

DATES FOR TERM ONE 2014

Monday 17th February	9:15am Opening School Mass and Induction of School Leaders
Friday 21st February	Blacktown zone swimming
Mon 24th Feb to Thursday 27th Feb	Parent/Teacher interviews
Friday 28th February	Diocesan swimming carnival
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday 11:30am Years 3-6 Mass
Sunday 9th-Saturday 15th March	Catholic Schools Week
Thursday 13th March	2:00-2:40pm—Open classrooms for Catholic Schools Week
Wednesday 19th March	9:15am Year one lead Infants Mass
Tuesday 25th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of the Annunciation Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala
Tues 1st and Wed 2nd April	School photographs (taken over two days)
Wednesday 2nd April	9:15am Year 3 lead Primary Mass
Friday 11th April	2:55pm term one concludes

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED

CCCSS Solo Parent Ministry is commencing two Bereavement Support Programs within the next few weeks. Seasons for Growth is a five week Program that commences on 19th Feb at Glenbrook, between 10.30 and 12.30.

If we do not have a required number for this Program we will postpone it for a couple of weeks. The other Program is an 8 Session Bereavement Support Program that runs every fortnight at Blacktown between 10.00 and 12.00 and commences on 4th March (This was postponed due to lack of numbers on 4th Feb).

Both of these Programs provide education and personal support within a small group setting, assisting those who grieve the death of their spouse to better understand the process of grief and to be supported in moving forward gently but assuredly in the midst of deep pain and loss. See Flyers on Notice Board. For further details and registration for both of these Programs contact Eileen or Rita on 9933 0205 or soloparentministry@ccss.org.au



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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Last Monday I wrote to each family about road safety, particularly when dropping off and picking up children each day. Thank you to the parents who have taken this issue seriously and continue to park and drive carefully around the school.

There has been a big improvement at the end of each day, however mornings continue to present a challenge as parents rush to let children out of cars and often park across the crossing.

Once again I urge you to take care. Leave home earlier to avoid the build-up of traffic on the bridge which in turn causes you to be late.

The last thing any of us wants is to see one of the St Aidan's children hurt due to careless driving.

The 2014 'Opening School Mass' is being celebrated next Monday 17th February at 9.15am. All parents and friends are invited to join the school community in asking God's blessing on this school year. At the conclusion of Mass the School Leaders and Sports leaders will be announced, inducted and presented with their badges of office.

As you are aware 'meet the teacher' interviews have been organised for the week 24th-28th February. All parents are encouraged to come along at the specified times to meet teachers and have some initial conversation about students. Interviews for Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two parents will be held in the Kindergarten learning space while interviews for Years Three, Four, Five and Six will take place in the school library.

It would be appreciated if parents could be on time for interviews in order to accommodate all parents in the times provided.

There have been some changes in the student's library borrowing times. A list of all library times can be found further in this newsletter.

Thank you to the parents who have offered their time as parent helpers in the classrooms for this year. It is planned to commence the program within the next two weeks.

Finally on your behalf I welcome Miss Christine Dellenty to St Aidan's. Miss Dellenty will be teaching in Year Four. Sincere thanks to Mrs Ranin Ghazal who generously returned to teach Year Four until a replacement was found.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Opening School Mass on Monday morning 17th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

My heart almost
sinks at some
things, or rather
it would sink
but for the firm
conviction that
God's words
can never fail.

*St Mary
MacKillop
(28/6/1874)*



REFLECTION

Welcome to 2014. Throughout this Liturgical Year (Year A), the majority of Gospel readings during mass, will come from the book of Matthew.

St Mathew was one of Jesus' twelve apostles (Matthew 9:1, 10:1-4). As an eye-witness to the life of Christ, his Gospel provides a unique perspective of Jesus' teachings.

It is believed that Matthew's Gospel was written between 80-90AD. It was written mainly for a Jewish-Christian community living in Syria. In his gospel, Jesus is seen as the new Moses. He is the Messiah; the promised one. He is a Jew and he is King.

This year during Religious Education lessons, students will reflect on the account of Jesus' life through the Gospel of Matthew.

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

ROAD SAFETY POLICY

Safety of students as they travel to and from school each day is important. It is expected that parents/carers, grandparents and family members will support the school through role modelling safe road use behaviours.

These include:

- Using designated footpaths or walking in areas away from the road
- Holding the student's hand (for those up to 8 years of age) and actively supervising all students as they walk to and from school
- Teaching students to **Stop, Look, Listen and Think** every time they cross the road
- Walking with students to cross roads (do not call students across the road)
- Crossing roads away from parked cars
- Parking correctly in designated areas
- Getting students in and out of the car on the footpath side
- Using seatbelt restraints for all passengers prior to driving away
- Using correct seating for passengers under the age of 7
- Waiting safely at bus stops and waiting until the bus has gone and choosing a safe place to cross.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

SCHOOL FEES

Every family should have received their school fees notice in the mail. If you would like to take advantage of the flexible payment plan please complete the papers with the school fees statement and send them to the Catholic Education Office in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

STUDENT BANKING IS EACH THURSDAY OF THE SCHOOL TERM.

LITERACY MATTERS

At St Aidan's, the teachers follow the Parramatta Diocesan Focus 160 approach in the teaching of literacy. Children learn best when:

- Literacy is the integral learning point of the whole child
- Literacy is core to students' learning
- Literacy provides a structure for other areas of learning

Mrs. Christine Leahy
Lead Literacy Teacher.

NUMERACY NEWS

This year St Aidan's will be implementing the EMU mathematics project.

EMU (Extending Mathematical Thinking) is an initiative established by the Parramatta Catholic Education Office in partnership with Dr. Ann Gervasoni of ACU Ballarat.

Forty-Nine Schools in the Parramatta diocese were part of this project in 2013, with another twelve primary schools joining in 2014.

The aim of this project is to empower students to become more numerate in today's world, by encouraging them to explain their mathematical thinking and reflect on their learning.

As part of this project the numeracy block for all year levels will be sixty minutes each day and will include a number warm up, an open-ended rich learning task and reflection time.

More information about the EMU project and the numeracy block will be explained in future newsletters.

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

As a part of the school's **Social Justice** program, the 'Knitting Club' will continue to meet this year and the focus will be to knit scarves and other items for the poor.

Your assistance is needed in the following areas:

1. donations of eight ply wool any colours;
2. donations of no. 0.4mm (no.8) knitting needles.

If you cannot help with any of the above but you have time to knit scarves or other items, these would also be gratefully appreciated.

If you can help in any way, please contact me by leaving your name and contact number at the school office phone: (02) 9625 3181.

Thank you for your kindness.

Mrs. Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Co-ordinator.



Hall of Fame

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

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KC	Markaritte Derjani	Joaquim Rodrigues
KH	Sofia Fragomeli	Liam Robinson
1C	Matthew Allen	Rachael Perillo
1T	Reuel Velasco	Hannah Faustino
2M	Mason Polidano	Marian Unay
2Q	Kacey Alvarado	Nicholas Limpiado
3B	Krutee Prasad	Cooper Brooks
3U	Mischa Vella	Christian Ramos
4M	Kyle Polidano	Kayla Montenegro
4Y	Lyndon Romana	Rita El-Ghossein
5P	Chenae Cruise	Sebastien Belleza
5W	Martin Nikic	Ruth Nool
6B	Awein Mawein	Gabriel Cacapit
6C	Rita Bouchmouni	Justin Mallouk

SPORTS NEWS—SWIMMING

Last November, nine students participated in the school's swimming trials.

Unfortunately only one of these students qualified to participate in the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival to be held on Friday 21st February at the Riverstone Swimming Pool.

Marco Mendoza in year 6B will be competing in the carnival.

The school congratulates Marco and wishes him every success!

Mr Anthony Julius
Sports Coordinator.



LIBRARY BORROWING TIMETABLE

Mon / Tue	(Lunchtime) Years 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday morning	8:15am Years 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday	Years 1, 2 and 3
Thursday	Kindergarten

**OPENING SCHOOL MASS
MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
ALL FAMILIES WELCOME**