Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading of Sunday, 9th December, 2012

Luke 3:3-6

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: / A voice of one in the desert: / “Prepare the way of the Lord, / make straight his paths. / Every valley shall be filled / and every mountain and hill shall be made low. / The winding roads shall be made straight, / and the rough ways made smooth, / and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Reflection

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we hear about John the Baptist, the forerunner and prophet who announces the coming of Jesus the Messiah. In this holy time, we are called to make a clear and straight path for the Lord to enter our hearts. Through our prayers and sacrifices, may we prepare the way of the Lord so that we may be ready for the Lord’s coming this Christmas and each day in which we encounter him in the Eucharist.

Let us prayer together:-

Heavenly Father
you sent your Son among us,
born of a woman, to be our Messiah.
Open our ears to hear your word
and our eyes to recognise your coming,
that all flesh may see the salvation
of God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

On the evening of the School Community Group AGM I received a cheque for $28,000.00 and Mrs Baiada received a cheque for approximately $6,769 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 2012.

Last Monday morning, we announced the School Captains, Vice Captains, Councillors and House Captains at the assembly and also welcomed their parents. The School Leaders are as follows:

School Captains: Alanah Guerrero
Reece Murray
Vice Captains: Amber Palmer
Ronan Lipping
Councillors: Natasha Lette
Tiana Nakat
Harrison Sumpter
Damon Mock
House Captains:
Green Captains: Taylah Jones
Scott Bradbery
Red Captains: Celeste Carrozza
Hamish Ward
Yellow Captains: Emma Norris
Youssef Touma
Blue Captains: Olivia Andree-Evarts
Lachlan Foley

We congratulate them and feel confident that they will be great student leaders in 2013.

Captains, Councillors & Parents

House Captains & Parents
IMPORTANT ITEM - SCHOOL STARTING DATES 2013
This is a short explanation for the change of School starting dates for 2013. More correspondence will be forwarded next week.

Please mark the following dates in your diary as there will be no usual school attendance on some of the dates below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>26th January 2013</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>28th January 2013</td>
<td>Public Holiday for Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29th January 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30th January 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31st January 2013</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6, First day of School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1st February 2013</td>
<td>Kindergarten – First day of School – 9:30am–3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reason for this arrangement is so that the teachers can complete the early assessment of MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interview). This assessment takes approximately 20 – 30 minutes per student. Therefore the two (2) staff development days will be utilised for teachers to assess their students individually. This will also mean that the Kindergarten teachers will have the 29th, 30th and 31st January to complete the MAI with all their students, and if possible the Early Literacy testing as well.

Details of how the students will be appointed interview times will be sent home shortly. I realise that a number of parents have work commitments; this is why I am advising you well in advance so you can work around your child’s assessment time. Parents will be invited to wait while their child is being assessed, hospitality catering will be available while you are waiting. The whole purpose of the assessment being completed on these days is so that the learning and teaching is planned in light of the data collected and there will be no disruptions to the learning in the following weeks.

I thank you in anticipation for your support and patience.

Yours truly in Word and Deed.

Cheryl Brown  
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christmas Pageant
This year’s Christmas Pageant will be held next Friday, 14th December at 7pm. All the students are taking part and practising to make it a very special occasion. We invite all families to come along.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
Thank you to everyone who has donated food items for our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Your gifts will help to make Christmas a happier time for people in our local community who are in need. Please remember that all donations need to be at school by Friday 14 December, so that we can present the hampers to the St Vincent de Paul Society at our Christmas Pageant.

Mercy Awards
This year, we have worked as a staff to learn more about the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy upon which our school has been founded. To help carry on these traditions, we are establishing a new set of Mercy Awards, which will be presented to students who contribute to promoting the hallmarks of Mercy education. The first Mercy Award that will be introduced is the Mercy Award – Community Service. This award relates specifically to the Mercy education hallmark of compassionate presence, being there for support and care for each other. We look forward to our first Mercy Awards being presented at a whole school assembly soon.

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 December</td>
<td>Prayer at Assembly, Second Week of Advent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 December</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17 December</td>
<td>Prayer at Assembly, Third Week of Advent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass, 11am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CURRICULUM NEWS

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

Parent Helpers’ Morning Tea
We would like to invite all parent helpers of St Anthony’s to a morning tea in appreciation for all your great support throughout the year. The morning tea will be held on Monday 17th December. An invitation was sent home this week with the wrong date. Please disregard this invitation and refer to the new invitation. I apologise for this error.

The arrangements for the morning are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>School Advent Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Parent Helper Thank you liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Parent Helper morning tea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The morning tea will be served in the hub following our Thanksgiving Liturgy. Please be aware that parent helpers include any parent, grandparent or carer who have supported the school in any capacity – canteen, classroom, sporting events, spring fair etc. To help with catering, please indicate on the tear-off slip on the invitation and return it to school by Wednesday 12th December.

Year 6 Graduation Celebration
I was very honoured to attend the Year 6 Graduation celebrations on Tuesday evening. The event was a great success due to the thorough organisation and preparation by both students and teachers. They should be congratulated for their outstanding efforts. I was
particularly impressed with the reverent manner in which the students conducted themselves throughout the Graduation Mass. The way in which they moved around the church, proclaimed the word through scripture readings and prayers, participated in the various processions served to make this Mass extra special. So thank you to everyone involved. I would also like to extend a big thankyou to our younger students who gave up of their time to form the choir. A great job!

We would like to congratulate the following Year 6 children on receiving the following awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pursuit of Excellence Award</td>
<td>Jennifer Jo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Academic Pursuits Award</td>
<td>Nancy Nirmal Raj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Student Award</td>
<td>Arden Yeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Rowland MP Award</td>
<td>Joshua Dodds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Spirit Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Year Reports
The student end of year report will be sent home next Friday, 14th December. We encourage you to discuss the report with your child and highlight the areas of success and the areas that need further development. You might also take the opportunity to talk to your child about setting some goals for the 2013 school year. Tomorrow (Friday, 7th December) a letter will go home in regards to the ‘Optional End of Year Interview’. If you wish to discuss your child’s progress with his/her teacher please indicate on the tear-off slip on the letter and return it to school no later than Wednesday 12th December.

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

COMMUNITY NEWS
Kids in the Park, Sydney’s biggest school holiday program returns this summer from 22nd December – 28th January with over 50 activities to keep the kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or cost under $20, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s most exciting playground these holidays, including:

AFL Clinics - FREE  | Sports, Sing & Dancing  
All Day Vacation Care | Star - FREE 
Circus Skills & Trapeze | Swimming lessons 
Gymnastics – Mimi Gym | Tennis Camp 
Lodge Residential & Day Camps | Trampoline & Other Fun Stuff 
Rugby League Clinic - FREE | Tramp to Ramp @ Monster Writing workshops ...and lots more

Full details at www.kidsinthepark.com.au or 9714 7888.

Part-Time Position
Catherine McAuley, Parramatta Marist High and Mother Teresa Primary are seeking expressions of interest in a part-time, paid position, supervising students and monitoring access to the campus from 2.15 – 4.15pm, 5 days per week, term time only. To commence 29 January 2013, with a 3 month probation period.

Preferred applicants will be subject to employment screening.

Applications should be received by Friday 14th December 2013 and addressed to: The Principal Mother Teresa Primary School Darcy Road Westmead NSW 2145 or email: gborg@parra.catholic.edu.au

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
KG Jocelyn Yunardi  KW Dante Singh
1G Sophia Falzon  1W Alex Sas-Pele
2G Aaron Verhoven  2W Mary-Jay Hanna
3G Matthew Salama  3W Harry Knight
4G Fatima Younes  4W Ante Furjanic
5G Lachlan Foley  5W Hannah Smith
6G Anushree Ravi  6W Chantelle Haber

REMININDERS
Thank you to everyone who have returned their raffle tickets. There are still a large number of books outstanding and it would be appreciated if they could be returned by tomorrow even if they are unsold as we have to account for all the raffle books.
PARISH NEWS

Come and celebrate the holy feast of Christmas when God dared to. You can also join the Parish Family as they recall the Christmas Story in word and song.

Christmas Mass times:
- Christmas Eve
  - Monday 24th December 6pm Children’s Mass
  - 8pm Family Mass
  - Midnight Mass

- Christmas Day
  - Tuesday 25th December 9:30am

Reconciliation:
- 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held at St Anthony’s Church on Wednesday 19th December at 7:30pm.

CAROLS IN THE CARPARK

“Come and join the Parish Family as we recall the Christmas Story in word and Song” on Sunday 16th December. The evening will begin with a BBQ from 6:30pm. Carols start at 7:30pm. Song books and candles will be on sale on the night. Bring your own seats.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2013

We are in the process of finalising classes for 2013 and have been advised of a few students who will not be returning in 2013.

To enable us to prepare our classes for 2013, it would be appreciated if you would kindly notify the School Office if you know your child/children will not be returning to St Anthony’s Girraween next year.

If you are planning to return to St Anthony’s, however, you are extending the holidays by a number of weeks, please write a letter stating the reasons for your late return, and hand it into the School Office as the Census will be completed early in February 2013.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

Only medication prescribed by a doctor can be given at school and must be brought to the school office where it will be kept in a secure location. Medication must be in its original container, accompanied by a signed authority from the parent detailing the child’s name, name of medication, dosage, time and duration of treatment. Special forms are available from the school office for this purpose. Where a child requires ongoing medication at school parents should contact the principal to discuss an action plan.

CALENDAR UPDATE

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Outing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>17 Dec</td>
<td>Helpers morning tea thank you and Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>18 Dec</td>
<td>Class promotions at 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>19 Dec</td>
<td>End of Year Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>19 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>29 Jan 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>30 Jan 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>31 Jan 2013</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6 start school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>1 Feb 2013</td>
<td>Kindergarten start school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAANTEE ROSTER – NOVEMBER 26 - 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Biddy O’Malley, Judi Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mim Zammit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Louise Frendo, Vicki Barlow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NO hot food will be available on Friday 7th December or next week, however, sandwiches will be available. The last day for Canteen is Friday 14th December, 2012.

A Parent Helper note went home last week. If you are able to help at all in the Canteen, could you please return the tear off slip as soon as possible.

BUS PASSES

Hills Bus has informed us that 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.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The new Boys Shirts have arrived and can be picked up next Thursday 13th December between 9am – 3pm. Any other outstanding orders can also be collected at this time.

The Uniform Shop will be open next year before school starts on Thursday 24th January, 2013 from 9am - 12noon and 1:30pm - 3pm.