Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading for Sunday, 27th November
Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

REFLECTION

As we begin Advent, we long for the return of our God. We re-awaken, roused to renew our faith. Perhaps we have wandered away from God. Perhaps we have become mired in doubt. Or, it may be that we have simply grown apathetic or slack in our faith. Now we become alert. We watch. We wait. We ask God to show his face in the birth of Jesus, once again.

Let us pray together…

Watchful God,
we grow weary and afraid
when we are apart from you.
This Advent, show us your face
in the Church and in the world.
Wrap us in your love,
and show us how to be vigilant
in our love for others and for you.
As we prepare for your Son’s coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This coming weekend we begin our Advent journey, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. In Mark’s Gospel reading, Jesus warns us of the need to be awake and watchful for His coming, not only at the end of time but also each day of our lives. Jesus compares Himself to the master of the house who travels away far away. The master places his servants in charge of the estate, each with his or her own work. They are put on alert:

“May the master not come suddenly and find you sleeping. Be on guard. Stay awake!”

Advent should be a time of watchfulness for us. We must never be asleep to the daily challenge of having Jesus in our lives. The beginning of Advent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our faithfulness, on our commitment to God and to one another. Making sure of these things is always the proper preparation for God’s coming.

This week we have a lot to celebrate. The 2012 Kindergarten children have attended their orientation days over the last two weeks. It was wonderful to see the new families gather together to settle their child on their first day in Kindergarten. I wish to thank Mrs Sonia Awkar, Mrs Charlene Sheraton, Mrs Linda McKinnon and Mrs Betty Barker for welcoming and preparing the young Kinders to the St Anthony’s School community.

On Monday evening the School Community Group held its Annual General Meeting. A number of the vacant Executive positions for 2012 School Community Group were filled. The attendance at the meeting was disappointing, however, the meeting was productive with much worthwhile discussion and suggestions tabled. I would like to thank the following people for accepting positions on the Committee:

Mrs Louis Frendo (President)
Mrs Debbie Harris (Vice President)
Mrs Rhonda Niutao (Treasurer)
Mrs Natalie Tighe (Assistant Treasurer)
Mrs Debbie Pooley (Social Team Coordinator)
Mrs Julie Brownlow (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

There are three positions vacant. I would like to call for nominations for the Secretary, the PRC Delegate (who would attend Diocesan Parents Representative Council Meetings and report back to the Community Group) and a Publicity Officer. If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person please complete the tear-off slip below. I look forward to working in partnership with the School Committee Group and I am sure our parent community will support the Committee in their Roles. I wish to thank the 2011 SCG Executive for their leadership in providing quality events throughout the year which have contributed in building a welcoming and pastoral community for all members.

On the evening of the School Community Group AGM I received a cheque for $27,000.00 and Mrs Baiada received a cheque for approximately $7,200 on behalf of the St Anthony’s Parish Community. The Spring Fair event provides a great opportunity to raise funds and build community within our school, parish and beyond. I wish to thank all the parents and staff who supported the Spring Fair in 2011.
The end of the 2011 school year is fast approaching. Over the next few weeks there are very significant school events, which will take place. On this coming Friday the ‘Blessing’ of the Building Education Revolution (BER) refurbishment of classrooms and construction of the Library will be held at 10.00 am at St Anthony’s. This occasion is very important to the whole school community, as we have collaboratively worked together of the past 2 years in building and renovating our school environment to meet the needs of the students in the 21st Century and beyond.

The St Anthony’s Year 3 students will be celebrating their First Reconciliation on the 30th November and 1st December, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the St Anthony’s Parish Church, Aurelia Street, Toongabbie. It is a very important event in their faith journey. Reconciliation, as one of the seven sacraments, is a new moment of grace, calling us to remember our Baptismal commitment and leading us to unity with the Eucharistic people.

The Blessing of the Plaque in memory of Gary Kerr is being held on Wednesday 30th November at 4pm. Light refreshment will be available afterwards. If you wish to attend please ring Mrs Rowena Laurie and register your attendance. This Plaque will be placed in our Friendship Garden.

On 9th December, 2011 the Christmas Concert will be held at St Anthony’s. The evening will begin at 5:30pm when food will be available prior to the concert beginning at 7pm. It will be a wonderful event, the students are beginning to prepare and they are looking forward to sharing the evening with their parents.

The Year 6 students and parents will be attending the Graduation Mass and Dinner on 13th December, 2011. This evening is a very special occasion for the Year 6 students. After the Mass the parents and students will attend the Fox Hills Golf Club for a sit down meal at 7:30pm. I wish to ask parents to invite extended family members to the Mass at 6pm at St Anthony’s Parish Church, Toongabbie. The celebration of Mass with family, peers and teachers is a memorable experience for the Year 6 students.

I wish to thank the wonderful parents and students who attended the ‘Working Bee’ held on Saturday, 12th November. It was very disappointing for the organisers of the day because only 10 parents and a few children attended on the day. If it weren’t for the 5 staff members who attended to assist the parents we wouldn’t have achieved what we did. Normally working bees are planned for about half a day, because of the lack of numbers of helpers the day began at 8:30am and finished at 5:30pm. I know many of the parents who attended were disappointed with the lack of interest and participation from the rest of the parent community. The school buildings and environment needs to be regularly maintained so for 2012 there will be two ‘Working Bees’ to be held, one in Term 2 and the other at the end of Term 3. The dates will be advertised early next year so parents can book the days in their diary. This matter was discussed at the School Community Group AGM and it was nominated and seconded to have a Maintenance Coordinator in the SCG team. This position is vacant and I would like to call to admin for nominations for the position. If you are interested please complete the tear-off slip below and return to the school office. Thanking you in anticipation.

Enjoy the week and may you live in Word and Deed.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

LITERACY NEWS

This term Year 2 have been writing Expositions. Here is one example.

Is a cat or a dog a better pet?
I truly believe that dogs are better than cats because they are one of the toughest pets you can get.
I believe that dogs are more useful than cats because they are good for blind men, and they are good for rounding up sheep.
Dogs are man’s best friend, so that means cats can never compare with a dog.
Dogs are much more playful than cats. For example, dogs run, fetch balls and do tricks but cats never do any of these things.

So dogs are much better pets than cats!

Zac 2W

Happy Reading

Louise Korny

Literacy Coordinator

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Parent Helpers’ Morning Tea
We would like to invite all parent helpers at St Anthony’s to a morning tea to say thank you for all your great support throughout the year. The morning tea will be held on Monday 12th December and it will start at 9am. We will start with an Assembly and a Thank You Liturgy followed by a scrumptious morning tea which will be in the HUB. Parent helpers include any parent, grandparent or carers who have helped anywhere in the school eg classroom, canteen, sporting event, working bees or fete. If you have helped in any way you are more than welcome to attend the morning tea. To help with catering, could you please indicate on the tear-off slip below if you will be attending.

Diocesan Film Festival
Next Tuesday, 29th November, 2011, our Movie Team is participating in the Diocesan Film Festival. It will be held at Marian Catholic College, Kenthurst. It is being hosted by the CEO Learning Exchange and this event will showcase the creativity and skills of students involved in the Movie Teams program through a series of original short films. All films have been scripted, directed, filmed, edited and produced by students within our schools.

Patricia Charlton

Assistant Principal

St Anthony’s School

Newsletter
**CALENDAR UPDATE**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>25 Nov</td>
<td>Blessing &amp; Opening of School Buildings, 10am</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>Parish Youth Mass, 6pm</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>School Christmas Pageant</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass &amp; Dinner, 6pm</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Outing</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass, 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of School Year</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>18 Dec</td>
<td>Carols in the Parish Car Park</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>9 Feb '12</td>
<td>School Swimming Carnival</td>
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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

![Image of students holding certificates]

**CANTENE ROSTER – NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 2**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judi Adams, Elizabeth Toni</td>
<td>Parveen Atwal</td>
<td>Rachael Christie, Denise Andree-Evarts</td>
<td>Sue Adams, Sav Cosgrove</td>
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From next week, 28th November, 2011, could you please put alternate hot food or sandwich on your child’s lunch order as the end of the year is getting closer and stock starts to run out. However, we will endeavour to give them their choice of food.

Thank you
Sue Haigh
Canteen Manager

**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.

**BUS PASSES**

Hills Bus has informed us those children currently in Year 2 going into Year 3, who hold a bus pass, will need to re-apply for a bus pass for next year. Applications need to be lodged as soon as possible to enable Hills Bus to plan their services for next year. Applications are available from the office.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking
Don’t forget that banking is happening again on Tuesday at 8:30am in the HUB
So bring in your Bank Books on Tuesday.