

Term one 2013

Mon 18th to Thurs 21st Feb	Meet the teacher interviews
Friday 22nd February	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday 28th February	9:15am Opening School Mass
Friday 1st March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Mon 11th to Sun 17th March	Catholic Schools Week
Wednesday 13th March	9:15am Infants lead Mass (year two)
Friday 22nd March	Cross Country
Wednesday 27th March	11:30am Stage 3 lead the Holy Week liturgy
Friday 29th March	Good Friday (no school)
Monday 1st April	Easter Monday (no school)
Wed 3rd and Thurs 4th April	School photos (two days)
Tuesday 9th April	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Day
Friday 12th April	Last day term one

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2012 PROGRAM

As students and teachers settle back into the 2013 school year, more than 12,500 schools and early learning centres across Australia will be welcoming a raft of new supplies earned through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program.

Woolworths Earn and Learn program was open to all primary and secondary schools and early childhood learning centres in Australia. Between May and August last year, shoppers were encouraged to collect Earn & Learn stickers for schools to redeem against a wide range of more than 9,000 educational resources. Thanks to the efforts of local communities across the country, thousands of products will be distributed to schools in term one.

The top three subject areas that schools ordered equipment for were Mathematics, English and Arts and Crafts. Schools were able to select the resources that they most need, giving them a major boost at no extra cost.

Since the Woolworths Earn & Learn program commenced, more than \$26 million worth of new equipment and resources has been contributed to schools across Australia.



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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

As you know I returned to St Aidan's last Monday following leave for a knee replacement. The surgery was very successful and I am back sparking on all six cylinders. It was lovely to be greeted by the smiling faces of your beautiful children as they asked to see my new knee. I'm not quite sure what they expected to see, however, they were pleased with the results!

I would like to thank Mrs Christine Leahy and Ms Grace Carlo-Stella for stepping up to the acting roles of Principal and Assistant Principal and I thank all staff for their continued work as a team in maintaining the high standards of teaching and learning during my absence.

It's good to be back at school and as expected 2013 promises to be another professionally challenging year during which the dedicated staff at St Aidan's will continue to work with you as partners in order to provide the best possible education for your children.

Parents are reminded that the Opening School Mass will be held on Thursday 28th February at 9.15am. This is a change of date from the previous newsletter. You are invited to join the school community for this celebration as we ask God's blessing on our endeavours during the year. At the conclusion of Mass the 2013 Student Leaders will be announced and inducted in the various leadership roles.

Once again all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2013. This 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. (The upcoming parent/teacher interviews scheduled for next week are a result of data received from St Aidan's parents and staff during 2012.)

As this is the second year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from last year's findings and included in our school planning.

From 11th-22nd March all staff, approximately fifty students from 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 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 in June to inform their planning.

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

Please direct any questions about the QCS survey to Mrs Leahy, Assistant Principal.

Next week teachers will be meeting with parents at different times from Monday to Thursday. The purpose of these brief meetings is for parents and teachers to get to know each other and to find out important information about your children. Appointment times were sent to each family last Wednesday. As mentioned above these meetings are a result of the QCS survey last year, therefore I hope that all parents have made the time to come along at the designated time.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at the parent/teacher meetings next week and at the Opening School Mass on 28th February at 9.15am.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

LENT

The belief that God has changed the universe through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus is what Catholics celebrate at Easter. The three components of Easter are: Lent; the Easter Triduum; and the fifty days after Easter.

Lent is the time of renewal preparing for rebirth. St Paul writes "If we have died with Christ, we shall also rise with him." Romans 6:8. This is what Catholics celebrate in Baptism, the dying to selfishness and sin and rising with Christ. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies it produces much fruit." John 12:24.

The forty days and forty nights of Lent is a call to the desert with Christ. The intension of the Catholic faith is to grow and produce much fruit. The *New Evangelisation* is a call to action – to walk with Christ and to share the faith with others in the local and wider community.

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

ROAD SAFETY POLICY

At St Aidan's Catholic Primary School we aim to provide a quality road safety education program (K-6) that develops attitudes, behaviours and values promoting responsible road use.

Setting a good example

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.

The include:

- Using designated footpaths or walking in areas away from the road
- Holding the children's hand (for those up to eight years of age) and actively supervising all children to **Stop, Look, Listen and Think** every time they cross the road
- Walking with children to cross roads (do not call children across the road)
- Crossing roads away from parked cars
- Parking correctly in designated areas
- Getting children 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 seven
- Waiting safely at bus stops and waiting until the bus has gone and choosing a safe place to cross

Mrs Christine Leahy,
Assistant Principal.

SUNGLASSES

The minimum order of sunglasses the school is able to place are twelve pieces at a time. This may result in a delay of delivery to families.

LITERACY MATTERS



just what good readers do."

When your child looks at the pictures to help figure out what a new word is say, "I like how you're looking at the pictures to help figure out that new word." By specific praise, you're helping your child develop good reading habits. This will help him/her become a stronger reader.

Mrs Lisa Hurst
Lead Literacy Teacher
Coordinator.



NUMERACY NEWS

St Aidan's follows a Parramatta Diocesan approach to the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy.

This approach known as 'Focus 160' empowers students to be literate and numerate in today's world.

Sixty minutes of Mathematics instruction is programed each day for all year levels. The structure of this quality numeracy block consists of warm ups, an open-ended/rich learning task and reflection time. Each of these elements will be explored more in future newsletters.

You may have heard your child mention 'StudyLadder'. This is a website some teachers at St Aidan's use in a number of Key Learning Areas particularly Mathematics. It is one of many learning tools that provide engaging, interactive lessons. Students have unlimited access to the site here at school and by using their log in and password can work on three activities daily from home. You may wish to access the site in order to familiarise yourself with it. www.studyLadder.com.au

Mrs Jodie Donlan
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

SCRUNCHIES AND PONYTAIL HOLDERS

Bottle green scrunchies, ponytail holders and ponytail holders with bows are now available at the school office. Prices as follows:

- Two scrunchies—\$5.00
- Two ribbon bow ponytail holders—\$5.00
- Twelve metal free ponytail holders—\$5.00

Hall of Fame

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

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

KC	Olivia Bottom	Russell Alpas
KH	Reuel Velasco	Katrina Knezevic
1C	Jordana Jacobs	Adrian Salazar
1G	Wayne Conopio	Jimmy Johnson
2F	Lilly Schuster	Bol Lual
2M	Krutee Prasad	John Rhys Timbol
3B	Dominic Arreza	Markeisha Bolano
3G	Theresa Maksymowicz	Kenyon Aquino
4H	Leduina Piliae	Jake Alcala
4Y	Marta Abicic	Laszlo Mendoza
5M	Vanie Barcelon	Hedrone Aquino
5S	Shayne Cortes	Jethro Vicedas
6D	Thomas Meniconi	Nadine Langan
6W	Ashley Galea	Liam Ackroyd-Broadbere

MEET THE TEACHER INTERVIEWS 18th to 21st FEBRUARY

- **Years four, five and six** Meet the teacher interviews will be held in the **Library**.
- **Kindergarten, years one, two and three** Meet the teacher interviews will be held in the **kindergarten rooms**.

MEDICATION FORM

A Notification and request for the administration of medication during school hours form has been sent home with this newsletter.

If your child needs any medication during school hours, the completed medication form is required at the school office. This is sent with your child's medication which must be in the original container and specific medication must have your child's name on it.

Antibiotics are normally administered at home as they are usually required three times a day i.e. one dose before school, one after school and the third before bed time.

Students with asthma or anaphylaxis need to provide the school office with written emergency plans completed by the doctor. Asthma inhaler/Epipen/antihistamines etc are kept at the office in the sick-bay (not in school bags) together with the emergency plans.