Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony's

Gospel Reading for Sunday, 16th October, 2011
Matthew 22:15, 17-21

The Pharisees..... plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech, .... Saying, “Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” Knowing their malice, Jesus said, “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax.” Then they handed him the Roman Coin. He said to them, “Whose image is this and whose inscription?” They replied, “Caesar’s.” At that he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

REFLECTION

Jesus avoids the trap of discussing taxes and legalities, but he raises a question for us: What belongs to God?
What areas of our life do we see as God’s domain?
If we think only of Sunday mornings, we need to grow.

How much time do we give to God?
What resources belong to him?
Who has ownership of our gifts?

Let us pray together..

Generous God,
You have blessed us with life itself and every gift within it.
May we never forget that you are our Creator and giver of all good things.
Help us to see our lives as belonging to you,
And return to you our gratitude, our service, and our love.
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 back to Term 4. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is ready for a very busy term. It was great to see all the students eager to return to school on Monday morning. I was delighted to see so many parents attending the morning assembly and later coming together to avail themselves of the hospitality offered by the St Anthony’s Pastoral Care team. Every Monday morning after assembly hospitality is offered for parents to come together. This opportunity is important in building community across our school, so I encourage all parents to take advantage of the opportunity whenever possible. Building a warm and welcoming community is extremely important and needs to be fostered in our school by staff, parents and students.

I am very keen to improve communication across all areas of our school life. This term I have asked all grades to provide more information in the Term Overviews. I have asked the teachers to provide information on the text types being taught and be more specific on the mathematical areas being taught. Therefore, a copy of the criteria and writing sample of the Text Type will be attached to the Term Overview letter. This will be a great opportunity for you to talk to your children regarding their writing. For example, the Kindergarten children are learning to write Descriptions. I suggest you can assist them by talking to them about the things they see and do everyday. This will build their vocabulary when describing something.

Students’ exercise books will be sent home this term for parents to look through with their child and discuss their learning. On Friday, 28th October, Religion and English books will be sent home and are to be returned on Monday 31st October. Mathematics books will be sent home on Friday, 18th November and are to be returned on Monday, 21st November. For this to be a valuable experience I ask you to make this a special sharing time. It is most important that the books are returned on the Monday for class work.

I hope you see the value of the above initiatives and I would appreciate your feedback via email cbrown15@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone call.

I am very excited to advise members of our school community about how well our students have performed in the Naplan testing. Remember that Naplan is only one piece of the assessment puzzle.
that provides an understanding of our students’ learning abilities and potential. The text type was changed this year to ‘Persuasive Writing’ so the writing results can’t be compared to previous years. The leadership team and staff are investigating the Naplan data with the aim of identifying areas of need and extension, improving quality of learning and teaching and fostering innovative ways of stimulating the learner: student and teacher.

In Year 3 the students’ results were above the state average in Overall Literacy, Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling, Overall Numeracy, Number/Patterns/Algebra and Measurement/Data/Space/Geometry. This is an excellent result. I prefer to compare our results with our results from last year; again we are above or equal in all areas. Great work!

In Year 5 the students’ results were above the state average in Overall Literacy, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Overall Numeracy and Measurement/Data/Space/Geometry. Two areas to be reviewed are Grammar and Punctuation, and Number/Patterns/Algebra, these areas were stable and/or minimum loss.

In comparison to last year’s results we were above in Overall Literacy, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Overall Literacy and Measurement/Data/Space/Geometry. Three areas to be reviewed are Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, and Number/Patterns/Algebra, these areas were also stable and/or minimum loss.

Last term I attended a course on Faith Leadership, it was a wonderful experience. I wish to thank Mrs Patricia Charlton and the staff for supporting me so I could take time out from school for professional development. Catholic schools are faith-based and are founded on Christian values. The Catholic faith is not just taught in Religious Education classes but is experienced within the school’s culture. It is the responsibility of the members of our school, staff, students and parents, to ensure that Christian values are upfront and explicit. Our school is part of our local parish, St Anthony’s of Toongabbie, and the school and parish work together to support the mission and life of the Catholic Church.

During this term staff and students will be reflecting on the Gospel of each Sunday with the aim of naming a Gospel Action for the week. The Gospel Action will be linked to the scripture and the students, staff and parents of St Anthony’s will be encouraged to live and bear witness to the Gospel Action for the week.

The students will be engaged in a lesson on the Friday, prior to the Sunday Gospel, where they will discuss and reflect on the Gospel reading with the teachers. The Gospel action will be introduced for the coming week. The Gospel action will be included in the Newsletter, presented to the parish via slide and reference made by Fr Paul Marshall at weekend masses. This is a wonderful way for us, as members of the Catholic community, to live like Jesus and bear witness to the Christian values.

At Assembly this week we began the week with a community pray, asking for each of us to think of those who are in need of our prayers. I ask you to give of your time to prayer for our school community members. I know there are many in our midst who are suffering in one way or another. Sometimes we are not privy to some people’s pain, concerns, health problems and/or life’s challenges.

Let us pray…

- We pray for our students. Protect them, nurture them, and let them truly come to the safe space of our school systems.
- We pray for our school families, that they become one in God.
- We offer our prayers up to those in need and ask God to hold them in the palm of his hand always.
- Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

Amen.

The Kindergarten Orientation evening is on 9th November at 7pm. I look forward to welcoming our 2012 Kindergarten parents on the evening. There will be a number of guest speakers attending the meeting, e.g. Parish Priest, School Community Group President, St Anthony’s Eagles Football representative to name a few. This year, the 2012 Kindergarten students will be allocated two days to attend class orientation. The students will be split into two (2) groups and each group will be designated as follows:

- **Group 1** will attend orientation on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th beginning at 9:30am and ending at 1pm. Parents and children can arrive at 9am.

- **Group 2** will attend orientation on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd beginning at 9:30am and ending at 1pm. Parents and children can arrive at 9am.

A letter will be sent to the 2012 Kindergarten parents shortly advising them of their child’s group and dates.

The School Community Group Pastoral Care Team have organised for a Movie Night to be held at St Anthony’s on Friday, 21st October, 2011. School and Parish families are invited to attend the evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to open up St Anthony’s to the wider community, beyond our school families.

During this term a number of staff will be on leave, details are as follows:

- Mr Ross Howse is undergoing surgery and will be away from 14th October, and returning on 24th October, 2011. Ms Carolyn Hocking will be teaching in Year 3.

- Mrs Sue Haigh will be on leave on 21st, 24th, 26th, 28th and 31st October, and the 18th November, 2011. I wish to thank Mrs Frendo and Mrs Adams for supporting Sue by taking care of the Canteen during this time.

- Mrs Patricia Charlton is taking Long Service Leave from 24th October, returning Tuesday 1st November, 2011.

- Mrs Louise Korny is taking Long Service Leave from 6th December, returning Tuesday 13th December, 2011. Annette Peatman will be teaching Year 2G.
Mrs Betty Barker is taking Long Service Leave from 28th November, returning January, 2011.

Mrs Michele Bowen is taking Long Service Leave from 5th December, returning Monday 12th December, 2011.

End of Year reports will be sent home on 6th December, 2011. The reports are going home earlier this year allowing for more opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, if a meeting is required.

The Kindergarten and Year 1 students will be completing the Early Years Literacy Assessment during this term. There will be a number of days for each grade where a casual will be on the class so the teacher can individually assess the students. The data collected is valuable in planning the learning for 2012.

The Swimming Program begins Week 4, 31st October, 2011. This is a compulsory program as it supports the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Curriculum. All students are to attend each day for the period of 10 days. If there is a problem with your child’s attendance, please contact me on 9631 5283.

Included in this week’s Newsletter there are a number of Calendar dates that you need to be aware off, e.g. Parish Masses where our students will be attending, Reconciliation, special events etc.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF DATE
Year 6 Mass and Graduation Dinner is on 13th December, 2011.

FAMILIES LEAVING
These families will be greatly missed in our School community. We wish you well in the future and thank you for the wonderful contributions you have made to our school community.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacramental Process for Children
Parents of children in Year 3 or above who want their children to celebrate the sacraments over the coming years are invited to enrol in the sacramental process beginning this term. Children enrolled will celebrate First Reconciliation in November, First Communion in Term 3 next year, and Confirmation in 2013. Please keep an eye out for information from the parish and in this newsletter.

Those parents interested in enrolling their children for First Reconciliation need to attend the inquiry meeting later this month, either on Saturday 29th or Tuesday 1st November.

Religious Literacy Assessment
Year 4 students have completed the online test component of the Religious Literacy Assessment this week. The results from Parts A and B will be reported to parents in due course.

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>29 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat &amp; Sun</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>13 Nov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

LITERACY NEWS

Welcome back to Term 4! This week I have included an article written by Linda Hoyt.

GOOD READER STRATEGIES

Have clear goals for their reading
- Look over the text before reading
- Activate prior knowledge
- Make predictions
- Use meaning and expect the text to make sense
- Understand whether or not comprehension is occurring
- Makes connections: text to self, text-to-text, text to world
- Create visual images
- Uses text features (pictures, headings, boldface type)
- Draw inferences, conclusions
- Ask questions as they read
- Read different kinds of texts, differently:
  - In narrative, attend to characters and plot
  - In expository, construct and revise summaries
  - Skim and scan to recheck information
  - Can locate information
  - Adjust rate to match the demands of the text
- Identify important ideas and words
- Consciously shift strategies: retell, summarize, synthesize
- Use a variety of fix-up strategies:
  - Read on
  - Backtrack
  - Seek context clues
  - Make substitutions
  - Look at word parts: beginnings, endings, chunks
© Linda Hoyt, adapted from the work of Pearson, Duke (1999)

Happy Reading

Louise Korny
Literacy Coordinator
Help needed
The parish data projectionist team are in need of new volunteers. New members will be rostered on and will be required to run the PowerPoint presentation for weekend Masses. Usually you will be required about once a month. Full training will be given and you will be fully supported until you are comfortable running the PowerPoint by yourself. Should you have any queries please call either Shirley 9631 3316 or Carol 0416238664.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:
Any child who is presently in Year 3 or higher will be eligible to receive the Sacraments. Parents & children must attend one of the following enquiry meetings. Saturday 29th October at Midday OR Tuesday 1st November at 7.30pm in St Anthony’s church hall. Attendance at one of these meetings is essential if you wish your child to receive the Sacraments. No registrations will be accepted after these meetings.