BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED

CCCSS Solo Parent Ministry is commencing two Bereavement Support Programs within the next few weeks. Seasons for Growth is a five week Program that commences on 19th Feb at Glenbrook, between 10.30 and 12.30.

If we do not have a required number for this Program we will postpone it for a couple of weeks.

The other Program is an 8 Session Bereavement Support Program that runs every fortnight at Blacktown between 10.00 and 12.00 and commences on 4th March (This was postponed due to lack of numbers on 4th Feb).

Both of these Programs provide education and personal support within a small group setting, assisting those who grieve the death of their spouse to better understand the process of grief and to be supported in moving forward gently but assuredly in the midst of deep pain and loss. See Flyers on Notice Board. For further details and registration for both of these Programs contact Eileen or Rita on 9933 0205 or soloparentministry@ccss.org.au

DATES FOR TERM ONE 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th February</td>
<td>9:15am Opening School Mass and Induction of School Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st February</td>
<td>Blacktown zone swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 24th Feb to Thursday 27th Feb</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th February</td>
<td>Diocesan swimming carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday 11:30am Years 3-6 Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday 9th-Saturday 15th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th March</td>
<td>2:00-2:40pm—Open classrooms for Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th March</td>
<td>9:15am Year one lead Infants Mass</td>
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<td>Tuesday 25th March</td>
<td>• Feast of the Annunciation</td>
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<td>• Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala</td>
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<td>Tues 1st and Wed 2nd April</td>
<td>School photographs (taken over two days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd April</td>
<td>9:15am Year 3 lead Primary Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th April</td>
<td>2:55pm term one concludes</td>
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My heart almost sinks at some things, or rather it would sink but for the firm conviction that God’s words can never fail.

St Mary MacKillop (28/6/1874)

Dear Parents,

Last Monday I wrote to each family about road safety, particularly when dropping off and picking up children each day. Thank you to the parents who have taken this issue seriously and continue to park and drive carefully around the school.

There has been a big improvement at the end of each day, however mornings continue to present a challenge as parents rush to let children out of cars and often park across the crossing.

Once again I urge you to take care. Leave home earlier to avoid the build-up of traffic on the bridge which in turn causes you to be late.

The last thing any of us wants is to see one of the St Aidan’s children hurt due to careless driving.

The 2014 ‘Opening School Mass’ is being celebrated next Monday 17th February at 9.15am. All parents and friends are invited to join the school community in asking God’s blessing on this school year. At the conclusion of Mass the School Leaders and Sports leaders will be inducted and presented with their badges of office.

As you are aware ‘meet the teacher’ interviews have been organised for the week 24th-28th February. All parents are encouraged to come along at the specified times to meet teachers and have some initial conversation about students. Interviews for Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two parents will be held in the Kindergarten learning space while interviews for Years Three, Four, Five and Six will take place in the school library.

It would be appreciated if parents could be on time for interviews in order to accommodate all parents in the times provided.

There have been some changes in the student’s library borrowing times. A list of all library times can be found further in this newsletter.

Thank you to the parents who have offered their time as parent helpers in the classrooms for this year. It is planned to commence the program within the next two weeks.

Finally on your behalf I welcome Miss Christine Dellenty to St Aidan’s. Miss Dellenty will be teaching in Year Four. Sincere thanks to Mrs Ranin Ghazal who generously returned to teach Year Four until a replacement was found.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Opening School Mass on Monday morning 17th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.
**LITERACY MATTERS**
At St Aidan’s, the teachers follow the Parramatta Diocesan Focus 160 approach in the teaching of literacy. Children learn best when:
- Literacy is the integral learning point of the whole child
- Literacy is core to students’ learning
- Literacy provides a structure for other areas of learning

Mrs. Christine Leahy
Lead Literacy Teacher.

**NUMERACY NEWS**
This year St Aidan’s will be implementing the EMU mathematics project.

EMU (Extending Mathematical Thinking) is an initiative established by the Parramatta Catholic Education Office in partnership with Dr. Ann Gervasoni of ACU Ballarat.

Forty-Nine Schools in the Parramatta diocese were part of this project in 2013, with another twelve primary schools joining in 2014. The aim of this project is to empower students to become more numerate in today’s world, by encouraging them to explain their mathematical thinking and reflect on their learning.

As part of this project the numeracy block for all year levels will be sixty minutes each day and will include a number warm up, an open-ended rich learning task and reflection time.

More information about the EMU project and the numeracy block will be explained in future newsletters.

Miss Prudence Hall
Lead Numeracy Teacher.

**ROAD SAFETY POLICY**
Safety of students as they travel to and from school each day is important. It is expected that parents/carers, grandparents and family members will support the school through role modelling safe road use behaviours.

These include:
- Using designated footpaths or walking in areas away from the road
- Holding the student’s hand (for those up to 8 years of age) and actively supervising all students as they walk to and from school
- Teaching students to stop, look, listen and think every time they cross the road
- Walking with students to cross roads (do not call students across the road)
- Crossing roads away from parked cars
- Parking correctly in designated areas
- Getting students in and out of the car on the footpath side
- Using seatbelt restraints for all passengers prior to driving away
- Using correct seating for passengers under the age of 7
- Waiting safely at bus stops and waiting until the bus has gone and choosing a safe place to cross.

Mrs. Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

**SCHOOL FEES**
Every family should have received their school fees notice in the mail. If you would like to take advantage of the flexible payment plan please complete the papers with the school fees statement and send them to the Catholic Education Office in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

**LIBRARY**
**BORROWING TIMETABLE**
- Mon / Tue (Lunchtime) Years 4, 5 and 6 Tuesday morning Years 4, 5 and 6
- Wednesday Years 1, 2 and 3
- Thursday Kindergarten

**SPORTS NEWS—SWIMMING**
Last November, nine students participated in the school’s swimming trials.

Unfortunately only one of these students qualified to participate in the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival to be held on Friday 21st February at the Riverstone Swimming Pool.

Marco Mendoza in year 6B will be competing in the carnival.

The school congratulates Marco and wishes him every success!

Mr. Anthony Julius
Sports Coordinator.