

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



From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Term One is underway and the students and staff are busily engaged in their learning. Kindergarten students commenced last week and they have settled into school very well.

As I visited learning spaces during the week I was most impressed with the students' engagement and their ability to talk to me about what they were learning. Each lesson at St Aidan's commences with students and teachers discussing the learning intention for the lesson and the success criteria. In other words, what the children are expected to learn and how they will know whether or not they were successful. This approach to learning helps the students to be more focussed on the task and provides a starting point for discussion about their success.



There will be an opportunity for parents to visit the children in their learning spaces during Catholic Schools Week after the school Mass on Wednesday 11th March.

Thank you to those parents and friends who came along to the school's opening Mass on Wednesday. Thank you to our newly appointed Religious Education Coordinator Mrs Khoury for preparing the beautiful liturgy. At the conclusion of Mass the student leaders were announced and inducted into their roles. Congratulations to our newly appointed leaders (see Hall of Fame). I am certain that you will carry out your leadership duties with enthusiasm and dedication. Congratulations also to the students chosen for the Liturgy Committee and the Library Monitors (see Hall of Fame).

As you are no doubt aware there will be a NSW State election on Saturday 28th March 2015. This is an excellent time to voice our concerns to those who are standing for election to the NSW Parliament. It is critical that we ensure that all parents understand the importance of education funding and in particular the funding of CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

Catholic schools have been part of Australia's education system since 1806
Did you know that NSW Catholic schools educate more than 250,000 students and employ more than 27,000 teachers and support staff.

As Catholic parents and educators, we want funding justice for all school students. We need to ensure that those making decisions about education funding in our parliaments are aware of the importance of education as a national investment.

We are fortunate in Australia that all school sectors receive funding support from governments. While NSW Catholic schools receive less government funding than most schools, we rely on Commonwealth and State governments for around 77% of our funding. Without this support, a Catholic education would be unaffordable to most Australian families. We need to ensure that this is understood and supported by our State and Federal members of Parliament.

There will be additional information regarding the upcoming election in further correspondence to parents.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.



DATES FOR TERM ONE 2015

Sat 14th and Sun 15th February	Registration for First Confession—Mary MacKillop Hall after all the weekend Masses
Wednesday 18th February	11:30am Ash Wednesday Mass for Years 3-6
Thursday 19th February	2:10pm Parent Helper briefing at school
Tuesday 3rd March	Farm Yard Meal Deal Day
Wednesday 4th March	1:50pm Coffee and chat with the Principal
Sunday 8th March	Catholic Schools Week begins
Wednesday 11th March	◆ 9:15am Year six lead Catholic Schools Week Mass ◆ 10:00-10:45am Open classrooms
Wednesday 18th March	9:15am Year two lead Infants Mass
Mon 30th March-Thurs 2nd April	◆ Teachers meet and greet Parents ◆ Holy Week Stations of the Cross
Thursday 2nd April	2:55pm term one concludes

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Please check the new Tuckshop price list if your child would like to place an order. Please use a brown/white paper bag (no plastic bags). Kindly write your child's FULL name, class, amount enclosed and put as close to the correct money as possible in the bag. Please do not use sticky tape. No foreign coins will be accepted and no credit will be given. Thank you.



FARM YARD MEAL DEAL DAY
TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

\$5.00 PAYMENT BY THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Shredded Chicken Wrap with Salad

Bottle of Water

Child's name _____

Child's class _____

\$5.00



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SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The Gospel of Mark

This year, the focus of our readings and further development of our faith formation as a Diocese is to unpack the Gospel of Mark.

Mark accompanied Peter to Rome, and together they embraced the Ministry of Jesus by continuing to retell and describe the many miracles that Jesus performed and how these events impacted the lives of his followers.

As Catholics, we believe that miracles and the power of prayer are the grace of God. The purpose of the Gospel of Mark is to show that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God who was sent to suffer and to serve in order to rescue and restore mankind.

As teachers and parents, we too are called to be servants of Christ **Mark 10:45** *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* Mark’s Gospel illustrates both the power and the compassion of the Son of God. In his passages, Mark reveals more than Jesus as the good teacher who offered people spiritual renewal; he portrays Jesus as the true God and the true man, reaching into the lives of people and effecting physical and circumstantial change.

The Gospel readings also unpack the daily struggles and temptations Jesus faced. His readings are as relevant now as they were back then for we all are faced with temptations. But it is within these temptations that we are offered the unique opportunity to love and serve one another and to seek great comfort in the knowledge that we are continuing the call to our vocation in life, rather than focusing on protecting our own interests. The challenge that Jesus presents to us in the book of Mark involves breaking out of those patterns of self-absorption and giving ourselves in service and love to others.

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015 in all schools across NSW. These changes are in response to the research conducted by ACER (the Australian Council of Educational Research) and our Nations results, as compared to other countries internationally. This valuable research indicates that Australian students are not performing at the levels expected.

In determining why this is so, it has been discovered that the impact of student absences on their learning is of great concern, therefore the Government has reviewed the policies and procedures relating to student attendance and has made the following changes which must be implemented immediately in all schools. These changes will implement the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting.

ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (cont’d)

Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel during school term is necessary the following considerations apply:

1-9 days absence: Parents **must** notify the school principal by mail or email (written).

If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as “L” (Approved Leave).

10-100 days absence: Parents must complete and submit the *Application for Extended Leave* form prior to commencing leave. If approved the Principal issues a *Certificate of Extended Leave*.

If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence is unjustified and will be recorded as “A” (The student’ absence has not been explained in writing or the Principal does not accept the explanation) a letter notifying parents that the application has been declined would be forthcoming.

If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education. However, that will mean that the student will no longer be enrolled at St Aidan’s, as a student cannot be enrolled in more than one school concurrently (including Distance Education)

*For that period the student’s enrolment transfers to the distance education school. The School Attendance Register codes can be found on our website.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

NUMERACY NEWS

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs) have been completed over the past few weeks of this term with positive responses from both parents and students.

This assessment gives each teacher insight into student understanding in relation to four areas or domains (counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division). From the MAI’s students were assigned a growth point for each domain, which indicates their level of understanding in relation to counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.

Teachers will now use this growth point data to develop maths activities and questioning strategies to assist each student to achieve success in Mathematics and move them towards the next growth point in each domain.

In the next newsletter I will explore the counting domain with a particular focus on the counting growth points.

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

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher .

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

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KC	Jacek Button	Isabella Vigliarolo
KH	Jordan Azaglo	Mary Mercado
1C	Benedict Caballero	Helen Piliae
1M	Hayden Bell	Allegra Trimboli
2I	Kynan McPherson	Caterina Mifsud
2U	Micho Bonete	Samantha McGrath
3B	Janithi Semage	Jacon Tandoc
3Q	Marcus Brewty	Sione Vunipola
4D	Jasmine Cardines	Christian Ramos
4K	Dora Abicic	Krutee Prasad
5P	Stefanie Lagana	Rodney Patterson
5W	Rita El-Ghossein	Thomas Putrus
6B	Kobe Maireriki	Disha Prasad
6C	Ruben Alcala	Teanna Warwick-Smith

STUDENT LEADERS 2015

SCHOOL CAPTAIN CHRISTINA ABI CHEMOUNI

SCHOOL CAPTAIN LEE DARJANI

SPORTS LEADERS

RED STEPHANIE DERJANI MIKKO MARTIN
BLUE RUTH NOOL RHUVEN DEL ROSARIO

GREEN MARTA ABICIC ALEXI BONETE
GOLD HOLLY-ANNE RAMOS EMILIO SEGUBAN

LITURGY COMMITTEE

ANEI ANEI
CARLOS DANIAL
JORDAN SCHEMBRI-JUDD
JONAS MENDOZA
ALECKSANDRA FAVOR
BIANCA FRAGOMELI

LIBRARY MONITORS

KYRA BARCELON
NEIL SWIN
NOELENE SWIN
BOL DAK
HANNAH-RAE CORCORAN
MARY PANDES
RICKY WHITE
LORENZO PANGAN
ARABELLE REMOROZO
NICOLE CABALHIN

2015 LIBRARY BORROWING TIMETABLE

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

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to the Lucas Tollefsen, KH and his family on the birth of a baby girl, Ciara Grace.



MEDICATION

If your child requires a dose of medicine three times a day, this can be given by parents before school, after school and before bed time.

Parents of students requiring medication in school hours must inform the secretaries in the school office. Parents **MUST** complete the administration of medication form. This form is on the school’s website: <http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>

If it is necessary for medication to be given during school hours, it is to be sent to school in a re-sealable plastic bag with the child’s name and class on the bag. If needed, a spoon or measuring cup is to be supplied with the medication.

Students who are asthmatic or who are anaphylactic will need to send an action plan from their doctor together with the student’s medication to the school office.

SCHOOL FEES

Would any families who wish to pay their fees through Centrelink please contact Mrs Blaga Wakeling as soon as possible. Please note: A new arrangement needs to be made each year.

Flexible payment plans need to be posted directly to the Catholic Education Office by Friday 20th February.

Just a reminder to Parents to please be courteous to the neighbours surrounding St Aidan’s School. Some parents have been parking across/blocking the neighbours’ driveways. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.