

Wednesday 24th July	11:30am Year two Assembly in the hall
Tuesday 30th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Year one excursion to Galvana Holsteins farm ◆ Boys Soccer Gala Day for Stage two
Wednesday 31st July	9:15am Infants Mass lead by Kindergarten
Wednesday 7th August	11:30am Year one leads Assembly in the hall
Tuesday 13th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blacktown Zone Athletics carnival ◆ 7:00-8:30pm Parent Information evening—IT
Thursday 15th August	9:15am whole school Mass for Assumption lead by Stage three
Friday 16th August	Infants Tabloid Sports
Mon 19th and Tue 20th Aug	Book Fair
Mon 19th to Fri 23rd Aug	Book Week
Tuesday 20th August	Netball Gala Day at St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday 21st August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Voice of Youth Cluster Final for year six ◆ 11:30am Kindergarten leads Assembly in the hall
Thursday 22nd August	Kindergarten excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park
Friday 23rd August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number-a-thon test ◆ Diocesan Athletics carnival
Monday 26th August	Staff Development Day (no classes)
Wednesday 28th August	9:15am St Aidan's Day and Father's Mass lead by Stage three
Wednesday 4th September	11:30am Year three leads Assembly in the hall
Friday 6th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stage three excursion to Warragamba Dam ◆ Number-a-thon money due
Wednesday 11th September	9:15am Infants Mass lead by year one
Wednesday 18th September	11:30am Stage three Assembly in the hall
Friday 20th September	2:55pm Term three concludes

St Aidan's Parish Sacrament of First Eucharist

Registration days: Saturday 20th July and Sunday 21st July, after each Mass
 Parent evening: Wednesday 31st July 7:30pm in Mary MacKillop hall

Children's Sessions: Sunday 4th August 8:30am in Mary MacKillop hall
 Sunday 11th August 8:30am in Mary MacKillop hall
 Sunday 18th August 8:30am in Mary MacKillop hall
 Sunday 25th August 8:30am in Mary MacKillop hall

Practice dates: Monday 2nd September and Thursday 5th September
 7:00pm in St Aidan's Church

Sacrament administered on Sunday 8th September 12:00 noon and 3:00pm Mass.



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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to term three at St Aidan's. I had a most enjoyable holiday and feel refreshed and reenergised to come back to the challenges of another term. The students were happy to return to their learning and their friends.

There have been some staff changes since the last newsletter. These are as follow:

- ◆ Mrs Maureen van Reyk who has been doing the Learning Support role at St Aidan's for a number of years will be teaching year three for the remainder of 2013 in place of Mrs George.
- ◆ Mrs Monica Van Galen and Mrs Katherine Kovacs will be teaching in the learning support area in place of Mrs van Reyk. Both Mrs Van Galen and Mrs Kovacs are well known to the students as they have both taught at St Aidan's on a number of occasions.
- ◆ Our school has been given an additional allocation of a fulltime teacher on a temporary basis for terms three and four 2013. This teacher will be a co-teacher in years two and one allowing for the more strategic teaching in these early important years. This allocation has been forthcoming from the NSW State Government and is accelerated funding from 2017. Mrs Cris Poole (Moreno) will fill the additional role as co-teacher in years two and one.

It is lovely to have these teachers return to St Aidan's.

Last year the school received a grant from the Commonwealth to the value of \$55,000 for the installation of solar panels. Further details of this initiative were printed in the final term two newsletter.

The school's major fund raiser for 2013 will be occurring this term. Next Friday each child will receive details of a Number-a-thon. The idea is that children will be given a list of number facts to learn. E.g. year six students will have 100 number facts, the number and type of facts being appropriate to the learning needs of each child. Children will be tested on their number facts as per the timeline in the letter to parents.

Parents, grandparents, godparents etc. are asked to sponsor the children an amount per number fact.

For example a child in year six has 100 facts to learn. A very generous family member sponsors the child \$1 for each correct number fact. The child scores 100/100. This means he/she will bring \$100 to school from that sponsor.

The money raised from the Number-a-thon will be used to purchase much needed additional readers for the children. Compared with other schools, we do not ask for many donations from parents. Therefore you are urged to support this fund raiser to the best of your ability.

The 2012 Annual School Report is now available on the school's website <http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>

You will find a list of the important dates for the term inside this newsletter. Please keep these dates in a prominent position so you are aware of what is happening at your school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
 Principal.

REFLECTION

Students in years four and six will be completing an online Religious Literacy Assessment this term. This involves the students being assessed on their knowledge of the seven strands of the Parramatta Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum: God; Jesus; Church; Sacraments; Prayer; Scriptures and Christian living.

Each student will be asked five questions in each of the areas mentioned above. They will answer thirty-five questions in all. Students will be given random questions so no two students answer identical questions. This year the assessment will be administered on laptops or iPads.

Parents can support their child in years four or six by going through the set of trial questions which they have brought home or by working through the online questions on <http://www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/Parents/Religion/RE/Pages/RETestYr6.aspx>

Year four students will also complete a Part B project in class, on Reconciliation. They will base this project on either the Parable of the Forgiving Father or on the story of Zacchaeus.

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

EXPLANATION OF SYLLABUS DOCUMENTS FOR PARENTS

Brief Introduction of what is taught in the classroom and time allocation for each key learning area.

The NSW Board of Studies sets the syllabus documents for each subject or key learning area that is taught in all NSW primary and secondary schools. The subjects or key learning areas are: English, Mathematics, Human Society and It's Environment, Science and Technology, Creative Arts, Personal Development Health and Physical Education as well as in Catholic schools- Religious Education. The Board required that each key learning area has a time value for each week, that being, English 25-35%, Mathematics 20%, HSIE 6-10%, S&T 6-10%, Creative Arts 6-10%, PDHPD 6-10% and Religious Education 10%. There was also time allocated for other activities to make up the full 100%. Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions you have about the learning in the classroom.

Mrs Christine Leahy,
Assistant Principal.

LITERACY MATTERS

The 'Literacy Matters' feature this term will offer easy ways for parents to help their child comprehend.

Lay a strong foundation for reading success

- ◆ Helping your child develop good reading comprehension skills involves planning.

- ◆ You need to give them the tools they need to apply to whatever kind of book you're reading together.
- ◆ Before reading a book about ocean life, for example, first talk to your child about what they already know about the creatures of the sea.
- ◆ Preview the text to find unfamiliar words like "gills" and "vertebrate" and explain them before you start reading.

Mrs Lisa Hurst
Lead Literacy Teacher
Coordinator.

NUMERACY NEWS

Last term, I explored with you the ways that parents can support a child's mathematics learning at school. I will continue to discuss this theme in newsletters this term.

Measurement

Children develop an understanding of measurement through comparing objects. When learning about mass children need to play with a variety of materials and containers for filling, packing and pouring before they can move to using formal units such as kilograms and grams. They need to understand how things can be packed together to fill a container and which materials are better for packing.

How can parents support this learning at home?

Give your child different sized plastic cups and a large plastic container to play with in the bath. Encourage your child to guess how many of each cup will be needed to fill the container. Talk about how many cups or teaspoons of each ingredient are used in a recipe when you are cooking together. Encourage your child to pack away their own toys and books. Talk about how things will fit better depending on the way they are stacked or placed. "Hefting" is the balancing of an object in each hand and deciding which is the heavier or lighter. This is a good way for children to compare the weight of objects. Drop different objects into a bucket of water or the bath to see which makes the biggest splash. Talk about why some things made a bigger splash than others.

Mrs Jodie Donlan
Lead Numeracy Teacher.



Most Rev. Bishop Anthony Fisher OP with Miss Yonita Younan in Brazil.

ROOM ON THE BROOM



At the end of last term Infants students went to Parramatta to attend the theatre performance of *Room on the Broom*. Here are some responses from kindergarten, years one and two regarding this experience:

Kindergarten

The witch had a broom and it snapped in the clouds because there were lots of animals on it. The witch heard a roar in the clouds. *Leon Brillante Lareza*

I saw a dog get on the broomstick and a frog jump on the broomstick, then the broomstick broke into pieces. *Ethan Dinh Vu*

The witch made a spell- Ziggety Zaggety Zoom! *Anikka Cabalo*

The cat was upset because there was no room on the broom for her. The dog the bird, the frog and the witch were on the broom. *Andrea Santos*

The witch made a magic spell and she got a magnificent broom. *Savanna Muscat*

The witch found a frog and he jumped on the witch. The frog was funny! *Kynan McPherson*

The dragon was scared of the magic monster. *Micho Bonete*

The witch made a magic spell and she said Ziggity Zaggety Zoom. She got a new silver broom with sparkles. *Hannah Faustino*

Year one

I thought Room on a Broom was funny and surprising. *Iva Saquing*

I really liked the part when the broom got broken in half. *Airah Paulate*

It was funny. The broom at the end was really cool. *Marcus Torralba*

It was funny when the man who was playing the dragon was snoring and he woke up the ladies. *Ayaan Khan*

It was really good because there were cool noises when the wind was blowing. *Mason Polidano*

I like the part when the animals turned into a monster and scared the dragon away. *Sarah Wisam Nissan*

It was funny and it looked a little bit scary. I was laughing a lot at the dragon. *Aecy Dimapilis*

Year two

I enjoyed the show because the frog went on the broom. *Viliami Vunipola*

My favourite part of the show was when the animals made a mud monster and scared the dragon away. *Shaun Bernaldo*

My favourite part was when the witch's hat flew off. Then a dog found her hat on the ground and would not give it back to her. *Mischa Vella*

I liked when the witch did a spell and created a broom. *Gabrielle Romero*

I enjoyed hearing the music in the show. *Jasmine Cardines*

