

DATES FOR TERM ONE 2014

Mon 17th to Fri 28th March	QCS Survey (randomly selected parents)
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 Three lead Primary Mass
Friday 11th April	2:55pm term one concludes

Parents Representative Council (PRC)

The Transition to High School: Helping your child to build resilience and navigate change.
Wednesday 26th March at St Paul's Catholic College, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes.

Melissa Adams from the Resilience Doughnut will be presenting topics including working with changing relationships between family, teachers and peers; helping parents build strong, resilient, resourceful and confident teens; tools to assist teens through difficult or challenging times. For parents and carers with children in Year 6, 7 and 8 who are looking to enhance their child's early high school experience.

Details from Selina Calleia, PRC President
prcparrapresident@gmail.com

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES @ YOUR LIBRARY

For the April school holidays, Penrith City Library will present an exciting mix of magic and family shows along with art and science workshops.

Family shows

- ◆ Beating around the bush with Mark Stewart—Wednesday 16th April
- ◆ Magic show with Joel Howlett—Wednesday 23rd April

Workshops

- ◆ Egyptian art workshop with Rosalie Thompson—Tuesday 15th April
- ◆ Embroidery workshop with Del White—Tuesday 22nd April
- ◆ Magic and Juggling workshop with Joel Howlett—Wednesday 23rd April
- ◆ Chaotic Chemistry with The Crazy Scientist—Thursday 24th April
- ◆ Mad Medicine with The Crazy Scientist—Thursday 24th April

Teen Activity

- ◆ Art workshop with Rosalie Thompson—Tuesday 15th April

Activity at St Marys Corner

- ◆ Lego Robotics workshops with Fizzics education—Monday 14th April

All presenters are experienced professionals in their fields and in working with children. Tickets sell fast so book now!

Details phone (02) 2732 7891 or email ebarry@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



St Aidan's Primary School
1-5 Adelaide St, Rooty Hill NSW 2766
Telephone: 9625 3181 Fax: 9625 5612
<http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>
staidans@parra.catholic.edu.au
Radio 97.5fm
Twitter @AidansSt



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

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

As Catholic School's Week 2014 comes to a close I would like to thank those parents who were able to join the St Aidan's community for Mass last Sunday and at yesterday's 'open afternoon'. Our student leaders and members of the leadership team attended Masses at Holy Family Emerton, Good Shepherd Plumpton and here at St Aidan's. This is something that we have done for the past eight years and it is a wonderful way of linking the communities in the eight schools that make up our 'Community of Schools'.

'Open afternoon' yesterday was attended by many parents, pre-schoolers and friends who came along to join the students in their learning. Thank you parents for showing an interest in your children's learning. They were absolutely thrilled to have you in their learning spaces.

All catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2014.

QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

As a result of last year's data the school held five workshop sessions for parents on the teaching of reading. Further to these sessions we also organised a technology workshop for parents to showcase the way in which technology is integrated into the curriculum at St Aidan's.

From 17th-28th March, all staff, all students in years five and six and sixty randomly selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about twenty to thirty minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs Christine Leahy (Assistant Principal) who will be facilitating the survey for St Aidan's.

Next Friday 21st March is Harmony Day. The message of Harmony Day is that everyone belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Harmony Day is an Australian Government program and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination.

St Aidan's will celebrate Harmony Day with special treats available from the tuckshop. A list of goodies for sale will be sent home next week.

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement in your children's learning

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

Let us
really love
one another.

*St Mary
MacKillop.*

REFLECTION



Last week we celebrated Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Matthew's Gospel warns that our penance should not be a public event but one between ourselves and God. Lent is a time for praying, fasting, alms giving and repentance.

The St Aidan's community has always been generous when it comes to helping those less fortunate than themselves. The Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal is our community's Social Justice event for this term. During this season of Lent we ask again for your generosity and compassion, by supporting the Project Compassion Appeal. This will also encourage the children to think of those people, who may not enjoy the comforts that many of us enjoy.

Each child has been given a Project Compassion Box to take home. Please encourage them to be a part of contributing to this worthy cause. The boxes are due back to school (**not to church**) in week ten (31st March to 4th April).

If you would like to know more about how your contributions to Project Compassion are utilized, please visit the following <http://www.caritas.org.au>

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

PASTORAL CARE AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Our policy promotes a climate of respect and justice for all, by nurturing the self-worth and dignity of each individual. We are committed to and responsible for living out the Gospel Values of justice, respect, dignity and tolerance within the network of relationships, which make up our school community.

We value our School / Parish partnership which contributes to the total care of students, families and staff.

Student Management is one aspect of the total care of every person in our school and is based on our belief in Gospel Values and our understanding that all human behavior is purposeful, as we attempt to satisfy one or more of our needs.

Our policy is also based on the principles of **procedural fairness**.

Procedural fairness is a basic right of all when dealing with authorities. Procedural fairness refers to what are sometimes described as the 'hearing rule' and the 'right to an unbiased decision'.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

Change of address/phone numbers

It is important that the school has up-to-date records for the safety of your children. Please notify the school office if you have changed your address, phone number, mobile numbers or emergency contact details.

LITERACY MATTERS

Writing

When children begin to write they enjoy making marks and scribbles on paper. After a while they start to write some of the letters and sounds of the alphabet. They learn to write words. Eventually they learn to write sentences and are able to create a variety of stories. Encourage your child to regularly write at home.



NUMERACY NEWS

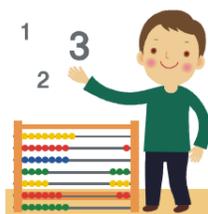
The numeracy block for all students at St Aidan's is sixty minutes each day and includes a number warm up, a rich open-ended task and reflection time.

The aim of the block is for students to be more numerate in today's world.

Each Mathematics lesson starts with a number warm up usually consisting of a game investigation or problem that is linked to the number strand.

Engaging in a number warm up activity each day allows students to deepen their understanding of number and share their mathematical thinking with others.

It is also an important time for teachers to ask probing questions, encouraging students to focus on the strategies they use to approach each activity.



Some examples of questions include:

- Could you show that/do that in a different way?
- What number is 1 more? 5 less? 100 less? Can you find that number on the number line/chart?
- How do you know? Prove it.

Rich open-ended tasks will be explored in the next newsletter.

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

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher

BABY NEWS

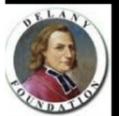
Congratulations to Hedrone Aquino (6B) and his family on the birth of a baby boy, Harrison.



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

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KC	Allegra Trimboli	Benedict Caballero
KH	Shelbilise Teuma-Manaog	Marko Knezevic
1C	Olivia Bottom	Ethan Timbol
1T	Kynan McPherson	Teresa Bouchmouni
2M	Bianca Vassallo	Joseph Manaia
2Q	Iva Saquing	Jacon Tandoc
3B	Montana Saric	Rafael Velasco
3U	Jwer Akol	Beatrix Favor
4D	Khushi Kansal	Sosefo Mafi
4M	Max Usu	Abigail Asuncion
5P	Corey Simmons	Talafaiva Uhatafe
5W	Angeline San Pedro	KC De Leon
6B	Dencel Vargas	Jerico San Pedro
6C	Saia Manaia	Simonette Lagare




Be part of something extraordinary this Lent – make a real difference to those in poverty – give them the true gift of education!!! Funds from this marvelous movie night will go to support the Delaney Foundation and the Patrician Brothers in the building and sustaining of schools in South Sudan. Let's lift the cross of poverty for others.

Let's flood the world with faith filled action and Patrician 'can do spirit'



WEDNESDAY 2ND
APRIL 2014
FILM FUNDRAISER
HOYTS CINEMAS BLACKTOWN 6:30 PM
\$20 per ticket inclusive of film and treats

You are invited to the charity screening of a brand new film on the largest commercial cinema screen in Australia known as the Xtreme Screen.
Please email: dpetrie@parra.catholic.edu.au for ticket orders