

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to term two 2013. I trust that you enjoyed some family time with your children over the holidays doing fun things that you may not have time for during term time. The children have returned to school looking rested and ready for another term of effective learning and teaching.

As you are aware last Monday and Tuesday teachers and teacher's assistants from St Aidan's were involved in two staff development days. The focus of these days was on the new Australian Curriculum and the new English syllabus to be commenced in 2014. The workshops during these days centred on the following:

- ◆ The Parramatta Diocesan *Theory of Action*. i.e. the thinking behind our work in the diocese as we work towards providing the best possible learning outcomes for students.
- ◆ Discussion of *It's about good teaching*. An article written by Greg Whitby Executive Director of schools Parramatta Diocese.
- ◆ A guided tour and overview of the Australian Curriculum
- ◆ Foundation (Kindergarten) to year 10 English
- ◆ Rationale
- ◆ Tour of the English syllabus
- ◆ Organisation of the English syllabus
- ◆ Scope and sequence of the English syllabus
- ◆ Workshops to determine and discuss the differences and similarities between the new English syllabus and the current syllabus
- ◆ A look at the English continuum
- ◆ Introduction to *Scoutle*; an online site for teachers to access teaching resources.

There were some very deep and challenging discussions amongst staff as we prepared to implement these important changes next year.

As of this week all staff and students in each school of the Parramatta Diocese will be stopping at 12pm each day to pray the 'Angelus'. This has been requested by our Bishop Anthony Fisher, Bishop of Parramatta. If parents are in the school at this time on any day, you will be expected to join staff and students in praying this beautiful prayer. There will be more information about the Angelus in the next newsletter.

Next Wednesday 8th May is the annual Mother's Day Mass for St Aidan's mothers. Each mother has received an invitation to Mass at 9.15am followed by morning tea in the hall. I hope that many of you will be able to come along and allow us to spoil you on your special day.

I remind parents about the Mother's Day stall being organised by Mrs Meniconi. The stall will operate next Friday 10th May for students to purchase gifts for their mothers; godmothers etc. Please donate a gift to the stall if you haven't already done so. This is a fundraising activity for the school and we need your support.

The pre-school story time and book borrowing sessions will re commence next Monday at 2:30pm. Parents are invited to bring their pre-schoolers to the library for a story and an opportunity to browse and borrow books. This is especially beneficial for children who will be starting school at St Aidan's next year. I hope to hear the chatter of many young voices in the library next Monday afternoon.

A list of the important dates has been included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Mass and morning tea for mothers next week.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

**ST AIDAN'S PARISH
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(PENANCE)**

Registration days: Saturday 4th May and Sunday 5th May after each Mass. Please bring your child's Baptism Certificate and Registration form.

Parent evening: Wednesday 15th May 7:30pm in Mary MacKillop Hall.

Sessions: Sunday 19th May 8:30am in MacKillop Hall
Sunday 26th May 8:30am in MacKillop Hall
Sunday 2nd June 8:30am in MacKillop Hall

**Sacrament Administered on Thursday 6th June, 2013
at 7:00pm in the Church.**



**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2013
PROGRAM**

Thank you to those families who have sent sticker sheets and stickers to the school.

Please keep collecting your stickers every time you shop at Woolworths.

The program continues until 9th June 2013.



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REFLECTION

Evangelisation is building a better relationship with Christ and what better way to do so than by being open to recognising him here today and to learn more about him in the Sunday Gospels.

The next four Sundays in the Church's calendar paint a perfect picture of who the human Christ was; his mission; legacy and the actions he expects of people today as they live out their daily lives.

Sunday 12th May, doesn't just celebrate Mothers' Day, but more importantly the Ascension of the Lord.

Christ came to lead the way to a new life-a life with the Father, a loving God who always forgives and wants his people close to him.

As Dianne Bergant in *Breaking Open the Word* states: "Ascension does not mark the end of Jesus' presence. It simply marks the change in how he is present and how he acts. 'Where two or more of you are gathered together in my name,'

Jesus said, 'there am I in the midst of them.' (Matthew 18:20) The Ascension is a day to be overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one we have known in his humanity."

Bergant's point is that Christ is here with his people every day, no longer in human form but in spirit. Are his people aware of his presence in each other? How often in the past week has he spoken and been heard?

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

HOURS OF SUPERVISION

Morning supervision at St Aidan's begins at 8.15 am when the gates are opened by the duty teacher. It is most important for the safety of your children that they are not left unsupervised outside the gate before it is opened

In the afternoon students (who do not walk or who travel by car, bus or van or are to be collected by parents from the parent wailer's area between 2.55 and 3.10pm.

There are times when special circumstances may arise and you may be late. If this occurs please advise the school office as soon as possible.

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 child/children.

Please notify the school office if you change your address, phone number, mobile numbers or emergency contact details.

LITERACY MATTERS



The 'Literacy Matters' feature will continue to offer easy ways for parents to help their children to become successful readers.

During this term there will be three afternoon parent sessions that will focus on different aspects of reading. Listed below are the dates and aspects of reading that will be covered. Please join us as we explore current reading strategies used in our classrooms and ways to motivate your child to read at home.

All sessions will be held in our school library from 2:00-2:45pm.

- **Tuesday 28th May - Reading Strategies used in the classroom**
- **Tuesday 4th June - How can I support my child as a reader?**
- **Tuesday 11th June - Promoting reading comprehension at home.**

Mrs Lisa Hurst
Lead Literacy Teacher
Coordinator.

NUMERACY NEWS



There are many ways that parents and the home environment can support a child's mathematics learning at school. This term ways parents can support mathematics and numeracy in everyday contexts will be explored in relation to a number of key concepts across the stages of learning.

One of the first experiences children have with numbers is 'counting'. Counting starts as learning a pattern of words. Remembering the words for each number in the correct order is only part of the process. To 'count' children need to match saying the number words to the correct number of 'things'. What can you do at home to help your child in this area?

- Count the number of steps from the front door to the letterbox
- Count the number of eggs in a carton, and again after some have been removed
- Count the number of times you and your child can throw a ball to each other without dropping it
- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one
- Ask your child the number before and after a number given

Next newsletter another key concept in the area of Mathematics will be explored.

Mrs Jodie Donlan
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

Term two 2013

Tuesday 7th May	Diocesan Cross Country
Wednesday 8th May	9:15am Mass for Mothers
Friday 10th May	Mother's Day Stall
Tues 14th, Wed 15th and Thurs 16th May	NAPLAN testing for years three and five
Monday 20th May	All students in full Winter uniform
Wednesday 22nd May	Stage 3 CSIRO excursion
Tuesday 28th May	Stage 3 Soccer Gala day
Thursday 30th May	Athletics Carnival—St Marys
Monday 10th June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Friday 21st June	Student Reports to Parents
Tuesday 25th June	Stage 2 Boys Soccer Gala Day
Thursday 27th June	Kindergarten, years one & two excursion to Riverside Theatre
Mon 24th to Thurs 27th June	Parent/Teacher/Child Interviews
Friday 28th June	Term two concludes at 2:55pm

MOTHER'S DAY STALL FRIDAY 10TH MAY

Thank you to the families who have sent gifts.

We still require **95** gifts **before Wednesday 8th May** as well as CLEAR cellophane and new ribbon.

Gifts will be priced at \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 each.

Please send small denominations of money e.g. \$1 and \$2 coins with your child/children on **Friday 10th May** to buy a gift from the stall.

Thank you
Mrs Meniconi (Parent volunteer).



BABY NEWS

Congratulations to the Pandes family (Mary 3B and Tricia 1C). They have a new baby boy, Louis.

Congratulations to the Dizon family (Cassidy 2F). They have a new baby boy.

