Dear Parents,

As you are aware the St Aidan’s community packed seventy-eight large bags of toiletries for Xmas treats for the homeless. Last Monday the bags were delivered to Share the Dignity a reputable charity who supports the homeless of Sydney. The lady who received the gifts was overwhelmed and full of gratitude for the generous gifts donated by St Aidan’s families and staff. A ‘shout’ was posted on the Facebook page of Share the Dignity. You might like to have a glance.

The class finals for the upcoming Talent Quest were held this week and next week the grade finals will take place. As mentioned in memo that was sent to parents the Grand Final will be held on 10th December. Parents of finalists will be invited to attend.

Next Tuesday year three students and teachers will be visiting St Agnes High School to experience the annual Nativity play. This promises to be a great experience for our year three students. Year five students and teachers will also visit St Agnes on Thursday for a Technology Day. The students will explore programs such as: inspiration; pivot animation; iMovie and garageband. This is a marvellous opportunity for our year five students to interact with students and spend time in a high school environment.

I am most grateful to St Agnes Principal, Mr Peter Brogan and his staff for their generosity in providing these opportunities for our students.

Letters were sent to each family regarding the booking of times for children’s Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI’s). As mentioned, the easiest way to do this is ‘online’ however should you experience difficulties with this process the St Aidan’s office staff will be able to assist. You would recall these interviews from earlier in 2015 and also the triad meeting held with parent/teacher/child to discuss your child’s numeracy difficulties with this process. A gentle reminder that the booking site will close on 4th December 2015. Parents of children receiving awards will be notified beforehand to enable them to be present at the assembly.

The annual K.L.A. awards for Excellence (years 1-5) will be presented at the morning assemblies on 14th and 15th December. Year six will receive their awards at Graduation Mass.

Next Sunday commences the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is generally a very busy time of year with many things coming to an end as well as planning gifts and special celebrations for Christmas. Perhaps during Advent we can ‘take stock’ of things and remember what the season is really about.

Thank you for your continued support as we come to the end of a very exciting and successful year.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

St Aidan’s Primary School
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St Aidan’s Church First Confession Program 2016

- Parent information evening Wednesday 17th February 2016 (7:30pm Mary MacKillop Hall)
- Registration 20th and 21st February 2016 (Mary MacKillop Hall after all the weekend Masses)
- Parent instruction evening Wednesday 24th February 2016 (7:30pm Mary MacKillop Hall)
- Children’s sessions Sunday mornings 8:30am Mary MacKillop Hall as follows:
  - 28th February; 6th March; 13th March; 20th March 2016
- Practice sessions Monday 21st March and Thursday 24th March 2016 at 7:30pm in the Church
- Sacrament administered Monday 4th April and Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7:30pm in the Church

All enquiries: St Aidan’s Church (02) 9625 8404.

Blacktown City Libraries Summer Reading Program 2015-2016

Summer school holidays are coming soon with plenty of time to relax, play—and read!

Following the huge success of last year’s Summer Reading Program (810 children reading 13,125 books), Blacktown City Libraries is running this year’s program “Everyone Reads” from Monday 23rd November to Friday 29th January 2016.

Each child participating must be a member of the library. It’s free to join the library. If you are aged 12 or under, you can be part of the fun. Register at any Blacktown City Libraries branch and you will be given a reading record to fill out. For every ten books you read, you will have your name displayed in the library on the hero Wall of Fame. Once you have read 10 books, you will be invited to attend a presentation ceremony in march 2016 to receive an official certificate and a giant lollipop as well as enter a lucky door prize competition.

For details visit www.libraries.blacktown.gov.au

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Together we are one

**SPIRITUAL REFLECTION**
The Coming of our Saviour

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent season. It is also
the beginning of a year long relationship with Jesus based on the

During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare
for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into our world through
the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ.

The liturgical colour of the season is purple.

Mrs Miray Khoury,
Religious Education Coordinator.

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**LITERACY MATTERS**
Writing at home.
- Have your child label things that he or she designs or
  makes.
- Compile a photo album or scrapbook with your child and
  have him or her write captions for the photos and pictures,
  or encourage your child to keep a diary of special events,
  e.g. a holiday diary.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

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**DIRECTOR’S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2015/2016**
The Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge has begun
for this year. Entries close 5th February 2016. The prize for the
most books read by the closing date is an iPad mini. Register online
for the challenge at: www.parra.catholic.edu.au

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**ENCOURAGING THE BEHAVIOUR YOU WANT IN YOUR CHILD**
Get down to your child’s level.
Kneeling or squatting down next to children is a very powerful tool
for communicating positively with them. Getting close allows you
to tune in to what they might be feeling or thinking. It also helps
them focus on what you are saying or asking for. If you are close to
your child and have their attention, there is no need to make the
child look at you.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

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**NUMERACY NEWS**
Infants, Middle and Upper Primary

Look for arrays around your world. Take photos or draw pictures
to share on the maths window.

We are looking forward to seeing your child’s hard thinking!

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

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

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**WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE TICKETS**
WYD raffle tickets were sent out to all families earlier this year.
Please send back the ticket stubs with the correct money as soon as
possible. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavour.

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**Hall of Fame**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS</th>
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**PARKING IN THE PARISH CAR PARK**
There have been a number of complaints regarding drivers blocking cars, double-parking
and blocking the driveway.

Drivers are requested to show care and concern for the safety of everyone.

The car park is for the parish so please park properly in the spaces provided. No blocking
cars, double-parking or blocking the driveway/father’s roller doors.

When exiting the car park please drive slowly and perhaps give a short ‘beep’ of your car
horn to alert pedestrians who may be crossing the driveway.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

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