Dear Parents,

Thank you to the parents, especially the fathers who joined us for the Father’s Day Mass and morning tea last week. It was great that so many ‘dads’ were able to make time to come along and allow the children to spoil them. The Mass was beautiful and involved students, staff and parents as we prayed together for fathers everywhere. Year five students provided a delicious morning tea that was enjoyed by all. Thank you children. Your culinary skills are second to none.

The results of the recent Spellathon were $13,793. As there is some money outstanding, a final figure and prize winners will be included in the next newsletter. A huge ‘thank you’ to those families and friends who supported this fundraiser. The money raised will be used to update reading books for the children.

Last week we hosted a visiting Principal from New Zealand. It gave me much pleasure to showcase our school and the excellent learning and teaching that is happening.

Students in years three, four, five and six enjoyed a visit from the Milo Cricket Association who spent time with each grade teaching bat and ball handling skills. This was yet another fun learning experience for the students. Thank you to Mr Julius for organising this for our school.

Thank you to Mrs Abicic who once again organised the ‘father’s day’ stall for the students. I am most grateful to her and her willing helpers Mrs Bell, Mrs Tollesen and Mrs Khan who assisted with the selling on the day. A total of $1,063 was raised towards school resources.

Congratulations to the students who received their First Holy Communion last Sunday. They all looked beautiful and I am sure they will remember this wonderful event in their lives for many to come (see the Hall of Fame).

Well done to the girls who represented St Aidan’s at the stage three netball gala day on Wednesday. I know you had a great day and played very well. Thank you to Miss Hall for giving up her lunch times to train the girls.

The resource fee for each student in 2016 will be $142.00. This amount, as well as excursion costs for 2016 will appear on your first 2016 school fees statement.

During the past few weeks I have spoken to the students in years four, five and six about the inappropriate use of technology. Last week each family received a handout entitled ‘Cyber safety. Top ten tips for youth’. The school also posted an alert on the school app encouraging parents to supervise their children during online activities. Further information was sent home to parents this week with tips for keeping children safe online. Some sites that might prove helpful to parents and students are:

https://seasafety.gov.au
www.reachout.com.au
www.bullyingnoway.com.au
www.youthbeyondblue.com

These issues of cyber safety are very important to each of us. In recent weeks some parents have told me they don’t understand technology especially social media. As children are becoming more and more technologically savvy it is absolutely imperative that adults are familiar with what their children are accessing online and keep a vigilant eye on their children’s cyber behaviour. This will help prevent children from harm.

An invitation was sent to all parents inviting them to attend the numeracy block for each grade between 12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesday 15th September. Students and teachers welcome the opportunity for parents to join with their children to explore some numeracy challenges and share in the learning. I look forward to seeing many of you at work during this numeracy challenge.

As this is the final newsletter for term three, I wish each of you a relaxing break.

School reopens for students on Wednesday 7th October. Children are expected to wear their summer uniform to commence term four.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

POST SEPARATION RECOVERY PROGRAM
CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post-Separation Recovery Program which has proven to be an excellent Program that guides and supports those whose marriage or long-term partnership has ended.

Commencing: Wednesday 21st October from 7.30pm - 9.45pm. Venue: DAC, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown.

For further information and registration, contact Eileen or Rita on 9933 0205 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

C.A.R.E.S. (Community & Road Education Scheme)
Auto Place x Peter Brock Drive, Prospect

Open Day—Wednesday 23rd September 2015 from 10:00am until 2:00pm.
Bike week is from September 12th-20th so come along to ride in a safe environment with real traffic lights. Bring your own bike and helmet.
There will be face painting and activities.
Parking is on site and free. Bring a picnic. Sausage sizzle, lollies and drinks on site.
Adult supervision is required.
Enquiries: caresprospect@police.nsw.gov.au

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11th September 2015
Together we are one

SPRITUAL REFLECTION
Last Sunday our St Aidan’s students received Christ in the Eucharist. It was beautiful to see the strong community spirit that is truly alive at St Aidan’s. Congratulations to all the children and their parents. I hope this is the beginning of a lifelong journey for your children as they get to know Jesus in this way and experience his comforting support in their lives.

Jesus said, “I am the living bread, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

May all of us in the school community be reminded of and appreciate the gift of the Eucharist—the presence of Jesus among us.

Mrs Marva Khoury, Religious Education Coordinator.

LITERACY MATTERS
Ways to help children with writing:
- Provide a suitable place for children to write
- Ensure they are writing on a flat surface with good lighting
- When choosing gifts for your children the following may be helpful
  - Pens of several kinds
  - A desk lamp
  - Pencils appropriate for size and hardness
  - A desk lamp
  - Pads of paper
  - Stationery
  - Envelopes, even stamps
  - A booklet for a diary or daily journal
  - An appropriate dictionary considering age and needs.

Mrs Christine Leahy, Assistant Principal.

NUMERACY NEWS
Next week St Aidan’s will be celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy week by inviting parents and carers to visit our classrooms and take part in a Mathematics lesson.

This is a perfect opportunity for your child to show you their hard mathematical thinking!

The aim of the week is to raise community awareness about the importance of literacy and numeracy for all students. Research suggests that positive parent engagement and involvement promotes improved literacy and numeracy learning and student outcomes.

What challenges can you explore with your child to celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy week?
- What is the largest/smallest number you can find in your house?
- Take photos of where you see arrays in your world.
- Encourage your child to help you with the cooking (measuring and weighing ingredients).
- Plan a family day trip considering timetables for trains or ferries, price of tickets or petrol, cost of food etc.

By engaging in these challenges with your child, it will further foster their love for learning mathematics. For more information visit the National Literacy and Numeracy week website: www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au

In the next newsletter I will continue to explore activities you can do at home to support numeracy development.

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

Miss Prudence Hall, Lead Numeracy Teacher.

WAYS TO HELP PARENTS WITH ANGRY CHILDREN
- Repeat the instructions
- Call the child’s first name
- Inquire about the child’s anger
- Use a calm tone
- Be consistent with boundaries and consequences
- Respect the child’s personal space
- Postpone the discussion

Mrs Christine Leahy, Assistant Principal.

SCHOOL FEES FOR TERM THREE
Just a reminder that school fees are now overdue.

If you are having financial difficulties please phone Mrs Wakeling on (02) 9625 3181.

WOOLWORTHS ‘EARN & LEARN’ URGENT! PLEASE SEND ALL STICKERS TO SCHOOL BY MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER!

TERM THREE EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

| KB | Malalika Capili |
| 1C | Joel Habite |
| 1M | James Gatmaitan |
| 2D | Kynan McPherson |
| 2U | Raylene D’Cruz |
| 3B | Aecy Dimapilis |
| 3Q | Nicholas Limpiado |
| 4D | Sarah Batula |
| 4K | Jaira-Lynn De Vera |
| 5P | Kayla Montenegro |
| 6B | Kaira Francisco |

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

TERMINAL NETBALL TEAM

Tuesday 15th September Numeracy challenge. Parents invited 12:00-1:00pm
Wednesday 16th September 12:45pm kindergarten assembly
Friday 18th September 2:55pm term three concludes

DATES FOR TERM THREE

| Monday 5th October | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |
| Tuesday 6th October | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—NO CLASSES |
| Wednesday 7th October | 8:40am Term four commences for students |
| Friday 16th October | School Disco K-6 4:30-7:00pm (details to follow) |

*STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM FOUR ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2015*