



Together we are one

### DATES FOR TERM FOUR 2014

Wednesday 10th December	Student reports sent home to parents
Monday 15th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 8:45am KLA Awards K-5</li> <li>◆ 5:00pm Graduation Mass and Awards ceremony for year six</li> </ul>
Tuesday 16th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 8:45am KLA Awards K-5</li> <li>◆ Year six disco and pizza lunch</li> </ul>
Wednesday 17th December	9:15am Thanksgiving Mass
Thurs 18th & Fri 19th December	Staff Development Days (no classes)

### DATES FOR TERM ONE 2015

Tuesday 27th January	Staff Development Day (no classes) Mathematics Assessment Interviews
Wednesday 28th January	Staff Development Day (no classes) Mathematics Assessment Interviews
Thursday 29th January	8:40am Years one to six commence and finish at 2:55pm
Monday 2nd February	8:40am Kindergarten 2015 commence and finish at 2:55pm



### St Aidan's Parish Church Christmas Season dates and times



Wednesday 24th December	6:00pm Children's Vigil Mass 11:00pm Christmas Carols
Thursday 25th December	12:00am Midnight Mass 7:30am; 9:00am and 10:30am Christmas Day Masses
Friday 26th December	9:15am Mass
Wednesday 31st December	9:15am and 7:00pm New Years Eve Mass



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5th December 2014



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

### From the Principal

#### Prepare the way of the Lord.

#### In this issue...

- From the Principal
- Spiritual Reflection
- Parents can help at home with PDHPE
- Literacy Matters
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- Resource Fees due
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- Hall of Fame
- Thank you
- Farewell to leaving Families
- KLA Awards
- Executive Director's Summer Reading
- Diary Dates
- Christmas Mass Times for St Aidan's Parish

Dear Parents,  
As this is the final newsletter for 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and enthusiasm during this very successful year.

I regularly speak to staff and colleagues alike about the tremendous interest and commitment of the St Aidan's parents towards their children's learning. This makes our job as educators so much more rewarding because together, parents and teachers work tirelessly for the good of the children at St Aidan's.

As you are aware Mrs Murphy is leaving at the end of this year. Mrs Murphy has been the Religious Education Coordinator and a class teacher at St Aidan's for the past thirteen years. During this time she has had a profound influence over the many children she has taught.

Mrs Murphy has shared her deep Catholic Faith with all those with whom she has come in contact and she has been responsible for organising many meaningful liturgies for our community.

Her generous spirit and loving character will be sorely missed by each of us, however we wish her every success and happiness as she embraces a new chapter in her teaching life at St Patrick's Blacktown.

Three other temporary teachers are also moving on at the end of this year.

Mrs Lloyd was employed for this year as a Learning Support teacher. Mrs Lloyd is expecting her third child early next year.

Miss Roth and Mrs Davies have worked with us temporarily for the past two terms in Learning Support. Both these ladies were employed in place of Mrs Cutajar who is on maternity leave.

To Mrs Lloyd, Miss Roth and Mrs Davies I offer sincere thanks for the contributions they have made to the St Aidan's community and wish them every happiness for the future.

The students in year six will celebrate their Graduation and Prize-giving at a special Mass on Monday 15th December. Whilst it is somewhat sad to farewell our students, we wish them every success and happiness as they embark upon the next stage of their learning journey.

We also farewell a number of families who will be leaving St Aidan's. Some of these families have enjoyed a very long association with our school community and on your behalf I thank them for their support, involvement and interest in our school. I hope they will always feel an important part of the St Aidan's community.

The response to the Mathematics interviews (MAI) has been quite positive. Parents are reminded that they have till the Friday 12th December to book interviews for their children. These interviews are for the grades children will be in next year 2015.

A number of children have been given 'holiday learning packs' so as to maintain their level of learning during the long break. All parents are encouraged to ensure that children read and write during the holidays. Please use the local libraries for access to excellent books.

Further in the newsletter there is an inclusion about the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge. This is a great opportunity for the children to get involved and at the same time enhance their reading skills. Hopefully one of the St Aidan's students will win a prize this summer.

School closes for the summer holidays on Wednesday 17th December. All families are invited to join us for the Mass of Thanksgiving at 9.15am. At the conclusion of Mass there will be a presentation to Mrs Murphy on the occasion of her leaving St Aidan's.

School resumes as follows:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ◆ Staff                 | <b>Tues 27th &amp; Wed 28th January 2015. Maths Assessment Interviews</b> |
| ◆ Students in years 1-6 | <b>Thursday 29th January 2015 8:40am-2:55pm</b>                           |
| ◆ Kindergarten students | <b>Monday 2nd February 2015 (all day) 8:40am-2:55pm</b>                   |

Once again, thank you for your support this year as together we worked towards ensuring the best possible education was provided for your children.

On behalf of the St Aidan's staff I wish each of you a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I Look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts  
Principal.





### REFLECTION

Last Friday the staff of St Aidan's School worked with Sr. Leone of the Ursuline Order, on deepening their knowledge of Mary as an ordinary Jewish girl and mother. Staff reflected on Mary as a teenager, friend, sibling, Jewish peasant, betrothed and unwed, teenage mother. Sr. Leone led staff to see Mary through new eyes. Like all mothers, Mary was a wife, neighbour, cook, nurse, homemaker, hostess, teacher, gardener and peacemaker. She, like mothers everywhere went to the market, collected water from the well, chatted with women about her family; washed clothes, fixed bleeding knees, led the family in prayer and was a woman of great faith. St Luke wrote: 'Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.' Lk:2:20. "In all these roles and daily tasks," Sr. Leone said, "Mary pondered all that had been told to her at the birth of Jesus and the unfolding of her own young life as His mother." Through art, music and poetry, Sr. Leone revealed to the staff how human Mary really was and is for all today. As a mother, she would have been concerned for her son's happiness, safety and general well-being. While all mothers share these concerns, most would not have faced the additional challenge and strength needed, to be the mother of Christ. As Advent begins, let Mary be more present as a human example, to aspire to follow.

Mrs. Silvana Murphy  
Religious Education Coordinator.

### PARENTS CAN HELP AT HOME WITH PDHPE

Children need a sound understanding of those things that can influence their health and wellbeing if they are to make informed lifestyle decisions. You can help your child by:

- ◆ discussing topical health and social issues together;
- ◆ encouraging your child to discuss their feelings about the emotional, social and physical changes they may be experiencing;
- ◆ showing your child how you make decisions about everyday things;
- ◆ being positive about your child's efforts at all times;
- ◆ correcting any false information your child may have received from friends or the media;
- ◆ talking to your child's teacher to find out more about the school's Personal Development, Health and Physical Education program;
- ◆ showing interest in your child's homework;
- ◆ supporting the school's Personal Development, Health and Physical Education program by encouraging participation in all aspects;
- ◆ encouraging your child to take small steps towards a larger goal. Children who feel confident about being involved in physical activity feel better about themselves in other aspects of life. You can help your child develop physical confidence by:

1. valuing physical activity as a normal part of family life;
2. encouraging your child to practise movement skills;
3. supporting and broadening your child's recreational interests, e.g. encourage them to pursue and participate in leisure activities with friends.

Mrs. Christine Leahy  
Assistant Principal.

### LITERACY MATTERS

The holiday time is perfect for taking your child to experience different things. Such experiences might include: a visit to the museum, to the park or to see extended family. Whatever experiences they have, discuss it with them. Your child could write about the experiences. Practice of reading and writing during the holidays will help maintain skills ready for the new school year.

### NUMERACY NEWS

This week I will explore apps and websites you can use with your child over the holidays to maintain and develop mathematical understanding.

#### \*Number Rack App (Free)

This is a mini bead kebab app (10 beads) with the option of having 10 kebabs on the screen at one time (100 beads). You can use this app to represent numbers to 100, number bust numbers to 100 or cover sections of beads and question your child about how many beads are covered.

#### \*Splat Square

<http://www.primarygames.co.uk/pg2/splat/splatsq100.html>  
Splat Square is an interactive 1-100 number chart which allow children to explore number patterns and multiplication facts.

#### \*Tens Frame Snap (Free)

An interactive game of snap which develop friends of ten concepts—Numbers which add together to make 10. This can be played as a one or two player game.

Holidays are a great opportunity for you to interact with your child and share a love for Mathematics. It is important to continue to challenge your child to think differently and encourage them to explain their thinking.

What Mathematics will you **notice, discuss and explore** over the holidays?

Miss Prudence Hall  
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

### RESOURCE FEES NOW DUE FOR 2015

Resource fees of \$135 per student are now due.

If you have a kindergarten child starting at St Aidan's next year please pay the remaining resource fees as this money is now due.

### BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Mikayla Mostoles KC and her family on the birth of a baby boy, Brayden.

### SCHOOL TIMES FOR 2015

The school bell will be sounded at **8:40am** each day.  
Recess will be from 10:45am to 11:15am.  
Lunchtime will be from 1:15pm to 1:55pm.  
School finishing bell will sound at 2:55pm.

Please ensure that your children are at school before the bell rings at **8:40am**.



## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KC	Madison Agudera	John Nau
KH	Mikayla Mantua	Leanne Miranda
1C	Simon Amor	Jenny Decena
1T	Anikka Cabalo	Agol Gum
2M	Joseph Manaia	Jimmy Johnson
2Q	Tricia Pandes	Enrico Villanueva
3B	Katherin Maroki	Michael Piliae
3U	Shon Rae	Louise Sulit
4D	Uriel Allarey	Simon Issa
4M	Elyza Lagare	Rodney Patterson
5P	Alexi Bonete	Kobe Maireriki
5W	Mikko Martin	Steven Payuran
6B	Anthony Gagliardi	Bethennie Llagas
6C	Lindsay Gungab	Jethro Vicedas

### Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge



The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is back again this year! We are encouraging students to read a minimum of ten books over the school holidays to go into the draw to win one of four iPad minis!

The competition opens on 28th November 2014 and entries must be received via our online form by 5:00pm on Friday 6th February 2015. Winners will be announced on Monday 16th February on the CEO website:  
[www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

### Farewell to the following families who are leaving St Aidan's at the end of 2014:

Akinba; Almazan; Aquino; Catania; Celik; Clark; Cortes/Pereira; De Vera; Gagliardi; Galacio; Llagas; Mallouk; Mendoza; Pereira; Prince; Rajlawot; Rama/Jensson; Sambat; Uhatafe; Vargas; Villanueva; Wills; Apps; Gueh; Perillo; Saquing; Brooks; Arreza; and Vassallo.



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



## ★ KLA AWARDS 2014 ★

Key Learning Area (KLA) Awards for Excellence will be presented to students in kindergarten to year five at 8:45am assembly on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December as follows:

### Monday 15th December      Tuesday 16th December

Religious Education	Sport
Mathematics	Consistent Effort
English	Robotics
HSIE	Radio Committee
Science & Technology	School Spirit
PDHPE	Principal's Award
Creative Arts	

\*Parents and friends are welcome to attend these assemblies and are asked to sit in the designated area for visitors.



A sincere thank you to the following 2014 classroom parent helpers. Students and staff are very appreciative of your valuable assistance.

Mrs Manaog; Mrs Nau; Mrs Derjani; Mrs Bell; Mrs Gatmaitan; Mrs Pabroa; Mrs Plaatjes; Mrs Fegradoe; Mrs Torralba; Mrs Ereira; Mrs Abicic; Mrs El-Ghossein; Mrs Rodriguez; Mrs Norton; and Mrs Ayoub.