Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading for Sunday, 11th December
John 1:6-8, 23-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

[John] said: “I am the voice of one crying in the desert, / make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said.” Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why, then, do you baptise if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptise with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognise, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

REFLECTION

Today is Gaudete Sunday, and we rejoice at the nearness of the coming of Christ. Even as we prepare for Christmas, we know that Christ is already with us. John the Baptist says that “there is one among you whom you do not recognise.” Look carefully. Listen quietly. Where is Christ in our midst? What has brought gladness to your heart of late? Give thanks for his presence in that moment. The kingdom is at hand; we need only notice.

Let us pray together…

Lord Jesus Christ,
You are hidden in the faces and experiences of life around us.
Reveal yourself to us this Advent, reminding us of the great joy we feel when we are close to you.
May we bring the joy of life in you to all the world, leading to the day when we will rejoice together in heaven,
where you live and reign with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen

Semester 2 reports for all students were distributed today, 8th December, 2011. Teachers will be available during week 10 for any parents who wish to discuss the report. A letter was sent home recently providing details on how to organise a meeting if necessary.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow night for the St Anthony’s Christmas Concert. Hopefully the weather will clear up for the occasion. Unfortunately the food has been cancelled so I encourage you to bring a picnic hamper with you to enjoy during the evening. The concert starts at 7pm.

It gives me great pleasure to advise that the 2012 School Leaders have been nominated over the past two weeks. The students and their parents will be attending the Monday Morning Assembly to officially announce their positions and have their photographs taken.

As the term draws to a close there are still many events to be completed before the last day of school.

- St Anthony’s Christmas Concert – 9th December
- Parent Helpers Morning Tea – 12th December
- Monday Morning Assembly – 12th December
- Class promotions – 13th December
- Graduation Mass and Dinner Year 6 – 13th December
- Year 6 Excursion – 14th December
- Thanksgiving Mass – 16th December
- 2.45 pm Year 6 Guard of Honour - 16th December

Yesterday the St Anthony’s School Community Group organised a Christmas Brekkie. It was great to see so many parents and students enjoying the scrumptious food prepared and cooked by the SCG parents. I wish to thank the SCG for organising the event. So many people passed on their wonderful comments and asked if we could have more days like this in 2012.

The staffing for 2012 is included in the newsletter. As you can imagine organising the staff is a very important task. My goal is to base the decisions of staffing in light of the students’ needs. St Anthony’s is a great school. I wish to thank the teachers for their wonderful commitment and support to our students. Before the end of the term the 2012 grade teachers will be released to plan together in preparation for their new students.

Over the past weeks I have enjoyed the celebratory events we have held at our school. It has been a time of collaboratively working together as a staff to ensure that everyone who has visited our school is welcomed and leaves with a lasting impression of St Anthony’s. I wish to thank all the staff as they
have contributed in many ways to make the past events very successful.

Gospel Action for Week 10 - Be a Witness.. Prepare for Jesus

2012 STAFFING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Sonia Awkar</td>
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<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>Charlene Sheraton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Katrina James &amp; Venessa Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Kathleen Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Joanne Digwood</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Younes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Amanda Khoury</td>
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<td>4G</td>
<td>Robert Barden</td>
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<td>4W</td>
<td>Renee Small</td>
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<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Louise Korny</td>
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<tr>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Christine Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Frances Flood &amp; Kate Robertson</td>
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<td>6W</td>
<td>Kylie Smith</td>
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Librarian Lyn Stevenson
Reading Recovery Katrina James
Stage ES1 Learning Coach Betty Barker
Stage 1 Learning Coach Venessa Ward
Stage 2 Learning Coach Tba
Stage 3 Learning Coach Patricia Charlton

RFF:
Wed, Thur, Fri Ross Howse
Wed Belinda Martin
Thur, Fri Sylvia Mitchell

Executive Release:
REC Release – Monday (4G) Ross Howse
LTST Release – Tuesday (3G) Ross Howse
Coordinator Release – Friday (2G / 6G) Luisa Onorato

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

Kind Regards
Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are now well into the liturgical season of Advent. While this is only a short season, and a bit lost amidst the end-of-year rush and our preparations for Christmas, it is an important season for us. It reminds us that our preparations for Christmas need to be not only about buying food and presents, and preparing the decorations. Advent reminds us about the need to prepare ourselves for the presence of Christ in our lives.

First Reconciliation
Last week, students from our school celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was wonderful to see families gather in the church for this important step along their sacramental journey. Congratulations to all the students and their families. Thank you also to the Year 3 teachers for their support of the students as they prepared for the sacrament.

Religious Literacy Assessment
Reports on students’ achievement in the Year 4 Diocesan Religious Literacy Assessment have now been received by the school for distribution to parents. Year 4 parents will find the report from the Catholic Education Office included with their child’s Semester 2 report, which is being sent home today.

Christmas Pageant
The students and teachers are eagerly preparing for our Christmas Pageant, which is scheduled for tomorrow night. At this stage we hope to be able to proceed, although food will no longer be available beforehand. If the rain persists tomorrow the pageant will be cancelled. Please look out for notes tomorrow, and check our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for updates. If the pageant cannot proceed tomorrow, we will have to reschedule it for a time next week during school hours. We apologise for the inconvenience, but hope you understand that there are still some things (like rain!) that are out of our control.

Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM NEWS

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s
As the school year comes to a close the students and teachers are very involved in all the end-of-year activities.

Parent Helper Morning Tea – St Anthony’s parent helper liturgy and morning tea will be held on Monday, 12th December at 9am. All parents, carers, friends who have helped the school community in any way during 2011 are encouraged to attend. If you have not returned your tear-off slip (last newsletter) please contact Mrs Laurie at the office to register your intention to attend. We need final numbers for catering purposes.

Class promotions – On Tuesday the students will be promoted to their classes for 2012. During this time they will have the opportunity to meet with their class teachers for next year. The students will also be given a 2012 resource list of requirements for their new grade.

It is an exciting time for our Year 6 students who are preparing for their graduation ceremony. The ceremony will take place at St Anthony’s Parish church on Tuesday
13th December at 6pm. The liturgy will be followed by a dinner at Fox Hill’s Golf Club at 7:30pm. On Wednesday our Year 6 students will take part in a social event to be held at Blacktown Leisure Centre, Stanhope Gardens. St Anthony’s will celebrate the end of the school year with a thanksgiving Mass on Friday 16th December at 11am.

On Thursday 1st December the Movie Team travelled to Holy Cross Primary School in Glenwood to film their annual Christmas Concert. The team was required to film the concert from different angles. Each team had a set of earphones where Ron VanVliet directed them on who and what to film. Ron then used the various footage to broadcast the concert live to each classroom and over the internet where students, family and friends could watch. Congratulations to our Movie Team on a job well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents, students and staff a peaceful and joyful Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2012,

A Safe and Holy Christmas, one and all!

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

NUMERACY NEWS

Last Friday we were able to create 170 bead strings for the students and pack 120 counter tubs for Year 1 and 2. I would like to thank the 5 parents who helped on the day, Mrs Furjanic, Mrs Seghabi, Mrs Abdilla, Mrs Livingstone and Mrs McKenna. I would also like to thank the Year 4 and 6 students (who didn’t go to the V8 Supercars) who completed the task on the day.

Thank you in advance to the parents who have volunteered to sew the drawstring bags for Kindergarten. Mrs Awkar will be in contact with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and remember to practise those numeracy skills over the holidays, using the activities suggested earlier this year.

Joanne Digwood
Numeracy Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kids in the Park, Sydney’s biggest school holiday program returns this summer with over 50 options of sports clinics, creative workshops and fun events to keep your kids active, challenged and entertained. A range of activities are free or cost under $20, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s biggest playground these holidays, see below;

AC Milan Soccer Camp  Golf and mini golf
AFL free clinics  Monster Actions Sports
All day vacation care  Academy
ANZ Stadium Explore Tour  Movies by the Boulevard
Archery and diving lessons  FREE
Bike circuits and bike hire  Rugby League Clinic
Circus skills & flying trapeze  FREE
Cookie making and kite flying  Segway Fun
Day and Residential Camps  Swimming lessons and Digital filmmaking & Kids in the Splashes
Park Film Fest!  Water Playground
Discovery Trails, Clue Trail  Tennis Camps and Phizz and Amazing Chase* FREE
Cookie making and kite flying  Kidz multi sports
Writing workshops  ...and lots more

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

CALENDAR UPDATE

Fri  9 Dec  School Christmas Pageant
Tues 13 Dec  Year 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner, 6pm
Wed 14 Dec  Year 6 Outing
Fri 16 Dec  Thanksgiving Mass, 11am
Fri 16 Dec  Last day of School Year
Sun 18 Dec  Carols in the Parish Car Park
Mon 29 Jan 12  Years 1 – 6 return to School
Tues 30 Jan 12  Kindergarten start School
Thurs 9 Feb ‘12  School Swimming Carnival
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.

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
Saturday 24th December
- 6pm Children’s Mass
- 8pm Family Mass
- Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Sunday 25th December
9:30am

Reconciliation:
2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held at St Anthony’s Church on Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm.

CAROLS IN THE CARPARK

Family Carols will be held on Sunday 18th December. The evening will begin with a BBQ from 6pm. Carols start at 7:30pm. Song books and candles will be on sale on the night. Raffle tickets will also be on sale.

CAUGHT DOING IT RIGHT

Theph Theph of 4W was caught doing it right by helping another student who had fallen over. Well done Theph.

CANTEEN ROSTER – DECEMBER 12 - 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Judi Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Parveen Atwal</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Robyn Vernon</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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NO hot food or Milk will be available on Friday 9th December or next Monday and Wednesday, however, sandwiches will be available. The last day for Canteen is Wednesday 14th December, 2011.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG  Sara Shaw       KW  Evan Luong
1G  Aaroh Purani   1W  Marissa Mbarak
2G  Cody Vernon    2W  Helen Jo
3G  Jayden Leeder  3W  Angela Younes
4G  Sarah Abboud   4W  Taylah Jones
5G  Vanessa Daher  5W  Joshua Dodds
6G  Ashton Andree-Evarts  6W  Con Coutis

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.

SCHOOL BANKING

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

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Uniform Shop will be open next year before school starts on Tuesday 24th January, 2012 from 9am – 12noon and 1:30pm – 3pm.