



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

27 August 2014

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul's,

At Monday's morning assembly, Mrs Misek invited all of the children who participated in the **St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal** on the weekend, to come up to the stage area. I was absolutely amazed at the number of students who took part on the weekend. The many children who accepted the challenge must have been ably assisted by many parents and I thank you for your time and support of this initiative. What message does this kind of activity send to the children in our community? I think that the messages are many but I believe that there is one that is worth mentioning in my column in the newsletter.

We can make a difference in our world by the actions we choose.

These children did make a difference to the lives of people who need help and support. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for representing your school and parish so well.

Last week we took delivery of 4 tear - drop **banners**. They are the four colours of the houses – red, blue, green and gold with the school emblem proudly displayed. The banners were thanks to the 40th Anniversary Ball Committee. There was \$836.33 left over from the fundraising and they chose to give it to the school. We were definitely in need of new colour house banners and we are very grateful for the donation. Thanks also to Tony Jasser who scoped an excellent price for us and delivered them to school. When the rain stops we will proudly display them on the school grounds.

Please remember to send back your RSVP for the **Father's Day breakfast** next Friday September 5. We are hoping to see as many fathers, grandfathers and important male role models here for the celebrations. Breakfast will be available from 8am followed by open classrooms and a whole school mass kindly organized by kindergarten. You are welcome to come along to everything or whatever your busy schedules allow. We just need to know how many we are catering for breakfast. You can either phone the office or send back your RSVP. I look forward to serving breakfast!

Have a great week everyone.

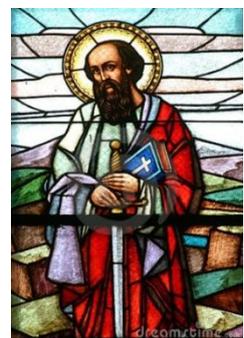
Marian Bell

Religious Education

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers Malachi 4:6

Fathers' Day is an important time of the year when we acknowledge the prominent role fathers have in the lives of our families. It has always held a special place in my heart. Childhood memories of homemade gifts made with love and received by my father in a similar vein, still bring a smile to my face. Those gifts, together with some lovely socks or handkerchiefs kept my dad's sock drawer full for at least another year. It was always a toss-up between socks or car wash as my father religiously washed his car every Sunday so we always knew he would appreciate this as a gift.

My Dad taught me so many valuable lessons, all of which helped guide me into adulthood. Like many daughters he was my hero as I grew up, I would often watch him in his garage, in awe of his amazing skills and ability to solve any problem. Although he left school at the age of thirteen his knowledge of worldly things never ceases to amaze me. He was the one who taught me everything I needed to know about checking the oil and changing the wheels on my car as well as



how to use a jigsaw, handsaw and screwdriver. He is such a practical man and to him these were life skills that were important for all of his daughters to learn.

Apart from the practical things, my dad taught me far more important things about how I should live. He is such a gentle man, some would say a man of few words and yet the words that he shares are always insightful and from the heart. Throughout his life he has always shown respect for all fellow mankind, always offering to help neighbours with small jobs from mowing the lawn to painting their houses. It is through these interactions with others that he has taught me to respect all people, no matter their race or religion.

The main thing I learnt from my dad was the importance of my faith. Throughout my childhood he modelled the importance of Sunday worship and Reconciliation. It is a gift I have tried to pass on to my own children. The gift of knowing we are loved beyond anything we can imagine, not only by our earthly father but also by God our Father. A love so deep he gave his only son, so we may live.

On 5 September our school community will be celebrating the special gift of our fathers. The celebrations will start with breakfast at 8:00am, followed by open classrooms 8:30am and a special Fathers' Day Mass at 9:10am. We would love to see all fathers, grandfathers or male carers join us for this special day.

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standing (Religious Education Co-ordinator)

MINI VINNIES REPORT



On Friday 22 August, Year 5 Mini Vinnies went to the Parish Centre to make up bags for the Door Knock Appeal. In each of the bags there were two fruit bars, a lollipop, a bottle of water, a pen and donation slips. On 23 and 24 August, students from St Paul's and OLMC, went to the Parish Centre to collect the bags and the buckets for the donations. While they were in the Parish Centre, they collected a map with the series of streets on it. Then they visited the houses in the streets to collect the donations. After they had finished they brought the buckets back into the Parish Centre

and later on, volunteers counted the money. Some of the money collected goes to helping people who live on the streets and to the St Vincent de Paul 'Vinnies Van'.

Written by Haylee Keenan and Claudia Ters. Year 4

The total amount of donations collected will be published in an upcoming newsletter. We had close to fifty children participate in the Door Knock appeal. Thank you and well done to all the families involved.

Mrs Leanda Standing

STAR SPOT

Dylan Bosnich, 5N, along with his mum, participated in the Pub 2 Pub charity fun run and walk last Sunday 24 August. Dylan ran the 15km from Dee Why SLSC to the Newport Arms Hotel in 75m27s. Well done, Dylan!



LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

This week marks the 16th National Literacy and Numeracy Week. Literacy and Numeracy Week was launched by the Australian government to help highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills in all children.

In recognition of the week we have organised an at home activity that incorporates literacy and numeracy skill. We are looking for creative answers and will display them under the undercroft. Please send your answers, with all working out, to Miss Natoli or Mrs Standing by 3 September. We would like to encourage all parents to become involved in the activity as positive parental engagement and involvement sends a good message about learning to your child. It is also a fun way to share your knowledge and maybe gain some from them.

Infants: How can you make up a sentence with five words but not more than twenty letters?

Primary: write two to three sentences about your favourite book. If vowels = 5, consonants = 1 and all punctuation = 50, what is the value of your sentence?

Mrs Standing.

IMPORTANCE OF REPEATED FAMILIAR READING

You may notice that occasionally your child is bringing home a book that he/she may have **brought home previously or a book that they say they have read before, or it may even be a book** that you feel is too easy for your child.

There are a few reasons for this.

- When rereading familiar books: your child gives attention to concepts about print, direction, and the linking of print and speech and becomes aware of, and uses, the visual features of language in print while still managing to read a story. This rereading will challenge aspects of his/her processing. A good familiar read should sound good – we often say to the children “make your reading sound like talking”.
- When rereading familiar books: the processing shifts to more effective fluent reading of increasingly difficult texts. Several strategic activities are used on known words and phrases.
- When rereading familiar books: longer and more advanced texts are read faster with increasing independence and in a phrased and fluent way. If a reader has to work too hard to analyse what is new or not yet under control, reading because slow and meaning is lost.

Reading at home should be easy. This provides your child the opportunity to practice the strategies he/she has in place and attempt new strategies or practice reading with expression and attending to punctuation (reading the punctuation). If the text is too difficult, readers may actually ‘lose the skill or skills they are attempting to internalize.

At times your child will bring home a book that they have been working on in class with the teacher and at other times they will be able to choose a book for themselves. But at all times the book should be something that is not new to the child and is an easy, fluent read for them. Obviously as children become more competent, fluent readers the text will become more challenging and they will be asked to read ahead in longer books in order to build comprehension. However, at all ages it is important to listen to your children read aloud as this continues to help them build on fluency and understanding.

Mrs Jane Misek

SPORTS NEWS

Last Friday, 22 August, six of our students attended the Diocesan Sports Carnival at Blacktown.



Congratulations to these children who will represent MacKillop (Parramatta Diocese) at the NSWCPSS Track and Field Championships on 15 September at Homebush:

Nicholas Long – 800m; Jennifer Grubba – Shot Put and Discus;
Charlie Egan – 100m

INDIVIDUAL PLANS

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is just a reminder about returning the Individual Plans (IP) that were sent home earlier this term. Can you please return the IP's signed so that a copy can be taken for your child's office file. The Individual Plans will then be returned to you, for you to keep. Thank you.

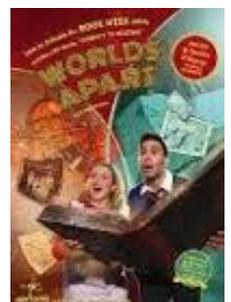
Mrs Claire Bayley

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES

The children from Kindy to Year 6 will attend a Book Week Performance called 'Worlds Apart' on Thursday 28 August in the Parish Centre.

The Perform Educational Musical group promote literacy and reading by inspiring students with the limitless fun and possibilities offered by books and reading. The production also deals with self-esteem bullying, anger management and



cooperation. The students have been learning the music throughout the term and are looking forward to the production.

The K – 2 colouring-in competition winners and the Years 3 – 6 drawing competition winners, will be announced and prizes given after the 'Worlds Apart' Performance.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the 76 children who have completed the Reading Challenge for 2014. Your great efforts will be awarded with a Certificate from the Premier before the end of the year. We hope to have many more children participating in the Challenge in 2015.

PRC Diocese of Parramatta

Following are events that you may be interested in:

Dr Andrew Martin

Anxiety and Children

Monday 1 September, 2014

Time: 7 pm

Venue: St Patrick's Primary School
51 – 59 Allawah Street,
Blacktown.

Smart Start School Readiness

Wednesday 29 October, 2014

Time: 7 pm

Venue: St Michael's Primary School
155 Reservoir Rd.,
South Blacktown

Childhood Obesity

Monday 10 November, 2014

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Diocesan Assembly Centre
Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion
Str., Blacktown.



CNSA Club of the Year
2009/10 & 2010/11

St Michael's Softball Club Registration Open

We are looking for players for our U9 and U11 teams.

We also have teams in U13, U15, School Girls and Opens.

All new T-Ball players receive a free glove, ball and backpack.

Games are played on Saturday morning at International Peace Park Seven Hills. Competition starts 11 October 2014.

Registration fees are: U9 - \$115; U11-U17 - \$135; U19 - \$150 and Opens \$160.

Further Information

www.stmichaels.softball.org.au

Julianne McCaffery
secretary@stmichaelssoftballc

Dates to Remember

AUGUST

- 27 Creative and Practical Arts EXPO, Hornsby RSL
- 28 Book Week performance;
First Reconciliation 7.30pm
- 31 Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) Mass 9.30am Sunday. All welcome

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Testing Day for Oakhill College
- 4 Year 3 excursion to Featherdale Farm
- 5 Fathers' Day Breakfast, Mass 9.10am. Fathers' Day stall commences after Mass
- 7 Fathers' Day
- 8 Kindy incursion; CSIRO Mini beasts

PLEASE NOTE: MASS ON FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER FOR FATHERS IS A WHOLE SCHOOL MASS WITH THE LITURGY PREPARED BY KINDERGARTEN.

Catherine McAuley Westmead School Open Morning

9.15am – 11.00am Tuesday 2 September 2014

Enrolments for Year 7 2016



Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2016. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour and avoid the crowds in Term 1 next year.

Our Open Morning is a great opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend. Our school tours will leave at 9.15am and car parking will be available in the visitor's car parking area via Gate 3 from 9am onwards. Ask for details when making your booking.

ACMF NATIONAL SONGWRITING SOMPETITION

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Education

Since 2002, the Australian Children's Music Foundation has provided music instruments and delivered musical programs to thousands of Australian school students. For information about the Music Foundation and the Song writing Competition, including how to enter, go to www.acmf.com.au

Also, check out the poster on the notice board.

