

St Aidan's Primary School, Rooty Hill

Newsletter



From the Principal

3rd June 2016

Dear Parents,

When reciting the ten commandments, one begins with the word 'remember'. It reminds us to recall something we already know. There are commandments of mercy written into our very DNA. We already know them but we need to remember them.

The ten commandments of Mercy:

1. Remember that mercy lies deepest in God's heart.

Mercy is God's essence. Scripture uses words such as loving-kindness and compassions to try to define what constitutes God's mercy, but the central biblical concept, captured in the Hebrew concept of *hesed*, *connotes a relationship that loves, embraces and forgives even when we cannot measure up or deserve what's given us.*

2. Remember that mercy is the essence of all true religion.

Inside religion and spirituality, within all faiths, three things try to lay claim to what's central: *proper religious practice, outreach to the poor and compassion. Ultimately they are not in opposition, but complementary pieces of one religious whole. Deepest inside every religion is the invitation: Be compassionate and merciful as God is compassionate.*

3. Remember that we all stand forever in need of mercy.

There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who converts than over ninety-nine righteous persons. Does God love sinners more than the righteous? There are no righteous persons. It's just that we feel God's love more when we admit that we're sinners. None of us ever measures up but, as St Paul so consolingly teaches, the whole point is that we don't have to measure up. That's what mercy means. It's undeserved by definition.

4. Remember that having received mercy, we must show mercy to others.

We only receive and appropriate God's mercy and the mercy of others when we extend that same mercy to others.

5. Remember that only the practice of mercy sets us free.

Receiving and giving mercy is the only thing that frees from our congenital propensity to self seek, self justify and judge others. Nothing frees us more from the tyranny of ego than does the practice of mercy.

6. Remember that mercy is not opposed to justice, but its fulfillment.

Mercy, as Walter Kasper so aptly puts it, is not 'a kind of fabric softener that undermines the dogmas and commandments and abrogates the central and fundamental meaning of truth'. That's the accusation the Pharisees made against Jesus. Mercy is where justice is meant to terminate.

7. Remember that only the practice of mercy will make God's kingdom come.

Jesus promised that one day the meek will inherit the earth, the poor will eat plentiful, rich food and all tears will be wiped away. That can only happen when mercy replaces self-interest.

8. Remember that mercy need to be practised collectively.

It is not enough for us to be merciful in our own lives. Mercy is marginalised in a society that doesn't sufficiently attend to those who are weak or needy, just as it is marginalised in a church that is judgemental. We must create a society that is merciful. Mercy alone enables the survival of the weakest.

9. Remember that mercy call us to do works both spiritual and physical.

Our Christian faith challenges us to perform mercy in a double way; corporeally and spiritually. The classic corporal works of mercy are: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; shelter the homeless; clothe the naked; visit the sick and imprisoned and bury the dead. God has given us different gifts and all of us are better at some of these than at others, but mercy is manifest in each of them.

10. Remember that our lives are a dialogue between God's mercy and our weaknesses.

The only thing at which we are adequate is being inadequate. We are forever falling short of something, no matter the strength of our sincerity, good intention and willpower. Only mercy; receiving it and giving it, can lead us out of the choppy waters of our own anxieties, worry and joylessness. Only in knowing mercy do we know gratitude.

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From the Principal (continued)

This year 2016, Pope Francis has asked us all to live a year of mercy; to contemplate the mystery of mercy as a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Mercy, he believes is the secret to putting a credible face to God, to put a credible face to our churches and to walking with steadiness inside our own lives.

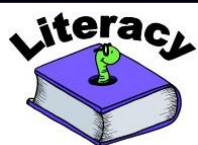
Thank you to the families who supported our 'jersey day' fundraiser for WYD. \$730 was donated towards sending pilgrims to the Philippines and Poland in July.

Congratulations to the stage three boys (Hall of Fame) who represented St Aidan's at the Soccer Gala day yesterday. Thank you to Mrs Upton for giving up her time to coach the team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.



STAGE THREE LITERACY

Stage Three: Working with comprehension strategies

Comprehension involves the development of critical thinking about texts. As students and adults read a text of any kind, it is important to pay attention to the social and cultural perspectives that are contained in the text. Readers will need to consider these perspectives as they present the author's point of view and purpose.

The development of critical thinking is a part of every comprehension strategy. In particular, critical thinking can be explored as the students learn to use the strategies of inferring, questioning, analysing, making connections and evaluating. These strategies will be explained in greater depth over the next few weeks.

Mr Ian Byrne
Acting Assistant Principal.

NUMERACY NEWS

Children in the middle years of learning require many opportunities to explore three and four digit numbers and understand where they fit on a number line.

What can you do at home to support your child?

- ◆ Create an empty number line with two numbers at each end. Ask your child to find the middle of the number line and explain their thinking.



- ◆ Ask your child to recall the number 10/100 more or 10/100 less. For example what is 100 more than 499? Encourage your child to explain their thinking.

In the next newsletter I will explore interpreting numbers in the upper years (Year 5-6) .

What mathematics will you **notice**, **discuss** and **explore** with your child this week?

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Brayden Belleza and his family on the birth of a baby boy, Brycen.



SCHOOL FEES

School fees are now overdue. Thank you to those families who have already paid. If you are having financial difficulties please contact Mrs Blaga Wakeling on (02) 9625 3181.



Hall of Fame



Congratulations to the following who have been listed in the *Hall of Fame* this fortnight.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KH	Ryan Juszcak	Adhieu Khon	KQ	Ellie Amamangpang	Marcus Obfenda
1M	Mary Mercado	Kian Soriano	1S	Diing Akol	Yagnasree Reddapani
2D	Benjamin Alcantara	Joel Habte	2U	Andrea Plaatjes	Joaquim Rodrigues
3C	Russell Alpas	Akok Anei	3D	Teresa Bouchmouni	Agol Gum
4B	Megan Fuimaono	Ayaan Khan	4P	Aecy Dimapilis	Nigel Nuque
5B	Sophia Evangelista	Benedict Macapagal	5P	Katie Jones	Tong Wol
6C	Jdyn Espino	Rodel Jueco	6K	Kenyon Aquino	Khushi Kansal

STAGE THREE BOY'S SOCCER GALA DAY TEAM 2016

Michael Piliae	Shaun Bernaldo	Aken Khon	Viliani Vunipola
Tong Wol	Jemaine Darjani	Christian Ramos	Simon Issa
Bol Dak	Philopatir El-Rab	Samuel Meilak	Matthew Danial
Kyle Polidano	Thomas Putrus		



THANK YOU

Thank you to both Mrs Polidano and Mr Patterson who assisted at the Canberra excursion.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2016

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier's reading challenge in the last couple of weeks.

Year 1 - Isabella Vigliarolo

Year 2 - Gabrielle Cabantog; Reya Jaison; Isabela Tenefrancia

Year 3 - Denise Remo

Website for the Premier's reading challenge is: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc>

Students who have participated previously in the challenge, login with the same username & password used last year. If this has been forgotten students need to speak to their teachers or see me in the library.

Any new student who has not received their username and password is also to ask their teacher or see me.

The school's library has many of the books on the premier's reading challenge list. These have been placed in a special section. Let's get reading!!

If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms Grace Carlo-Stella
Teacher/Librarian.

BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

INCLUDING EXISTING PARENT HELPERS



'Building Child Safe Communities' is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers and contractors complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools, Catholic Out of Schools Hours Care and Catholic Early Learning Centres. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers – please click on '[Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteers](#)' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).

Then click on '[Volunteer Form](#)' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

SUPERVISION

- Gates are opened and teacher supervision begins at 8:15am
- Parents may escort their children onto the playground and due to child protection are required to wait in the parent waiting area (silver seats) near the year four classroom.
- The bell rings at 8:40am—students walk quietly to lines
- After assembly parents are asked to move out of the playground through the gate between year two and Kindergarten.
- Gates are locked promptly once parents leave
- In the afternoon the dismissal bell rings at 2:55pm. Parents may wait in the shade area near the church garden or park in the surrounding streets. Children are walked by a teacher to the upper crossing in Adelaide Street and to the Kimberley Street crossing to meet parents.
- Supervision of students finishes at 3:25pm.

CHILDREN MUST BE AT SCHOOL ON TIME



RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL FROM TERM THREE

As you are aware, the school newsletter can be accessed on the St Aidan's website and on the school app. It is able to be read on all your mobile devices, computers and it can also be printed.

From the commencement of term three 2016 all fortnightly newsletters will be sent home electronically via email. Parents are requested to provide a valid email address to receive the newsletter. Please complete the information below and return to school by Friday 10th June 2016. Thank you to those families who have already responded.

EMAIL ADDRESS TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS

Parent/s name: _____

Name of eldest child attending St Aidan's _____ CLASS _____

Email address (please print clearly) _____

Any parent who would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please inform the office by **Friday 10th June 2016**.

SCHOOL DATES FOR TERM TWO 2016

Wednesday 8th June	Assembly lead by year two 12:45pm
Monday 13th June	Queen's Birthday Holiday (no classes)
Wednesday 15th June	Dental assessment for kindergarten, years two, four and six
Thursday 16th June	Featherdale excursion for year three
Wednesday 22nd June	Assembly lead by year four 12:45pm
Thursday 23rd June	Sydney Observatory excursion for year five
Friday 24th June	Student Reports go home
Mon 27th—Thurs 30th June	Parent/Teacher meetings K-6
Thursday 30th June	Stage 2 Boys Soccer Gala
Friday 1st July	2:55pm term two concludes

TUCKSHOP NEWS—MEAL DEALS

Two Meal Deals to choose from at \$5.00 each

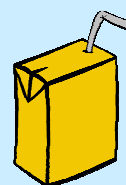
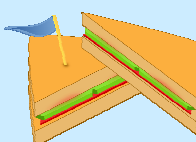
Meal Deal One \$5.00

- ♦ Chicken, lettuce and mayonnaise sandwich
- ♦ Juice popper
- ♦ Fresh popcorn

OR

Meal Deal Two \$5.00

- ♦ Pizza rounder
- ♦ Flavoured milk
- ♦ Zooper dooper



THESE TWO MEAL DEALS AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 6TH JUNE UNTIL FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

CCSS SOLO PARENT SERVICES - Dealing With The Legal System

Each year CCSS Solo Parent Services offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers so as to minimize your legal fees and how to protect your rights regarding family assets.

This night is being held on Tuesday 7th June from 7.30pm - 9.30pm at CCSS, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Mr Richard Brading, (Solicitor at Wesley Legal Service)

Cost: \$7. **Registration Essential:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce.

Next Gathering: 28th June. **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



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St Aidan's App in iTunes and Google Play: St Aidans Primary Rooty Hill