St Aidan’s Parish Church
Christmas Season dates and times

Wednesday 24th December
6:00pm Children’s Vigil Mass
11:00pm Christmas Carols

Thursday 25th December
12:00am Midnight Mass
7:30am; 9:00am and 10:30am Christmas Day Masses

Friday 26th December
9:15am Mass

Wednesday 31st December
9:15am and 7:00pm New Years Eve Mass

Dear Parents,

As this is the final newsletter for 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and enthusiasm during this very successful year.

I regularly speak to staff and colleagues alike about the tremendous interest and commitment of the St Aidan’s parents towards their children’s learning. This makes our job as educators so much more rewarding because together, parents and teachers work tirelessly for the good of the children at St Aidan’s.

As you are aware Mrs Murphy is leaving at the end of this year. Mrs Murphy has been the Religious Education Coordinator and a class teacher at St Aidan’s for the past thirteen years. During this time she has had a profound influence over the many children she has taught. Mrs Murphy has shared her deep Catholic Faith with all those with whom she has come in contact and she has been responsible for organising many meaningful liturgies for our community.

Her generous spirit and loving character will be sorely missed by each of us, however we wish her every success and happiness as she embraces a new chapter in her teaching life at St Patrick’s Blacktown.

Three other temporary teachers are also moving on at the end of this year.

Miss Roth and Mrs Davies have worked with us temporarily for the past two terms in Learning Support. Both these ladies were employed in place of Mrs Cutajar who is on maternity leave.

To Mrs Lloyd, Miss Roth and Mrs Davies I offer sincere thanks for the contributions they have made to the St Aidan’s community and wish them every happiness for the future.

The students in year six will celebrate their Graduation and Prize-giving at a special Mass on Monday 15th December. Whilst it is somewhat sad to farewell our students, we wish them every success and happiness as they embark upon the next stage of their learning journey.

We also farewell a number of families who will be leaving St Aidan’s. Some of these families have enjoyed a very long association with our school community and on your behalf I thank them for their support, involvement and interest in our school. I hope they will always feel an important part of the St Aidan’s community.

The response to the Mathematics interviews (MAI) has been quite positive. Parents are reminded that they have till the Friday 12th December to book interviews for their children. These interviews are for the grades children will be in next year 2015.

A number of children have been given ‘holiday learning packs’ so as to maintain their level of learning during the long break. All parents are encouraged to ensure that children read and write during the holidays. Please use the local libraries for access to excellent books.

Further in the newsletter there is an inclusion about the Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge. This is a great opportunity for the children to get involved and at the same time enhance their reading skills. Hopefully one of the St Aidan’s students will win a prize this summer.

School closes for the summer holidays on Wednesday 17th December. All families are invited to join us for the Mass of Thanksgiving at 9:15am. At the conclusion of Mass there will be a presentation to Mrs Murphy on the occasion of her leaving St Aidan’s. School resumes as follows:

- Staff Tues 27th & Wed 28th January 2015. Maths Assessment Interviews
- Students in years 1-6 Thursday 29th January 2015 8:40am-2:55pm
- Kindergarten students Monday 2nd February 2015 (all day) 8:40am-2:55pm

Once again, thank you for your support this year as together we worked towards ensuring the best possible education was provided for your children.

On behalf of the St Aidan’s staff I wish each of you a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.
REFLECTION

Last Friday the staff of St Aidan’s School worked with Sr. Leone of the Ursuline Order, on deepening their knowledge of Mary as an ordinary Jewish girl and mother.

Staff reflected on Mary as a teenager, friend, sibling, Jewish peasant, betrothed and unwed, teenage mother. Sr. Leone led staff to see Mary through new eyes.

Like all mothers, Mary was a wife, neighbour, cook, nurse, homemaker, hostess, teacher, gardener and peacemaker. She, like mothers everywhere went to the market, collected water from the well, chatted with women about her family; washed clothes, fixed bleeding knees, led the family in prayer and was a woman of great faith. Sr. Leone wrote: “Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Lk:2:20.

“In all these roles and daily tasks,” Sr. Leone said, “Mary pondered all that had been told to her at the birth of Jesus and the unfulfilling of her own life as His mother.”

Through art, music and poetry, Sr. Leone revealed to the staff how human Mary really was and is for all today. As a mother, she would have been concerned for her son’s happiness, safety and general well-being. While all mothers share these concerns, most would not have faced the additional challenge and strength needed, to be the mother of Christ. As Advent begins, let Mary be more present as a human example, to aspire to follow.

Mrs. Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

LITERACY MATTERS

The holiday time is perfect for taking your child to experience different things. Such experiences might include: a visit to the museum, to the park or to see extended family.

Whatever experiences they have, discuss it with them. Your child could write about the experiences. Practice of reading and writing during the holidays will help maintain skills ready for the new school year.

NUMERACY NEWS

This week I will explore apps and websites you can use with your child over the holidays to maintain and develop mathematical understanding.

♦ Number Rack App (Free)

This is a mini bead kebab app (10 beads) with the option of having 10 kebabs on the screen at one time (100 beads). You can use this app to represent numbers to 100, number bust numbers to 100 or cover sections of beads and question your child about how many beads are covered.

http://www.primarygames.co.uk/pg2/splat/splatsq100.html

♦ Splat Square

Splat Square is an interactive 1-100 number chart which allows children to explore number patterns and multiplication facts.

♦ Tens Frame Snap (Free)

An interactive game of snap which develops friends of ten concepts—Numbers which add together to make 10. This can be played as a one or two player game.

Holidays are a great opportunity for you to interact with your child and share a love for Mathematics. It is important to continue to challenge your child to think differently and encourage them to explain their thinking.

What Mathematics will you notice, discuss and explore over the holidays?

Mrs Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

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.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Mikayla Mostoles KC and her family on the birth of a baby boy, Brayden.

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.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KC</th>
<th>Madison Agudera</th>
<th>John Nau</th>
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<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>Mikayla Mantua</td>
<td>Leanne Miranda</td>
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<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Simon Amor</td>
<td>Jenny Decena</td>
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<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Anikka Cabalo</td>
<td>Agol Gum</td>
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<td>2M</td>
<td>Joseph Manaia</td>
<td>Jimmy Johnson</td>
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<td>2Q</td>
<td>Tricia Pandes</td>
<td>Enrico Villanueva</td>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>Katherin Maroki</td>
<td>Michael Piliae</td>
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<td>3U</td>
<td>Shon Rae</td>
<td>Louise Sult</td>
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<td>4D</td>
<td>Uriel Allarey</td>
<td>Simon Isa</td>
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<td>4M</td>
<td>Elyza Lagare</td>
<td>Rodney Patterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5P</td>
<td>Alexi Bonete</td>
<td>Kobo Maieriki</td>
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<td>5W</td>
<td>Mikko Martin</td>
<td>Steven Payuran</td>
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<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Anthony Gagliardi</td>
<td>Bethennie Llagas</td>
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<tr>
<td>6C</td>
<td>Lindsay Gungab</td>
<td>Jethro Vicedas</td>
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Key Learning Area (KLA) Awards for Excellence will be presented to students in kindergarten to year five at 8:45am on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December as follows:

Monday 15th December  
Religious Education: Sport
Mathematics: Consistent Effort
English: Robotics
HSIE: Radio Committee
Science & Technology: School Spirit
PDHPE: Principal’s Award
Creative Arts

*Parents and friends are welcome to attend these assemblies and are asked to sit in the designated area for visitors.

Thank you to the following 2014 classroom parent helpers. Students and staff are very appreciative of your valuable assistance.

Mrs Manaog; Mrs Nau; Mrs Derjani; Mrs Bell; Mrs Gatmaitan; Mrs Pabroa; Mrs Plaatjes, Mrs Fegradoe; Mrs Torralba; Mrs Ereira; Mrs Abicic; Mrs El-Ghossein; Mrs Rodriguez; Mrs Norton; and Mrs Ayoob.

KLA AWARDS 2014

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Mrs Manaog; Mrs Nau; Mrs Derjani; Mrs Bell; Mrs Gatmaitan; Mrs Pabroa; Mrs Plaatjes, Mrs Fegradoe; Mrs Torralba; Mrs Ereira; Mrs Abicic; Mrs El-Ghossein; Mrs Rodriguez; Mrs Norton; and Mrs Ayoob.

St Aidan’s Staff and Students wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Elyza Lagare  
Bartheinne Llagas

Mikayla Mostoles KC and her family on the birth of a baby boy, Brayden.

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