Dear Parents,

On Tuesday Night we had the first Parent/Teacher Information Night for 2014. Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Grade Four meeting and to Mrs Pope and Ms Hagi for all their preparation and for giving up their after hours family time.

It was a very informative evening where the teachers presented to parents a summary of the curriculum, key procedural information which will assist in the smooth transition for children from Year 3 to Year 4 and detailed key events such as excursions and sport days.

I also had the opportunity to introduce myself and outline some plans for possible parent involvement. It was again very pleasing to meet parents personally and to find out a little about them. I was particularly impressed with the ‘experienced’ parents who showed their interest in their children’s education by attending, even though I suspect they have heard some of it before.

The messages here are clear; that education is important, that parents and teachers are in partnership in the education of your children and that you are interested in learning. The saying ‘actions speak louder than words’ is at play. What we put effort in, we value.

In an endeavour to align practice from Kindergarten to Year 6 all grades will be holding parent information evenings. There will not be grade organized interviews at this time of year however, as always, if any parent would like to discuss any issue or concern regarding their child(ren), or you wish to pass on important information, you are very welcome to organise a meeting with your child’s classroom teacher.

Parent involvement is a critical aspect of building and enriching a school community and a parent meeting will soon be organized to enable me to meet more parents and hear ‘your voice’. The date and time will be published through the school newsletter.

To get things started however, I will be inviting parents at the information nights to offer their assistance at a number of events throughout the year. These will be opportunities at which we can enjoy each other’s company with a spirit of hospitality and support to each other in our community.

I have assigned each grade a small morning tea to prepare, generally after a whole school mass, commencing with Year 4 parents. A morning tea will be held after the Opening School Mass on Wednesday 19th February in the School Hall for all visitors. I am very pleased to report that a small number of parents have offered to assist in the serving of refreshments or donate a plate of food but we still need a few parents to help organize and coordinate.

I am more than happy to speak to anyone interested and give you more information. If you are able to be of assistance please contact the school office on 9630 1421. It would be greatly appreciated.

For the time and date of scheduled grade Parent Information Nights for next week please see the Coming Events section of this newsletter.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal
Student of the week

Student of the week is rewarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning Area.

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<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Jiajie Weng</th>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>Mia Assagby</td>
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<td>1C</td>
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<td>6P</td>
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OPENING SCHOOL MASS

This year we will be trialing the presentation of badges to our Student Leadership Team for 2014 at the conclusion of the Opening School Mass. We are hoping that this change will make this an extra special experience for the children with the intent of making this an annual tradition. All Year 6 students will be acknowledged at this time.

Date:       Wednesday 19th, February
Time:       9.30am
Venue:      St Patrick's Cathedral
            (if repairs have been completed) or OLMC Hall
            (Yet to be confirmed)
Morning Tea: School Hall
            (organised by Yr 4 Parents)

2014 SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fee accounts have been sent out by the Catholic Education office. The due date for payment is Friday 7th March, 2014. Arrangements made in 2013 are now finished and any family having difficulty completing term payments on time and wish to make payments by instalments using cash, Centrelink or Bpay etc please contact the School Office for an appointment with Mrs Nutter to set up a new arrangement. Catholic Education Office is also offering a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2014 School Fees details are included with your school fee statement. Please ensure you return the included forms by the due date 21st February.

MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (MAI)

Over the last few weeks teachers have been conducting ‘one to one’ Mathematics Assessments to gather information on the children’s progress in Mathematics. The areas assessed include; place value, counting, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. These results will be used to determine the children’s ‘Growth Points’ and teachers will be comparing this data to 2013. The information gathered will be used to determine the teaching/learning direction for students.

2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

Don’t forget to pop in and check out the 2nd hand uniform sale on Friday 14th February from 9.00am - 10.30am and 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the school canteen. Prices range from $1.00 to $5.00. Only cash will be accepted.

News from the Library

I have pleasure in announcing the Student Library Monitors for 2014. They are:
6P - Ethan Hoang, Lara Wehbe, Mabel Zekan, Jack El Bayeh
6W - Amelia McGlinn, Alynah-Jasna Firmeza,
I am sure that these students will be a great asset to our Library.
Badges will be presented to children at the whole school assembly on the Monday 24th February at 8.50am

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthdays this week: Olivia Sicurella, Kiara Haddad.

And the following children will celebrate their birthday in the coming week - Daniella Younes, Angelique Moujalli, Narella Wakim, Christian Sta Rosa, Moinica Giurgius, Dante Dagostino, Diana Granados Gavito.
Birthday Treats

Just a reminder for the safety of the children at St Patrick’s we ask that NO food treats including ice blocks, cupcakes, lollies etc are brought to the school. We will however be acknowledging students birthday’s by placing their name in the newsletter and at Friday’s assembly.

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 1-2014
Due Friday 21st February, 2014
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED
The preferred method of payment is to make the payment online directly to scholastic. If paying by cheque please make the CHEQUE out to Scholastic Australia.
Remember to fill out Order Forms correctly and place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with NAME - CLASS - BOOKCLUB
CORRECT MONEY (no change given)

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE
For the next 2 weeks the eldest child will receive a copy of the newsletter, after this date (20/2/14) the newsletter will be available online.
To subscribe to the newsletter follow the instructions provided below:
Log onto www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au
On the right hand side click on the heading subscribe to our newsletter online. Please complete the pop up screen and submit. Our newsletter will be emailed to you approx. 3pm every Thursday. Occasionally it may be Friday morning if trouble arises.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP
To ensure the safety of all children and to assist school staff to be able to effectively monitor children’s movements, can I ask all parents to inform your child’s classroom teacher in writing of any changes to their usual pick up routine, including other parents, friends and family members. This will serve to avoid undue distress to children and staff. If any parent is concerned about the well being of a friend’s child who may not have been picked up please inform the school office so that a follow up phone call can be made. Thanking you for your cooperation.

LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK
All Years - Winter Uniform Order
Yr 3 - 6  Premiers Reading Challenge
Kindy - Library Borrowing
Yr 2 - Excursion to Warragamba Dam
Yr 4 - Excursion to Arabanoon

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY
The first School Assembly will take place this Friday, 14th February at 2.20pm in the school Hall.
Parents please note at Week 4 (21st Feb) assembly the swimming age champion and runner ups will receive their trophies.
All parents are welcome

OLMC Parramatta Open Day - Sunday March 2
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to its 2014 Open Day on Sunday March 2, 2014.
Discover the College’s rich tradition and cutting edge education, enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ and join in the celebrations as we mark 125 years of Mercy Excellence at OLMC in 2014.
Sunday, March 2 10am – 2.00pm. Principal’s welcome at 10.00am and 12.00 noon.
Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Smartloving Workshop
Enhancing Marriage Relations
Sunday 23rd March, 2-5pm
Holy Family School Hall
32 Willowdene Ave, Luddenham
Donation at the door (afternoon Tea provided)
Bookings essential
Call Jess 02 9319 6280 info@smartloving.org
Spouses can attend on their own or as a couple
COMING EVENTS 2014
TERM ONE - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Three
Friday 14th February Assembly Yr 6 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Four
Monday 17th February Yr 1 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
Tuesday 18th February Yr 3 Parent / Teacher Information Night 8pm
Wednesday 19th February Yr 2 Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm
Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday 20th February Yr 6 Parent / Teacher Information Night 8pm
Friday 21st February Kindy Parent / Teacher Information Night 7pm

Week Five
Friday 28th February Diocesan Swimming Carnival Assembly Yr 4 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Six
Tuesday 4th March Shrove Tuesday Pikelets
Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday
Mass 9.30am Yrs 3 -6
Liturgy Kinder, Yr 1 and Yr 2 Time TBA

Friday 7th March Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Seven
Friday 14th March Assembly Yr 2 School Hall 2.20pm

Week Eight
Friday 21st March Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.20pm
Yr 4 Excursion to Arabanoo

Week Nine
Friday 28th March Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm

Week Ten
Friday 4th April NO Assembly School Photos

Week Eleven
Friday 11th April NO Assembly Last Day of Term

‘May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace’
Letter of St Paul to the Romans 1

MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA


MASSES
Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m.
Saturday 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m, 11.00 a.m & 6.00 p.m.
Children’s Liturgy 9.30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS
Monday to Friday 6.45am, 12.30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION
Monday to Friday 11.45am to 12.30pm

Sunday 8.00am

Public Holidays 8.00am

Saturday 8.00am

Children’s Liturgy 9.30 a.m.

Saturday 8.30 to 9.00am & 5.15 to 6.00pm
Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolments for Year 7 2015

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year.

There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2015 enrolments on:

Tuesday 11th February and Tuesday 11th March 2013
9.15 – 11am

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.

There will also be a Year 7 2015 Enrolment Information Evening on Monday, 17th March from 6.30 – 7.30pm. This evening will provide further information on the school and the enrolment process. Completed enrolment forms may be lodged at this meeting. Prior to the presentations there will be a further opportunity to tour the school with school tours running at 5.30pm and 5.45pm.

Please RSVP for the Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening by phoning the School Reception.

DIOCESEAN NEWS

Fr Wim Hoekstra Pilgrimages Information Afternoon: 9 February

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest of St Finbar’s Parish, Glenbrook, is organising two pilgrimages in 2014: 7-23 July taking in France and Italy (Paris, Lisieux, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence) and 19 September – 4 October (September school holidays) for Israel and Jordan. Information afternoon on Sunday 9 February at St Finbar’s Parish Hall, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook: 2.15-3.30pm for the France & Italy pilgrimage; 3.45-5pm for the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Limited places available. For flyers and booking forms, click on News and Events at www.stfinbars.org.au or contact Fr Wim tel (02) 4739 8928, wim@stfinbars.org.au

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides ‘a home away from home’ for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women’s League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel (02) 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel

The inspiring insights in this publication put forward by 12 prominent Australian Catholics follow the release of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Evangeli Gaudium. Published by Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia, The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel is available free online and in book form.

Contributors to the The Francis Effect include: Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Head of Mission Studies at the Columban Mission Institute; Fr Tim Norton SDV, Australian Provincial of the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries; Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services; and Joe Moloney, Research Officer with the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office.

To read The Francis Effect – Living the Joy of the Gospel free online visit www.catholicmission.org.au/thefranciseffect

To order a print copy call 1800 257 296 or visit www.catholicmission.org.au
Holy Spirit Mission: 14-16 February

‘Have Faith in God’ (Mk 11:22) presented by Br Lalith Perera, international speaker and founder of the Community of the Risen Lord. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Parramatta is hosting a program that includes Br Lalith speaking on: Receiving powerful faith is a gift from God (Fri); Sickness and problems can be overcome by truths revealed by faith (Sat); Faith and the Holy Spirit bring the Kingdom of God into the here and now (Sun). There will be Sunday Mass, Reconciliation, Prayer Ministry, Children’s Ministry. Times: Fri. 7.30-9.30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm; Sun. 11am-5pm. Free entry, donation appreciated, coffee & tea provided, BYO lunch, package meals for purchase. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. Details: Gerard 0404 093 118, Ansela 0400 280 886, Charles 0425 840 362.

Christian Meditation: 16 February

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day at St Benedict’s Monastery at Arcadia. Program includes presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Arrive 10am for 10.30am. Concludes about 3pm. BYO picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Books & CDs for sale. Monastery is at 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, tel (02) 9653 1159. Self-catering accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Br Terry 0438 282 318. Inquiries: Ann Bergman (02) 9498 2625, anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas (02) 9456 4775, atlomas@bigpond.com

Beliefs and Practices of Australian Catholics – what we know and why it matters: 19-22 February

This conference is an initiative of the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It will be an outstanding learning opportunity for clergy, diocesan personnel, parish leaders, parish staff and others in the Catholic community. Presenters include: His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia; Dr Mary Gautier, senior research associate at the Centre for Applied Research in the Apostolate in the US; Dr Bob Dixon, Director of the ACBC Pastoral Research Office. Bob has a PhD in sociology from Monash University as well as degrees in science, theology and education. Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. Program and registration: http://www.pro.catholic.org.au/node/56 For more information: tel (03) 9953 3457, office@pro.catholic.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 February

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, 700.vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

LENT 4 REAL: Join the Journey! 28 Feb-2 March

Inviting young men and women (18-35) to a Lenten retreat at Mount Schoenstatt. This weekend aims to help young adults make the most of their Lent. Begins 7pm Friday 28 February; concludes 4pm Sunday 2 March. Venue: Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For further details or to register, contact Sr M Julie Brscar 0408 734 334, juliebrscar@gmail.com

Sisterhood Conference: 7-9 March

Sisterhood is a national Catholic women’s movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. Sisterhood operates under the banner of the St Benedict’s Eucharist Centre in Canberra and Fr Ken Barker MGL is the spiritual director. The conference draws together women of all ages for a weekend of prayer, reflection, formation and fellowship. The program includes keynote speakers, workshops, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, adoration and prayer.

Speakers: Sr Mary Rachel OP, Katie Kobler, Anna Krohn, Patrick Langrell, Karen Doyle, Fr Steve Fletcher MGL, Francine Pirola, Trish McCarthy. Venue: The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops. Cost: $225 includes meals & accommodation. BYO sheets, towels, toiletries, etc. Further information and registrations: Felicity Pollard tel 0420 541 772, info@sisterhood.org.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 13 March

A forum for young people aged 18-35 to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney’s most famous pub. Speaker: Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College, Toongabbie. Topic: Theology of the Body – Answering the Deeper Questions; the Meaning of Sex and the Body. Time: 5pm-7pm. Venue: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au
Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 March

God in the Lodge: The religious beliefs of Australia’s Prime Ministers. Speaker: Roy Williams, lawyer and author of the international best-seller *God, Actually*. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks.

Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Batemans Bay Tour: 4-6 April

Enjoy this three-day tour to Batemans Bay with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Travel via Wollongong and Ulladulla, visit Mogo Zoo and Mogo Goldrush Village, St Bernard’s Church for Sunday Mass, enjoy a three-hour scenic cruise.

Inclusions:
* Two nights’ accommodation at the Bay Waters Holiday Resort;
* Dinner on Friday and Saturday night;
* Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning;
* Morning tea on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and
* All entry fees and cruise fees.

Cost: $395 per person twin share (+$80 single supplement). **Deposit: $100 payable by 4 March.** For more information contact Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au