



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

10 December 2014

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

As this is our last newsletter for 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience, kindness and warmth you have given both Jane and myself this year. As I reflect upon the year, I am amazed firstly how quickly the time has gone and secondly amazed at how much we have achieved together. Ours is the most privileged of jobs as we work with your beautiful children that you entrust to us every day. **Thank you** for the opportunity to get to know your children, how they learn and what is dear to their hearts. We are also grateful for the assistance the parent body has extended to us in so many forms. I am a big believer in that people help from their heart in the capacity that they are able, and for all you have contributed to St Paul's, thank you.

Today the children are bringing home their **reports**, a letter about how to make appointments for the MAI's and their class requisite list. They will also receive a note from new teachers introducing themselves, informing you of the teacher's name in order to make the appointment time for the MAI's on either Tuesday January 27 or Wednesday January 28. If you are still away on these days, please do not worry, as there will be other opportunities early in the term to complete the assessment. **Please note that school begins for Years 1-6 on Thursday January 29 and Kindergarten on Friday January 30.**

We have two new staff members for 2015 – Mrs Karen Love and Mr Andrew Lehmann. We welcome them to the St Paul family and hope they have a wonderful experience and I invite you to make them feel at home. We farewell Mrs Joyce Lord from St Paul's. Joyce is taking long service leave in term 1 and retiring at the end of the term. Thank you Joyce for all of your work you have done for the students and teachers here at St Paul's. You have touched the lives of so many students and they are richer for the experience. We wish you well in retirement and hope that you come back to visit us. Mrs Lou Tedesco is taking long service leave for term 1 and coming back one day per week in terms 2-4. Mrs Angela Dunn is also taking LSL in term 1. Sarah Haber in the uniform shop will be finishing at St Paul's at the end of term. We thank Sarah for all she has done for us and wish her love for the future.

Our teaching and learning staff for 2015 is:

KI: Mrs Kath Ireland
KP: Miss Amber Paul
1G: Miss Sarah Galera
1L: Mrs Fiona Lambert
2G: Mrs Margaret Govender
2N: Miss Gemma Natoli
3L: Mrs Karen Love
3V: Miss Gemma Veling
4J: Mrs Kieran Jackson
4P: Mrs Kath Paul
5S: Mrs Lisa Spencer
5ST: Mrs Leanda Standring
6L: Mr Andrew Lehmann
6M: Mrs Vicki Magro

Learning support: Mrs Claire Bayley
Reading Recovery/ Learning support: Mrs Michelle Brett
Music: Mrs Leona Nash
PE: Mrs Rita Milic (Term 1 only)
Library: Mrs Petrina Taylor
Executive Release: Mrs Liz Sargent

EMU support: Mrs Kathryn Foster (Term 1 only)
Executive release: Mrs Jane Shelton (Term 1 only)

Our **end of year mass** will be held on Friday December 12 at 9.10am. All families and friends are most welcome to attend the mass followed by morning tea in the library. We would like to invite all of our parent helpers in particular to attend the celebrations so that we may thank you for all of the work you have done for us over the year. There are also many families that are leaving St Paul's and we would like to pay tribute to them on this occasion. Please consider coming along to help us to celebrate.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. May the joy of the celebrations of the birth of the Christ Child remain with you always.

Have a great holiday everyone,
Marian Bell

Religious Education

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government will be upon his shoulders. And his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6



On the first of December every year, my house gets tidied with enthusiasm and vigour and then we set about putting up our Christmas tree. The joy experienced spreads through the whole family as we hang the decorations and talk about the memories each one holds. Over the years the store bought decorations have faded or been replaced by the ones which were hand made with love by my children. I never thought a lopsided tree full of paper wreaths and stars could ever fill my heart with so much joy and pride. Recently, I found a beautiful poem that expresses some of the reasons for the joy experienced as we set up our Christmas tree!

“The ornaments upon our tree
Have secrets of their own,
Of other trees and Christmases
That each of them has known.
They’re all different shapes and colours
But we know and love them all.
And if they could only speak
What joy they would recall.”
Author Unknown.

As we prepare for Christmas this year may we take the time to stop and reflect on the message which underlies the gift giving, decorations and parties.

Christmas is a special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem. We enjoy the story about Mary and Joseph, their trip to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus in a stable, the visit of the shepherds and wise men. It seems such a simple story and yet it is such a powerful and significant event. Christmas is the celebration of God becoming one of us, a fact that we can never fully grasp, God living on the earth with all the pain, the suffering, the human tragedies, the personal rejection and dying. Through his presence we will never be alone.

In Jesus, God is with us when we are depressed and hurting and sick.
In Jesus, God is with us when we are confronted with bad news.
In Jesus, God is with us when we feel guilty and ashamed.
In Jesus, God is with us when we worry about someone we love.
In Jesus, God is with us when we are caught up in a chain of events that we are powerless to prevent.

So what difference will celebrating Christmas this year make to our lives? Will Christmas be here today and gone tomorrow or will we be left with more than credit card pain? Perhaps we could pledge along with Charles Dickens: “I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to honour it all the year.” To be Christian people means to carry in our lives throughout the year God’s gifts of peace, justice and love. We are called to be Christ’s impact people in our world today. Wherever you are

or however you choose to celebrate Christmas this year, may you always know that Christ is the shining light of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and may you have a happy and safe holiday.
God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standing (Religious Education Coordinator)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
We ask for your blessings upon all staff at St Paul's, particularly Mrs Joyce Lord. We thank them for their hard work and the wonderful care they take for all children at St Paul's. Mrs Lord will be greatly missed and we ask you to be with her as she takes a new direction in her life.

STAR SPOT

Amy Harkin (5M) attended the Parramatta Diocese tennis team trials on Monday 1 December and was selected as the No 5 shadow player to trial for the Mackillop teams in Wollongong, March 2015.
Congratulations and best of luck, Amy!



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Thank you to all the parents who assisted at our swimming carnival last Friday. Your help ensured the day ran successfully and your time was very much appreciated. Our appreciation also to our 2015 Year 6 students who were chosen as leaders on the day. They were of great assistance.
Congratulations to the following children who were Age Champions as well as those children who were our overall Senior and Junior Champions and runners-up.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 8yrs | Girl: Zoe McIntosh | Boy: Connor Culnane |
| 9yrs | Girl: Alannah Moujalli | Boy: Alex Silveri |
| 10yrs | Girl: Georgia Hill | Boy: Austin Borg |
| 11yrs | Girl: Riley McIntosh | Boy: Lewis Duncombe |
| 12yrs | Girl: Scarlett Byrne | Boy: Louis Bahan |



Overall Champions:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Junior: | Girls: Zoe McIntosh & Georgia Hill | Boy: Austin Borg |
| Runners-up | Girl: Alannah Moujalli | Boys: Connor Culnane |
| Senior: | Girl: Riley McIntosh | Boy: Lewis Duncombe |
| Runners-up | Girl: Scarlett Byrne | Boy: Louis Bahan |

Fiona Lambert
Sport Coordinator

SYDNEY KINGS VISIT

On Monday December 8, the Primary students were fortunate to have a visit from Angus and Josh, 2 members of the Sydney Kings Basketball Team. Thank you to Declan Agius (4P) and his mother who arranged this for us.



A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

This year in the library with the children has been a joy. Together we have celebrated the work of some wonderful authors and illustrators, participated in the Simultaneous Story time with the story "Too Many Elephants in the House" and participated in the Premiers Reading Challenge. 60 children had the opportunity to attend the Sydney Writers Festival, an opportunity that will be open to another 60 children in 2015. We participated in a colourful book character parade and watched a great performance during book week. The children have relished in the opportunity to borrow great books each week. As a staff, we encourage the children to continue reading during the summer holidays. The children can participate in the Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge for a chance to win one of four iPad Minis. Visit - <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/event-details/executive-directors-summer-reading-challenge>, for more information.



It is important that all library books are returned to the library this week. Overdue notices will be sent home next Tuesday. If a book has been lost or damaged, the school asks that the book/s be paid for. Please visit the library or the office if this is the case. It would be wonderful if library bags could be located and washed during the holidays. Thank you.

I wish all families a happy and safe Christmas. I look forward to sharing more great literature in 2015.
Petrina Taylor (School Librarian).

READING BOOKS

We have recently purchased a large number of **reading books** for 2015. If any parents have the time to take some books home for covering over the holidays it would be much appreciated by the staff and children. Please contact the office and we will arrange for some books and contact to be sent home. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Wishing you all and your families a happy and safe Christmas.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. I look forward to working with you and your children in 2015.

Regards, Jane Misek

END OF YEAR DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER

It is a Saint Paul's tradition to farewell our Year Six students on the last day of the school year. If you would like to observe this final farewell, where the Kindergarten children say goodbye to their Year Six buddies then you will need to be at the school by 3.00pm on the afternoon of Wednesday 17 December. The final bell will ring at 3.15pm and bus children will immediately assemble in the bus area.

CANTEEN NEWS

The Canteen will be open on Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 December. Stocks will be low so alternatives may have to be given.

Thank you for placing lunch orders during the year and for all the really well-mannered and lovely children you have. Look forward to serving you in 2015. Lisa Butcher, Canteen Manager.



SCHOOL BAND

Today, Wednesday 10 December, was the last band/instrument lesson for 2014. You will be notified next year prior to lessons commencing.



Dates to Remember

December

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10 | Last day this year for School Band/School banking |
| 11 | Year 6 Movie Day at Castle Hill |
| 12 | End of Year Mass 9.10am followed by morning tea in the Library for parent ` helpers.
Final assembly for the year in the Father David Scott Parish Centre at 12 o'clock |
| 16 | Year 6 Graduation Mass 7.00pm |
| 17 | Students' final day for 2014. Farewell to Grade 6 – 3.05pm on playground |
| 18/19 | Staff Development Days |

January 2015

See separate Clothing Shop information for opening hours during January

- 26 Australia Day
- 27/28 Staff Development Days (Tuesday/Wednesday) – MAI testing days
- 29 Term 1 commences for Years 1-6
- 30 Kindergarten commence



UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

These are the following dates for the January 2015 Holiday Trading.

Thursday 15th January 9:30-11:00am

Tuesday 20th January 2:00-3:30pm

Friday 23rd January 3:00-4:30pm

Tuesday 27th January 11:00 -1:00pm

And normal trading day:

Thursday 29th January 2:30-4:00pm

Normal trading hours for 2015

The uniform shop will be open

THURSDAYS 2:30-4:00PM

SATURDAYS 3:30-5:00PM



For parents who are working and cannot get to the uniform shop during our hours, we do online orders and over the phone orders using credit card.

We will gladly exchange any item for incorrect fitting.

All orders and enquiries are to be directed to

Elle.

0421216414

Email.

elle@ozfashions.com.au



ST PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH

40 Buckleys Road

Winston Hills

2014

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Wednesday	December 24th	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS <i>(Outdoor Mass please bring own chair)</i>	7.00p.m.
MIDNIGHT MASS 12.00pm <i>(Carol singing from 11.40pm)</i>			
Thursday	December 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES <i>(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)</i>	8.00, 9.30am,

Friday December 26th Mass of the Day *(Feast of Saint Stephen)* 9.10am
Saturday December 27th Mass of the Day *(St John)* 9.10am

Sunday **December 28th 2014** *(Feast of The Holy Family)*
 Vigil 6.00pm, 8.00am, 9.30am and 6.00pm

Monday December 29th Mass of the Day 9.10am

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Thursday January 1st Mass *(World Day of Peace)* 9.10a.m.

RECONCILIATION:

2nd Rite of Reconciliation Monday 15th December 7.00 p.m.
Saturday: December 20th 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Got Questions?

Alpha

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St Paul the Apostle Winston Hills

...is a series of seven interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Please join us for a

LIGHT SUPPER & TALK:

Friday February 13, 2015

at the

Fr David Scott Parish Centre

(40 Buckleys Rd Winston Hills)

The First Night's Topic will be asking

"Who is Jesus?"

Alpha

No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

Bookings: Call Norm on 0401 564 566

or

Email: winstonhills.alpha@gmail.com

All Welcome