

Term Four 2012

Wednesday 31st October	9:15am Year four lead primary Mass
Thursday 1st November	All Saints Day
Friday 2nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All Souls Day ◆ STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—NAPLAN analysis (no classes)
Tuesday 13th November	Kindergarten 2013 Orientation
Wednesday 14th November	9:15am Year one lead infants Mass
Tuesday 20th November	Kindergarten 2013 Orientation
Tuesday 27th November	Kindergarten 2013 Orientation
Wednesday 28th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:15am Year three lead primary Mass ◆ Year seven St Agnes Orientation
Thursday 29th November	Twilight Swimming Trials 4:15pm (years two to five)
Wednesday 5th December	Year seven St Agnes Orientation
Thursday 6th December	Year five visit St Agnes
Wednesday 12th December	Reports go home to Parents
Friday 14th December	11:30-1:00pm Talent Quest Final
Monday 17th December	5:00pm Year six Graduation Mass
Tuesday 18th December	Year six disco
Wednesday 19th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9:15am End of year thanksgiving Mass ◆ Last day of school for all students
Thursday 20th December	Staff Development Day (no classes)
Friday 21st December	Staff Development Day (no classes)

FREE!!! TRIPLE P—POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM SEMINAR

Triple P is a parenting program for all families that provides practical answers to everyday parenting concerns. Families NSW is offering Triple P to all families with children aged 3-8 years. Bookings essential. Child minding available.

Dates: 16th November: *The Power of Positive Parenting*
 23rd November: *Raising Confident, Competent Children*
 30th November: *Raising Resilient Children*

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm (light lunch provided)

Venue: Powerhouse Christian Church, 20a Power Street, Doonside 2767

For bookings/enquiries please contact Susan Scioscia: (02) 9621 3922.

“In partnership with Junaya Family Development Services.”



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St Aidan's Primary School
 Rooty Hill

Sharing News & Views

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

I am glad that term four is off to a good start and that the children have settled easily into their studies.

My two weeks leave were most enjoyable and gave me an opportunity to do a few things that I wouldn't normally be able to do due to work commitments.

Thank you to the parents who responded to my survey letter dated 8th October 2012. There was a 33% response from families. Your interest in your children's learning was evident by the enthusiastic responses received.

As a result of parents' responses the general plan for 2013 will be to address the four main curriculum areas as follows:

- ◆ Term one. An evening parent workshop for the teaching of Mathematics.
- ◆ Term two. Three afternoon workshops of an hour's duration to focus on English and in particular the teaching of reading. (This would most probably be from 1.45-2.45pm in time for children's dismissal.)
- ◆ Term two. An evening 'hands on' parent workshop to experience the different technologies used at St Aidan's
- ◆ Term three. Religious Education. The topic and format still to be decided.

There were a small number of other 'one off' suggestions that I will endeavour to address via newsletters. These suggestions were around the topics:

- ◆ Saying 'no' to your child
- ◆ Teaching resilience
- ◆ Communicating with your child

as well as a suggestion about homework, more physical activity and the provision of piano/guitar lessons.

It is important that parents understand that the curriculum followed by each school in NSW is determined by the 'NSW Board of Studies. Schools must strictly adhere to the syllabus for each Key Learning Area. Be assured that this is most certainly the practice at St Aidan's.

Parents must realise that the school is not responsible for providing competitive sports and private music lessons for students.

This year we were very fortunate in obtaining from the Catholic Education Office the services of a violin teacher and all students in year four had one hour of free tuition each week. It is hoped to continue this in 2013.

Students from year's three to six have opportunities to participate in gala days for soccer and netball as well as the Diocesan Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming carnivals.

Once again the sport, PE and Creative Arts taught at school is determined by the Board of Studies. This includes the content of the syllabus and the time allocated.

As you are aware schools are required to follow an increasingly crowded curriculum. While the main focus of teaching and learning at St Aidan's is on English and Mathematics, I assure you that all teachers, me included have a positive attitude to each facet of your child's education.

I trust that this information will be useful to you as you continue to be involved in your children's learning.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
 Principal.

REFLECTION

In October we remember Mary’s gift to us – the rosary. Dr Ian Elmer looks at images of Mary, in this Year of Grace.

He states: “The first striking image of Mary is portrayed as a “lowly handmaiden” (Luke 1:38), who is singled out by God for momentous blessings and grace. When Mary and Elizabeth meet, Elizabeth prophetically greets Mary as “blessed among women ... the mother of my Lord”, blessed for believing “that what the Lord has said ... will be accomplished” (Luke 1:42-43, 45). Mary responds with a powerful song of praise to God, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). As a self-portrait the Magnificat gives us a picture of Mary as blessed by God, despite her humble standing.

Mary the Mother

The second image of Mary is that of Mary the mother of Jesus. Given what the Gospel writers know of Jesus’ life, with all of its successes and ultimate horror, the motherhood of Mary is one that is shadowed by sorrow. Already at Jesus’ presentation in the temple, Simeon prophesied to her, “And a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35). Like all mothers down the ages, she was destined to share both the joys and the sorrows of her child’s life.

Mary our model

Thirdly, Mary is very much like us. She is an ordinary woman who responded in faith to a unique and difficult calling. It is the very ordinariness of Mary in the Gospels that makes her so extraordinary. As Mary herself proclaims in her Magnificat, “all generations will call me blessed.”

In this Year of Grace, let us imitate Mary. As Advent approaches let us listen with an open heart to the Gospel readings and reflect on our call to grace.

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING/NAPLAN

Professional learning is a priority for all staff at St Aidan’s.

As part of this learning, several staff meetings have been assigned to thoroughly analyze the students’ results.

Following this analysis, teachers will develop a leaning plan for students who scored in the bottom two bands. These learning plans will focus on literacy and numeracy.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s learning please make an appointment to see your child’s teacher.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

LITERACY MATTERS

Helping your child with writing:



Read and talk about the writing that your child brings home from school. Praise your child for using neat and legible handwriting. To help develop spelling and vocabulary, play word games such as ‘I Spy’, Scrabble, Boggle, Scattogories and crosswords.

Mrs Lisa Hurst
Coordinator.

STUDENT DATA VALIDATION

All families would have received a Student Data Validation form from the Catholic Education Office. Please complete and return this form to school as soon as possible. Whether there are any changes or not the form needs to be returned to school **BEFORE FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER**. Thank you to those who have returned it.

Mrs Blaga Wakeling
Secretary.

SUNGLASSES

Orders for sunglasses may be placed at the school office. There are two sizes available for students—medium and large.

Sample sunglasses are kept at the office for your child to try on.

Sunglasses cost \$10.00 per pair. Parents may purchase a single pair of sunglasses but we require a total order of twelve sunglasses from different parents/families before we can place an order with the company.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Please check the coins you send with your child for their purchases from the tuckshop. **NO FOREIGN COINS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

ALL lunches need to be written on a brown paper bag with your child’s name, class, what your child wants to buy and where possible the correct money (Australian money).

Some students are asking for spoons to eat their food. Please give your child a spoon if they need one.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Congratulations to the following who have been listed in the Hall of Fame

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS		
KC	David Badato	Enrico Villanueva
KG	Peter Warwick-Smith	Maureen Cabalhin
1C	Chloe Pickering	Eva Norton
1K	Heleana Soriano	Gabriel Espino
2F	Angelica Adriano	Max Usu
2H	Bol Dak	Caitlin Hogg
3B	Lee Darjani	Marianna Al-Najar
3M	Ruben Alcala	Teanna Warwick-Smith
4A	Caylan Rama	Rosamae Celik
4H	Miriam Iskarous	Dencel Vargas
5H	Michael Darjani	Alexandra White
5M	John-Nathan Espino	Alek Awac
6D	Jessica Guanzon	Shivi Lal
6W	Isha Roberts	Benedenne Llagas



*A Staff Development Day will be held on
Friday 2nd November.*

Staff will be analysing NAPLAN results.

There will be no classes for students on this day.

