CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Next week we celebrate CSW at St Aidan’s. Other schools in NSW/ACT celebrated it this week…. We will next week!

Did you know??
Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of Australian school students. There are 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in a faith-centred environment.

Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools. Expectations of achievement and conduct are high.

NEXT FRIDAY, MARCH 10
Open classrooms from 8:30-9:15am. Why not visit us and check your child’s learning spaces….Year 5 students would also love you to visit their museum.
It is a great opportunity to gain insights into the wonderful learning that is happening at St Aidan’s.
Numeracy Goals

Next week students will bring home their numeracy goals. These goals are based on their results during the Mathematics Assessment Interviews.

This year students have four goals covering the four domains of the interview (counting, place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division).

Each goal is broken down into a simple 'I can' statement and should give you insight into what your child is working on at school and what you can do at home to support them. As your child achieves each goal they will move onto the next 'I can' statement.

In the next newsletter I will explore the counting domain of the MAI and provide practical ideas on how you can support your child at home.

Prudence Lance
Why isn’t my Teacher in Class Today?

It is a question that comes up occasionally! We sometimes have a number of teacher commitments that take us from the classroom but certainly.....the learning doesn’t stop!

At times we have MAI (Maths) assessments and other standardised assessments, such as the Early Years Assessment for Kinders, Yrs 1 & 2.... Teachers are still on site but working 1:1 with your children.

Teachers might also be released as a grade team for planning their learning programs and for Professional Learning.

Also, teachers might be coaching or supervising sporting teams off site- we are involved in a number of sporting activities: athletics/ cross country/ netball/ basketball/ soccer carnivals and competitions.

Some teachers are also released from class regularly because of their roles as Leaders of Learning in Literacy/ Numeracy or for their leadership roles involving WHS or compliance requirements, for example.
We have a number of staff involved in diocesan learning projects including: Problem Based Learning (PBL), Critical Reading and Multiplicative Thinking (with CEO and Monash University). It involves occasional days or parts of days off site with Professional Learning.

Of course there are the usual entitlements that every worker gets such as sick leave, carers leave, Long Service Leave (LSL) that might necessitate a casual teacher taking your child’s class.

With any prolonged absence from class (eg LSL or illness), we always try to get the same person to take the students each day so as to maintain stability and continuity. The new person always knows what to teach because of the school structures and the discussions that occur with other team teachers from the grade.

So when your little one comes home and says, “My teacher wasn’t in class today”, you might understand why....
Literacy News

Helping Your Child with Spelling:
Children can find writing a real challenge. They need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts.

You can best support your child by:
• **encouraging** them to write on every possible occasion, praising their efforts and, importantly, letting them see you writing whenever possible; • **playing** word games with them, for example, I spy, Scrabble, Boggle and Find the Word puzzles; • **pointing** to interesting or new words as you read to your child (without interrupting the flow of the story); • **composing** emails together.

Keep up the great reading at home!
Remember to make all reading experiences enjoyable.

It is important to encourage your child to use a variety of reading strategies. It is also essential that you discuss what your child has read.

Ask some comprehension questions about the story or discuss your child’s favourite part of the story. **Remember, reading without meaning is not reading!**
ST Aidan’s Primary School
Sacramental Program

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Sacrament of Penance, also referred to as ‘Reconciliation’, is the Sacrament of healing and is the second Sacrament for those baptised within the Catholic Church. The School Reconciliation Workshops will take place on Thursday 2nd March at 3:30pm until 4:15pm. Mrs Miray Khoury, the Religious Education Coordinator supported by the staff of the school, will facilitate the Reconciliation Workshops to be held in the Year 6 classrooms. The Workshops will run for 45 minutes and involve you and your child talking and working together to learn more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your family, in Scripture and in the Church. Students preparing for the Sacrament, along with at least one of their parents, need to attend all of the workshops.

Dates for the School Reconciliation Workshops
The Sacramental workshops for Reconciliation will be held at St Aidan’s Primary School in the Year 6 classrooms:
Thursday 2nd March @ 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm
Thursday 9th March @ 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm
Thursday 16th March @ 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm
Thursday 23rd March @ 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

What is the Sacramental Programme about?

• The Sacramental Program is about the School and Parish supporting you in preparing your child/children for receiving the gifts and graces of the Sacraments as they journey through their Christian life.

• As members of the community of Saint Aidan’s Primary School, Rooty Hill we are all called to support and assist each other with developing our faith. We all have gifts and talents, which enrich this special time of preparation for our children. The preparation touches us too as we reflect and look at Christ’s teachings in different ways and from a different perspective, through the lens of our children.

• Parents and carers are not expected to ‘know it all’ and as lifelong learners we are at different stages in understanding our faith. The Sacramental Programme gives families a chance to share, reflect, listen, learn, interact with others, be enriched, and develop a greater understanding about ourselves and the presence of God in our lives while being supported by others.

On behalf of the entire staff, we welcome you and your child to our sacramental program.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator
DATES COMING UP

3/3
TOMORROW - Friday 3rd March - Staff Professional Learning day.
NO school for students. Sorry for any inconvenience to families.

Also keep Mon April 24th free since we will also use this day between the holiday break and ANZAC day as a staff PL day. School will resume Term 2 on Wed April 26th

6/3
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK @ St Aidan’s

8/3
Mass- Kinder RED and Yr 6 RED 9:15am
Parent Forum Committee meeting 7pm in the meeting room

9/3
Mass- Kinder BLUE and Yr 6 BLUE 9:15am

10/3
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SHOWCASE
OPEN CLASSES 8:20 AM to 9:15am.
This enables some parents to visit classes and quickly get off to work.

The students have been doing some great work this term and it will be an opportunity for them to have an audience.

Why not visit a number of learning spaces? Stage 3 have a “Living Museum” and each grade has some special presentations ready.
PARENT FORUM COMMITTEE
2017

Our next meeting for the group is on Wed, March 8th in the meeting room (Breakfast Club room) starting at 7:00pm.

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School Photos are Friday March 17th

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KINDER ENROLMENTS FOR 2018

We are now starting the process of enrolling for Kinder 2018. Interviews will begin later in the term with various parent meetings coming up in terms 3 & 4. Amazing how fast it comes around eh??

Please call in at the office and pick up an enrolment form or tell your family and friends.

BUS STRIKE TUESDAY 7th MARCH

We have been notified that a bus strike for buses in western and south-western Sydney is planned for next Tuesday 7 March.

The strike will take effect from 7.00am-9.00am in the morning and from 2.00pm-4.00pm in the afternoon.

Please make alternative transport arrangement for your children if they do catch the bus to and from school. A reminder will also go onto the Skoolbag App on Monday afternoon.
Attendance is a major focus for St Aidan’s this year.

**EVERY LEARNER, EVERY DAY** and is our school slogan for 2017. It is our combined responsibility to have our children at school every day and on time.

Student attendance level:

- **Week 2** attendance level is 77.8%
- **Week 3** attendance level is 75.9%
- **Week 4** attendance level is 84.2%
- **Week 5** attendance level is 80%
- **Week 6** attendance level is 79.4%

**Attendance level target for all Diocesan schools is 90%**

Our school needs your help to improve this level. Please remember to plan holidays in the school holidays not during the school term. Incentives for 100% attendance are now in place. Students have received an attendance sheet that is stamped each week if they have been at school. The children receive a sticker if they have been at school. The children receive a sticker if they have been at school with 100% attendance after five weeks and a certificate at the end of the term for 100% attendance.

**COME ON ST AIDAN’S WE CAN GET TO THAT GOAL OF 90%!!**
LEARNING AT ST AIDAN’S- What does it look like in the classroom?

Reading aloud to students

Our learning intentions and Success criteria
LEARNING AT ST AIDAN’S- What does it look like in the classroom?

Modelled and shared Writing

Guided writing session
Last Friday, we had the St Aidan’s Cross Country Carnival. It was a successful day and everyone had lots of fun.

A number of students were selected for the cross country training team. Starting in Week 7, these students will be training once a week during lunch time. Later in the term, I will announce the names of the students who will represent St Aidan’s at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival.

Thank you to all the parents who came to support their children. A big thank you to Mrs Brown, Miss Dellenty, Mrs Cutajar, Mrs Warwick-Smith, Mr and Mrs Schofield, Mrs Bell, Mrs Derjani, Mrs Gorgise and Mrs Skarski who helped me on the day. The day wouldn’t have been the same without you!

*Miss Jessica Chetcuti*
James Schofield (3 Red) and Catherine Schofield (6 Red) attended the Regional Athletics Competition, competing for the Mount Druitt Little Athletics Club. James competed in shot put and discus, qualifying for state level in both events. Catherine competed in discus and walking, placing third in both events. She qualified for state level for walking. Congratulations!

If your child has any sports news they would like to share please email me: jchecuti2@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Thanks,
Miss Jessica Chetcuti
SCHOOL FEES 2017

School fees have now been sent home to all families. Term one fees are due by 6th March.

If you have taken up the CEO's flexible payment plan BPay Option, please notify Mrs Wakeling on (02) 9625-3181.

Meal Deal $5.00

Deal 1
- Pick & Mix Box
- Bottle of Water

Deal 2
- Sausage Roll
- Flavoured Milk
- Zooper Dooper

Available from Monday 20th February – Friday 10th March

St Agnes Catholic High School
ROOTY HILL
Information Evening 2017

Monday, 6 March 2017

School Tours 6.00– 6.45pm & 7.15 – 8.00pm
Principal’s Address & Information Session 6.45pm – 7.15pm

Enrolments close: 31 May 2017

Evans Road, Rooty Hill, NSW, 2766. Ph: 8882 0700 www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au
SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE
International Convention Centre, Sydney
15 – 27 APR 2017

Free tickets are now available to Australia’s largest and most complex travelling exhibition, the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience.

The Award Winning, interactive exhibition displays over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, which tell the story of our nation’s involvement in the First World War.

You can watch a preview of the exhibition here.

Free Children’s Activities

As the Sydney Experience falls predominately during the Easter school holidays, we will also be hosting some fun and educational activities, in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, from Monday 17 to Friday 21 April 2017.

Various sessions will take place throughout these dates. Whether you are a vacation care group or family, you will be able to tour the exhibition, participate in craft sessions, explore artefacts and learn more about service men and women from the First World War.

It really is a once-in-a-lifetime, not to be missed experience.

If you don’t want to attend a holiday activity but just want tickets for the exhibition, visit: www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets
(You will then be notified by email when bookings to these activities are live)