



OUR PLACE ST AIDAN'S SCHOOL

Term 4 Week 1

14/10/16

WELCOME TO TERM 4

This term is always a busy one with reports being generated, Christmas and end of year activities, Thanksgiving Mass and farewells to our Year 6 students. It tends to go extremely fast because of the busyness.

Enjoy the journey as we rush towards Christmas!!

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY
COMING UP FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**

PARENT MEETING UPDATES-

Last Tuesday, a good number of parents were able to attend a discussion about

BYOLT (Bring Your Own Learning Technology).

The rationale was explained and any issues associated with the trial strategy were openly discussed.

This term, Yr 5 & 6 students have been invited to bring their **iPad or laptop** (NOT phones or mini iPads) to school for use in the classroom learning.

Our school is an 'Apple preferred' school. That means Apple products will suit our network.

Android devices will need 'Windows Pro' to be compatible with the school WiFi network.

The devices are not allowed on the playground.

IT IS ONLY **AN INVITATION** for families and there are no obligations to bring or purchase technology.

We are in the process of creating procedures and policies to cover the expectations and responsibilities for any student who BYOLT.

The subsequent learning access and skills development can only assist our students in their preparation for High School.

Overview of the Way of Mercy Ceremony



As you know, the Way of Mercy is a Diocesan wide initiative of the Year of Mercy which seeks to offer our parishes and schools a powerful experience of the merciful love of Jesus Christ. The Way of Mercy centres upon the journey of a large 'Cross of Mercy' which will be accompanied by a relic of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and a letter penned by Blessed Teresa of Kolkata. The Cross and relics will visit all schools and parishes within the Parramatta Diocese between 8 August and 13 November 2016.

The Cross and relics will be coming to our school next Thursday 20th October at 12:30 pm. The Ceremony, in the format of a Liturgy of the Word, will begin at Kimberley Park and process into the school. We extend a warm welcome to our parents and hope that you can join us in celebrating and participating in the liturgy next week.

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator



- ✓ The Way of the Cross Liturgy - 20th October @ 12:30 pm
- ✓ World Teacher's Day - 28th October
- ✓ All Saints Day - 1st November
- ✓ All Souls Day - 2nd November
- ✓ Crazy Socks Day - 4th November - Year 2 Catholic Missions Fundraising
- ✓ Remembrance Day - 11th November
- ✓ Staff Spirituality Day (SDD) - Friday 18th November
- ✓ Beginning of Advent - Sunday 27th November
- ✓ Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Thursday 8th December
- ✓ Thanksgiving Mass and Farewell to families, teachers and Year 6 students who are leaving St Aidan's - Friday 9th December @ 9 am
- ✓ Christmas Concert - Monday 12th December @ 6pm to 8pm
- ✓ Year 6 Graduation Liturgy and Social - Wednesday 14th December @ 5:30 pm
- ✓ Christmas Mufti & Student's last day- Friday 16th December

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator

Breakfast Club Update

Breakfast club has started this term with generous support from Kellogg's donating 12 cartons of breakfast cereal to our school. We thank them for their generous support of our endeavours to make sure each child in our school starts the day with a healthy breakfast. We will also be seeking support from other local suppliers around our area. I would also like to thank the team of mums who volunteered to help in this worthwhile cause. If anyone would like to donate to our breakfast club the following items would be appreciated: margarine, bread for toast, longlife full cream milk, fruit juice and jam.



Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.

Literacy Matters

Reading and writing require practice. The old saying of practice makes perfect is true when it comes to these important areas of literacy. Reading each day and writing each day allows children to practice skills they are learning or have learnt. For some children it may be a slower process than others. Each child is different. What works well is a caring and concerned parent or adult that takes the time and patience to sit with a child to help and nurture the process.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Assistant Principal.



Stage 3 Basketball Gala Day

Best of luck to our Stage 3 students who will be attending the Regional Basketball Gala Day on Monday 17th October. A huge thank you to Mrs Poole who has given up many hours training the students. A huge thank you also to Mrs Matthews who will be attending the gala day with the students.

Playing a sport gives kids a sense of belonging and the opportunity to make new friends. Getting involved in a sport also gives kids another social circle where they can build their self-esteem and resilience. We encourage more of our students to take up these opportunities when they can.

Mrs Miray Khoury
Religious Education Coordinator

NO FENCE?

Have you
noticed how BIG
our playground
has become??



DATES COMING UP:

Tues 18/10

Parent Meeting

7pm. All families are welcome to join us as we discuss the issues impacting on our school community.



Items of discussion include:

- Creating a parent forum/voice in the school (eg Parents and Friends Association). Established early next term.
- Uniform Committee update after further mtgs with LOWES late last term
- Events coming up later in term 4... Y6 farewells, Christmas celebrations, camps 2017, 'carnivale' and any other topics of interest.

Wed 19/10

Kinder Transition.

8:45am – 10:45am (Parents will leave children and return at 10:45am)

Siblings of students already in the school are invited to spend the morning in the classrooms with the teachers.

Thurs 20/10

THE WAY OF THE CROSS arrives at St Aidan's. Special liturgy and procession

Fri 21/10

NRL Panthers clinic with Yrs 3-6

Wed 26/10

Kinder Transition.

8:45am – 10:45am

Students NEW to the school are invited to spend the morning in the KINDER classrooms with the teachers.

Fri 28/10

WORLD TEACHERS DAY



Wed 2/11

8:45am – 10:45am

ALL students for Kindergarten 2017 are invited to the school.

Parents will leave children and return at 10:45am.

Tue 8/11

Kinder 2017 PARENT meeting (7pm) to discuss **preparing your child for school.**

THE MORE THEY ARE READY FOR SCHOOL, THE MORE CONFIDENT THEY WILL BE TO LEARN.

18/11

STAFF PROFESSIONAL

LEARNING DAY

(Student Free day)

NO STAFF WILL BE ON THE SCHOOL SITE THIS DAY SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS KNOW NOT TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN. THANK YOU.

Mon 12/12

St Aidan's Christmas Celebration.

Make sure you keep the date free!



Fri 16/12 -Last school day for students.

Attendance

St Aidan's follows the Parramatta Diocesan guidelines in regards to attendance. School attendance is compulsory for every school age student.

If your child is away a note explaining the absence is required. There is also provision on our school website www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au for absentee notes to be completed and then emailed to the school.

Absenteeism	Attendance Rate	Educational Risk	Days absent per year	Long term absence (over 10 years)
Regular	90% or more	Low	20 days or less	1 year or less
Emerging	80%-89%	Medium	Between 20 and 40	1-2 years
Chronic	70%-79%	High	Between 40 and 60	2-3 years
Complex	69% or less	Severe	60 days or more	3 years plus

The Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Parramatta has required an attendance target of 93% or higher for every student.

If your child has had more than the expected number of days deemed acceptable then the following process will occur. The school office will contact you in regards to your child's absentee rate. This will be followed with a letter stating that you were contacted. If the attendance is still low you will be contacted for a student attendance meeting discussing how to improve your child's attendance at school.

This is a government driven initiative and must be taken seriously. Each case is different and some children suffer from sickness and also parents take children for extended holidays. Please be aware that this will also mean the process needs to be followed.

If you have any questions please phone the office for clarification.

Mrs. Christine Leahy,
Assistant Principal.

Canteen News

Canteen Menu remains the same with the addition of Lasagne which is available for \$4.00.

Just a reminder that foreign currency cannot be accepted.



Meal Deal 1 (10th – 28th October)

- Chicken, lettuce & mayo sandwich
- Juice popper
- Screw-top yoghurt



Meal Deal 2 (10th – 28th October)

- Chicken burger
- Juice popper
- Frozen juice cup



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Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2018

There are two Open Mornings remaining specifically for Year 7 2018 enrolments on:

Wednesday 19th October and Thursday 17th November 2016
9.15 – 11am

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2018. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on one of our two upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2018 applicants but open to any year group.

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not. **Next gathering:** Tuesday 18th October. **Venue:** DAC, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** \$5.00.

Registration: Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those navigating their way through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering:** 25th October **Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



St Aidan's Primary School
1-5 Adelaide St, Rooty Hill NSW 2766
Telephone: 9625 3181 Fax: 9625 5612
<http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>
staidans@parra.catholic.edu.au

Skoolbag App - St Aidan's App in iTunes (for all newsletters, alerts etc.)