

**GRACE'S STORY (HIGH SCHOOL CATECHIST-CCD MINISTRY)**

Grace went to a primary public school in the Blue Mountains and looked forward each week to the religion class on Tuesday morning.

When she went on to a Catholic High School and in year eleven, Grace was invited to be a catechist in the local public school once a fortnight. Grace remembered her early years and volunteered to be trained as a Special Religious Educator. Grace deepened her faith through the sacraments, study, fellowship and leadership development and found that this assisted her in her teaching.

Grace went on to University to train as a school teacher and reflected on the valuable experience as a catechist. She now has the confidence and skills to live out her faith, and is excited about what people her age can do to help make the world a better place.

Your gift to the Diocesan Works Fund will make a big difference to other young people like Grace and older SRE teachers working in public schools as part of Catholic Catechists (CCD)

**Please show you care about sharing faith with children in public schools with a gift using the DWF envelope and visit [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au) to show your support.**

**SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED**

The Solo Parent Ministry is now taking registrations for their next Post-Separation Recovery Program (commencing on May 14<sup>th</sup>) This is an excellent seven week Program to assist you work through many of the issues that you face as you negotiate your way through the loss, pain and challenges following the break-down of your marriage relationship.

It will be held at Blacktown from 7.30pm – 9.45pm for 7 consecutive Wednesdays. Cost \$80.00. For further details and registration contact [soloparentministry@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentministry@ccss.org.au) or Ph. 99330205

**PRAYER AND REFLECTION DAY**

Sister Eileen Quade will be running another Prayer and Reflection Day at Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd. Castle Hill on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, (10.30am – 3.00pm).

This is open to anyone and includes guided meditations, Scripture reflections and silent prayer. BYO Lunch. Cost: \$10.00.

More details and Registrations: [eileen.quade@ccss.org.au](mailto:eileen.quade@ccss.org.au) or Phone 99330205



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

**From the Principal**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to term two. The holidays proved to be relaxing for most and in the main the weather was very kind enabling the children to spend time outside enjoying the fresh air, instead of being inside.

The staff development day held last Monday was excellent professional learning for staff in the area of teaching Mathematics. One of the St Aidan's school's learning goals for 2014 is

***'To use the MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interview) data to improve learning outcomes of all students at St Aidan's'.***

Miss Prudence Hall our Lead Numeracy Teacher facilitated the day assisted by Mrs Kerry Giumelli (teaching educator Catholic Education Office), Mrs Cutajar, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Murphy and Miss Dellenty. Teachers were engaged in learning and discussions about the qualities of an effective numeracy teacher, the daily numeracy block at St Aidan's and open ended tasks to enhance the teaching of Mathematics. Congratulations to Miss Hall and her team for leading a productive day of learning.

Congratulations to the senior girls soccer team who took part in the Gala Day on Tuesday. The girls enjoyed mixed results on the day however they had a great time and showed they were excellent sports. Well done girls and thanks to Mr Julius for preparing the team and Mrs Provest for assisting at the carnival.

During the month of May, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Over the coming weeks the children will learn about some of the ministries and people it supports. Also known as 'faith @ work' this fund reaches out to people in our local church that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May envelopes will be sent to each family. You are asked to make a donation either in cash or by credit card and return the sealed envelope to school by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Bishop Anthony Fisher has written his letter on the back of the Giving Envelope to you and other members of the Catholic community across Western Sydney to ask for everyone's support. Please give through the school envelope if you have not done so at the parish appeal.

The *faith@work* appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. Of particular interest is Blacktown Neighbour Aid service, which assists the frail, aged people with a disability and their carers in our community; and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) which trains religious education teachers who give witness to their faith in public schools in Western Sydney.

Your contribution enables services such as Blacktown Neighbour Aid, CCD and Catherine Villa (supporting homeless women aged 16-25) to reach out to more people in need.

Did you know that Catholic Care responds to more than 20,000 calls for help each year? Many request relationship or gambling counselling or are dealing with a disability, mental ill health or ageing.

Did you know that DWF supports Youth Ministry and the fourteen seminarians in training?

Your donations either through school or your parish will be put to good work!

As mentioned earlier, you are asked to make a donation either in cash or credit card and return the sealed envelope to the school office.

**Due to this very important Diocesan Appeal, there will be no Mother's Day stall this year. It would be inappropriate for the school to raise money for school resources while asking parents to donate to the DWF appeal.**

I look forward to seeing many mothers at the Mass and Morning Tea for mothers next Thursday 8th May. Mass will commence at 9.15am.

Yours sincerely

*Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts*  
Principal.

As summer gently fades, rich colours soon explode again in Autumn's mellow vibrancy, signalling Earth's replenishing sabbatical and surrender to seasonal dying and rebirth.

***Bless us, exuberant and abundant God!***

As we celebrate these paschal days of dying and rebirth, we say goodbye to the empty tomb, we rise to meet the Son. We say 'yes' to the new life stirring and quickening without and within.

***Bless us, exuberant and abundant God!***

*The Sisters of St Joseph.*

### REFLECTION

Christ was raised to new life! Alleluia!

In his gospel, Matthew had an angel appear to the women at the tomb. The angel announced that Jesus had risen and had gone before them. He sent them to tell the apostles. Here Matthew used an angel, because in the Old Testament, messages from God had come through the angels.

Matthew was still connecting the risen Christ to the Old Testament. At that important time for Matthew's Jewish followers, Jesus had to remain depth in Jewish tradition. His followers were struggling with leaving Judaism and moving on to Christianity. As followers of Christ, the first Christians had sacrificed a great deal- family, friendships and even their right to worship in the temple.

In this Easter Season, we focus on the resurrected life of Christ as well as our own. Like the early Christians, let us be fruitful evangelists to all whom we encounter. Let us be people of hope and love.

Mrs Silvana Murphy  
Religious Education Coordinator.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of assessment is to guide the learning of the student. Assessment has always determined the next step in the learning sequence for the student. Assessment of student work will always be part of how we cater for the needs of each individual student. Therefore, assessment will always be part of the teaching and learning process. The purpose of assessment is also to make adjustments to the learning to improve outcomes.

Mrs Christine Leahy  
Assistant Principal.

### LITERACY MATTERS

Reading and writing are closely connected. When children learn to read and write, they learn how literary and factual texts are written for different purposes and different audiences. In writing, children learn about the structure and grammar of written language as well as learning about handwriting and spelling. This term the focus in English will be on improvement of writing. Encourage your child to write everyday.

Mrs Christine Leahy  
Lead Literacy Teacher.

### NUMERACY NEWS

This term the numeracy focus will be how the home environment can support numeracy development and deep Mathematical thinking.

Children become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use Mathematics confidently in all aspects of their life. Numeracy development is strengthened when there is an effective partnership between home and school.

'Parents Count To' is a website linked to the NSW Department of Education. The website promotes simple activities parents can do with their children to develop numeracy skills across all strands in Mathematics including counting, length and time.

It is still important for children to have many opportunities with their parents to **notice, discuss** and **explore** the Mathematics around them. This encourages children to explain their thinking and challenge their Mathematical understanding.

In the next newsletter I will address how the home environment can develop deep Mathematical thinking in relation to Counting.

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

Miss Prudence Hall  
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

### ENROLMENTS

Enrolment places for Kindergarten 2015 are filling quickly.

If you or your friends have a child who turns five by 31st July 2015 please pick up an enrolment form from the school office.

The school office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 3:15pm for all enrolment enquiries (K-6).



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



Congratulations to the following students who represented our school in the Parramatta Diocese Stage Three Girls Soccer Gala Day on Tuesday 29th April 2014. The team finished in third place in a pool of eight schools.

Chenae Cruise	Tiffany Wu	Leduina Piliae
Christina Abi Chemouni	Marianna Al-Najar	Bianca Fragomeli
Awein Akol	Awein Mawein	Milla Sagurit
Mary Akinba	Britnee Azaglo	

### DATES FOR TERM TWO 2014

Wednesday 7th May	11:15am Year four Assembly
Thursday 8th May	9:15am Mass for Mothers followed by morning tea
Tue 13, Wed 14 & Thurs 15 May	NAPLAN for Years three and five
Wednesday 14th May	9:15am Year two lead Infants Mass
Friday 16th May	◆ Year four excursion to Powerhouse Museum ◆ Year two excursion to Sydney Aquarium
Tuesday 20th May	Stage Three boys Soccer Gala Day
Wednesday 21st May	School Athletics Carnival
Friday 23rd May	Kindergarten excursion to Fairfield Farm
Tuesday 27th May	Year one excursion to the Gavana Dairy
Wednesday 28th May	9:15am Year six lead Primary Mass
Wednesday 4th June	11:15am Year three Assembly
Friday 13th June	Year three excursion to Australiana Village
Wednesday 11th June	9:15am Year five lead Primary Mass
Monday 16th June	Stage Three excursion to Canberra
Wednesday 18th June	11:15am Year one Assembly
Friday 20th June	Student Reports sent home to Parents
Mon 23rd to Thurs 26th June	Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 25th June	9:15am Kindergarten lead Infants Mass
Friday 27th June	2:55pm Term Two concludes

**Mass for Mothers and Morning Tea will be on Thursday 8th May at 9:15am.**

**Please RSVP to the school office by Monday 5th May.**