



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

30 July 2014

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

Last Friday we celebrated **Grandparents Day** here at St Paul's. As I drove to work in the drizzling rain, I was hoping that some grandparents would still come – despite the weather – at least 50 or so. To my absolute delight (probably not yours) the car park was full by about 8.30am. I noticed many people parking in the street and walking to the church. As we began taking the children over to the church, I was overwhelmed by the number of parents and grandparents in the church waiting for mass to begin - so much so that we had children sitting in the aisles! How wonderful that we had the response that we did. I know that there were many grandparents who travelled great distances to be there for their grandchildren and I thank them sincerely.

Following on from the beautiful liturgy that made some people weep with happiness; the grandparents visited the classrooms to see what learning looks like in 2014. I am not sure who had the bigger smiles – the grandparents or the grandchildren? There were cameras flashing and a wonderful hum in the rooms I visited. The grandparents I spoke to were thrilled to see the children in their learning environments. I also heard some comments from them about how different things are now compared to when they were at school.



The celebrating did not end there! We moved up to the Father David Scott Parish Centre for morning tea – and what a spread it was! Our very generous staff and members of the school community provided morning tea. There were some very hard working staff members who began setting up way before the first bell of the day and continued to serve and clean up after the celebrations were over. Thank you to the St Paul's staff for your generosity of time and the contributions of food. Thank you to the children for making me a very proud principal and for participating so beautifully in the mass. Finally, thank you to all of the grandparents. You are very special in the lives of the children that there are no words to express their love and thanks for all that you do but I hope there are many cuddles. I cannot wait for next year's



celebrations!

Have a great week everyone,
Marian Bell

Religious Education

“Let us ask God to give this Spirit to the little Company, the heart of the Son of God that motivates us to go out as he would - He sends us out as his apostles, to carry this fire everywhere, his divine fire, the fire of his love.” St Vincent de Paul.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal in the Winston Hills area. During the last ten years our parish community has come together and spent a few hours of their time to raise awareness and monies for this worthy cause. Last year the Mini Vinnies team offered their support and raised close to ten thousand dollars.



The Door Knock Appeal is the major fundraiser for the Society and the monies raised is used to help our local conference continue the work of St Vincent de Paul. The Society is made up of 26,000 members and volunteer workers that come together to support local communities. The statistics are astounding! Last year, St Vincent de Paul provided 692,785 meals, almost \$20 million

worth of financial assistance, provided 310,812 bed nights through its accommodation services, just to mention a few. These services need your support so they can remain viable.

There is a simple saying; many hands make light work and on Saturday 23 or Sunday 24 August, you have the opportunity to join other volunteers and make a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged people in western Sydney, whilst enjoying the company of family members. If you are available for a few hours during this weekend please fill in the slip below and return it me by 8 August.

It is just a simple way we can offer hope to families who are in need and suffering due to no fault of their own. Please join the team and put your faith in action! (Please complete the form below).
God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standing (Religious Education Co-ordinator)

Prayer:

Dear God,



Thank you for loving us and taking time to listen to our prayers. Thank you for all the friends and family and all the people who care for us. I like my friends because they care for me and love me. When I'm sad I think of my friends they come and cheer me up. Thank you God for loving me. **Amen** (By Milena 1L)



Mini Vinnies Report:

Door Knock Appeal



On Friday 25 July, Mini Vinnies listened to two quest speakers, John Neylan (organiser of the door knock appeal) and Martyn Ellis (St Vincent de Paul -Youth Coordinator), they spoke to us about the 'St Vincent de Paul van'. This van goes out 365 days a year to Penrith and Parramatta Park to help the homeless. The main role of the van is to spend some time chatting to the people who do not have a home to live in. All of the supplies we donated last term are kept at Merrylands and collected and used during these night time excursions.

Sometimes St Vincent de Paul even give out vouchers to help the people by allowing them to swap the vouchers for clothing, food or other supplies. Some families may also need help with paying the bills. It made us realise how lucky we are because we have a house and mum and dad that keep us safe.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the door knock appeal in the Winston Hills area and we would love for as many people as possible to join this fundraising event and help raise money for St Vincent de Paul. Your help would be very much appreciated, so if you have time on 23 August please send back the acceptance forms to Mrs Standing by 8 August.



Written by Stephanie Ogle, Tia Sarju and Samantha Ellis on behalf of the Mini Vinnies team.

EXPO Wednesday August 27, 2014.

EXPO tickets are for sale from Monday of next week! As EXPO draws nearer, there is great excitement in the air. The props, dances, band and choir are coming together beautifully thanks to some very hardworking teachers and parents. In order to be fair to all stakeholders, each family is allocated 2 tickets only. I realize 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.

The EXPO team.

Creative Arts Expo Dance Rehearsals Term 3 Week 4

Monday 4/8 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Choco Choco, Candy Man and Kids

Wednesday 6/8 Lunchtime in the Parish Centre: Peppermint Twist

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



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Thank you to all families who purchased an Entertainment Book this year. We sold 37 copies, raising **\$481** for the P & F at our school. Thank you so much for your support.
Bernadette D'Silva, Organiser.

Dates to Remember

July

- 30 Year 5 Camp – 3 days
- 31 Infants Athletics Carnival

August

- 1 School Census Day; Year 6 Debate, St Paul's vs St Madeleine's, Kenthurst;
Kindy 'Jeans for Genes' Day; Primary Assembly - Year 3
- 2 Group Meeting for First Reconciliation (Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning)
Knights of the Southern Cross Trivia Night, Saturday night 7.00pm
- 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

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN AN AFL AFTER-SCHOOL CENTRE RIGHT HERE AT SCHOOL THIS TERM!

Today all children have participated in a free AFL clinic at school. Starting on Thursday 7 August the AFL will be running a 6 week after school clinic (3.30-4.30) at St Pauls. All children will have received a note about this today.

NAB AFL Auskick is a great way to have fun, meet new friends and get active. For \$47 children receive six one-hour sessions of skills, games and coaching. They also get an AFL backpack with footy, cap and much more.



To Register:

Visit aflauskick.com.au

Enter your school's postcode

Click on your school's name and follow the steps to register. It's that easy!

Mini Vinnies Doorknock Team St Paul the Apostle Primary Team

Parent Name/s: _____

Home Ph: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____



PAVe Preventing Anxiety and Victimization through education

Your school principal has agreed for your school to take part in PAVE, an exciting new research project taking place in NSW and WA primary schools. The purpose of the project is to evaluate two interventions that enhance students' social and emotional learning and foster the prevention of bullying behaviours (*Friendly Schools Plus* and *Cool Kids: Taking Control*). Grades 3 and 4 students are being invited to participate by completing a confidential survey on four occasions over the next three years. Your school will implement *Friendly Schools Plus*.

A parent and student information letter and consent form for the project has recently been sent home with students in Grades 3 and 4. **Parents in these grades are asked to discuss this project with their son or daughter and submit the consent form online via**

[PAVe Parent Information and Consent Form](#)

OR return the completed consent form to their child's teacher by Friday 8th August

[Read about the PAVE project in the Daily Telegraph](#)

Further information can also be found
at <http://www.centreforemotionalehealth.com.au/pages/PAVe.aspx>