

DATES FOR TERM FOUR 2015

Monday 14th December	* 8:40am KLA Awards kindergarten to year five * 5:00pm Year six Graduation Mass and Awards
Tuesday 15th December	* 8:40am KLA Awards kindergarten to year five * Year six disco
Wednesday 16th December	9:15am Thanksgiving Mass
Thursday 17th December	Staff Development Day (no classes)
Friday 18th December	Staff Development Day (no classes)

DATES FOR TERM ONE 2016

Wednesday 27th January	Staff Development Day. MAI interviews (set times)
Thursday 28th January	Staff Development Day MAI interviews (set times)
Friday 29th January	8:40am years one to six begin
Monday 1st February	8:40am kindergarten 2016 begin

St Aidan's Church Masses for Christmas 2015

Thursday 24th December 7:00pm Vigil Mass for children
11:00pm Christmas Carols in the Church

Friday 25th December 12:00am Midnight Mass
7:30am; 9:00am; and 10:30am Christmas Day Masses

Saturday 26th December and Sunday 27th December—Normal weekend Masses

Friday 1st January 9:15am New Years Day Mass



St Aidan's Primary School
1-5 Adelaide St, Rooty Hill NSW 2766
Telephone: 9625 3181 Fax: 9625 5612
<http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>
staidans@parra.catholic.edu.au
Radio 97.5fm
Twitter @AidansSt



St Aidan's Primary School Rooty Hill Sharing News & Views

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

As this is the final newsletter for 2015, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support this year. I am incredibly proud to lead St Aidan's with such a supportive group of parents who show unfailing interest in their children's learning and engage in genuine partnership with staff.

The only member of staff leaving St Aidan's this year is Mrs Bianca Manton. Mrs Manton has been teaching here in a fulltime and part-time capacity for the past eleven years, however she and her family are relocating to Mascot which will make travel to Rooty Hill somewhat challenging.

On your behalf I thank Mrs Manton for the contribution she has made to St Aidan's and wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

Mr Anthony Julius and Mrs Kate Woolcock will be on long service leave for 2016 so will not be teaching. I am sure they will enjoy some well earned rest and relaxation during this time.

A number of families are completing their association with St Aidan's at the end of this year as the last of their children move to High School. The families leaving us have been featured in the 'hall of fame' as a mark of appreciation for their contribution to our community.

Student reports were sent home last Wednesday. Any parent wishing to speak to teachers about their children's reports are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office.

Yesterday, students, staff and parents enjoyed the bi-annual talent quest. It was a fun experience for all of us and an excellent display of the talented St Aidan's students. Congratulations to the winners whose names appear in the hall of fame.

The year six graduation and awards ceremony will be held next Monday 14th December. As these students embark on the next chapter in their schooling I wish them every success and trust they will take with them many learnings and happy memories of their years at St Aidan's. They have been an intelligent and enthusiastic cohort of students and I will miss them incredibly.

Towards the end of January each family will receive a letter to remind them of the Mathematics Assessment Interviews that have been scheduled for 27th, 28th January 2016. As explained earlier this term these interviews are a Parramatta Diocesan requirement and take time to organise. To ensure the smooth running of the interviews, it is very important that the times chosen are adhered to.

The annual Excellence Awards for each Key Learning Area will be presented at the morning assemblies next Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th December. Parents have been notified if their children are to receive an award.

Parents are encouraged to read and write with their children during the coming holidays. It is very easy for children to lose the momentum of learning when away from school. Regular reading and writing with children will assist them to maintain the reading levels achieved at end of term.

It is important to remember that the season of Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are lonely, sick and financially challenged. What can you do to make a difference to someone else this Christmas?

On behalf of the St Aidan's staff I wish each of you a very happy and holy Christmas and a relaxing holiday. I look forward to working with you again in 2016.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.



From the Religious Education Coordinator

Dear Parents,

At a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica on 13th March, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy." The special year will take place 8th December, 2015 until 20th November 2016.

The Extraordinary Jubilee has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord:

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

To mark the opening of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Parramatta, a special holy door of mercy will be opened at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 13 December at 11:00 am mass. The door will be open for pilgrims to pass through as a prayer for personal conversion and action.

The designated door for our Diocese will be the eastern door at the top of the entry steps to St Patrick's Cathedral. The special sense of passing through this threshold of God's mercy will be emphasised until the close of the Jubilee in November 2016. Everyone is invited to make a special pilgrimage to the Cathedral from every region of the archdiocese.

Next year at St Aidan's, we would like to start a parent prayer and meditation group. Meditation is found in all religious traditions. In Christianity it is the heart of the contemplative teaching of Jesus on prayer. Meditation builds community and you are invited, through this weekly opportunity beginning on Thursday the first week of Lent - Week 3 of Term 1, 2016 to become part of this prayer community. You will be able to learn about the tradition, how to meditate and how to continue meditation with your children at home.

If you are interested in attending the prayer sessions, please fill in the expression of interest slip below and return it to school by Monday 14th December 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students and parents at St Aidan's for graciously welcoming me into this community. I pray that you all have a safe and restful break and rejoice in the celebrations of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Yours sincerely

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator.

✂ _____

I, _____ would like to attend the parent prayer groups starting in the first week of Lent, 2016.

Whooping Cough

There have been a number cases of whooping cough reported in the Western Sydney area and also some students here at school.

Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough. If the cough gets worse and severe bouts of coughing can develop please take your child to the doctor for a whooping cough test.

Year Five visit to St Agnes

- ♦ Music at St Agnes was very entertaining because we learnt how to use percussion and put different types of sounds together. *Khushi Kansal.*
- ♦ Our St Agnes excursion was an enjoyable experience and was a great opportunity for us to learn a lot. *Rita El-Ghossein.*
- ♦ At the St Agnes Technology Day, we participated in various lessons such as music, dance, I.T. and science, which was an invaluable experience for year five. *Lyndon Romana.*
- ♦ The music session at St Agnes was absolutely awesome especially when we got into a circle to explore rhythm through the chaotic cup song. *Arabelle Remoroza.*
- ♦ Dancing at St Agnes was fun and the choreography was easy and fun to learn. *Neil Swin.*
- ♦ During the Imovie session we practised some handy skills which I didn't know, and the Apple computer was out of this world. *Nipulma Attanayake.*
- ♦ Due to this experience I learnt that music is like a recipe, if you don't like the flavour, you won't like the sound. *Jaira-Lynn De Vera.*
- ♦ Food tech, at St Agnes was exciting because we used our creative skills by learning how to bake and decorate cupcakes. *Kyra Barcelon.*
- ♦ I really enjoyed the technology lesson at St Agnes because it inspired me to learn more about different technologies. *Latasha Brewty.*
- ♦ St Agnes was great! Every activity that I did was an awesome experience because it showed me different areas I could learn about. *Kyle Polidano.*

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## Baby news

Congratulations to Teanna Warwick-Smith 6C on the birth of a little brother, Levi and family.

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Numeracy News

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs) will commence again in the first few weeks of next year. These interviews occur at the beginning of the year to assess what your child has retained over the past year after a holiday period.

What can you do to prepare your child for their MAI?

- Encourage your child to count over the holidays, following on with their personal goals (counting by different numbers, counting by fractions etc.)
- Choose particular numbers and recall the number 1 more, 1 less, 10 more, 10 less, 100 more, 100 less. (49, 599, 1010, 5490)
- Practise placing different numbers on empty number lines and encourage them to explain their thinking.

Most importantly talk to your child about the MAI. Encourage your child to try their best and remind them it is not something they should be nervous about or stress over. The MAI process is an opportunity for your child to show the teacher what they know and can do mathematically and for the teacher to get to know your child.

We look forward to working alongside you again during this process.

What mathematics will you **notice**, **discuss** and **explore** with your child during the holidays?

Miss Prudence Hall.

Lead Numeracy Teacher.

Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the Talent Quest Winners for 2015

- ♦ Juliana Mendoza KH
- ♦ Tania Thomas 2U
- ♦ Beminet Habte 3Q, Anjali Sharma 3Q, Jordana Jacobs 3Q, Sarah Wisam Nissan 3B, Janithi Semage 3B, Sione Vunipola 3Q
- ♦ Alexi Bonete 6C and Holly-Anne Ramos 6B



A sincere thank you to the following classroom parent helpers. Students and staff are very appreciative of your valuable assistance.

Mrs Abicic; Mrs Ayoub; Mrs Bell; Mrs Darjani; Mrs Derjani; Mrs El-Ghossein; Mrs Ereira; Mrs Fegradoe; Mrs Khan; Mrs Lintag; Mrs Manaog; Mrs Plaatjes; Mrs Polidano; Mrs Rodrigues; and Mrs Vigliarolo.

★ KLA AWARDS 2015 ★

Key Learning Area (KLA) Awards for Excellence will be presented to students in kindergarten to year five at 8:40am assembly on Monday 14th and at 8:40am on Tuesday 15th December as follows:

Monday 14th December	Tuesday 15th December
Religious Education	Sport
English	Robotics
Mathematics	Consistent Effort
HSIE	School Spirit
Science & Technology	Principal's Award
PDHPE	
Creative Arts	

*Parents and friends who attend are asked to please sit in the designated area for visitors.

Farewell to the following families who are leaving St Aidan's at the end of 2015:

Abi Chemouni; Alcala (Jake); Apostol; Ayoub; Badato; Bartley; Brual; Byrne; Cameron; Debulo; Del Rosario; Frangomeli; Francisco; Fuamatu; Gloria; Gonzales (Prince Martin); Liwanag; Maireriki; Makedonas; Manalo; Maniago; Mantua; Martin; Mendoza; Nau; Nool; Pereira; Prasad; Ramos; San Pedro; Sant; Schembri-Judd; Seguban; Shah; Simmons; Tong; Viray; (Teanna)Warwick-Smith; White; and Wu Family.



St Aidan's Staff and Students wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas.

