



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

3 December 2014

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

Last Sunday we began the season of **Advent**. Our kindergarten children and their parents participated in the 9.30am mass. With Father Raning, they reminded us that this is a special time in the church and that at this time we must bring peace to our world by loving one another just as Jesus loves us. Thank you to Miss Paul and Mrs Ireland for coordinating such a beautiful liturgy and to all of our families who came along in support.

I invite you to say this Advent prayer with the family:

Lord Jesus, light of the world. The prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.



As this is a time for preparation, please think about getting involved in the celebrations leading up to and including Christmas. The children's mass on Christmas Eve has been going for many years and attracts people from all over the district. I remember attending the outdoor mass when my son was 4 years old – he is now 27! The following information may assist you in your planning:

Second Rite of Reconciliation, Monday 15 December 7.00pm

Christmas Vigil Mass (Outdoors) Wednesday 24 December 7.00pm

Midnight Mass preceded by Carol singing from 11.40pm

Christmas Day 8.00am & 9.30am. **No evening Mass** on Christmas Day

Please keep in your prayers Eli Hill from kindergarten. He is very unwell and in Westmead Children's Hospital. We hope you have a speedy recovery Eli and we look forward to seeing your smiling face very soon.

Thank you to Mrs Nash and all of the teachers for their work in preparation for our **Christmas concert** last Friday night. We were blessed with beautiful weather and I felt that there was a lovely atmosphere to the evening. Thanks also to the people who have sent both positive and negative feedback regarding the evening. We are well aware of the areas we need to work on for next year's concert including better sound, higher stage, program and community singing. Overwhelmingly, both parents and staff appreciated having the concert back in the school grounds and that it was a nativity theme. If you have any other ideas please feel free to do feedback – mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

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. 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.

Next Wednesday December 10 is **changeover day** for 2015. On that day the children will meet their new teachers for the following year and get to know them a little. This is an exciting time but for some children it can also be a time of high anxiety. Please assure your children that it is going to be a fun afternoon and that the teachers are looking forward to meeting them. On this day you will also receive your child's report, a class requisite for 2015 and an MAI interview letter.

We have begun our work in the **garden** thanks to the hard work of Mrs Brogden, Mrs Poole and Mrs Power- Jones and several willing helpers! It is really exciting to get it started and when we come back to school after the holidays make sure you look at the garden behind kindergarten!

On Wednesday January 21 at 8am, some of us are gathering to begin our vegetable patch. In know that it is school holidays, but if there is anyone else who would like to join us for the morning, you would be most welcome.

Have a great week everyone,
Marian Bell

Religious Education

'I am the light of the world'. John 8: 12

Last Friday our school community came together and celebrated another year with our annual school concert. As I reflected on the evening three feelings came over me – community, rejoicing and faith. At one stage I was watching over all the picnickers and was overwhelmed by the feeling of unity as families joined together and shared bread. Just as our Lord shared bread with his friends during the Last Supper and as we do every Sunday as Catholics. The sound of rejoicing was heard in the laughter and good wishes that were shared during the performances. Most of all it was a wonderful way to come together and experience through song and actions our faith. Watching the children perform the nativity scene was beautiful and helped me put into perspective the reason why we should honour our Lord during this season of Advent.



During the season of Advent, on Monday mornings, the children from the Mini Vinnies team will be leading our school in an Advent prayer. This year the Advent wreath is made up of handprints of all the children in our school. The meaning of the wreath is included below.

- Our wreath is a circle and tells us that the circle is like God's love for us, it is never ending.
- Notice the greenery - these represent the leaves of evergreen trees, trees that remain green throughout the long winter months – everlasting, just like God's love for us.
- Our wreath is made of all the hands of our school children as a sign of being part of a community of believers, who are waiting in joyful anticipation together.
- Purple is a 'getting ready' colour and we see lots of purple here in the candles. Each week we light one more candle – as the light gets brighter we know that Christmas is getting closer.
- The large, white candle in the centre is lit on Christmas Day to mark the birth of Jesus.



The message of the Advent wreath is the coming of light into the world. Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world', the light of the Advent wreath represents the truth and hope that Jesus brought.

It is hoped that the Advent wreath will help us all prepare for the coming of our Lord.

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standring (Religious Education Coordinator)

Prayer:

Dear God,

Please help the people who are in need and help them get better, especially the sick members of our family. Please make war stop in countries where war is happening and make children feel safe. We pray for all the soldiers who have fought for us so that we are able to live in such a safe environment.

Amen

Annabelle Malouf 4TL

A REMINDER FOR ALL ABOUT UNIFORMS AT ST PAUL'S

Summer Uniforms are usually worn in Terms 1 and 4. Parents may use their discretion if weather is unseasonal.

The St Paul the Apostle School Bag is compulsory.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Girls:

Brown/Gold check dress.

Boys:

Short sleeve fawn shirt, brown shorts.

Girls & Boys:

Short fawn socks, brown shoes. School hat is obligatory.

SPORTS UNIFORM

Girls:	Brown skirt or shorts, Gold T-Shirt, Black sport briefs.
Boys:	Brown shorts, Gold T-Shirt
Girls & Boys	St Paul's sport socks; mainly white joggers; brown & gold tracksuit

JEWELLERY

Jewellery is not permitted at any time. The only exceptions are a watch and gold/silver sleepers or stud earrings can be worn by girls.

HAIR

Hair must be neat, tidy and the child's natural colour. Long hair needs to be tied back.

The school Uniform Shop is open every Thursday during term from 8:30 – 10:30am and 1:30 – 3:30pm. The Uniform Shop stocks all uniform requirements.

Parents are asked to support the school's uniform policy, ensuring their children's hair is neat and tidy and that they wear the correct uniform to school each day.

At the recent P & F meeting we had a discussion about the 'mostly white' joggers to be worn on sport days. **All** of the parents agreed that it was a reasonable request and that it is possible to find mostly white joggers, including white laces. When you are purchasing your joggers for next year – please observe this aspect of our school uniform. Other coloured or fluoro shoes are not acceptable.

STAR SPOT

Skye Gregory, 6G, has been selected to play in the North East Zone U13's Junior Breakers **cricket** team which will play in a T20 State Carnival at Manly in January.

Alyssa Soldatos, 6J, has been selected to play in the Baulkham Hills **Netball** Association U12's Junior Rep team in 2015.

Stephen Courtney, 5N, has been selected in the Parramatta Diocese **softball** team to trial for the Mackillop team in March 2015.

Paige Williamson, 4P, has been selected to play in the Under 11's **Oz Tag** State Cup Team. Paige will be going to Coffs Harbour in February 2015 to compete in the State competition.

Well done and good luck to these students!



FOOD ALLERGIES

Several children at our school suffer from food allergies – **some very severe**. As we approach Christmas I wish to remind you that in line with our policy we ask that **you do not send items such as lollies, candies, etc for your child to share with other students**. We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own food and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place. Thank you for your cooperation.
Marian Bell.

REMINDERS

Bus Passes

All bus passes allocated to Year 2 children will be cancelled at the end of 2014. If your child in Year 3, 2015 will be catching the bus, you will need to reapply for a bus pass. Forms are available at the school office.

Last two days of the year

Just a reminder that the Catholic Education Office has allocated the last two days of the term as Staff Development Days. These days are 18 and 19 December 2014 and students do not attend school on these days. These dates are already noted on your school calendar.



SCHOOL BANKING

Next week, **Wednesday 10 December** will be the last banking day for the year. Banking will recommence in Week 3 Term 1, 11 February 2015.

Dates to Remember

December

- 4 Year 6 leave for overnight stay at Vision Valley
- 5 Swimming Carnival – Years 2-5 attending
- 7 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 10 Changeover day; reports, requisites lists and MAI interview letters sent home
- 12 Whole School Mass and Leaders' Assembly

Ice Blocks

Would you like to cool down during lunch time?



If you answered 'yes' to the above question, then Year 6 can help you!

To raise some extra money towards their graduation, Year 6 will be selling ice blocks in the playground during lunch. You will be able to purchase Zooper Dooper ice blocks on **Tuesday 9 December** for **50cents** each.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for supporting Year 6.



2015 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, government funding of the school sector is still very much in the spotlight. There is still no proposed funding model from the Federal Government beyond 2017, which is causing uncertainty for schools and our system.

While we hope a new model will be developed soon, we can expect further pressure on government funding in the future. Educational inflation is at 5.1% adding further pressure on the costs of schooling.

This means we will need to pass on a 5% school fee increase next year to ensure we can maintain our current service levels (see over page).

We understand families are also facing greater financial strain, so we do not make this decision lightly.

We are committed to ensuring that no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation and we have in place a range of discounts and programs to support families including:

- Sibling discounts for second and third child enrolled
- No diocesan tuition fees for the fourth and subsequent children enrolled
- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Financial hardship relief
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Our schools also keep school-based fees for technology, administration and excursions within a reasonable amount to ensure the costs of a Catholic education are as affordable as possible.

In terms of capital funding, there is increasing pressure on Catholic schools to pay for development costs and land for new schools. Additionally, new government funding for capital projects is very limited and interest subsidies have been abolished.

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

To ensure this continues we will be increasing the building levy by 5% or \$33 per family per year (see over page).

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs while increasing our services and value for money and are directing our limited resources into big initiatives like:

- literacy and numeracy programs to improve learning outcomes (Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4) and our support for students with disabilities and emotional and behavioural needs (Diversity is the Norm, post school options, etc)
- putting more teaching resources into classrooms for literacy intervention
- providing greater opportunities for professional learning for leaders and teachers
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our technology and infrastructure
- modernising learning spaces



Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2015

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees can be paid upfront at the start of the year or in three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools - see 'Sibling Discounts' below). To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below.

The 2015 Annual and Term Diocesan Tuition Fees are as follows:

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4th+ children	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child
Primary	Kindergarten	100% \$1,047	75% \$786	50% \$525
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,350	\$1,014	\$675
Secondary	Years 7 – 8	\$1,875	\$1,407	\$939
	Years 9 – 10	\$2,079	\$1,560	\$1,041
	Years 11 – 12	\$2,658	\$1,995	\$1,329

TERM FEES	Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child
Primary	Kindergarten	100% \$349	75% \$262	50% \$175
	Years 1 – 6	\$450	\$338	\$225
Secondary	Years 7 – 8	\$625	\$469	\$313
	Years 9 – 10	\$693	\$520	\$347
	Years 11 – 12	\$886	\$665	\$443

Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2015

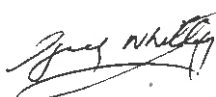
All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. *The levy for 2015 is \$702 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$234 payable in terms one, two and three.*

I understand that for some families, school fee increases will be difficult to manage, and if this is the case, I urge you to confidentially contact your school principal to enquire about financial hardship.

Please know we will provide every assistance to families in serious financial need.

Please visit our website www.parra.catholic.edu.au for more information. If you have any concerns please contact your school principal.

Yours sincerely



Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

**St Paul The Apostle Parish
Outdoor Christmas Eve
Nativity & Vigil Mass**



Would you like to be involved?

*Three rehearsals
Fr David Scott Parish Centre*

*4.45pm—6.00pm
Saturdays 13th & 20th December
9am—12pm
Tuesday 23rd December*

*Please contact Veronica on 0414 345 526 or
email veronica.parramatta@gmail.com*

OR

Just come along!!!!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER

reading challenge

Read to win!

Read 10 or more books
during the summer
holidays to go into the draw
to **win one** of

FOUR iPad MINIS

Entries close Friday 6 February 2015

Enter online via
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

The categories are:
Ages 5-8
Ages 9+

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students
enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta

Students must record all the books they read on the online
application form and have them verified by a parent or guardian
prior to submitting the form.

 @CatholicEdParra or  catholicedparra  catholicedparra


Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

CAR PARKING - AQUATIC CENTRE

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) is responsible for the development and implementation of the car parking strategy and the continued management of car parking areas in Sydney Olympic Park. The following information is provided for distribution to your event participants.

Further details are available at <http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/maps/parking-at-sydney-olympic-park>

PARKING RATES

Please be aware of the following information in regards to parking rates for the car parks within Sydney Olympic Park.

SPECTATORS

Attendance - less than 1500 people*

These patrons will receive 4 hours free parking in P2 & P3 and will incur the nominated casual parking fees thereafter. Parking tickets need to be validated at the Venue before returning to the car park. If you have stayed longer than 4 hours, before returning to your vehicle, you must enter your parking ticket into the Automatic Pay Station, located in the green building near the front of the Aquatic Centre. The Automatic Pay Station will indicate the required fee and validate the ticket for exit.

Please note staff will only validate tickets once per day.

Standard Car Park Rates - Monday - Sunday & Public Holidays		
Availability	Time	
Monday - Sunday & Public Holidays	0 - 1 hour	\$5.00
	1 - 2 hours	\$10.00
	2 - 3 hours	\$15.00
	3 - 4 hours	\$20.00
	4 - 5 hours	\$25.00
	Max Fee	\$25.00

Attendance – more than 1500 people*

These events will incur a flat rate car parking fee of \$14.00 per day. If your event incurs a \$14.00 flat rate parking fee, you will need to have your parking ticket validated at the venue upon entering the Aquatic Centre. Please pay the cashier at the green building near the front of the Aquatic Centre. The cashier will validate the parking ticket for exit.

Venue Operations will record participation numbers that will be reconciled against your estimated attendance figures provided. Variations that impact the venues staff numbers, cleaning, catering & utilities may incur additional charges.

OFFICIALS

We will endeavour to provide complimentary parking in the Green Car Park subject to availability.

**Please note: These rates are current as at 1 July 2014.