies centred on our weekly celebration of staff prayer. We have also worked towards this goal with our students through reflecting on liturgical celebrations, and through the Gospel Action of the Week. Our school will now begin to take this further, deepening and enriching our use of scripture in Religious Education lessons. We are doing this also in response to what we have learnt about the achievement of our students in the Religious Literacy Assessment in previous years.

This week, our teachers began to engage in professional learning on Exploring Scripture. This is a teaching strategy for sharing scripture stories with children, drawn originally from a practice of scripture storytelling that originated in the United Kingdom. A research project has already found that this practice provides students with a greater and more accurate understanding of scripture stories as opposed to simply reading the story from the Bible, or using other activities. Pictures or figures are used as a visual aid to engage the students in a multi-sensory way through the telling of the story. Various lessons and activities then allow students to respond to the story, and the story telling kit remains in the classroom for students to revisit and retell the story for themselves. Staff will continue to learn about, and develop their practice in Exploring Scripture over the remainder of the year, with the expectation that the practice will become a regular part of Religious Education lessons across the school.

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM NEWS

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

Writing
The teaching staff at St Anthony’s are presently reviewing and evaluating their writing programs to ensure that we are providing our students with powerful opportunities to learn more about the writing process.

“Just as students are expected to read more challenging texts as they move through school, they are also expected to write increasingly more challenging texts. As the gradient of difficulty of each of these tasks continues to increase, teachers ensure that student knowledge and skill increases to match the task. Therefore, if we expect to see more sophisticated, complex and strategic writing, we must teach for it.” Through the writing process students learn how to organize their thoughts, remember important information, solve problems, reflect and learn how to communicate for specific purposes and audiences. A key factor in motivating students to write and enjoy writing is the nature of the learning community. In our classrooms we are building a supportive writing community to provide more direction and feedback for our students as they engage in meaningful writing experiences. In each grade teachers and students are using the POWER writing process – Prepare, Organise, Write, Edit and Rewrite. Ask your child if they can explain each of these steps to you. More on writing will be published in following newsletters.

Voice of Youth
On Monday our Year 6 students attended the Voice of Youth Competition at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes. Three students (Andrew Herlinger, Joshua Dodds and Rachel Tran) represented our school. Though they weren’t successful in advancing to the next level they did a wonderful job in delivering their speeches. We were all very proud of their achievements. Over the next few weeks we will print excerpts from the students’ speeches.

Democracy
Democracy. We live in a democratic country, which means we have rights and freedoms. But is every country democratic? My name is Rachel Tran and I’m going to be
talking to you about democracy. What are rights and freedoms? In the dictionary ‘freedom’ is defined as the right to act or speak and ‘right’ is defined as fair and good. Since we live in a democratic country we have rights and freedoms to do whatever we want. We have the right to vote in our next government, we even have the right to have a good education.

We also have the freedom to worship in our own religion. You know all countries are not as lucky as we are. Wouldn’t it be nice if all countries were democratic? A country called Libya had a dictator. That dictator didn’t allow anyone rights or freedoms. People would protest and fight. The people were forced to like the prime minister. If a man said to his friend that I hate our prime minister his friend would probably tell the soldiers of the dictator. The soldiers would find the man and BOOM! or they go to prison for just saying that. Imagine if we were all living in that situation! We wouldn’t be able to trust anyone! We wouldn’t even be able to talk to our best friend about what we really think.

We need ‘democracy’ so we can have our own views, opinions and political interests. Everyone should have equal opportunities in life. We can choose where we work and live and choose our own career path. ...

(Rachel Tran, Year 6)

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

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<td>Jack Tighe</td>
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<td>5W</td>
<td>Akel Akol</td>
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<td>Tamara Malak</td>
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<td>Mark Lazaro</td>
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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)

Name _______________________________________
Phone _______  
Email:_________________________________________

Please place on collection plate or contact Mary Cook if you wish to attend this enquirry night phone 9631 3316 or pastoralassociate@stanthonyschurch.org.au

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**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:**

Any child who is presently in Year 3 or higher will be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Parents ONLY** must attend one of the following enquiry meetings. Wednesday 5 September at 7:30pm OR Saturday 8 September at midday in the church. Attendance at one of these meetings is essential if you wish your child to receive the Sacrament. **No registrations will be accepted after these meetings.**

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