St Anthony’s School News

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Reflection on the Gospel for Sunday 18th September

Matthew 20:8 – 15
“When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘ Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. Are you envious because I am generous?’

Reflection
We may envy other’s possessions, success, or looks. Do we also envy others who accept and enjoy God’s saving love? If we have become self-righteous or self-critical to the point that we cannot understand God’s love for all his creation, we need to examine our hearts. The cure for this envy is play, relaxation and contentment in the gifts God has given us. We can be certain of his eternal grace. We can rejoice in it and share it with others.

Let us pray together:

Lord God,
Your abundant love overwhelms our sensibilities. Show us how to rejoice in this mystery rather than be caught up in concern for getting our share. Give us generous and free hearts, that we may love you and all your creation. 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 everyone to Week 9. One more week before we start the school holidays – another term over. It’s hard to believe!

NAPLAN
The NAPLAN results went home to parents on Monday for the children of Year 3 and 5. An initial analysis of the results / data indicates that St Anthony’s students have performed quite well in the 2011 assessment. We are extremely pleased with the results. The teaching staff along with the Literacy and Numeracy coordinators will now start the process of carefully and critically analysing all the data that NAPLAN generates (individual performance, percentages in bands, student growth from Year 3 to Year 5, school growth, data trends,) to ascertain areas of strength and areas of challenge. At the completion of this process of analysis and reflection we will publish our findings.

2011 Primary Voices Choral Celebration
On Friday evening (9th September) our Year 5 students participated in the Primary Voices Choral Celebration at The Hills Centre. The concert featured 13 primary schools from the Parramatta Diocese that were involved in the Captivate Choral Development program. This program is an education program of the Australian School of Performing Arts. In the concert our students performed in a number of items: SaSa (a traditional Samoan body percussion piece), Amazing Grace (Early African Melody/ Massed choir), Tarzan and Jane (Song and Dance) and Feel the Joy (Massed Choir). It was a wonderful evening of entertainment; I fully enjoyed all the performances. The way our Year 5 students sang and behaved was extraordinary. I and their teachers were so proud of each and every one of them. They were exemplary ambassadors for St Anthony’s. I would like to thank Miss Watson, Mr Mackey and Mrs Burgess (parent helper) for supporting the children throughout the rehearsals during the day and the concerts in the evening. The children were in good hands.

Staff Development Day
St Anthony’s Staff Development Day held on 5th September was a very productive day for all our staff. Teachers had the opportunity to work in their learning teams to explore and evaluate a framework for improving and sustaining an ‘Effective Professional Learning Team.’ Characteristics of Effective Teams that were identified and discussed included the following:

- focus on results
- genuine accountability
- commitment to the goals
- vigorous engagement
- high level of trust

Teachers also spent time evaluating current assessment practices and analysing the principles that provide the criteria for judging the quality of assessment materials and practices.
We established quality assessment:

- emphasizes the interactions between learning and manageable assessment strategies that promote learning
- clearly expresses for the student and teacher the goals of the learning activity
- reflects a view of learning in which assessment helps students learn better, rather than achieve a better mark
- provides ways for students to use feedback from assessment
- helps students take responsibility for their own learning
- is inclusive of all learners

The work we are doing on assessment is ongoing. Our goal is to ensure that we design quality assessment tasks that contribute to improving the quality of learning and teaching; making it relevant to each student. In Term 4 (Curriculum News) I will report more on our work in assessment and reporting.

Mrs Brown completes her ELIM course on Friday and she will return to school on Monday. Mrs Brown has found the course ‘spiritually refreshing’ and she is looking forward to sharing her insights and knowledge gained from the experience with St Anthony’s School Community.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Acting Principal

ST ANTHONY’S GOT TALENT

You are invited to the St Anthony’s Got Talent Final

When: Wednesday 21st September at 2.15pm.
Where: The concert will be in the assembly area.

A letter will be sent home to the chosen finalists on Friday 16th September after the heats conclude on Thursday 15th September.

Children will be advised on Friday if they have qualified for the final and will be given more information about music / costumes at that time. Please contact Miss Smith if you have any questions regarding this. A big thank you to all of the children who have taken part in the competition, to the Year 6 children who have helped me run it and to the teachers who have given up their time to assist with the judging of the competition. There is one thing for sure St Anthony’s has a FANTASTIC range of talented students.

Miss Smith
Year 6 Teacher

This year, our school goal in formation has been to deepen the faith formation of our school community through a renewed focus on liturgy. This term, we have continued our professional learning and formation as a staff by engaging in professional reading. Our most recent reading has helped us to affirm some of our beliefs about the celebration of the liturgy at St Anthony’s, such as:

- The liturgy is the source and summit of Christian life
- The Church’s liturgy includes a variety of celebrations and ways in which we give expression to our faith
- Our school liturgical celebrations are not a substitute for participating in the liturgical celebrations of the parish
- In providing opportunities for liturgical celebrations at school, we support parents in their role of first educators of the faith to their children
- The liturgy is an opportunity for all participants to engage in prayer, not an opportunity to people to “perform”

A video summary of our discussions is available on our school website. Follow the links to the Word and Deed blog.

Religious Literacy Assessment
In the first half of this term, Year 4 students completed one component of the Diocesan Religious Literacy Assessment. This was an in-class task on the Sacraments of Forgiveness and Healing. Students chose from a range of methods such as digital presentations, books, posters and sculptures to demonstrate their understanding. It was pleasing to see what students were able to achieve. Results on this component will be provided to students and parents by the end of this term.

In the first two weeks of next term, students will complete the online multiple-choice test that asks questions about content taught across all areas in Religious Education. Year 4 students will complete a short trial run before the end of the term to ensure that the system will operate effectively when the full test is administered.

First Communion
This weekend, children from our school and parish will be receiving communion for the first time. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they continue the journey of initiation into the Church which began at baptism. First Communion will be celebrated at the 6:00 pm (Saturday) and 10:00 am (Sunday) Masses this weekend and next.

Friday Parish Mass
Years 2, 3 and 4 will join parishioners for Mass on Friday at 9:30 am in the Church. Parents are also welcome to join the students.

Our Lady of Mercy
Next Friday, our school community will gather together for a liturgical celebration to mark the feast of Our Lady of Mercy. Everyone is invited to celebrate with us.
Junior OzTag Competition
Registrations now accepted for Spring 2011
The competition is played on a Monday or Wednesday from 5pm and is open to Boys and Girls from 7 – 16 years. The cost is $60 per player and runs for 12 weeks. Registration is on Monday 26th September from 5-8pm at Avery Park, Corner Thorney Road and Cumberland Highway, Fairfield. For more information contact 1800 466 090 or www.FairfieldOztag.com.au.

LITERACY NEWS

Literacy Hints
As the end of the year is fast approaching, many of us are thinking about buying Christmas gifts. Consider giving books as presents. It shows that books and reading are valued.

Other ideas to encourage reading:
😊 Get your child a library card as soon as he/she is old enough😊 If you have an ipad, there are many free apps available (look under the book category)😊 Encourage your child to borrow books from the school library.

Happy Reading
Louise Korny
Literacy Coordinator

NUMERACY NEWS

The school holidays presents a perfect opportunity to work with your child at home on Numeracy. Numeracy involves using mathematics efficiently in our day-to-day lives. Every day we use number, measurement and space. Each time we shop or go to the bank we use numbers. Our understanding of space is used to pack a lunchbox or to park a car. We need to understand how to measure things when we cook, tell the time and build.

What can you do at home?
- Ask your child to count the number of plates, cups and pieces of cutlery used to set the table
- Count with your child the number of buttons as they do up their shirt or blouse
- Count the number of eggs in a carton and again when you remove some
- Play dominoes, card games and board games involving one or two dice. This will help your child recognize number patterns.
- Cook with your child, using measuring cups, measuring spoons
- Talk about events in terms of time. For example “It’s going to take about three minutes to cook this.”
- Mark special events on the calendar and talk about how many days until Christmas etc
- Watch the weather report together and talk about the forecasted temperatures for the following day.
CAUGHT DOING IT RIGHT

Ally Leeder of 2G and Oscar Andree-Evarts of 2W were caught doing it right when they found some money in the playground they handed it straight into the office. Well done Ally and Oscar.

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN ROSTER – SEPTEMBER 19 - 23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Judi Adams, Elizabeth Toni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Emma McKenna, Louise Frendo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Debra Lawler, Liz Phillips</td>
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As next week is the last week of term, we ask that when ordering lunches that you also put an alternative choice as not all items will be available.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

- The "Cuppa and Chat" is happening on Monday mornings at The Hub. Look forward to seeing you all.
- Don't forget to take a look at the Community Noticeboard and remember everyone is welcome to add something to it. Just see Rowena in the office.
- Keep the 21st October in your diaries for the St Anthony’s Movie Night. There will be more details to come.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

The students and teachers of Year 4 invite all members of the school community to its first ever Student Showcase. The showcase is an opportunity for Year 4 to celebrate its learning and achievements over the course of the year. Come along and watch a variety of creative performances and presentations, take a stroll through our art gallery, view our student movies on natural occurrences, our Religious Literacy Assessment work, and more.

Date: Thursday 20th October
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Venue: Year 4 Learning Space
Light refreshments will be provided.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Alexia Touma</td>
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<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Jasper King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Soraya Rajadurai</td>
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<td>3G</td>
<td>Cynthia El-Zreby</td>
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<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Erika Lucas</td>
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<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Christian Longo</td>
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<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Chelsea Pearce</td>
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The School Community Group would like to thank all the Mums who gave up their time to help with Fathers’ Day activities – Wrapping Day, Breakfast and Stall. We couldn’t run these events without your help and support. A special thank you to the Dads who helped with cooking the BBQ Breakfast. Deb Pooley & Team