Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading for Sunday, 18th March
John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

Reflection

During this season of Lent, we have been preparing and contemplating the mystery of Jesus’ Passion, death, and Resurrection. Today’s Gospel teaches us what the heart of Lent is about: “For God so loved the world...” In his love, God has sent us his Son Jesus so that we can be freed from our sins; that we may live and share his eternal life and union with him.

Let us Pray Together

Heavenly Father,
we thank you and praise you for the gift of your Son, whom you send us by your love to free us and bring us salvation.
Increase our faith and lead us to the joy of eternal union with you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

TREE REMOVAL

I wish to advise you that the tree in the playground near the assembly area will be removed on the pupil free day, Friday 23rd March, 2012. Holroyd Council has granted permission for its removal due to it being unsafe.

SURVEYS!
CLOSE ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2012

Up to date data on the completion of the Quality Catholic School Survey.

Parents Completed 24 / 60 surveys
Teacher Completed 13 / 24 surveys
Student Completed 50 / 50 surveys

I urge all parents who were randomly selected to complete the survey on line or in paper form. Please return the paper form to the school office as soon as possible.

The data is going to be very valuable to our school community.

EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

The activities have been well received by the children. The knitting group started on Tuesday as it was wet weather on Monday but by all accounts they are enjoying the tasks. Skipping to Music and Cooking will take place today and we will let you know how they go next week.

Attention Students and Parents
Mutti Day
Wednesday 21st March 2012

Children can wear mutti clothes. The theme for this day is Harmony Day and the children are asked to wear something with the COLOUR ORANGE in it. Please ensure that mutti clothes are appropriate for the weather conditions and shoes are suitable for play and sporting activities.

A reminder that next Friday 23rd March, 2012 will be a Staff Development Day. We ask that you make suitable arrangements for your child / ren on this day as they are not required to attend school.
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 Girraween 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

RELEIGIOUS EDUCATION

Harmony Day
Next Wednesday, 21 March is Harmony Day. Harmony Day is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government to promote and celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity. It is also the United Nations’ Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

As a Catholic school, it is particularly important that we promote peace, tolerance and acceptance. The gospel of Jesus does not seek to exclude or divide. Rather, it is a message that is open to all who wish to listen.

To mark Harmony Day at St Anthony’s, we will be having a mufti day to celebrate. The colour for Harmony Day is ORANGE, so we encourage everyone to try and find something orange at home to wear on the day – even something as simple as a hat, socks, or a pair of shoelaces. Each student is also asked to bring in a gold coin for the privilege of wearing mufti on the day. This will be donated to Project Compassion.

Project Compassion
The motivations behind Harmony Day and Project Compassion are very similar. This year’s theme, taken from the words of Pope Paul VI, is “If you want peace, work for justice.” For us to have a world where people live together in harmony we must begin by challenging the injustices that exist, especially the significant divide between rich and poor.

A number of children have been talking excitedly about how their Project Compassion boxes have been filling up at home. I encourage everyone to keep finding ways they can go without a little of what you would normally have in order to benefit others during this season of Lent.

On Monday, our staff shared a soup lunch to raise funds in support of Project Compassion. The simple meal helped us to focus not on our own wants, but on the needs of others. Thank you to all the staff for their support of Monday’s lunch, especially those teachers who prepared it.

What a consolation to serve Jesus Christ Himself, in the person of the poor, and to walk in the same path He trod.
Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy

Upcoming Dates (additions/alterations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>Parish Mass, 9:30 am – Years 1, 3, 6 attending</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day, Orange Mufti Day (gold coin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>Return Project Compassion Boxes this week</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>Holy Week Celebrations – Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Holy Week Celebrations – Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Celebrations</td>
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<td>26 Apr</td>
<td>Anzac Day Prayer Service, 11:30 am</td>
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Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator
Professional Development
Yesterday Mrs Brown and myself had the privilege of attending a seminar hosted by the CEO of Parramatta. The guest speaker was Alan November, an international leader in education technology. Mr November has very impressive credentials – director of an alternative high school, technology consultant and university lecturer. He has helped schools, governments and industrial leaders improve the quality of education through technology. His area of expertise includes planning across curriculum, the development of school staff, new school design, community building and leadership development. Mr November shared his insights and work in the area of 21st century learning and the learner, the information explosion and the impact that this has had globally and together we investigated ‘Web Literacy’. As educators we were challenged to be ‘open to the possibilities’ of how technology can be used in the classroom as a tool for learning. It was emphasised that the focus in any classroom is on ‘the learning’ not the technology - that the technology is a tool that should be embedded in what we do: how we organize and manage content, how we deliver and process information and how we deliver feedback. The seminar proved to be a worthwhile and thought provoking learning experience for both Mrs Brown and myself.

Learning Support for students with specific needs.
Throughout the term, as you would be aware, students and teachers have been involved in a number of assessment tasks to gather and analyse data about student learning needs. Some of these needs can be successfully addressed through differentiation of the curriculum, assessment tasks and class routines. In some cases more specific intervention is needed. Parents would be contacted to organise a formal meeting to discuss the specific needs of the child, for example where students may need a program designed for further skill development in a particular area. In this case teachers, in consultation with their support team, plan a particular intervention program for a specific time-frame and complete a learning plan (kidmap) for a child or group of children. Kidmaps are continually evaluated and adjustments made depending on the needs of the students. This week Mrs Ward and grade teachers contacted and met with some parents to discuss individual learning plans for those students who are in need of an individual plan. If you have any concerns in regards to your child’s learning please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher to arrange a time to meet.

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

St Anthony’s Catholic Church Toongabbie Welcomes You and your Family to participate in the greatest drama ever lived, God living with us in Jesus and the precious days of Jesus’ life which gives us our living faith today. Come and join us this Holy Week and walk in the footsteps of our master, Jesus.

Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies
2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Friday 30th March 2012 – 7:30pm

Holy Thursday
5th April – Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:30pm

Good Friday
6th April – Stations of the Cross (for children) - 10am
The Lord’s Passion – 3pm
Reconciliation
After the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday
7th April, 2012 Easter Vigil 6pm

Easter Sunday
Mass 8am and 10am

Parramatta Marist High School
(Year 7 – 12 Catholic Systemic Boys School)

Information Evening
Wednesday 28 March 2012
6pm – 8pm school tours
7.30pm – 8pm address by Principal and information session

We offer top quality education with very affordable fees

Parking for the evening will be available in the visitor car park via Darcy Road at Gate 3. There will be tours of the school design, community building and leadership.

Assistant Principal
St Anthony’s School
Newsletter

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
The Parish is looking for students from St Anthony’s Primary school to take part in re-enacting the Stations of the Cross. Please contact Kris Borg on 0404 820 625 for more information.

Year 7 2013
Enrolment Information Night
Monday, 19th March 2012
Tours of the school will take place at 5.30pm & 5.45pm
At 6.30pm there will be an hour long information session presented by the Leadership Team. This will be held in our new building, the Sister Barbara McDonough Building, on Level 2. Parking for the evening will be available in the visitor car park via the bus bay with access from Darcy Road at Gate 3. There will be students available to show you were to go. Completed enrolment forms for Year 7 2013 may be lodged at this event or forwarded to the school by 5th April 2012. Please RSVP to attend by phoning Catherine McAuley School Reception on 9849 9100.
SOAR WITH THE GIRRAWEEEN EAGLES!
Registrations are closing soon for the 2012 season of the Anthony’s Girraween Eagles JRLFC and we need more players for our Under 6’s and Under 8’s teams.

Our children play a modified game of rugby league that fosters teamwork, sportsmanship and a love of rugby league. For primary school children aged 5 to 11 years, the $70 registration fee gets you Shirts, Game Day Shirt, Socks, Training Shirt, Cap, Hoodie and Football - outstanding value for Mums and Dads! Enquiries: Mat Douglas (m. 0414 999 071) or Andrew Christie (m. 0417 445 429).

LITERACY NEWS

Check out these websites for some great literacy activities:

http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html
http://www.literacysites.com/litgames.htm
http://www.primarygames.com/reading.htm

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

| KG | Mariel Leopando |
| KW | Nathania Lay |
| 1G | Sebastian Seghabi |
| 1W | Brenévan Padmeswaran |
| 2G | Amira Hussein-Smith |
| 2W | Anushan Winton |
| 3G | Christian Capaldi |
| 3W | Daniella Touma |
| 4G | Emily Brown |
| 4W | Nardya Niutao |
| 5G | Rylee Thew |
| 5W | Celeste Carrozza |
| 6G | Jennifer Jo |
| 6W | Senitila Lino |

CALENDAR UPDATE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-23 Mar</td>
<td>Timeline to complete QCS Survey</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
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CANTEEN ROSTER – MARCH 19 - 16

Monday   | Judi Adams, Elizabeth Toni
Tuesday  | Parveen Atwal, Eleanor D’Souza
Wednesday| Emma McKenna
Thursday | Fiona Burgess, Christie Seballos

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE (PRC) 2012

The Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2012 has begun! Some students have already begun to record books read, and at least one student has actually completed the challenge! If you know your user name and password you may log on to the website and begin recording books you have read so far. Students who do not know their user name and password are asked to fill in the form below and the relevant information will be sent home to you in the next few days. If you would like further information, please see Mrs Leach (Year 6) or Mrs Stevenson.

The PRC website also contains much valuable information, including booklists and rules for participation, so it is well worth a look.

PRC Website: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

More information will be sent home in the next few weeks, so watch this space!

Mrs Leach and Mrs Stevenson

PRC Co-ordinators

The student/s listed below are participating in the PRC this year. Please send home a sheet listing username/s and password/s.

Signed: ____________________________

Student’s name: ___________________ Class: _______

Student’s name: ___________________ Class: _______

Student’s name: ___________________ Class: _______

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter