



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

23 July, 2014

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

How does one make sense of world events over the past few days? I am trying to understand the senseless violent act on MH17 and the slaughtering all of the people on board. I believe we have witnessed worldwide shock followed by the experience and out-pouring of worldwide grief. As these and other news items are splashed across our televisions, how do we help our children with their questions? I wish I knew the answer. What I do know is that children have a very simplified version of what happened. They also have a simplified solution. Here are some of their suggestions:

People should just speak nicely to each other and pray to God that they can work out their problems.

Mrs Bell tells us to always be friendly to others even when we find it hard. Maybe the people should try to be friends.

We do not know why they act this way – why are they so mad?

We should try to help these people – Jesus would want us to.

If only the solution was this simple.

I pray for peace in our world. From the Prayer of St Francis:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



On Friday we are going to celebrate **Grandparents Day** to give thanks for our grandparents. The day will begin with mass at 9.10am followed by open classrooms. Grandparents and parents will then be invited to the Father David Scott Parish Centre for morning tea. I am really looking forward to the day and meeting lots of grandparents. I do hope you can join us on Friday.

Yesterday we had 7 teams who represented St Paul's at the **netball carnival**. Thank you to Mrs Lambert and Mrs Shelton for all of their organising and to Miss Paul for looking after the teams. Thanks also to all the parents who came along in support and especially to the wonderful helpers who coached and umpired all day. Miss Paul and Mrs Shelton said that it was a fabulous day and all of the girls were excellent ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to all of the girls and thank you for representing St Paul's so well.

On Saturday we are having our term 3 **Working Bee**. Years 2, 3 and 4 are invited to come along and do some maintenance and cleaning around the school. Please come for the morning or for any time that you can manage. I am aware of the family commitments on a Saturday morning but hope that you can spare sometime to help.

Have a great week everyone.

Marian Bell

Religious Education

“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” Mark 10:15



It is with a fond smile that I recall my grandparents as they all impacted on who I am today. From my earliest memory of being given a small doll, whom I affectionately named ‘Christine’ given to me by my grandfather from his hospital bed, to visiting my nan and pop every Christmas and finding a Snack chocolate bar in the freezer to share with my sisters, my grandparents always shared their love in a non-judgmental and affectionate way. Such simple acts of kindness are still remembered every time I pick up a Snack bar in the supermarket or open my cupboard and see ‘Christine’ on my top shelf, a bit tattered and torn these days but still a beautiful memento of my grandfather.

It is my hope that my children will also recall their grandparents with such fondness and shared experiences. I am sure they will because as like all grandparents they shower my children with love and the gift of their presence. It is the unconditional love that grandparents have for their grandchildren that is so important. The wisdom they share through their stories and life lessons that can only come from people who are admired and respected. Grandparents have such an amazing impact on the family unit and are vital when it comes to sharing their faith and Catholic beliefs.

In Rio de Janeiro, July 26, 2013, during World Youth Day celebrations, Pope Francis announced the following:

“Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life. How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society! How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogue, especially within the context of the family. Children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives. This relationship and this dialogue between generations is a treasure to be preserved and strengthened!” (A Resource of the Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council, 2014)

This year, our school and parish will be preserving and strengthening the gift of our grandparents with two significant Eucharistic celebrations. The first will take place this **Friday 25 July at 9.10am**, when we celebrate the Feast day of St Joachim and St Anne (Jesus’ grandparents). Afterwards we invite all grandparents and parents to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms and spend some special time together. We then invite grandparents and parents to join together in the Father David Scott Parish Centre for a morning tea in your honour.

The second event will be a combined parish and school celebration that will take place during the **9.30am Parish Mass, August 31**. The Stage 1 children (Years One and Two) will be preparing Mass celebrating the gift of our grandparents. A morning tea will follow the Eucharistic celebration. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

These celebrations are ways we can live the message presented by Pope Francis and come together and ‘pass on the religious heritage which is essential in your family’. If you are able to attend either celebration please email me: lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au

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

Prayer from Kindy

Dear Loving God,
Thank you for our family that loves us
and our friends that play with us.
We are grateful for the wonderful teachers
who help us learn at school.
Thank you for the beautiful animals
and our cuddly pets.
Amen

SPORT IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMS – MONDAYS TERM 3

The 'Sports for Schools' Program has commenced for the term and from all accounts the children really enjoyed their first couple of sessions. The activities were many and varied with a number of sports skills being taught. All children had access to their own equipment, thus increasing the level of engagement. As previously described in an earlier newsletter, all sessions are facilitated by trained teachers, following a teaching program that is based on the, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE) Curriculum from the NSW Board of Studies.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Week will take place in Week 6 this term (18 August until 22 August). As part of the planned activities, children are invited to choose a book character that they connect with and participate in a book character parade. The parade will be held in the school playground on Thursday, 21 August at 9:15am. All parents are invited to attend. See the separate note that went home yesterday.



A Book Week colouring-in competition for K – 2 and a drawing competition for Years 3 – 6 based on the theme "Connect to Reading" will be going home this week for students to complete. Children are encouraged to participate in these competitions. Entries are due back on Friday 15 August and prizes will be awarded across each grade.

Congratulations to the following children who have recently completed the Reading Challenge. Gabrielle Alamsyah, Bryce Floody, Grace Love, Millicent Plumridge, Kayla Ho, Brock Prideaux, Hayley Wallace, Matthew Courtney, Chanel Elias, Lucy Stebbing, Sophia Poole, Ebony Elias, Giada Lazzaro, Paige Williamson, Alana Attard, Sophie Obreza, Jason Attard, Sarah Prevett. We now have 33 children who have completed the Challenge. Remember that there are **only 5 more weeks to complete the Challenge** so keep up the good work and continue reading.

EXPO CHOIR UPDATE

St Paul's Expo Choir will be having a combined rehearsal at St Angela's Castle Hill, next Tuesday 29 July, 2014.

Children will be travelling by bus, leaving St Paul's at 9.00am and returning by 2.45pm.

All Expo Choir children have received a parent permission slip to be completed and returned on Thursday 24 July, 2014.

Kind regards, Leona Nash-Music



JEANS FOR GENES DAY

On Friday 1 August, Kindergarten children will be fundraising for 'Jeans for Genes' day. They are asked to wear their jeans and suitable footwear. Jeans for Genes day supports the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) whose mission is to reduce the number of children born with genetic related illness.

Creative Arts Expo Dance Rehearsals Term 3 Weeks 3-4-5



Friday 26/7 at 8:00 in the Parish Centre: Everyone (Week 2)

Monday 28/7 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Everyone

Wednesday 30/7 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Gummy Bears and Kids

Friday 1/8 at 8:00 in the Parish Cente : Lollipops and Kids

NETBALL CARNIVAL

On 22nd July 56 girls attended the St. Bernadette's Netball Carnival held at Kellyville Netball Complex. The girls represented St Paul the Apostle brilliantly demonstrating great sportsmanship and impressive ball skills. A big thank you to our wonderful coaches (Carolyn Casey, Wilma Clenton, Renee Murphy, Janet Casey, Roslyn Lazzaro, Jaye Harkin & Miss Paul), and skillful umpires (Toni Clenton, Laura Shelton, Emma Murphy, Jasmine Bliss, Samantha Davies, Gabriella Engesser & Jessica Petkos). Without their netball knowledge and assistance the day would not have been possible.
Mrs Shelton & Miss Paul.

TERM 3 SPORT EVENTS

Thursday July 31- Infants Athletics Carnival (Week 3)

Thursday August 14 - Hills Zone Athletics Carnival (Week 5)

Friday August 22- Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival (Week 6)

Touch Football Gala Day rescheduled to Friday October 10 Term 4 (Week 1)

Dates to Remember

July

- 25 Stage 2 (Years 1 & 2) Mass – Whole school attending 9:10am - Special Mass for Grandparents; Morning Tea in the Parish Centre.
Year 5 Assembly 2.30pm
- 26 Feast of St Anne and St Joachim
WORKING BEE YEARS 2, 3 AND 4
- 29 English competition 7.55am; Expo Choir going to St Angela's-leave 9.00am;
P & F Executive Meeting 7.30pm
- 30 Year 5 Camp – 3 days
- 31 Infants Athletics Carnival

August

- 1 School Census Day
- 2 Knights of the Southern Cross Trivia Night