Dear Parents,

Two weeks ago students from Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two took part in a half day of tabloid sports. The children thoroughly enjoyed the many activities and had a great time with their classmates. The benefit of this type of sporting activity is that children are actively participating for the entire time as opposed to sitting on the sideline watching others. Many parents came along to watch and cheer. This helped to create a very happy atmosphere amongst the community. Thanks again to the parents who assisted on the day. Their names were listed in the ‘hall of fame’ in the previous newsletter. Thank you to Mr Julius and Miss Quinlivan for facilitating the event and to all teachers for their support and enthusiasm.

Last Tuesday the final Kindergarten 2015 orientation was held. The parent meeting was very informative and well received by the parents. Congratulations to the thirteen students from year four who performed a violin recital lead by Mrs Bronwyn McColl. Congratulations also to our School Captain, Vanie Barcelon and Vice Captain, Anthony Gagliardi who addressed the parents and spoke clearly and sincerely about their seven years at St Aidan’s. I believe this cohort of Kindergarten children will ease smoothly into school life next year.

As has been mentioned many times to parents in newsletters during the year, the students at St Aidan’s are following the EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) program for learning numeracy. A significant part of this numeracy program is for each teacher to conduct a Mathematical interview with each child in their class at the beginning of the school year. Each interview takes approximately 30-40 minutes. These interviews are known as MAI’s or Mathematics Assessment Interviews. As you can imagine conducting interviews for each child in a class will take up to 20 hours. In order for teachers to have the time to hold these interviews and have them completed by the end of February we have decided to hold two of our staff development days at the beginning of 2015. Teachers will conduct interviews during the day on both these staff development days 27th and 28th January. There will be some interviews conducted during and after school time in the first weeks of school. Therefore, in 2015 school commences as follows:

- Thursday 29th January for Years one to six
- Monday 2nd February for Kindergarten

The idea is that parents will book an MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interview) for their child/children. Children will need to be brought to school at the designated time and collected approximately 40 minutes later.

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All interviews will be booked ‘online’ through a specific program. Parents who may have a problem booking their children’s interviews ‘online’ may do so at the school office. Teachers will allocate interview times for the 27th and 28th January and for the afternoons of other days in the first few weeks of term.

This process will operate on a first in first served basis. If you are quick to complete your bookings you should be able to book multiple interviews for your children either at the same time or close to the times. Each family will receive a ‘how to’ sheet next week. This will have the details of the website to use and instructions for booking interviews. The school app will alert you to any further details. It is hoped to have the app available in the week commencing 24th November.

As this is the first time we have booked interviews electronically there may be some tricky issues. I ask you to be patient and we will do our best to ensure things work out for each family.

Next Friday, 28th November is a Staff Development Day. There will be no classes for students on this day.

The next few weeks are extremely busy as we head towards the end of this school year. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Rickets
Principal.
REFLECTION
The St. Vincent de Paul Society is holding its annual Christmas Appeal. This organisation provides an admirable service, by caring for and assisting those less fortunate than ourselves in the St. Aidan’s community. Throughout the year, the St. Vincent de Paul Society assists people with food parcels; provisions of furniture; payment of bills and visits to the sick and lonely.

As part of the school’s Social Justice Program, the families of St. Aidan’s support St. Vincent de Paul each Christmas by donations of food and gifts.

You are invited to send your donations (no nut products please) to assist this worthy cause from Monday 24th November through to Thursday 4th December 2014. What better way to prepare for the coming of the Lord, than by sharing with those less fortunate than we are.

Thank you for your continued generosity. It will be appreciated by many.

Mrs. Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.
~

SCHOOL SPORT
Every student in the school participates in one hour of weekly sport with their grade. The Diocese of Parramatta offers a range of gala day sporting activities for schools in the primary grades.

Schools may nominate to enter the gala days if they wish. When our school is successful entering a team into the gala day competitions, students are informed that selection trials will take place. The selection trials are an opportunity to choose our best teams. The popular sports such as soccer and basketball are hotly contested. These gala days are hosted during school time. These gala days give our students a great opportunity to mix with other schools and students.

Mrs. Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal
~

LITERACY MATTERS
Children learn by example. If your child sees you reading and writing at home they too will want to do the same. Reading and writing need to be positive experiences. Read with and to your child and then talk about the book. The more you discuss the book with your child the better their understanding.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal
~

NUMERACY NEWS
The EMU program will continue to be implemented in 2015 with all students completing a Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) in the first few weeks of term one 2015.

This interview will be conducted by the homeroom teacher or support teacher. Students will complete a variety of mathematical tasks based around the Counting, Place Value, Addition and Subtraction; and Multiplication and Division domain.

The assessment will give the teacher insight into their understanding in each domain and their reasoning skills. From this assessment each student will be assigned a growth point for each domain.

Growth points will be used by the homeroom teacher or support teacher to develop lessons and activities to suit the needs of the students and will allow for easy monitoring of understanding throughout the year.

More information about the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) will be provided throughout the term.

In the next newsletter I will explore activities you can do with your child over the holidays to maintain and develop their mathematical understanding.

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

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher
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RESOURCE FEES NOW DUE FOR 2015
Resource fees of $135 per student are now due. If you have a kindergarten child starting at St Aidan’s next year please pay the remaining resource fees as this money is now due.

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SCHOOL TIMES FOR 2015
The school bell will be sounded at 8:40am each day. Recess will be from 10:45am to 11:15am. Lunchtime will be from 1:15pm to 1:55pm. School finishing bell will sound at 2:55pm. Please ensure that your children are at school before the bell rings at 8:40am.

~

Friday 28th November is a Staff Development Day—NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

| KC  | Shyla Cruise       | Mikayla Mostoles |
| KH  | Helen Piliae      | Terence Maglalang |
| 1C  | Harmony Lord-Romero | Zak Tanedo |
| 1T  | Patelesio Mali     | Alexis Makedonas |
| 2M  | Peter Warwick-Smith | Marcus Brewty |
| 2Q  | Ruby Jensson      | Lizelle Liwanag |
| 3B  | Gabriel Espino    | Amir Gum         |
| 3U  | Dominique Penarubia | Lance Regala |
| 4D  | Jaira-Lynn De Vera | Jdyn Espino      |
| 4M  | Ayvah Brillante Lareza | Arjae Quibuyen |
| 5P  | Jonas Capili      | Anthony Gloria   |
| 5W  | Gian Montecillo   | Sarisha Sant     |
| 6B  | Myron Torralba    | Johnathan Prince |
| 6C  | Masham Angara     | Rosa Jueco      |

KINDERGARTEN 2015 ORIENTATION PHOTOS