Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

This coming Sunday, Palm Sunday, begins the holiest week in the church’s year. We begin the week by accompanying Jesus into Jerusalem. He is met with a very warm welcome from the ordinary people. He comes to them riding on a donkey, a very humble way of entering the city of Jerusalem. There is no pride in Him in riding the donkey, no sense of triumph. Our task during Holy Week is to accompany Jesus through His passion and death to His Resurrection. We need to see where we stand in relation to Jesus, whether we are as fickle as the crowd, celebrating Jesus one day and crying out for His death the next; can we be easily manipulated, as this crowd was, to follow the dictates of those who have power. Are we like Pilate, or the priests and leaders of the people, or like the apostles, most of whom go into hiding when there is any sense of danger.

None of this is really important in itself. What is important for us is to see the ‘Christ’ who is being crucified in our world today. The refugees, the poor and marginalised people in our own society and the many victims of violence who are found all over the world, are examples of Jesus being crucified. There are many people, many sections of our society who are being crucified today.

When we are able to see the ‘Christ’ being crucified today in people, we need to see where we stand with regard to them. We can be like Pilate, washing our hands of all that goes on in the world, and has gone on in the past. We can be like the fickle crowd, and politicians, who so easily change their minds and allegiances under pressure from the power groups. We can be the crowd who look on the injustice of the world and are silent in the face of it. Maybe we just do not want to know! Maybe we are like the chief priests and Pharisees, the peer groups, the bullies, the wealthy, who have great power, and are willing to exercise it to achieve their ends. We can be like the apostles and disciples who fade into the crowd when the going gets tough. Hopefully, however, we can be like the three people at the foot of the cross, who can freely be with the poor and the suffering in their pain; maybe we will even feel moved to do something about it!

It can be very easy for us to be like the crowd on Palm Sunday, singing the praises of God, being comfortable with going to Mass and saying our prayers; and yet completely ignore, or be apathetic towards, or wash our hands of, all the injustices we see in the world around us. As we enter into Holy Week let us try to unite ourselves with Jesus and assist and pray for all those who suffer injustice in today’s world.

The St Anthony’s School community welcomes everyone to come and join in our Holy Week celebrations next week.

I wish to advise the parent community that Mrs Louise Korny has accepted a temporary position at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills for the remainder of 2012. I sent a letter home yesterday to advise the Year 5 parents. I wish to acknowledge Mrs Korny’s contributions to the learning and teaching at St Anthony’s and on behalf of the parents, staff and students I wish Mrs Korny the best in her new role. Mrs Korny starts her new position on Monday, 23rd April, 2012.

There are a number of staff taking long service leave this year. Listed below are the staff and dates for long service leave.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>First day of Leave and first day back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Joanne Digwood</td>
<td>30th March – back 23rd April – Relief teacher Mr Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Christine Watson</td>
<td>23rd April – back 30th April – Relief teacher Mr Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Michele Bowen</td>
<td>30th March – back 30th April – Relief Mrs Heness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Frances Flood</td>
<td>26th April – back 10th May – Relief teacher Ms Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Karin Hanlon</td>
<td>28th May – back 13th June – Relief Mrs Heness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Lorraine Buhagiar</td>
<td>16th July – back 8th October – Relief Mrs Heness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also have a few events this year. Firstly, Mrs Leach’s baby is due on 29th July and she will be taking maternity leave from 29th June, 2012. Mrs Khoury will be taking maternity leave from 31st August, 2012, being two weeks before the baby is due. Miss Small will be getting married on 15th September, 2012.

Over the last few weeks our students have been involved in the Cross Country and Athletics Carnival. Both events were very exciting and I know the students enjoyed themselves so much.
We were blessed with the best weather and the students’ achievements were outstanding. I wish all the students who have progressed to the next level of performance the best and good luck.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Lachlan Foley (Year 6) has made it into the MacKillop swimming team to compete at state next week. Lachlan has made Junior Boys 50m Butterfly (2nd at MacKillop trials) and Junior Boys 200m Individual medley (3rd). Congratulations to Lachlan and we wish him every success in his next challenge, Outstanding Effort!

On Saturday, 31st March, St Anthony’s Open Day will be held between 10am – 2pm. If you are aware of any families who are looking for enrolment in a school for this year and in particular 2013, please invite them to attend our open day. I wish to thank the teachers and students who have volunteered their time to support the open day. I would also like to thank the St Anthony’s School Community Group for providing a sausage sizzle for our welcomed visitors.

A reminder to students and parents who have not donated an Easter Egg for the Easter Egg Raffle to be held on 4th April, 2012. The more Easter Eggs we receive the more raffle prizes we can draw on the day. The students have so much fun in waiting with anticipation for their name to be called out throughout the day. Please support this event! It is a fundraising activity for our School Community Group. Easter Egg Raffle tickets are for sale every day before school, during recess and lunch. So I encourage you to let your child buy raffle tickets so they can be in the Easter Egg Raffle draw.

This term has been a wonderful experience. Our students have settled into school with great enthusiasm for learning and building relationships. Thank you to the many parents, staff and students who completed the Quality Catholic Survey. I look forward to receiving the feedback from the survey for future planning.

At St Anthony’s we continue to build on our school goals by further development of the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program, Spiritual Formation and Development of our staff and students and this year we are building on our learning and teaching strategies in the area of Writing. Last Friday all teachers were involved in professional learning focused on Writing and Mathematics. For the first part of the day we engaged in discussion of teaching writing and then followed on with analysis of the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). The day was so valuable in sharing and learning together. In Term 2 there will be parent information meetings to share the St Anthony’s School Goals. Firstly, Extending Mathematical Understanding parent information meetings will be held on 7th May with two sessions, 2:15 – 3:15pm and 6:30 – 7:30pm. A flyer will be sent home in Week 1, Term 2.

I look forward to seeing you next week at the Holy Week Liturgies.

Take care and be safe.

Cheryl Brown
Principal

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Holy Week**

Next week we begin to celebrate the final days leading to Christ’s death and resurrection. The rejoicing of Palm Sunday gives way over the course of the week to the sorrow of Good Friday and Jesus’s crucifixion. The days of the Easter Triduum, beginning with the evening of Holy Thursday and continuing through to Easter Sunday, are the high point of the Church’s entire liturgical year. It is on these days in particular that we celebrate the Paschal Mystery – the passion, death and resurrection.

The St Anthony’s School Community will gather together next week to pray and commemorate key moments during Holy Week. All parents and friends are invited. Please see the flyer sent home with this newsletter for further details.

Information has also been sent home to inform you of the various Holy Week and Easter Triduum celebrations taking place at St Anthony’s Church. I encourage all families to participate in these liturgies, and show to your child the way we as a Church celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection. Each of these celebrations has unique elements, and it would be a worthwhile experience for children to engage in them.

**Project Compassion**

Thank you to everyone for your support of Project Compassion this year. Our total so far is over $1000 – by far the most we’ve raised for several years. It has been wonderful to see people participate through the mufti day, staff lunches and by using their Project Compassion boxes at home. Boxes should be returned to school now, or taken to the church at Easter time.

**Confirmation**

Next term, children from our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Any child who in Year 5 or above, and has already celebrated First Communion may prepare for, and celebrate Confirmation. Preparations will begin early next term, with the sacrament being celebrated in late May. Further details about the Sacramental Process can be obtained by contacting the parish office on 9631 3316.

In the meantime, I invite all of us to pray for the children and their families who are preparing for the sacrament.

**Upcoming Dates**

- **Monday 2 April**
  - Holy Week Celebration, 9:30am
  - (see flyer for details)

- **Thursday 5 April**
  - Holy Thursday

- **Friday 6 April**
  - Holy Week Celebration, 9:30am
  - Good Friday

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter
**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**NAPLAN 2012**
As you may have noticed the dates for NAPLAN 2012 were advertised in last week’s newsletter. The Year 3 and Year 5 students will participate in this national assessment next term on the following days:

- **15th May** - Language Conventions
- **16th May** - Reading Test
- **17th May** - Numeracy Test

As students need to be taught the skills of completing NAPLAN they have been preparing for the tests during their Literacy and Numeracy blocks this term. As a way of supporting our students, and in helping to minimize apprehension and or confusion, students have been taught how to read test papers and stimulus materials and to complete tests under exam conditions. As the genre for the writing test this year is ‘persuasive’ writing the teachers of Year 3 and Year 5 have focused on this text type during writing lessons this term. The aim of persuasive writing is to convince the reader, (the audience) of the writer’s point of view or opinion on an issue or topic. For example, in Year 5 the students where required to write an exposition (persuasive text) to express their opinion on the topic: ‘Reading books is better than watching television.’ Presently, in Year 3 the students are writing an exposition on the topic ‘Too much money is spent on toys and games.’ The student’s response to the topic given would include their opinion, followed by arguments and evidence to support their arguments. Persuasive writing and other non-narrative forms of writing are used increasingly as students progress through school. To provide further opportunities for our students to develop their opinions and to listen to opinions of others, students are encouraged to talk to parents/carers/siblings about their opinions and current issues. If parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students would like more information on persuasive texts please refer to the writing information sheet that was sent home with the curriculum overview for Year 3 and Year 5 at the beginning of term. To give students further opportunities to practice the skill of persuasion (over the coming holidays) perhaps families could discuss / debate some of the following topics:

- It’s cruel to keep animals in cages
- All children should play sport
- Shopping centres should be closed on the weekends
- Mobile phone use MUST be banned in restaurants
- Trees should never be cut down
- All shark nets should be removed from beaches

When discussing topics / issues ask the students the following: What do you think about this idea? Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of ideas for both sides? Which side would you take in a debate? What are your reasons?

Please note in the NAPLAN tests the writing task and topic is the same for both Year 3 and 5.

**Catholic Schools Week**
Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated this year across NSW and the ACT from 29th April to 5th May. (2nd week of next term) The theme for 2012 is ‘Faith in Every Student’. This year, more than 611 Catholic schools will take part in the celebrations, involving 264,000 students. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day, and to celebrate the many achievements of our students.

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to offering children in our schools the opportunity to follow Jesus as members of the Catholic community.

Our school is planning a number of activities during ‘Catholic Schools Week’ that highlight the wonderful learning and teaching that takes place, as well as the many other exciting opportunities that St Anthony’s provides for its students.

Listed below is a schedule of events that will be held in ‘Catholic Schools Week’. You will note that some events are school only events while others we are asking all of our school community to attend. I am publishing the schedule in advance to give our parents/carers/community members the opportunity to make arrangements to attend some of the planned events.

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Whole School community events Tuesday, Thursday – School only events**

| **Monday** | Whole School Liturgy (9:15am) Morning Assembly (9:30am) Morning tea for parents / guests (10am) Open classrooms showcasing IT (ipads, laptops, interactive whiteboard) focusing on numeracy and or literacy (Rotational activities ) (11:30am) |
| **Community Invited to these events** | **School only** |
| **Tuesday** | Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing |
| **Community Invited to these events** | **Wednesday** |
| | Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing (11:30am) Concert showcasing extra-curricular activities – skipping to music, cooking, knitting, dance and choir items, Year 6 Models, Passive Play group – gardening (11:30am) Picnic Lunch (12:30pm) Rug Reading across school (1:30pm) |
| **Thursday** | Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing (11:30am) |

Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Co-ordinator

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**St Anthony’s School**

**Newsletter**
Thursday

**Final of Spelling Bee** – each stage to develop spelling lists (1 for competition / 1 for finals)

Stage 'spelling bee' to determine contestants for final. Three finalists for each section (11:40am) Kindergarten to present Jolly Phonics.

Friday

**Sharing writing pieces at assembly. Awards presented to students for writing (11:30am)**

Whole School craft session (11:45am – 1:30pm)

Staff to nominate craft activity – students participate in an activity of their choice.

Please mark these dates in your diary as this is a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our school community.

We look forward to seeing you during Catholic Schools Week.

Kind Regards

**Patricia Charlton**

**Assistant Principal**

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Cross Country Results**
Thank you to all the teachers, parent helpers and students who participated and helped with the Cross Country Carnival last Thursday. We were blessed with fine weather and the students participated with great enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the Green house who were the overall winners of the Cross Country Carnival.

There are 42 students who will be attending the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival next Term on Tuesday 1st May.

Thank you to Miss Watson for organizing the primary carnival and to the infants teachers for organizing the Infants Fun Run.

**Athletics Carnival Results**
Here are the results from the Athletics Carnival, which was held on Monday 26th March. The students participated with enthusiasm and were well behaved on the day.

**Age Champions**
- Junior Boys Champion: Jayden Leeder
- Junior Boys Runner Up: William Yates
- Junior Girls Champion: Adriana Busic
- Junior Girls Runner Up: Hannah Hamilton
- Senior Boys Champion: Theph Theph
- Senior Boys Runner Up: Mark Lazro
- Senior Girls Champion: Taylah Jones
- Senior Girls Runner Up: Serena Olatona

**Overall Winning House**: Green
**Sporting Attitude**: Red

A big thank you to Mr Barden and Mr Howse for organizing the Primary Carnival and to Miss Jones and Mrs Mitchell.

**NSWCPS Swimming Results**
On Monday 26th March, four students represented the Parramatta Diocese in the NSWCPS Swimming Trials at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush.

Lachlan Foley received 3rd place 50m Butterfly and 2nd in 50m Freestyle. Lachlan will now go through to State trials next Term.

Congratulations to Olivia Andree-Evarts, Oscar Andree-Evarts and Paige Cunneen who also competed on the day.

**Miss Small**

**Sports Coordinator**

**PARISH NEWS**

**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.

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
Mary MacKillop Place
Museum School Holiday Program
16-20 April 2012

Where? 7 Mount St, North Sydney
When? 10:30am – 12:30pm
Cost? $8.00 per child per session
Includes morning tea
Suitable for children 5 - 12 years
Bookings? Museum Education Officer
T: 02 8912 4883
E: mackillop@sosj.org.au

Mary MacKillop Place Open Day
7-11 Mount St, North Sydney
Sunday 29 April 2012 (10am - 4pm)

- Visit the historic Chapel and Mary MacKillop's tomb
- Enjoy the museum’s new gallery with FREE admission
- Take a guided tour and explore the Kids’ Space
- Relax in the Gift Shop & Cafe
- Sausage sizzle & Devonshire Tea
- Enjoy a day with the family in the beautiful grounds!

For more information about programs and events at Mary MacKillop Place, please visit our website www.marymackillopplace.org.au

CALENDAR UPDATE

Sat 31 Mar St Anthony’s Open Day – 2013 enrolments
Mon 2 Apr Lent Liturgy 9am
  2 Apr Spring Fair Meeting – 7:30pm
Wed 4 Apr Easter Hat Parade 9:30am
  4 Apr School Community Group Easter Egg Raffle – all day
Thurs 5 Apr Holy Thursday Easter Liturgy
  5 Apr Last Day of Term 1
Thurs 5 Apr Term 2 return to school
  25 Apr Anzac Day
Fri 27 Apr Gift wrapping day for Mothers’ Day Stall
Mon 30 Apr Catholic Schools Week begins with Liturgy and Assembly at 9:15am
  1 May Diocesan Cross Country
Wed 2 May CSW Concert & Rug Reading
  4 May CSW Activities Afternoon
Mon 7 May EMU parent meetings 2:15 – 3:15pm & 6:30 – 7:30pm
Fri 18 May Survey Results due back
Fri 18 May Walk to School Safely Day
Mon 22 May ICAS Assessment – Computer
Fri 25 May School Disco – 2 sessions
  5 – 6pm Kinder, 1 & 2
  6:30-8pm Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6
Mon 28 May Spring Fair Meeting 7:30pm
Tues 29 May Confirmation 7:30pm
Wed 30 May Year 6 Canberra excursion
Wed 6 June ICAS Assessment – Science
Mon 11 June Queen’s Birthday – no school
Tues 12 June Staff Development Day – Pupil Free
  12 June School Community Group Meeting 7:30pm
Wed 13 June St Anthony’s Feast Day – Picnic Day
Mon 18 June ICAS Assessment – Writing
Tues 19 June ICAS Assessment – Spelling
Wed 20 June Math’s Olympiad
Mon 25 June Spring Fair Meeting 7:30pm
Tues 26 June School Photos

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG Madison Whyte  KW Dante Singh
1G Joshua Abdilla  1W Sophia Younes
2G Andrew Hakim  2W Jade Lawler
3G Renata Busic  3W Yianni Paradisis
4G Emily Brown  4W Sione Lino
5G Bianca Varela  5W Sarah Abboud
6G Tracy manito  6W

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN ROSTER – APRIL 2 - 6

Monday Judi Adams, Kathy Grivas
Tuesday Parveen Atwal
Wednesday Rachael Christie, Denise Andree-Evarts
Thursday
Friday Save Cosgrove, Sue Adams