

General Meeting - Learning Difficulties: How Do I Know? What do I do? What support can I get?
Monday 18 Aug 2014 at 7:00pm

Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown
Learning Difficulties: How Do I Know? What Do I Do? What Support Can I Get?
 Presenters Sue Walsh & Mary Creanaune are Leaders in Systems Learning at the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta.
 This presentation leads into our Term 3 General Meeting and will be valuable for all parents who have children with learning difficulties or who suspects that to be the case.

Contact: Parents, Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese
 Email: prcparrasecretary@gmail.com

PRC Presentation: Anxiety & Children
Monday 1 September 2014 at 7:00pm

St Patrick's Primary School, 51 Allawah Rd, Blacktown
Anxiety and Children
 Dr Andrew Martin is a well respected and experienced presenter who was very popular at the recent Catholic Schools Parents Conference held in Parramatta in 2013.

An important area of interest for many parents and families.

The presentation commences at 7pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

Book Now! prcparraevents@hotmail.com
 Contact: Parents Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese
 Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

BELLISSIMO \$5.00

MEAL DEAL DAY—TUESDAY 26th AUGUST

(\$5.00 PAYMENT DUE BY FRIDAY 22ND AUGUST 2014)



- Lasagne
- Garlic bread
- Bottle of water

LASAGNE
GARLIC BREAD
WATER

Child's name _____ Class _____



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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the parents who came along to the Maths Information Night last Tuesday. A large group of parents were present and they engaged very enthusiastically in the workshops designed to allow parents to participate first hand in the experiences enjoyed by students each day.

As mentioned in an earlier letter to parents the night was organised because parents requested information about the teaching of Mathematics. Copies of information given out at the meeting last Monday are available at the school office. My sincere thanks to Miss Prue Hall (Kindergarten teacher: Mathematics Coordinator) for organising the evening and to Dr Kerry Giumelli (Teaching Educator, Catholic Education Office, Parramatta), and all teachers from St Aidan's for taking part in the evening and for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with parents.

Attached to this newsletter is an article from the Sydney Morning Herald 3rd August 2014. The article discusses the impact of student absences on their learning.

It is alarming that so many students from St Aidan's are taken out of school for extended holidays both overseas and within Australia. In some instances a student is missing more than 30 school days. In some cases the students are already experiencing difficulty with their learning. These learning difficulties are then exacerbated by prolonged planned absences from school.

As you are aware parents must seek permission from the school Principal for any absences other than sick leave. A permission form '*Applying for extended holidays – students*', must be completed prior to the travel. (This form is available to download from the school's website under 'parent information / general') or available at the school office.

Parents are asked to consult me before planning extended holidays. This provides an opportunity to discuss the student's learning and the possible implications of the absence from school on the learning. A record of these meetings will be kept at the school for future reference.

Student's half yearly and annual reports will also include the number of days absent due to extended holidays.

Please read this attached article carefully and remember seek advice from myself before any extended holidays are booked. Your child's learning is of the utmost importance to the St Aidan's Staff.

Congratulations to the students who represented St Aidan's in the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival on Tuesday. The Senior Girls Relay Team and Yannis Clark have qualified for the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Well done children. Thank you to Mr Julius for preparing the squad.

As some of you are aware, sixty students from years four, five and six have been selected to perform in the Creative Arts Expo on 21st August. The year four students will be part of a combined choir and the years five and six students are performing a medley of song and dance from 'the Wizard of Oz'. This expo was held three years ago and includes four other Catholic Primary schools from the Mt Druitt area. On your behalf I extend best wishes to the students representing St Aidan's at the Expo.

A reminder that the school's website can be found at staidans.parra.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for your continued support as we work in partnership in the learning and teaching of your children.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
 Principal.

Forgive from
 your heart
 anyone who
 has pained you.

*Saint Mary
 MacKillop*

In this issue...

- Reflection
- Explanation of syllabus
- Head Lice
- Numeracy news
- Fathers Day Stall
- Hall of Fame
- PRC meetings
- Meal Deal order form

REFLECTION

Matthew's Gospel has been divided into narratives and discourses. The five discourses being: the Sermon on the Mount (chapters five to seven); Missionary Instruction (chapter ten); collection of Parables (chapter thirteen); Community Instruction (chapter eighteen) and Sermon on Eschatology (chapters twenty-three to twenty-five). These five discourses are directly related to Jesus speaking to the people.

Matthew's followers consisted of Gentiles (people of other nations) as well as Christian-Jews who had left their Jewish roots to follow Christ. It was important for this community to remain linked with Jewish traditions and beliefs. A great deal of Matthew's work, especially the discourses linked Jesus to Moses or the Old Testament.

In the first discourse (the Beatitudes), Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount linking him to Moses, who had received the law from God on Mount Sinai. The importance of the law being handed down on the Mount in both instances was to keep the Christian-Jews faithful to Jesus and their Jewish heritage. Judaism was a way of life not just a religion, so for Matthew's followers, Jesus needed to remain linked to his Jewish roots.

Mrs. Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

EXPLANATION OF SYLLABUS

Mathematics

Students develop their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of learning experiences across:

- .. Number and Algebra, e.g. whole numbers and fractions and decimals
- .. Measurement and Geometry, e.g. length, area and time
- .. Statistics and Probability, e.g. data and chance.

They develop their problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning and communication. Students in Stage Three develop a deeper understanding of Statistics and Probability.

Mrs. Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal

LITERACY MATTERS

Talking and Listening

Children develop confidence using spoken language as they learn to talk and listen for different purposes.

Talking enables children to clarify their ideas, explore issues, solve problems and to develop understandings in all Key Learning Areas.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

SCHOOL FEES

Term three School fees are due on the 19th August 2014. If you are not up to date with your fees please contact Mrs Wakeling to discuss payment options/arrangements on (02) 9625 3181.

NUMERACY NEWS

Children's experiences with measuring mass come from watching adults measure ingredients. Their understanding of mass is developed when they compare, measure and describe different objects.

Children need to experiment and explore measuring different materials with their hands before they begin to measure using formal units such as grams and kilograms.

What can you do at home to develop your child's understanding of mass?

- ◆ Show your child how to use the kitchen scales to measure ingredients.
- ◆ Encourage your child to 'heft' different objects (balance two objects in their hands and decide which is heavier and lighter).
- ◆ Show your child where the weight of food or goods are recorded on the package.



When learning about mass children need to continue to **notice, discuss** and **explore** objects around them. This will challenge their thinking about mass and develop their visualisation skills.

In the next newsletter I will address how the home environment can develop deep mathematical thinking in relation to volume and capacity.

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

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

HEAD LICE

Some cases of head lice have been detected in classes.

Just a reminder to check your children's hair regularly for evidence of head lice/nits and use a preventative treatment as a matter of course.



Book Week 2014
Book Fair - St Aidan's School Library

◆ **Mon 18th August 3:00-4:00pm**
◆ **Tues 19th August 8:30am-9:30am**
2:30pm-3:30pm

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**Visiting Author**  
**On Monday 25th August all students will be meeting & listening to Moya Simons speak about her experiences as a writer of children's books.**

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

| ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS |                    |                   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| KC                        | Markaritte Derjani | Jackson Frias     |
| KH                        | Mielle Paulate     | Aryan Singh       |
| 1C                        | Kiara Sansano      | Ralph Quibuyen    |
| 1T                        | Angelica Danial    | Jaiden Bartley    |
| 2M                        | Elisha Matta       | Immanuel El-Rab   |
| 2Q                        | Amire Gorgise      | Wayne Conopio     |
| 3B                        | Katherin Maroki    | Michael Piliae    |
| 3U                        | Jon Timbol         | Jasmine Cardines  |
| 4D                        | Chloe Bazina       | Amory Albanese    |
| 4M                        | Angeli Hate        | Bol Dak           |
| 5P                        | Marta Abicic       | Nelson Pacardo    |
| 5W                        | Jedrick Brual      | Marianna Al-Najar |
| 6B                        | Daniel Villanueva  | Rosamae Celik     |
| 6C                        | Raden Adviento     | Marc De Vera      |

On Tuesday 19th August the following students will attend the Stage three Netball Gala Day at Jamison Park, Penrith. *Good luck!*

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Chenae Cruise          | Marta Abicic    |
| Stephanie Derjani      | Ida-Laura Ioane |
| Bianca Fragomeli       | Isabella Burnie |
| Jordan Schembri-Judd   | Sarisha Sant    |
| Christina Abi Chemouni |                 |

**FATHERS DAY STALL**  
**Friday 5th September 2014**  
**Please keep sending gifts worth \$2.00, \$5.00 or \$10.00.**  
**Donations of clear cellophane would be appreciated.**  
**We need at least 400 gifts for the stall so that all students may buy a gift.**

| DATES FOR TERM THREE 2014 |                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 18th August        | Book Week and Book Fair                                                                  |
| Tuesday 19th August       | • Book Fair continues<br>• Netball Gala Day                                              |
| Wednesday 20th August     | 9:15am Infants Mass lead by Year one                                                     |
| Thursday 21st August      | Creative Arts Expo                                                                       |
| Friday 22nd August        | Infants Tabloid Sports K-2                                                               |
| Monday 25th August        | Visiting Author, Moya Simons K-6                                                         |
| Tuesday 26th August       | Voice of Youth cluster final for year six                                                |
| Wednesday 27th August     | 11:30am Year two Assembly                                                                |
| Wednesday 3rd September   | 9:15am St Aidan's Feast/Fathers Day Mass K-6 lead by Year four (followed by Morning Tea) |
| Friday 5th September      | • Fathers Day Stall<br>• Spellathon money due                                            |
| Wednesday 10th September  | 11:30am Year five Assembly                                                               |
| Wednesday 17th September  | 9:15am Primary Mass lead by Year three                                                   |
| Friday 19th September     | 2:55pm term three concludes                                                              |

**Steps NSW Health Western Sydney VISION SCREENING CLINICS**

If your child is 4-5 years old you can make an appointment for a **FREE** vision test in your area. Bookings are being taken until Friday 19th December 2014 or from Monday 12th January 2015 (M-F 8:30am-12:30pm). Clinics will be held up until December 2014 and will be available in the last week of school holidays in January and again in April 2015. For further information and/or details of clinics held please phone 9881 1213.