Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Friday 21st September, 2012

Is the new date for the STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY that was cancelled earlier this month. We ask that you make suitable arrangements for your child on this day as it is a pupil free day and they are not required to attend school.

Gospel Reading of Sunday,
16th September, 2012

Mark 8:27-33

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Reflection

People have many different ideas of the identity of Jesus. In today’s Gospel, Peter responds correctly as he identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the one anointed by God and prepared for throughout all the ages. However, Jesus then teaches that in order to bring about salvation and freedom, the Messiah must suffer, die, and rise again. Jesus illuminate and deepens our understanding of the mystery of who God is.

Let us prayer together:-

Lord God, your ways are not our ways, nor are your thoughts our thoughts. Pour out your spirit of wisdom and knowledge upon us, that we may more deeply know who you are. 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

Dear Parents and Carers of St Anthony’s

Welcome to Week 9.
The 2012 St Anthony’s School and Parish Spring Fair was an outstanding success this year in building community and sharing our gifts and talents to promote our school in the wider community. On behalf of the St Anthony’s School community I wish to express appreciation of the St Anthony’s Spring Fair Committee for the organisation and implementation of the Spring Fair. I have received many comments about the quality of the Fair this year. The President of the School Community Group, Mrs Louise Frendo coordinated the Spring Fair Committee with a number of conscientious parents from the school and parish communities. Well done!

This past week has been a very distressing week for all Catholic Schools across New South Wales. I am pleased to advise that St Anthony’s School and Parish have tried to express concern for our parents and students in relation to the NSW Government recurrent fund cuts. As more information is disseminated from the Bishop’s office and the Catholic Education Office our school will be proactive in forwarding the information to our parents and the wider parish community.

I was very proud of our Year 5 students on the 3rd of September when they performed at the 2012 Primary Voices Choral Celebration. Miss Watson, Mrs Lenthall and Ms Fardella had prepared the students very well and a special thank you to the parents for giving permission for their children to attend and picking them up accordingly as it was a late night.

Extra curricula activities of this nature are a wonderful opportunity for our students to shine in Creative Arts areas, e.g. music, dance and singing.

This week I was very happy to welcome a number of teachers from the Lismore Diocese. The five teachers come from various backgrounds and schools. They shadowed the staff and leadership team throughout the week and engaged in learning and teaching experiences with our students. This program called “Teacher placements” is an opportunity to visit and learn more about innovative and successful schools that are questioning teaching practice and constructing learning environment for the 21st Century. Respected and experienced teaching staff that share a desire for improvement and better student outcomes can be a great support for school communities. Through advocacy and personal practice teachers are often agents of change leading other staff to question, discuss and debate issues central to pedagogy.

Well done!
I wish to express my appreciation of the St Anthony’s staff in the way everyone embraced the visitors and welcomed them into their classrooms.

During August I received a letter from Bishop Anthony Fisher OP and Gregory Whitby in relation to World Youth Day 2013 being held in Rio de Janeiro in July and the Diocese is planning to support as many youth as possible who wish to go.

Our diocese is the fastest growing in Australia with the lowest average age demographic. There are in excess of 42,000 students enrolled in our schools and we are in a privileged position to support these young people.

The Diocese, parishes and schools are carrying out several fundraising events to raise funds for our young pilgrims. The main fundraising activity is a raffle with the 1st prize being a Toyota Yaris. Tickets will be sold throughout our 49 parishes and 88 schools.

Each family in our school will receive two books of raffle tickets to be sold and returned to the school before the 7th December, 2012. All proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets are to be forwarded by our school to our local parish to support pilgrims from all parishes.

The two books of raffle tickets will be sent home on Monday, 17th September. I ask you to support this fundraising venture, you never know you may win a New Toyota Yaris. I appreciate that there has been many requests made upon you over the past months, however, I have held off advising you of the Diocese request to sell raffle tickets till the Spring Fair was over.

I would really appreciate your support by selling the raffle tickets, possibly through the holidays and/or leading up to the 7th December, 2012.

The raffle will be drawn on Palm Sunday 24th March, 2013. Good Luck!

I wish to congratulate the Year 5 students for contributing the most amount of cans, bottles and grocery items for the Tombola at the Spring Fair. The stall raised in excess of $400.00. A movie and popcorn afternoon will be organised during next week for the students.

Many staff have had or are about to have some important events in their lives, for example:-

- Mrs Amanda Khoury gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, George Joseph, born 12th September, weight 3.35 kg and length 51 cm. Congratulations to Amanda and Johnny Khoury, proud parents.
- Mrs Frances Flood will be celebrating her 60th Birthday on Sunday, 16th September, many happy returns to Frances from the students, staff and parents from St Anthony’s Girraween.
- Miss Renee Small will be making her wedding vows on Saturday, 15th September with Scott Honebery. Good luck to them both.
- Mrs Vicki Baiada celebrated her 60th Birthday on the 24th August and she received well wishes from the staff with a lovely morning tea on the following Monday.

In closing, I wish to say how wonderful the St Anthony’s School Community Group is in looking after our school community; students, parents and staff. The members of the SCG have worked so hard this year to provide outstanding events for everyone. I wish to highlight a few of these fantastic events, most recently:-

- The Fathers’ Day stall – the gifts that were available to the students to buy were comprehensive in nature and provided wonderful gifts for all our dads and grandfathers.
- The Fathers’ Day Breakfast was well attended. Many mums gathered together early in the morning to ensure that our fathers and grandfathers were pampered with a hot and delicious bacon and egg roll and more.

There were key members of the SCG community who took upon significant roles to ensure that the Annual Spring Fair was successful leading up to and afterwards. There are too many to mention and I would be hesitant to name people just in case I missed out on someone. Please know that everyone was greatly appreciated.

- The wrapping team for the Fathers’ Day gifts. Thank you to the parents who wrapped the gifts with tender loving care.
- And, there is more to come over the next few months where many parents are preparing to spoil our school community in many ways.

In closing, please continue to rally for our school and other Catholic Schools in New South Wales in attempting to encourage the NSW State Government to reconsider their decisions to cut and freeze funding for our schools.

Next week, please note that the Naplan results will be sent home with the students along with the raffle tickets to be sold for World Youth Day 2013 fundraising.

Yours truly in Word and Deed.

Cheryl Brown
Principal

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter

RELEIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each year, the seminarians of our diocese who are preparing for priesthood are assigned to a parish. This gives them an opportunity to work with experienced priests and become aware of the many different dimensions of parish life. Thomas Bui is one of eleven seminarians within our diocese, and his pastoral placement this year has been in our own parish of Toongabbie.

Last Sunday, our parish was blessed with the opportunity to share in part of Thomas’ journey towards priesthood. Bishop Anthony celebrated the 10am Mass, where he led the liturgical rite of installation of Thomas to the ministry of acolyte. Thomas now has a particular responsibility to serve at the altar during Mass, and to assist with the pastoral care of, and ministry of the Eucharist to the sick and housebound. We congratulate Thomas on his admission to the ministry of acolyte, and I ask everyone to
keep him in your prayers as he continues his journey towards life in priestly ministry.

First Reconciliation
The rite of enrolment for families celebrating First Reconciliation this year will take place at Mass this weekend. If your child is celebrating First Reconciliation this year (please remember they must be in Year 3 or above), then you need to come with your child to either the 6pm Mass on Saturday or the 10am Mass on Sunday. All information about the process, as well as the necessary paperwork and materials, were distributed at the recent enquiry sessions. For further information about celebrating the sacrament, please contact the Parish Sacramental Coordinator, Kristen Borg, at the parish office on 9631 3316.

School Family Mass
This Sunday, our Year 3 and 4 students and their families will gather to celebrate Mass collectively as part of the parish community. The students will fulfil particular ministry roles during the Mass. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM NEWS

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

The Development of Writing
Following on from my previous article on ‘Writing’ (issue No 26 /2012) in a review of ‘writing’ our teachers are exploring ways to engage students more in purposeful writing tasks. The goal of all teaching is for students to become independent writers. However, even when students can write for certain purposes independently, there are always greater writing challenges over the horizon with which they need help. This applies even beyond school. So even though independence is the goal, explicit teaching and guidance are always needed. (From Focus on Literacy.) A strategy that teachers use to engage all students in writing is ‘Modellled Writing.’ Modelled writing refers to a) the selection of models to show students how writing works and b) the teacher’s practice of modelling or demonstrating writing to students. Another strategy that teachers use alongside modelled writing is the ‘Think Aloud’ strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to explicitly demonstrate the choices and decisions that writers make as they plan, analyse and edit their own writing. By modelling and thinking aloud while composing a piece of writing teachers are demonstrating the types of behaviours and skills good writers are engaged in as they write. During the modelled writing experience teachers also model each step of the POWER strategy which was described in a previous issue.

Below I have printed (with permission) two pieces written by students from St Anthony’s. The first was composed by Antony Touma (Year 4). The Year 4 students were set a task to write a poem arranged in stanzas, capturing the given subject and displaying effective use of a variety of poetic devices: personification, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia and rhyme.

Bushfires
Bushfires, bushfires watch them grow, to the bush they will go.
Then the wind starts to whip, with the trees about to tip.
Then the fire is a wave of flame, Everyone stops playing their game.
This fire is as dangerous as a knife, The firefighters come to save our life.
Crackle, crackle it starts to burn, Everyone in the area starts to turn.
As the kids are being frightened, The bush is being lightened.

The next piece was written by Andrew Herlinger for the Voice of Youth Competition.

Speech for the Voice of Youth
In the years 1939 to 1945, a cloud covered the planet. As a devastating and deadly war erupted, there were fears that the cloud would never disappear. Sixty million men, women and children died in this terrible and deadly war. What am I talking about? I am talking about World War 2. This war erupted only 20 years after World War 1, where 16 million died.

Why do we turn to war when it is so devastating? When there is no true winner? Men and women fought for our freedom so that we could live without war. Their aim was peace. But even today, entire countries are at war because their leaders are corrupt, sending their country into poverty and suffering. Other countries treat their soldiers and people well. They respect others and attempt to be fair as possible. And they strive to give their people dignity, opportunity and education...

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

NUMERACY UPDATE

With the holidays just around the corner, parents have the perfect opportunity to continue their child’s learning of numeracy with a few simple activities at home or even whilst travelling in the car.

We need to help children learn to start counting from a larger number and add or subtract a second number. We also need to help children build mental images of a group or quantity so they do not always have to rely on seeing the objects. Helping children to mentally “see” groups of things will also help them with understanding multiplication and division before they learn the “tables”.

- Choose a number for the child to number bust (use as many different algorithms as they can)
- Place Value – have the child roll the dice (or two or three) and create a number. Place these numbers on a number line in the correct order.
- Use a set of cards – turn over two cards and add them together. You could then place the number on a number line
- Practice adding double numbers (6+6, 8+8) or doubles plus one (6+7, 8+9) so these become known facts.
- Count collections of things (pasta shapes, shells)
- Ask the child questions around numeracy whilst shopping. (I have 6 apples in my bag, how many more do I need to make 10?)

There are many activities that we do every day that involves Numeracy (setting the table – How many forks do I need? How many pieces of cutlery altogether?). Have fun exploring and continuing your child’s mathematical learning.

Joanne Digwood
Numeracy Coordinator

### CANTEEN NEWS

#### CANTEEN ROSTER – SEPTEMBER 17 - 20

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<tr>
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<th>Judi Adams</th>
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<td>Emma McKenna</td>
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### UNIFORM UPDATE

A letter was sent home on Wednesday regarding the new Sport Shirt. If you would like to place an order, could you please return the form to the office by next Wednesday 19th September with your payment.

Letters have also been sent home regarding the new Sport socks and the new Boys Shirt. If you would like to make an appointment to try on the new Boys Shirt, please contact Mrs Louise Frendo on 0414 347 277.

### CALENDAR UPDATE

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<td>Family Mass</td>
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<td>Mon 17 Sep</td>
<td>Spring Fair Wrap Up Meeting</td>
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<td>Fri 21 Sep</td>
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<td>Thur 11 Oct</td>
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### CLEARANCE SALE REMINDER

**UNIFORM CLEARANCE SALE ON MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER FROM 3.15 – 5.30**

Don’t forget to come along to get your bargain prices on discontinued lines.