Dear Parents,

The last few weeks have been extremely busy with some excellent learning both formally and informally. NAPLAN results were sent to the parents of students in years three and five. I was very pleased with the results overall and believe they are a reflection of the excellent work that teachers, parents and students are doing together. Should parents wish to discuss their children’s results they are encouraged to come and speak to the teachers concerned.

Last week St Aidan’s celebrated ‘Book Week’ with a very colourful book parade and the annual Book Fair. The children came dressed as a variety of characters and enjoyed the event immensely. A large number of parents and grandparents came along and joined in the fun. Thank you parents for going to so much trouble to ensure your children were able to ‘dress up’ as their favourite book character. A large number of parents and visitors came along to the Book Fair and purchased from the large range of good literature on sale. Due to your purchases the school received $1,150 worth of books for the school library.

Book Week was organised by our teacher-librarian Ms Carlo-Stella who once again did a fantastic job of organising the activities for the children. Thank you Ms Carlo-Stella and all members of staff for providing the students with a memorable ‘Book Week 2015’.

As you were informed in the previous newsletter two of our year six students competed in the cluster final of the Parramatta Diocese ‘Voice of Youth’ competition on 20th August. I was extremely proud of both speakers Christine Abi Chercomi and Marta Abic. Christina’s speech addressed the issue of ‘homelessness’ and Marta spoke very convincingly about the recent SBS documentary ‘Struggle Street’. Congratulations to Christina who was awarded the ‘Social Justice’ prize for her heart-warming speech. It made a huge impression on the judges and each person in the audience. Well done Christina.

The students in years four, five and six enjoyed their trip to the theatre to see ‘The 26-story Treehouse’. This was a great opportunity for the children as for most of them it was their first experience of ‘live’ theatre.

Kindergarten, year one and year two students enjoyed their tabloid sports day last Friday and I am sure they slept well after an eventful week. It was great to see so many parents in attendance.

Next Wednesday we celebrate Father’s Day. All fathers are invited to join us for Mass and morning tea afterwards. I hope that many ‘dads’ will be able to take some time from work to come along.

Mrs Sarah Hunt who has been employed temporarily this year will be leaving St Aidan’s as she awaits the birth of her first child. On behalf of all the staff here at St Aidan’s I wish her all the best for this next chapter in her life and thank her sincerely for the tremendous contribution she has made to our school.

I wish all families a happy feast day. Next Monday 31st August is the feast of St Aidan, patron saint of our school/parish.

Happy Father’s Day to all fathers of the St Aidan’s community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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Dr Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.
Together we are one

THE 26-STOREY TREEHOUSE

On Wednesday 19th of August, students and teachers from years four, five and six watched a live performance at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. The play was based on a book called, “The 26-Storey Treehouse” by Andy Griffiths, a comical tale about friendship and adventure. It was not even necessary to mention ice-skating penguins, flying cats and an ice-cream parlour run by Edward Scoopenghards.

We were lucky enough to attend this play as a treat from our school to celebrate the Feast Day of St Aidan. Our teachers read the story to us in preparation for the show, and it was exciting to see the words on the page come to life with stage scenes, props and live actors.

We really enjoyed how the story was adapted to suit a live performance. The actors used movement, expression and props effectively to create the illusion that they were performing underwater surgery on a shark! Many of us were curious as to how they were going to execute this particular scene, as it was one of our favourite moments from the book.

Thank you Dr. Ricketts and St Aidan’s. We wish you all a unique and exciting opportunity to experience literature in motion.

Year four students.

NUMERACY NEWS

In the last newsletter I looked at the use of the number line to teach place value. When understanding where numbers fit on the number line it is important to consider the number that is 1 more, 10 less, 100 more, 1000 less etc.

In the early years of schooling students are exposed to this concept and are expected to know the number 1 more, 1 less, 10 more and 10 less from any given number. As students progress through their schooling they would consider what is 100 more, 100 less, 1000 more, 1000 less from any given number. For example what is the number 10 less than 487? You can assist your child at home by asking these questions.

- What if I gave you 10 more lollies how many would you have now?
- What if I took 1 toy away how many would you have now?
- What is 1/100/1000 more/less than …?

Ask your child these questions below. Can they answer these questions correctly?
- What is 1 more than 22?
- What is 10 more than 67?
- What is 100 less than 987?
- What is 10 more than 5 982?
- What is 1000 more than 56 739?

To extend your child you could ask them to place the numbers on an empty number line and encourage them to explain their thinking.

In the next newsletter I will share some challenges you could explore at home with your child to celebrate National Numeracy and Literacy week.

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

Mrs Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

LAST WEEK WAS NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

At St Aidan’s, each grade participated in exciting scientific experiments about a range of topics. Kindergarten made alien underpants with materials that blocked light. Year one created different shadows with their bodies by blocking the light of the sun. Year Two observed how substances change when mixed together. Year Three designed and made buildings using only natural resources. Year Four experimented with energy, observing how flowers react to different environments. Year Five learnt about different chemical reactions. Year Six performed a number of scientific experiments that involved changing matter. All agreed that St Aidan’s should celebrate Science Week each year.

Miss Jessica Chetcuti
Assistant Principal.

LITERACY MATTERS

Preparing children to write at home

Talk through their ideas with them, help them discover what they want to write.

- When they ask for help with spelling, punctuation, and usage, supply tools to write.
- The most effective role is not as a critic but as a helper.
- Rejoice in effort, delight in ideas, and offer sound advice that will challenge their learning.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

THINKING OF OTHERS

Katherine Mariah’s Grandfather recently passed away. Helen, Leduna and Michael Pilai’s Grandfather recently passed away.

WOOLWORTHS ‘EARN & LEARN’

Please send all Woolworths cards and stickers back to school by Friday 11th September.

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. Thank you.

DATES FOR TERM THREE 2015

Mon 31st Aug-Fri 4th Sept National Literacy and Numeracy Week

Wednesday 2nd September 9:15am Father’s Day/St Aidan’s Feast Mass & morning tea

Friday 4th September Father’s Day stall

Sunday 6th September First Holy Communion for participating candidates

Tuesday 8th September Meal Deal – Turning Japanese

Wednesday 9th September Stage III Netball Gala Day

Tuesday 15th September Numeracy challenge, Parents invited 11:30am-1:15pm

Wednesday 16th September 12:45pm kindergarten assembly

Friday 18th September 2:55pm term three concludes

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS 2015

KAJICTE

KB Brayden Belleza Malera Marone KH Anel Mgood Brigitte White

IC Jerome Gorgise Abigail Yao LM Lilith Attanayake Abhygale Batula

2D Jaiden Bartley Alexis Makedonas EP Peteleos Mafi Kiara Sansano

3B Amaree Gorgise Elisha Matta SQ Connor Lennon Ezeckiel Villanueva

4D Sarah Batula Haleluf Guafour 4K Dora Abicic Gabriella Lapas

5P Elyza Lagare Triorian Payuran 5W Liam Gumgar Fiona Vicedas

6B Zeki Capilli Prince Martin Gonzales 6C Prince Marto II Gonzales Jordan Schenber-Judd

CHARACTER BOOK PARADE WINNERS 2015

KB Jacek Button Ava Bazina Ryan Ereita KH Danika Robinson Jeremiah Atienza

IC Jerome Gorgise Benjamin Alcantara LM Laila Sanchez Markartie Derjani

2U Kiara Fragomeli Matthew Ereita Katrina Knerevic 2D Eric Merik Breindel Capili

3Q Jonathan Michael Marcus Brevetti Jordana Jacobs 3B Amiree Gorgise Agazo Fragomeli

4D Montana Sarc Jemaine Darjani 4K Nobby Akula Jon Timbol

Stage III individual Alyzza Manalo Jeremiah Warwick-smith Stage III group

The very hungry caterpillar

STAGE THREE NETBALL GALA DAY TEAM 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015

St Aidan’s Students and Staff wish all ‘Dads’ a Happy Father’s Day for 6th September

St Aidan’s Students and Staff