From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday - 10th March, 2013

Luke 15:11a, 13b, 14a, 14c, 20a, 20f-22a, 23b-24, 25, 28, 29, 31-32

[Jesus said:] “A man had two sons .... The younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything .... he found himself in dire need. .... Coming to his senses .... he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father .... ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants .... ‘let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ ..... Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. ..... He became angry.... He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends......’ [His father] said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reflection

The pure joy surrounding the father’s welcome of the returning wayward son arises out of reconciliation – out of the acknowledgment of sin, imperfection and true need, all met by love. Although humbled, the son returns home at the mercy of his family. After having spent his inheritance, he expects nothing, yet finds everything in the open arms of his father. This is true joy, far surpassing the diversions the son left to seek.

Let us pray together:-

God, source of our joy,
Give us the strength to rely on your love in turning away from our selfishness back to right relationship with you.
We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Welcome to Week 6.

As you would be aware Mrs Brown has been appointed as Acting Principal of St Monica’s for the remainder of this term. In her absence I have been appointed Acting Principal of St Anthony’s, Mr Barden has been appointed Acting Assistant Principal and Mrs Awkar has taken up the Acting Religious Coordinator Position. Mrs Awkar’s term of appointment is for the remainder of term One and all of Term Two when Mr Barden takes Long Service Leave. We welcome Mrs Awkar to the leadership team of St Anthony’s and congratulate her on her appointment. Mr Howse will replace Mrs Awkar in Year 2 on Mondays while she is working in her role as Acting Religious Education Coordinator. Mr Barden’s release days will be Thursday and Friday for the remainder of the term and Mrs Kylie Leach will take up the two day teaching position on Year 4 for the remainder of the term. Ms Samantha Pepin has been engaged to take the Year 4 teaching position in Term Two while Mr Barden is on leave. Mrs Artelle Lenthall has been engaged to support Stage 3 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the rest of the term. Mrs Lenthall is replacing me in Stage 3.

WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are to wear the winter school uniform starting at the beginning of Term 2. (Monday, 29th April) The winter uniform for the girls consists of: a winter tunic with a white long sleeve blouse and green tights. For the boys the winter uniform consists of: green long trousers with either a long or short sleeve shirt. (new uniform)

The new winter school uniform will be available to be purchased from the uniform shop. Parents, in particular Kindergarten parents, are asked to make an appointment on the ‘online appointment booking site’ to purchase the uniform. Further details regarding making appointments will be forwarded to parents next week. I would like to draw your attention to the newsletter item ‘School Uniform’ printed in the newsletter of 21st February, 2013. In this article Mrs Brown outlines aspects of St Anthony’s uniform policy. The majority of our students are wearing the correct uniform and we congratulate them on their efforts. However, a small number of students are not wearing the uniform correctly. In particular socks and sport shoes don’t comply with the uniform policy. We would like to remind parents that the new sport socks are to be worn with the sport uniform only. Green socks are to be worn with the school uniform and the sport shoe is to be predominately
white with white shoe laces. Flouro shoes and laces are not permitted. Thank you for your support in this matter.

SKOOLBAG APPLICATION
I direct your attention to an attachment titled ‘Skoolbag.’ ‘Skoolbag’ is a mobile application for parents. We encourage our parents to install the application following the directions on the attachment.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY
All Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2013, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date. As this is the second year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from last year’s findings and included in our school planning. From 11 – 22 March all staff, Stage 3 students and 60 randomly- selected parents, will be asked to complete a survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete. A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning. If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvements. If you have any questions please contact me (Mrs Patricia Charlton) on 9631 5283.

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Acting Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
Catholic Schools Week 2013 will be held from 10 to 16 March. The theme for CSW 2013 will be ‘Every Child Counts’. The theme reminds us that every student in Australia deserves a good education. It ties into our schools philosophy of individualised learning, and provides good links for fundraising and social justice opportunities.

A key component of CSW is a liturgical celebration. Our liturgy will be held on Monday morning during our normal Monday assembly. It will be the opening event of our celebrations. The liturgy focuses on us as a community chosen and called by name: the people God counts on and calls friends. I extend a warm welcome to all parents; grandparents and friends to join us celebrate the opening of CSW.

Gracious God,
You call each of us by name.
In the life of your Son Jesus
You show us that everyone counts in your eyes:
The rich and the poor
The young and the old
The small baby and the elderly person
The sick and the well
The world and all its people.
In this year of Grace and Season of Lent
May your Holy Spirit help us to make you count,
more and more in our lives.
Amen

Upcoming Dates
Monday 11 March Catholic Schools Week
Wed 13 March Reconciliation, 5G, 11:30am
Thursday 21 March Harmony Day
Sunday 24 March Holy Week Begins (Palm Sunday)
Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday
Saturday 6th April OR Confirmation Enquiry 12 noon session, Parish Hall
Wed 10 April Confirmation Enquiry 7:30pm session, Parish Hall
Saturday 10 August First Holy Communion
Sunday 11 August First Holy Communion
Saturday 17 August First Holy Communion
Sunday 18 August First Holy Communion

Kind Regards
Sonia Awkar
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Keep up with all the latest news and information
www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au www.facebook.com/StAnthonysG twitter.com/StAnthonysG

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
Next week is Catholic Schools Week. We celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) each year to acknowledge what makes Catholic schools special, as both learning communities and faith communities. We have prepared a number of events next week to celebrate.

Scholastic Book Fair
Next week for Catholic schools week we will be having a Book Fair. A flyer about the book fair was sent home yesterday. This means that Scholastic will send out books for you to purchase at school during the week. The Book Fair will be set up in the multi-purpose room and on Friday students will get to write a 'wish list' of items at the Fair they might
Students aged 8 this year and higher will take part in races around the school grounds. Parent helpers are also needed; please look for the note that will be sent home shortly.

1:30 pm BBQ Lunch – all invited
Each student will receive a sausage sandwich and drink to celebrate CSW. Parents are welcome to share lunch with their children. If you wish to order lunch from the canteen, an order must be placed in your child’s lunch order tub on Friday morning. Please refer to the canteen price list, or you may order a sausage sandwich for $2.00. We thank the School Community Group for their support in running the barbecue.

2:15 pm Infants Fun Run – all invited
Our “cross country” carnival for Kindergarten – Year 2.

We hope you will be able to join us for at least some of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations. More information will be available online at www.stanthonysgirraween.catholic.edu.au

ATTENDANCE
We have noticed over the first half of this term that a number of students have arrived to school late. The school day starts promptly at 9 am, and students who arrive to class often miss important learning experiences and can have greater difficulty focusing on the day’s work. Punctuality is important throughout life, and we would appreciate your support in helping to instil this value within your children. Children can be dropped off at school from 8:30 am onwards.

Kind Regards
Robert Barden
Acting Assistant Principal

UNIFORM SHOP TIMES
The Uniform Shop will be open next Monday 11th March from 2:30pm – 3:15pm.

MOBILE TEAM
Last year, our Movie Team entered their films into KidzFlicks which is a Film Festival for young people. The Festival opens on 18th March.

The films from St Anthony’s will screen in the following sessions:

Waverley Library:
GHOST and MIDNIGHT: Saturday 23rd March between 11am – 12:30pm.
ADDACTED: Saturday 23rd March between 1:50pm – 3:20pm.
COMMUNITY NEWS

STARLIGHTS NETBALL CLUB
are seeking 11 year olds to join our team for the 2013 season. Please contact Leah Smith on 0419 426 913 for further information.

Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolments for Year 7 2014

Catherine McAuley Westmead will be holding another School Open Morning specifically for Year 7 2014 enrolments on:

Thursday 14th March 2013
9.15 – 11am

This morning will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To RSVP for a school tour please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

CAUGHT DOING IT RIGHT

Tasman Sutton was caught doing the right thing and placing the rubbish from his classrooms munch and crunch bin in the garbage bin on the playground. He has also been spotted picking up rubbish on the playground and placing it in the bins. Well done Tasman.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG Rishant Pillay
1G Ethan Jacobs
2G Hannah Adams
3G Maia Hartikainen
4G Lilly Bradbery
5G Alyssa Guerrero
6G

KW Feodora Cutajar
1W Alma Yousif
2W Sara Shaw
3W Chloe Whyte
4W Paige Cunneen
5W Thomas Aquilina
6W Harrison Sumpter

CANTEEN ROSTER

11th – 15th MARCH

Monday Annemarie Saliba
Tuesday
Wednesday Mim Zammit, Helen Seghabi
Thursday Sofie Tjahjakusuma
Friday Vicki Barlow, Linda Knight

LEAVE/EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

It is a NSW Government requirement that absence or leave from school be approved in accordance with state guidelines. Approval for absence other than illness must be applied for prior to the leave commencing. An Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form must be completed and submitted for approval by the principal. This form can be collected from the office, or downloaded from our school website. The principal (or the Catholic Education Office for longer periods of leave) may only grant approval for leave under particular circumstances. After your application is received, it will be reviewed, and the outcome communicated to you in writing prior to the commencement of leave.

MERCY AWARDS

We would like to thank the students below for organising and helping to raise funds for Project Compassion. They have been awarded a Social Justice Award.