

Together we are one

DATES FOR TERM ONE 2014

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| Tues 1st and Wed 2nd April | School photographs (taken over two days) |
| Wednesday 2nd April | 9:15am Year Three lead Primary Mass |
| Friday 11th April | 2:55pm term one concludes |

DATES FOR TERM TWO 2014

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| Monday 28th April | Staff Development Day (no classes for students) |
| Tuesday 29th April | 8:45am Students return for term two |

PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (PRC)**Reflection Day - Rev. Fr. Richard Leonard - Sunday 18 May 2014**

"Winbourne", Edmund Rice retreat * Conference Centre, 1315 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa

Rev Fr Richard Leonard, Director of Australian Catholic Film & Broadcasting will deliver a presentation that will be relevant for all who attend. Not to be missed.

A full day starting at 9.30am and concluding at 3pm approximately after a full mass. Lunch and Morning tea are provided. Cost: \$35/person

Contact: Parents Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM 2013**Last year parents and staff collected points when they shopped at Woolworths. Last week St Aidan's School received the following **FREE** Mathematics resources:

- ◆ Ten hand held calculators with a storage caddy
- ◆ Two x Teachers Million Place value boards
- ◆ One copy of Dr. Attard's *Engaging Maths Higher Order Thinking*
- ◆ Six sum die negative odd blocks
- ◆ Two Teachers number flips
- ◆ One number line 0-30 floor mat
- ◆ Three buckets of wooden beads (2200 pcs in each)
- ◆ Six sets of Invicta grouping circles
- ◆ Thirty student number lines 0—100
- ◆ Four bags of 100 Unifix cubes
- ◆ Thirty 24 hours (11cm) student clocks
- ◆ Twenty metric tape measures
- ◆ Four number lines 1—1,000
- ◆ One plastic protractor 180 degrees

**Go4Fun**

Most parents know it can be a battle to get their child away from the TV and outside playing or switching from a can of soft drink for a bottle of water. Now there's a free family lifestyle program in the Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas that helps children and their families lead a healthier life.

It's called Go4Fun and the emphasis is on the fun. Run over 10 weeks, Go4Fun is aimed at children 7 – 13 years who are above a healthy weight range. Children attend with a parent and enjoy fun and interactive games, healthy eating advice, a supermarket excursion and goal setting exercises.

Go4Fun Coordinator, Michelle Nolan says, "Over 630 families have participated in the program in Western Sydney, and the results have been very encouraging. We're seeing significant improvements in children's weight, waist measurement, activity levels, nutrition habits and self-esteem".

Importantly, families enjoy attending with comments such as "Our family is more active and smiling", (Karina, 8) "It's fun", (Chelsea, 12). Mother of 2, Rebecca says, "We love Go4Fun because there is good practical information about healthy eating for kids they can use in their everyday life".

Healthy habits formed early can stay with a person beyond childhood. To register today for this **FREE** program call 1800 780 900 or visit go4fun.com.au

**From the Principal**

Dear Parents,

In today's newsletter I want to speak to you about two issues relating to your children. The first issue is related to the all-important learning that your children are experiencing at St Aidan's. It is now a requirement for teachers in each Catholic School in the Diocese of Parramatta to state/write a learning intention and success criteria for each lesson being taught. The reason for this is to give students clarity and purpose around their learning. When I visit students in their learning spaces, I don't ask them what they are 'doing'; I ask 'what are you learning'?

If the teacher has explained the learning intention clearly students from kindergarten to year six are able to articulate the learning taking place.

I encourage parents to join the learning conversation by asking your children, 'what is one thing you learnt today'? If you get negative responses, it might be a good time to come and chat to your child's teacher.

The second issue is about 'grooming'. It is clearly stated in the Parent Information Booklet on the school's website that St Aidan's School has specific expectations about the students' grooming. These expectations relate to uniform; hair and the wearing of jewellery.

Please read these expectations so you are able to ensure that your children's haircuts, uniform and accessories are consistent with the school's policy.

The students are reminded regularly about the school's policy with uniform and grooming so none of these expectations come as a surprise to them.

When parents and school work together it gives a clear message to the children that 'together we are one'. It is my deliberate intention to keep the St Aidan's uniform basic yet attractive without fancy additions that put the price out of the reach of many.

Thank you to the large percentage of parents who fully support the school and its policies and who ensure that their children come to school each day wearing their uniform with pride.

You might remember supporting the school with the Woolworths 'Earn and learn' initiative last year. Your dockets were put to good use and the school purchased a large number of Mathematics resources with the points. Thank you again for your help. Hopefully Woolworths and Coles will organise similar initiatives later this year.

The Easter raffle is underway. Please don't hesitate to collect additional books of tickets if required. The monies raised will be used for the purchase of resources for the students.

As term one concludes on Friday 11th April, parents are reminded of outstanding school fees. Please contact Mrs Wakeling at the school office if you are experiencing difficulty with the payment of school fees.

Don't forget to ask your children, 'what did you learn today'? If you have any concerns about your children's learning please make an appointment to meet with the appropriate teachers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts
Principal.

REFLECTION

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is repeatedly named as the fulfilment of Hebrew prophecy. Jesus is the Messiah, the one who, it was foretold, would come to liberate the Jewish people. Many Jews expected him to overthrow the Romans and to rule as King. They did not understand his mission immediately.



Matthew's Gospel recorded more of Jesus' teaching concerning God's heavenly kingdom than the other gospel writers, for example the Sermon on the Mount gave new insight into what was needed to enter the kingdom.

The purpose of the gospel was instruction to the community and sermon material for the leaders to address outsiders and rivals, like the Rabbis.

Mrs Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator.

**Please remember to return the students'
Project Compassion boxes to the school by
Monday 31st March (not to the Church).**

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**EXCURSION POLICY**

Excursions are a regular feature of our teaching program and parents are asked to cooperate by giving permission when required. Excursions may range from short, about the local district, to full day visits to places that offer specialized information and experiences.

Excursions are planned in order to provide the students with meaningful experiences outside the immediate environment. Such experiences must be relevant to the curriculum.

*Mrs Christine Leahy*  
Assistant Principal.

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LITERACY MATTERS**How can you help your child with reading?**

- ◆ Show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can.
- ◆ Encourage a positive attitude to books.
- ◆ Provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, e.g. stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines, children's recipe books.
- ◆ Encourage your child to borrow books from the library.
- ◆ Point out words on street signs, packets and labels.
- ◆ Encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations.

Mrs Christine Leahy
Lead Literacy Teacher.

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

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

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| KC | Ethan Cameron | Isabela Tenefrancia |
| KH | John El-Bacha | Rebecca Joseph |
| 1C | Savanna Muscat | Micho Bonete |
| 1T | Isabella Lapus | William Nau |
| 2M | Agazio Fragomeli | Maureen Cabalhin |
| 2Q | Angelo David | Beminet Habte |
| 3B | Norbert Alcala | Bella Teuma-Manaog |
| 3U | Odeesh Mansour | Miriam Warwick-Smith |
| 4D | Rodel Jueco | Hannah-Rae Corcoran |
| 4M | Bol Dak | Nicole Cabalhin |
| 5P | Tiffany Wu | Prince Marcus Gonzales |
| 5W | Bless Byrne | Emilio Seguban |
| 6B | Milla Sagurit | Myron Torralba |
| 6C | Kevin Tolentino | Rachel Galacio |

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Students will have their photos taken on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd April. Students are to be dressed neatly in full summer uniform. Long hair is to be tied back with school ribbons and appropriate school hair styles.

The photos are scheduled as follows:

- ◆ **Tuesday 1st April—Years 3, 4, 5 & 6**
- ◆ **Wednesday 2nd April—**
Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 as well as family photos.

STAIDAN'S EASTER RAFFLE 2014

All families should have received a raffle ticket book with ten (10) tickets.

There are six Easter baskets to be won.

Tickets cost 50cents each or ten (10) tickets for \$5.00.

**Easter raffle will be drawn on
Thursday 10th April 2014.**

**STAIDAN'S CHURCH SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2014**

Parent information night Wednesday 2nd April 7:30pm MacKillop Hall

Registration Masses weekend of Sat 5th and Sun 6th April

Parent instruction evenings Thursday 1st May 7:30pm MacKillop Hall (required)

Thursday 15th May 7:30pm MacKillop Hall (optional)

Children's sessions Sunday morning 8:30am MacKillop Hall

4th May; 11th May; 18th May; 25th May

Practice sessions Tuesday 27th May 7:30pm church

Thursday 29th May 7:30pm church

Sacrament administered Wednesday 4th June 7:00pm church
Thursday 5th June 7:00pm church

ALL Sacraments are parish-based. For further details please phone (02) 9625 8404.