



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

6 August 2014

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

Friday is **Mary MacKillop's feast day**. As a community we will celebrate the life of Mary MacKillop with mass at 9.10am. Mary is remembered for so many of her strengths and struggles. She lived very simply while serving those in need. She had a gift for teaching with great compassion for the vulnerable. Even in her trials and difficult times she was courageous and open to God's presence. Her feast day is a good opportunity to reflect on the life of Australia's first saint. I pray that we can become like Mary MacKillop and respond to all those in need.

Last Thursday we held the **Infant's Athletics carnival**. It was a great day that I am sure everyone enjoyed. It was hard to believe that it was a winter's day because of the very warm temperature and brilliant sunshine! Congratulations to Mrs Lambert for such a successful day and thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you to those on staff who helped with the setting up, supervision of students, execution of duties on the day, packing up and putting away. Thanks also to the amazing parents who helped all day long. We cannot manage this day without your assistance so we are truly grateful.

At the moment there are a number of children who are quite unwell. There are a few 'bugs' going through the school and I thank those parents who have kept their children at home to recover from their illness. I understand that at times it is difficult to care for the children at home, especially when parents are working, but it would be appreciated if some arrangements could be made at these times. We have a few teachers who are also struggling with their health and consequently are off for the whole week. We make every effort to place the same teachers in their classes but it is not always possible. We ask for your patience and support during these times and if you have any questions, please come in and talk to me.

On Thursday St Paul's is hosting the **Primary Principal's Association Meeting**. All the primary school principals have been invited to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the principals have asked if they could do a walk through the learning spaces. Many of them have never been to our school and those who have are keen to have a look and see what changes have occurred. Consequently, we ask for your patience when collecting the children in the afternoon, as there will be fewer parking spaces. If you could make the pick up a little quicker than normal and stagger the time of collection on Thursday afternoon, that too may ease the anticipated congestion.

Have a great week everyone. Hope to see you at mass on Friday and the Parents and Friends meeting on Tuesday night!

Marian Bell
Principal

Religious Education

"Therefore, if anyone is on Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.



The children in Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) are currently investigating and reflecting on the importance of reconciliation and healing. Children in these grades are involved in units of work guiding them to a deeper understanding of the 'Sacrament of Penance'. As part of these units the children are given the opportunity to reflect on their humanness. It is important for the students to understand that sin is a deliberate choice to do wrong. Sin is before all else an offence against God, while at the same time it damages communion with the church, and breaks relationships with others. We are all sinners and therefore need to ask for forgiveness, through the Sacrament of Penance. It is a difficult concept to come to terms with, for students as well as their parents. One of the hardest times as a parent is allowing our children to make mistakes, and guiding them to accept their responsibility in breaking their relationship with God, friends and the church.

As the children in Year 3 prepare for their first reception of the Sacrament of Penance may they grow in their understanding that God's love is unconditional. Keeping this in mind the children also need to come to an understanding that their choices and actions contribute to building or breaking relationships. It is important for them to see that through our experience of forgiveness and healing we can strengthen our relationship with others. This can only be achieved if we acknowledge our wrong doings and ask for forgiveness and guidance on how not to continually make the same mistake. May we keep the children and their families in their prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Penance, which will be celebrated in our church, Thursday 28 August, 2014

In 2003 Bishop Manning requested an annual report on student learning in Religious Education. This request combined with the pastoral letter, "Catholic Schools at a Crossroads", in which the Bishops of NSW and ACT identified the need for a systemic external assessment of Catholic Religious Literacy. This led to all Year 4, 6, 8 and 10 children in every school in our diocese to participate in the Religious Literacy Assessment. The children in Year 4, 6, 8 and 10 will participate in Part A, which is an online question answer test. The online assessment reflects all concepts covered during their schooling. Currently the children in Year 4 are participating in Part B which allows the children to respond to the unit of work – 'Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing' in a creative manner. The children complete the task at school and then the Year 4 teachers and myself assess their responses, based on a criterion organised by the CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta). To maintain consistency throughout the diocese, one member of the Year Four team from every school in our diocese are invited to attend an afternoon where they will be given the opportunity to cross check the results. All participating students will receive formal feedback early in Term Four.

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

Prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father,
Please guide Year 3 and help them to make the right choices in life.
Thank you for giving us the Ten Commandments to follow.
Amen*

(Written by Katie Year Three)

Mini Vinnies Report:



On 6 June, Felix from the School of St Jude, Tanzania, came to visit the children of St Paul's and talked about the school and life in Africa. He told us that the School of St Jude is the best school, teaching English and giving those that attend the opportunity to go on and do great things, giving back to their community.

On the last day of Term 2, we had a sausage sizzle for the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Money raised from the sausage sizzle and cake stall held on the same day went to the School of St Jude.

The money we raised for St Jude helps us sponsor a teacher at the school for a year. It can also be used to purchase things like exercise books, mosquito nets for a boarding room, kilos of vegetables and vehicles.

By Claudia Ters, Stephanie Ogle and Thomas Reid
Mini Vinnies Media Team

Voice of Youth Competition

Over the past several weeks, Year Six students have been working hard writing and presenting speeches for the Voice of Youth Competition. This competition is an annual public speaking event held in the Parramatta diocese for all Year Six students. Today, the nine finalists: *Corey Fitzsimons, Nicholas D'Silva, Halle Borg, Georgia Beeche, Brianna El-Bayeh, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Ebony Borg, Rachael Bailey and Isabella Zahra* presented their speeches to a panel of three judges. All students performed outstandingly well. The students chosen to represent St Paul's at the Lower Hills Cluster final on 21 August are: *Corey Fitzsimons, Nicholas D'Silva and Brianna El-Bayeh*. Congratulations to all students who participated in this competition and thank you to all of the parents who supported the children in this endeavour.

EXPO Wednesday August 27, 2014

EXPO tickets are on sale NOW! In order to be fair to all stakeholders, each family is allocated 2 tickets only. I realise that this is very difficult for some families but we are performing with 3 other schools and the auditorium seats only 1000 people. The tickets are on sale for \$20 each. You may come in person to the office to purchase tickets or send your money to school in an envelope clearly marked with your family name. Your tickets will be sent home in an envelope with the ticket numbers recorded here at school. We will be having two other opportunities to see the EXPO performance at school. Once on Thursday August 21 at 2pm in the school grounds (this will replace the regular Friday assembly) and later in the year at the Christmas concert.

If for some reason there are families that do not need both tickets or there are some left over, families who would like another ticket can enter their names into a ballot and the names will be drawn out fairly and transparently.

Please note that the Whole Cast rehearsal scheduled for *Friday 8/8 at 8am in the Parish Centre* will be going ahead without Year 6 students who are on an excursion to Minamurra Rainforest.

The EXPO team

Creative Arts Expo Working Bee Reminder

Just a reminder that this Sunday 10 August we will be holding a whole school working bee to finalise the props and costumes required for the Creative Arts Expo. If you are able to attend we would love to see you there.

The day will run from 9am-3pm and lunch will be provided. If you are able to lend a hand please complete the note that went home last week and return to school with your child so that we can organise and allocate jobs for the day.

We thank you all for the continued support in preparation of the Expo

Creative Arts Expo Dance Rehearsals Term 3 Week 5

Monday 11/8 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Whole Cast

Wednesday 13/8 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Whole Cast

Friday 15/8 at 8am in the Parish Centre: Whole cast

Year 5 Camp - Bathurst

Last week Year 5 travelled to Bathurst where we experienced what life was like on the goldfields. We learnt about mining for gold, tools used and how to pan. For those that did not find gold, a McDonald's dinner made up for it. The following 2 days were spent at Blue Gum Lodge Springwood. Here Year 5 took part in activities such as abseiling, archery, rock climbing, low ropes and mountain biking. These activities were great fun, however, and more importantly, they challenged the children to work as a team and at times to take a step outside their comfort zone. All children are to be congratulated on how they got involved and were able to bring out the best in themselves and in others. We would like to thank Mrs Tedesco, Mr Byrne, Mr Moreton and Mr Shelton for accompanying us and contributing to a fantastic camp.

Miss Magro and Miss Natoli



SPORTS NEWS

Infants Athletics Carnival

We were blessed with beautiful weather and all the children participated with great enthusiasm. A huge thank you to all the parents who generously gave up their time to help on the day and to the Year Six Colour Captains who demonstrated excellent leadership assisting teachers, parents and the children with all the activities of the day.

Congratulations to the Gold Colour House who won the carnival followed by Green in second place, Red third and then Blue in fourth place.

Upcoming Events

Term 3

Thursday 14 August - Hills Zone Athletics Carnival; Friday 22 August - Diocesan Athletics Carnival

Term 4

Friday 10 October - Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day; Wednesday 22 October - Basketball Gala Day

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Week

Theme 'Connect to Reading'

The Library will be celebrating Book Week with various activities taking place during Week 6 (Monday 18 August until Friday 22 August). A reminder, that as part of the planned activities, your children are invited to choose a **book character** that they **connect** with and participate in the Book Character Parade which will be held on **Tuesday, 19 August** in the school playground from **9:15am**. Parents are most welcome to join us in this Book Week celebration. Please do not be daunted by creating a costume! Something simple can be very effective. Please encourage the children to be involved in designing and creating their own costume.



We have already received many entries for the various fun activities celebrating Book Week (colouring-in competition for K – 2, drawing competition for Yrs 3 – 6). Prizes will be awarded for the winners of these competitions. All entries are due back no later than **Friday 15 August**.



PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

Countdown to end of Challenge

18 reading days to go!

The Challenge closes for students on **22 August**. 42 children have now completed the Challenge, however we still have a number of children who have not completed their reading records on line. Please see Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili if you are unsure how to record the books you have read.

Congratulations to the following children have recently completed the Challenge: Charli Alley, Thomas Hamilton, Alexander Malouf, Zoe Abela, Thomas Daniel, Annabelle Malouf, Joel Irving, Brad Peachey, Isabella Zahra, Joel O'Brien, Milena Lazzaro, Timothy McGrath, Daniel O'Brien, Emily Prevett, Alyssa Dib, Gabriella Lazzaro, Quinn O'Reilly, and Tahlia Poole.

NETBALL GIRLS!

A reminder - The St Paul's Netball Club Junior Disco is being held on **Sunday 17 August at 1pm** at Northmead Bowling Club. Tickets are \$15.00. Payments can be made in cash to the team manager or via direct debit by Saturday 9 August. Payment details follow or you can contact me - Michelle Moreton - shelloandgeoff@hotmail.com

BSB: 062 471 A/C: 1027 1770 Name: St Paul's Netball Club Description – player's surname
Please ensure that you put your surname in the description and team number

Dates to Remember

AUGUST

- 8 Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. Whole School Mass 9.10am.
Year 6 excursion to Minnamurra Rainforest
- 11 Year 1 excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm
- 12 Maths Competition 7.55am; Year 2 excursion to Sydney Aquarium;
P & F Meeting 7.30pm
- 14 Hills Zone Athletics Carnival
- 15 Feast of the Assumption – Whole School Mass 9:10am
Debate against St Michael's 11:30am
- 18-22 Book Week Connect to Reading
- 19 Book Character Costume Parade – School Playground 9:15am
- 23-24 Saturday and Sunday – Vinnies Door Knock Appeal