Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Welcome to Week 6. The Year 6 students usually prepare this newsletter, however, there are some very important news items that parents need to be advised of in relation to the following items:

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING DATA COLLECTION - URGENT INFORMATION

Yesterday 60 parents received an envelope inviting them to participate in the QCS Survey for 2012. The Catholic Education Office randomly selected the parents. I handed the envelopes to the students before the end of school and expressed to them that the letter needed to be handed to their parents when they arrived home. The envelope contained instructions on how to complete the survey and a user name and password were provided. This information is confidential to you only. I strongly encourage you to complete the Survey. The value of QCS will be greatly enhanced by your thoughtful reflection on the areas surveyed. I thank you for taking the time to complete the paper survey (enclosed) or online as per the enclosed details.

As mentioned previously, you can complete the Survey in paper or online. The online Survey goes live from the 12th March to the 23rd March, 2012. During this time the staff and selected students from Year 5 and Year 6 will be completing the Survey online.

In relation to the Year 5 & 6 students’ participation, a letter was sent home yesterday addressed to parents advising them of their child’s participation. Mrs Charlton and myself will facilitate the online survey with the students on the 13th March, 2012.

I look forward to the results of the Survey. I believe it is a valuable tool for parents, students and staff to reflect on and respond to the questions, providing another opportunity for them to have a voice in our school community.

EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

Over the past year our school has been working on our School’s Wellbeing Policy. One of the areas we have been reviewing is how can our school provide extra curricula activities to engage students during lunch times throughout the year. Earlier in the year I asked the staff to consider offering activities at lunchtime for students to engage in. A number of staff have volunteered to organise an activity. Therefore, our school will be offering four (4) extra curricula activities from Week 7. The details are as follows:

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

The rationale supporting this venture is to provide an opportunity for students to select a group activity to build knowledge, skills and understanding of something they are interested in, as well as engaging in social interactions.

The activities will be available one (1) day per week for four (4) weeks. This will mean that the students need to be committed to participate by going to the activity on the weekly day, giving up their playground time that day.

As the program is a trial for Term 1, and running for 4 weeks, the participation of students will be limited at this point in time. The organisation and range of activities will be reviewed at the end of time.

Details of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Day of Week</th>
<th>Max No. of Students</th>
<th>Targeted Grades</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dancing – Rap</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Years 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Miss Younes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knitting</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Years 4, 5, &amp; 6</td>
<td>Mrs Awkar &amp; Mrs Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Years 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Mrs Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipping to Music</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Years 4, 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Miss Watson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am very appreciative of the staff, and as the program develops other activities will be offered to cater to the younger children of our school. For this type of program to operate smoothly it requires the commitment of the whole staff. I am very pleased to advise that our staff is supporting this program by taking on extra duties and/or volunteering to create an activity for future planning.

On Friday students will have the opportunity to ‘express an interest’ in participating in an activity. As you can imagine I will have many children interested but the places are limited to a total of 67 for this term. The aim is for all students to have an opportunity over the year to participate in an activity of their choice.

If you have any comments on the program I would like to hear from you. If you have a talent and would like to share it with the children of St Anthony’s by facilitating a lunchtime activity, please feel free to write, email or ring me.
SCHOOL BANKING - Visit the Website

School banking is available every Tuesday morning, so bring your books and savings along to school and our ‘banking Mums’ will do the rest. I am very excited to let you know that the Commonwealth Bank will be visiting our school again to promote student banking at the Monday Assembly, 2nd April, 2012.

School banking is so important, as financial literacy is essential for children to make informed and effective decisions later in life about the use and management of money; skills which are crucial for achieving financial independence and thriving in the tough societies of today and beyond. The program is also a great fundraising activity because participating schools receive commission for every account activated via the School Banking Program, i.e. for each student who banks through the school’s program for the very first time; and for each subsequent individual deposit made at school. An amount of $316.09 has been raised to date. Fundraising is so important to our school community as it assists in the management of resources for our students and school community.

I am very conscious of the wonderful support the parents give to our students in our school and parish communities. Recently the facilitators of Prayer Force One, Mrs Brownlow and Mrs Knox, visited the Year 5 students to promote membership of Prayer Force One. Activities range from team sports, trivia, cooking, games, craft, discos and talent quests. An outing is held (one every term) and this may include going to an activity centre, ice-skating, bowling, movies etc. You can visit the StAnthony’s Church, Toongabbie website http://www.stanthonschurch.org.au/parish-groups/youth-groups/prayer-force-one to read more. The group often use the school premises for their activities evenings. Our school community is only too pleased to assist where possible, therefore, we will present a cheque for $300.00 to support the Prayer Force One Parish Group. I will invite Mrs Brownlow and Mrs Knox to attend a Monday morning assembly in the near future for the students to present the donation.

HEAD LICE – MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Head Lice are tiny parasitic insects that live in hair, where they breed and feed on blood from the scalp. They are about the size of a sesame seed, have six legs, and range from tan to greyish white in colour. Lice cannot survive for more than two days away from the human scalp. Head lice crawl but cannot fly or jump and do not live on animals. They cling to the hair with hook-like claws at the end of each leg. The lice are spread by head-to-head contact, or sometimes from sharing hats, combs and brushes with an infected person.

Nits are the eggs of the lice. They look like small whitish specks about the size of a pinhead and stick to the hair shaft. Eggs are first laid close to the scalp and grow out with the hair. They are usually found around the nape of the neck, under the fringe and behind the ears. Depending on the temperature and humidity, eggs hatch after 5-7 days. Small nymphs emerge and grow into adult sized lice after about 7-8 days. It is about 14 days after the eggs are laid that the mature louse begins breeding. Adults live for up to 14 days. The lifecycle of a head louse is only about 30 days.

MANAGEMENT

All family members infested with head lice should be treated at the same time to avoid re-infestation. Although lice will only survive for two days away from the human scalp, it is advisable to wash towels, bed linen, hats, brushes and combs at the time of treatment of head lice. Anything that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned can be placed in a plastic bag for a minimum of four days.

RESPONSIBILITY

SCHOOL

School communities have responsibility for:

- developing school procedures to support the prevention of head lice infestations e.g. no sharing of combs, hats etc
- supplying information to parents on the prevention, detection and treatment of head lice
- alerting parents/carers of head lice infestation within the school and requesting parents/carers check their children regularly
- requesting that the parents/carers keep their children at home until the infestation is treated and, preferably, all the eggs have been removed
- supporting parents through practical advice and a sympathetic attitude to avoid social stigma

Parents/Carers have responsibility for their children. This includes:

Prevention

- encouraging thorough hair brushing at least daily
- keeping hair short or worn tied back or braided
- avoiding sharing combs, brushes, hats, caps, headgear etc

Detection

- checking weekly for head lice and daily when there is an infestation
- notifying the Principal when head lice are detected and advise that treatment has begun
- keeping a child with head lice at home until treatment has occurred (including an attempt to remove eggs)

Treatment

- purchasing and carrying out a recommended treatment or the items as noted in the Head Lice Detection Kit
- a commercial head lice preparation can be purchased at a pharmacy. These usually come in shampoo or lotion form
- head lice preparations will not kill all nits (eggs), so a follow-up treatment seven days later is required to kill nymphs that have emerged in that time

It has been suggested by a few parents that our School runs a Nitbuster Program. You can view The Nitbuster website for more information http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice/nitbusters

This could be investigated through the School Community Group.

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter
ST ANTHONY'S OPEN DAY
Saturday 31st March, 2012

The Annual St Anthony’s Open day is on Saturday, 31st March, 2012. I encourage you to spread the word to family and friends. St Anthony’s is a great school and we would appreciate your support in telling members of Grraween Community of the opportunity for them to visit our school.

Often people ask ‘Why choose a Catholic School? I would like to respond by saying:-

- Catholic schools offer children a sense of community and belonging – students are welcomed into the family of the school, the local parish and the wider Catholic faith community.
- Catholic schools focus on the whole child – aiming to help them grow to their full potential academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally.
- Students in Catholic schools experience Christian values lived everyday in every aspect of schooling – from the learning spaces to the playground.
- Expectations of achievement and conduct are very high in Catholic schools – children are both nurtured and challenged.
- Catholic schools focus on the individual – aiming to improve the learning outcomes of each student with personalised learning programs tailored to each child’s diverse needs.
- Learning and teaching in Catholic schools is based on sound education research and practice – to ensure learning that is relevant and meaningful for the 21st century.

You may be interested in enrolment for Kindergarten 2013 or an enrolment for 2012 in any grade. I invite all people who are interested in their child’s education to visit our school on the St Anthony’s Open Day and see what St Anthony’s offers for you and your child. See you there!

God Bless

Cheryl Brown
Principal

CLEAN UP OUR SCHOOL DAY

On Monday 5th March our school had a clean up for Clean Up Australia Day. Every grade went to a different area of the school to clean up our grounds. It was good to know that we are helping to keep Australia clean!

BABY NEWS

Congratulations on the arrival of new babies to the Touma family (Youssef 5G, Gabrielle 4G, Daniella 3W and Samuel 2G) who now have a new little brother named Edward and the Peranovic family (Izabela KG) who has a new little brother named Oliver. Congratulations to you all.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

It’s that time of year again – the Premier’s Reading Challenge is back! The books are in our school library and have coloured labels on them to show which grades should be reading which books. A more comprehensive list of all books is also shown on the website https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html. Personal reading logs are available from Mrs Leach in Year 6, but can also be downloaded from the above website. So get reading St Anthony’s!

Melanie Veidre, Tamara Malak and Senitila Lino
More information to follow in next weeks newsletter

DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held at Parramatta Pool on Thursday 1st March. The results of the day:

Lachlan Foley 1st in 50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly and 200m IM and 2nd in 50m Backstroke.
A special congratulations must go to Lachlan Foley who not only broke the 50m butterfly record on the day but who was also Junior Boy Champion – Well Done!
Olivia Andree-Evarts 3rd in 50m Butterfly
Oscar Andree-Evarts 1st in 50m Freestyle
Paige Cuneen 2nd in 50m Freestyle
We would like to wish all of these students good luck at the upcoming Mackillop Trials.

SCHOOL CHOIR

Last week over 70 students auditioned to be a part of the St Anthony’s School choir for 2012 and Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Khoury had a very hard time choosing just 36 students.

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as part of the St Anthony’s School Choir:

Year 6 - Chanel El-Zreiby, Georgia Nobbs, Revati Raja, Nancy Nirmal Raj, Bronte Charles, Arden Yeh, Claire Burgess, Vanessa Daher, Alizeh Jamal

Year 5 - Sarah Abboud, Richmond Boang, Theph Theph, Hannah Smith, Bailey McLoughlin, Amber Palmer, Alannah Guerrero, Eleanor Christie, Angela Beshara, Hamish Ward, Maddy Nolan, Emma Norris, Natasha Lette, Taylah Jones, Danielle Jashan, Marina Youssef

Year 4 - Sian Vaz

Year 3 - Helen Jo, Anastasia Christie, Abbey O’Brien, Jemma Abdilla, Lilly Bradberry, Jasmine Sarkis, Jess Jurinario, Danielle Touma, Freya Lipping, Tatiana Haddad

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Reminder to all parents that the long sleeve polo shirt and spray jacket orders are due back by Friday 16th March, 2012. Also a reminder that the uniform shop will be open on Monday afternoon from 2:30pm - 3:15pm to try on the spray jackets.
Catherine McAuley Westmead
School Open Mornings

Wednesday 14th March 2012
9:15 – 11am

Enrolments for Year 7 2013

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year. There will be an Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2013 enrolments on Wednesday 14th March 2012. There will also be a Year 7 2013 Enrolment Information Evening on Monday, 19th March from 6:30 – 7:30pm. This evening will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting. Prior to the presentations there will be a further opportunity to tour the school with school tours running at 5:30pm and 5:45pm. Please RSVP for the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening by phoning the School Reception on 9849 9100.

CANTENE ROSTER – MARCH 12 - 16

Monday  Judi Adams, Ana Furjanic
Tuesday  Parveen Atwal, Lynda Singh
Wednesday  Mim Zammit, Kathy Grivas
Thursday  

Friday  Louise Frendo, Vicki Barlow

STUDENT OF THE WEEK 4

KG  Elizabeth Sarkis  KW  Aluel Deng
1G  Blake Murray  1W  Clare Tran
2G  Elia Ashor  2W  Alex Jacobs
3G  Renata Busic  3W  Paige Cunneen
4G  Eleora Augustine  4W  Brad Smith
5G  Alana Guerrero  5W  Tiana Nakat
6G  Caladen Temmo  6W  Jake McFadden

STUDENT OF THE WEEK 5

KG  Alyssa Natour  KW  Pradeepan Nadhan
1G  Sara Shaw  1W  Aidan Christie
2G  Aaron Verhoven  2W  Sarah Harris
3G  Yash Mishra  3W  Clark Edillo
4G  Christopher Adams  4W  Angelyn Veniegra
5G  Damon Mock  5W  Scott Bradbery
6G  Bianca Ashor  6W  Vanessa Chen