



ST PAUL'S POST

Weekly Newsletter

25 March, 2015

Term 1 Week 9

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Our Vision Statement

*Reach new heights
through a community
celebrating faith, life
and learning.*

Principal's Message



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

Last Sunday our Gospel reading was from Jn 12:20-33. Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection through the simple example of a grain of wheat.

*I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.*

Just as a grain of wheat dies in the ground to produce new life, so Jesus died on the cross so that through his resurrection, we may have life. This is a simple illustration of life through death, life triumphing over death. How many times have we suffered or experienced a tragedy or sinned only to be reborn through Christ and go on to a life of love. Let us pray that as we move into Holy Week we can acknowledge our 'deaths' and recognise our new life in Christ.

Yesterday St Paul the Apostle primary school was one of three schools that participated in a **Peer Review**. This replaces the old compliance model and while all three schools were anxious about the process, we were delighted with the outcome. The panel looked at our scope and sequence for 2015, the teaching programs, assessment plan and work samples. It was a great occasion to showcase the fine work we do here at St Paul's. The reviewers were very complimentary and we all took away great ideas from every presentation. Congratulations to our Stage 2 team – Kath Paul, Kieran Jackson, Gemma Veling and Karen love. Thank you ladies for representing St Paul's.

Thank you to all the parents who have completed the **Quality Catholic Schools survey**. You may remember that 60 families were chosen at random to complete the survey. All schools have been granted an extension of time to complete it until Friday March 27. If you have not had the chance to complete the survey, can I encourage you to do so please? The greater the sample of responses, the more representative of the parent body the data will be.

Our School Prayer

Heavenly Father
At St Paul's we pray
that you watch over us
in all we do and say.
Help us to live our
values of empathy,
leadership,
commitment, integrity
and faithfulness.
Guide us to be victors
through faith. We ask
this through Christ our
Lord, Amen.

Contact us

School
St Paul the Apostle School
44 Buckleys Road
Winston Hills NSW 2153
Tel 9639 2555 Fax 9686 2212
Email:
winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Parish
St Paul the Apostle Parish
40 Buckleys Road
Winston Hills NSW 2153
Tel 9639 6516 Fax 9686 1727
Email:
office@stpaultheapostleparish.org

Tonight, approximately 100 of our primary school children will compete in the **Dance Fever challenge** at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush. The children have worked hard to prepare for the challenge – mostly in class time but also during their lunch breaks. I thank the children for their dedication and I look forward to cheering them on this evening! Good luck to all. Next Monday you are invited to a Dance Fever showcase for the children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Gabriella and Cruz would like to invite you, together with the whole school, to our playground concert at 9.30am. If you have not had the chance to see the children in action, then I urge you to come along – you will not be disappointed!

Tomorrow the **Easter raffle** prizes will be wrapped ready for our raffles next week. Thank you to everyone that has sent in a contribution. We are a little lean on eggs and Easter treats so if you have not sent in an Easter egg you have one more chance to do so. The more eggs in each grade, the greater the number of prizes on offer. Thank you for your generosity.

Have a great week everyone.

Marian Bell

Marian Bell
Principal
mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

RE News



For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Matthew 6:14-15

As teachers we spend a lot of time during the season of Lent discussing with the children what it means to prepare for Easter by partaking in fasting, prayer or almsgiving. For many the idea of 'giving something up' during Lent is where Lenten preparation stops. When challenged on how does not eating chocolate but consuming more chips really change them and bring them closer to God, they are perplexed and often cannot answer. As our Lenten journey ends may we all reflect on our choice of Lenten preparation and think about how it truly changed us and brought us closer to God.

Our parish offers the opportunity in the lead up to Easter to attend Reconciliation, where we are offered forgiveness and healing for our sins. Why is forgiveness important? Recently I read an **INFORM** article – 'A Fresh Start, How To Forgive Yourself and Others'. It was an insightful article, that covered what forgiveness is and it spoke of three good reasons to forgive. According to the article forgiveness is a process in which we seek to eliminate from our mind and heart resentment and hurt feelings we have because of what someone has done or failed to do to us. It is gift we give ourselves so we do not remain stuck in the past. It is offered to us with God's grace and allows us to move on to a better tomorrow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Liturgical Events
Unless otherwise stated Mass
will commence at 9:10am

Week 1 – No Mass
Week 2 – No Mass
Week 3 - Opening School Mass
Week 4 – Ash Wednesday
Whole School Mass 12:00
Friday – Welcoming Ceremony -
9:15am, Parish Centre
Week 5 – Stage 2 (Yrs 3 & 4)
Week 6 – Stage 1 Mass (Yr 1 & 2)
Week 7 – Whole School Mass
Week 8 – No Mass
Week 9 – Early Stage 1 Mass
(Kindy)
Week 10 – Stage 3 Mass to be
held on Sunday 29 March (Yrs 5
& 6) 9:30am

General Events

25 March – Feast of the
Annunciation Dance Fever,
Homebush
27 March – Stage 3 Touch
Football Gala Day Mini Vinnies
receive Badges at Assembly
30 March – Dance Fever, Dance-
a-thon
31 March – P & F Meeting 7:30pm
1 April – Andrew Chinn working
with children – Easter Liturgy
2pm in the Church
2 April – Holy Thursday
Term 1 Ends
3 April – Good Friday
4 April – Easter Saturday
5 April – Easter Sunday

School Returns for Term 2
Monday 20 April

In Matthew 18:21-22 Peter asks Jesus: 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?' As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times." And yet the words from Elton John's hit song automatically come to my mind – 'Sorry seems to be the hardest word'. Our Lord is trying to help us see that unless we forgive others God's love and healing cannot fully occur. It is easier to do when we give ourselves fully to the Lord and allow him to guide us in our lives rather than thinking we have all the answers.

Another reason we should forgive is to free our hearts from the physical destructive power of being unforgiving. If we do not forgive others then we are allowing them to have control over our future life.

The final reason the article speaks of is 'When we forgive, we make our world less violent and more loving'. Every day we hear on the news another incident of violence, whether it is in Australia or elsewhere in the world. How often have you wondered, 'Why does it happen? Why does it have to end in violence? Can these situations not be solved peacefully?' Yet without us personally forgiving we are perpetrating hate and animosity in our own little part of the world. During our time of preparation and penance, I urge you to enter into the forgiveness process by attending Reconciliation so we can choose to do what God would have us do. Choose to do what is crucial for our physical and emotional health and choose to make our world a little more peaceful and loving.

God Bless

Mrs Leanda Standring

Religious Education Coordinator

lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au

Mini Vinnies News

Thank you to all of the heart felt responses received by the Year Four students. Some have included some of their responses in this week's newsletter as an inspiration for all of us.

Dear Mrs Standring,

I am writing this letter to apply for the Mini Vinnies because of the following reasons -

- I want to help by raising money throughout the year for the less fortunate people so they can get food, clothings, shelter and some supplies for planting their food.
- I want to learn to be more caring towards others and not to be selfish by visiting the nursing home.
- I have also learned to share and give the less fortunate. For example I celebrated my 7th birthday at the Orphanage in Indonesia. We bought KFC for lunch and a birthday cake for dessert. Each time I go to Indonesia I always bring books, clothes, shoes and toys that I don't need anymore or when I have too many of them.

I am very blessed that I have food on my table and a roof above my head. Sharing is caring.

SPORT DAYS TERM 1

KINDY – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 1 – Monday & Thursday

YEAR 2 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 3 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 4 – Monday & Tuesday

YEAR 5 – Monday & Wednesday

YEAR 6 – Monday & Thursday

Assembly Term 1, 2015

Assembly – Fridays 2:30pm

Week 1 – No Assembly

Week 2 – Whole School

Week 3 – No Assembly

Week 4 – Whole School - Year 6

Week 5 – No Assembly

Week 6 – Whole School – Year 5

Week 7 – No Assembly

Week 8 – Whole School Year 2

Week 9 – Mini Vinnies

Week 10 – No Assembly

Uniform Shop Trading Hours

Thursday 2:30 – 4:00pm

No Saturday Trading until
further notice

For all uniform enquiries
please contact Elle on

0421 216 414 or

elle@ozfashions.com.au

Dear Mrs Standring

The reason I would like to be a Mini Vinnies member is because I am in a Catholic school and I would like to teach people why the poor are God's people. The bible teaches us that the least you do to my brothers and sisters in Christ that you do unto Jesus. If we do more to others God will bless us. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you choose me.

Dear Mrs Standing

I would like to apply for Mini Vinnies. I think I would make a very good Mini Vinnies member because I want to help the poor people, and I hope I can make a small difference to some people's lives. I think by helping others I would become a better more caring person. Thank you for reading my letter.

Dear Mrs Standring,

I would be very happy to become a member of Mini Vinnies! The work they do is brilliant and always very successful and I would like to be like that. I hate seeing people suffering and in need of help, so for me this is an opportunity where I can help. When I do something good or a good deed, I feel proud and good about myself and this is one of those time. I am Catholic and I would like to become closer to God and follow Jesus' example even more. I have put my entire heart into this letter and I will continue to do my best and put everything I can into everything I do.

This week our new members of the Mini Vinnies team will be announced at Friday's assembly. We will be including some photographs and their names in next week's newsletter.

This week members of our team came together and spent some time judging the entries of our St Patrick's Day competition. Next week we will be announcing the winning entries.

(Mini Vinnies Team Members)

Classroom Snapshot – Featuring Kindy

Kindy is focussing on exploring and expressing their unique identities. We are considering how feelings and emotions can be expressed appropriately. Kindergarten is gaining an understanding and appreciation of how much God loves us. They are also giving thanks for the people in their lives.



**Library Borrowing
Term 1**


- Kindy – Tuesday
- Year 1 – Tuesday
- Year 2G – Tuesday
- Year 2N – Thursday
- Year 3 – Thursday
- Year 4 – Tuesday
- Year 5 – Friday
- Year 6 – Thursday

Please ensure your child brings their library bag on their Class Library day.

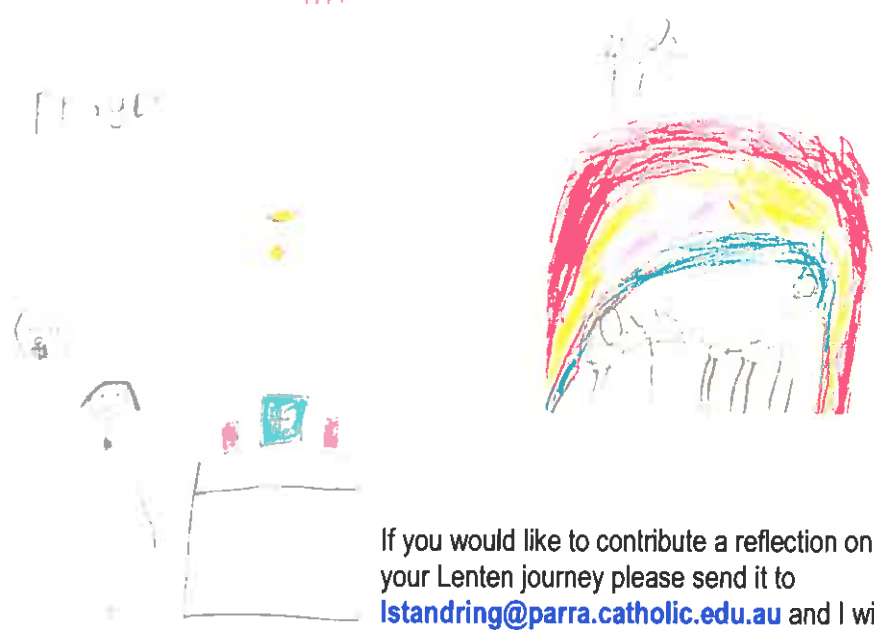
Bell Times

- Block 1: 8:55 – 11:00
- Recess: 11:00 – 11:30
- Block 2: 11:30 – 1:00
- Lunch: 1:00 – 1:45
- Block 3: 1:45 – 3:15

Please remember some of our children have food allergies, we are a NUT FREE school. Help us keep our children safe

Prayer  Dear
God Thank you
for our mums and
dads. Please help all
the sick people
get better

Amen  sk



If you would like to contribute a reflection on your Lenten journey please send it to lstanding@parra.catholic.edu.au and I will add them to upcoming newsletters.



Happy Birthday

To those children celebrating their birthdays between 26 March and 1 April

Jordan Bugeja, Peter Ellis, Noah Cummins, Alyssa Dib, Trent Mulheron, Jerome Haddad, Angelina Robinson

Curriculum Corner

Dance Fever

On Monday 30 March there will be a Dance Fever performance at 9:30 am on the top playground. This performance will be an opportunity for the children from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 to showcase what they have learnt in their Dance Fever lessons.



If you are available and would like to stay for this performance, we ask that you please make your way to the undercroft, after Monday morning assembly, and find a seat in the designated seating areas that will be available to the parents.

Look forward to seeing you there, as so many of the children in infants are excited to have an opportunity to perform their routines for an audience.

Year 2 Incursion

On Monday 16 March, Year 2 were lucky enough to have Fizzics Education come for an Incursion. During this time the children were given the opportunity to consolidate their understanding of sound through hands on science experiments and fun learning activities. Here is what they thought of the day.

"I like when he had the whip and he whacked it on the ground." Brock

"I liked when we had free play with the sound things." Isabella

"I liked when he made a funny sound." Hayley

"It was fun because I like science and I liked it when we used the pipes to speak to each other" Hamish

"My favourite part was when we got to do the science ourselves and when Tom hit the whip" Sophie

"It was fun because we got to use the stuff and I like the noises we made." Tristan



Child Protection

It is a Parramatta Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at school must complete the CEO Online Child Protection Module. This training is available online <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au> and **MUST** be completed every two years.

Please see the following information about the new working with children check.

Working with Children Check

A Working with Children Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work. [The Check is free for volunteers.](#)

Anyone who works face-to-face with children must have a Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance, unless they qualify for an exemption. It does not matter whether they are paid, volunteering or self-employed. This includes tutors, sporting coaches and music teachers.

There are a number of exemptions from the new Working with Children Check. Two of these apply to parent volunteers:

If you volunteer for a school activity and you are a parent or close relative of a student at the school, you do not need a Working with Children Check. However, your child must be a part of the activity that you are volunteering for. If you are picked for an excursion where you are in charge of a group of children the Working with Children Check is required before you can take part.

Therefore St Paul the Apostle School requires that the check is done to cover all eventualities and to avoid the disappointment of being refused the chance of helping both your child and others within the classroom situation.

Outside of school, if you volunteer for a program, team or other activity that includes your child or that your child usually participates in, you do not need a Working with Children Check (except where the work is part of a formal mentoring program or involves intimate personal care of children with a disability).

How to apply

To apply for a Working with Children Check, you must first fill in an online application form, and then present proof of your identity at a NSW motor registry or NSW Council Agency.

STEP 1: Fill in an online application form

- Go to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au and fill in the online application form. If you do not have access to the internet, please call (02) 9286 7219 for assistance.
- Please make sure the details you provide are EXACTLY THE SAME as the details on your identity documents.
- Ensure you select the correct category: **VOLUNTEER WORKER. The \$80 fee for paid workers is not refundable if you are a volunteer and you choose 'paid worker' by mistake.**
- Once you have submitted the form, you will receive an application number that looks like this: APP1234567.

ICAS Competitions

The closing date for the competitions is this Friday March 27. Please keep in mind that because of the paperwork involved we cannot accept any late entries. Your co-operation with this is appreciated.

Medical Alert

Please note that we have had a reported case of Whooping Cough within the school, if your child is sick or you are worried please take them to the Doctor – as you know Whooping Cough is highly contagious.

Also, the school holidays is the perfect time to check your child's hair for head-lice, we have only had a few cases reported this term. It helps to be vigilant.

Just a reminder... Andrew Chinn

Next Wednesday 1 April, the children will have the opportunity to work with Andrew Chinn, Australian religious songwriter and singer. He will be sharing his songs with the children and helping them to reflect on the immense love Christ has for us.

At 2pm in the Church, parents are warmly invited to join us when Andrew leads the children in a Holy Week Liturgy. We hope to see you all there.

Kindergarten Mass

On Friday 27 March at 9:10am, Mass will be celebrated in the church with Early Stage 1 – Kindergarten. Please feel free to join us.

Mini Vinnies Assembly

On Friday 27 March at 2:30pm, our Mini Vinnies Team will be announced and presented with their badges. You are welcome to come along.

Enrolments 2016

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2016 have now commenced. An Enrolment package can be collected from the School Office between the hours of 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Sports News

Cross Country

Last Friday the school community gathered together for our annual school cross country and, although it was warm, what a day it was! The infants classes enjoyed a range of fun activities on the top playground and were treated to an ice block at the finish. The primary years enthusiastically ran the course and were cheered along the way.

The team representing the school at the Diocesan Cross Country will be announced shortly.

Thank you to all of the families who were able to attend on the day to cheer on the students as they ran the course. A very big thank you to the families who kindly volunteered their time to assist on the day. An event like this is not possible without your generosity.

Touch Football

This Friday, 27 March, 32 students from Stage 3 will represent St Paul's at a Diocesan Touch Football Gala Day at St Mary's. We wish them the best of luck with their games. Thanks to the families who are assisting with transport and those assisting with coaching and team management. Your help is much appreciated.

Andrew Lehmann
Sport Coordinator

St Paul's Netball Club results:

Congratulations to Team 17 (9's) who won against RAMS 18-2 and Team 13 (12D1) who won against Glenwood 26-6.

Star Spot

On Friday 20 March, Connor Culnane competed in the NSWPCS Swimming Championships representing the Diocese of Parramatta.

Connor finished 3rd in his heat, he did a PB of 45:52, this placed him 11th overall. He has taken 7 seconds off his PB since the school swimming carnival.

Congratulations Connor, well done!



Awards

Student of the Week

Student of the Week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across all Key Learning Areas

KI	Sienna C
KP	Tanner L
1G	Taylor B
1L	Kingsley A
2G	Noah C
2N	Chiara C
3L	Olivia Sitton
3V	Nathan K
4J	Claudia N
4P	Isobel C
5S	Zachary S
5ST	April W
6L	Lachlan P
6M	Kiarna M

St Paul's Award

St Paul's Award is given to the child who demonstrates our five school values – Faith, Commitment, Leadership, Integrity and Empathy in their interactions with others

KI	Blake K
KP	Brooke K
1G	Lorena V
1L	Nicholas D
2G	Milena L
2N	Tony M
3L	Marcus V
3V	Samuel R
4J	Lucas E
4P	William C
5S	Stephanie O
5ST	Aidan H
6L	Tahlia P
6M	Annabelle H

Note from Oz Fashions

Until further notice the Clothing Shop will not be open on Saturdays.

All orders for Winter uniforms should be delivered this Thursday March 26.

The shop will also be open on Thursday April 2.

If anyone requires any clothing during the school holidays please phone or email Elle and she will make arrangements with you.

M 0421 216 414

Email elle@ozfashions.com.au

Easter Trading Hours

**We will be closed from Friday 3 April
and will reopen on Thursday 23 April**

P & F News

EASTER RAFFLE

Easter Raffle tickets will be available for children to purchase on Friday 27 March, Monday 30 March, Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1st April. Tickets will be sold by teachers for 50c each or 3 for \$1. Every child who donated an egg will also receive a free ticket in the raffle.



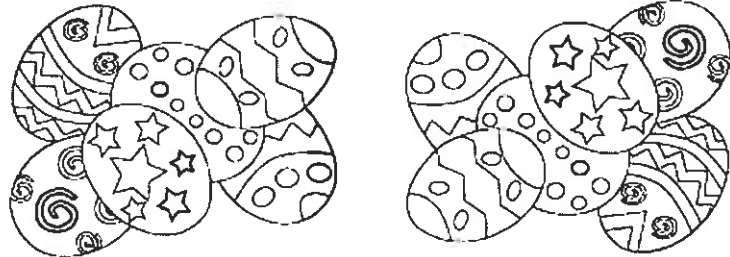
Thank you to all the families for your generous Easter egg donation. You still have until 9am tomorrow morning to get your Easter eggs in if you have not already.

Raffles will be drawn on Wednesday 1st April

We will be wrapping the baskets tomorrow Thursday 26th March. If you have some time to spare on this day we would appreciate your help. We will be meeting in the art room at 9.00am.

Thank you for supporting the school and GOOD LUCK!

Mirna Jasser & Danielle Haddad
Social Coordinators



Save the Date - Bingo Night Fundraiser

The Bingo Night is being held this year on **Friday, 22 May**. This is a fun, enjoyable family night out, in which we, as a school community, can get together, enjoy each other's company and raise money for St Paul's. Look out for more information about this exciting event in next term's newsletter.



Victoria Smith and Marie Oxby

Fundraising

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We are seeking goods and services as donations to be used for prizes this year for our three major raffles.

If any families, own, operate or have connections to source these goods, e.g. electronics, vouchers etc. we would be grateful if you would please contact us on the numbers below or by email.

Thank you in anticipation of your help

Alyssa Dwyer

0411 270 296

alyssa_barry@hotmail.com

Lauren Alley

0421 818 606

loz12c@hotmail.com

St Paul the Apostle School P&F - General Meeting

The new P&F extends an invitation to the school community to attend the General Meeting on the 31 March at 7.30pm. At this meeting we will introduce the new committee and provide information on P&F plans for the year. Importantly though we are committed to running a fully inclusive P&F Executive that consults with other parents. Therefore we would like to hear your views on activities of the P&F, what you would like to get out of the General Meetings, communication strategies and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. We would love to see as many of you on March 31 who are able to make it.

Tuesday 31st March 2015 - Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes from previous meeting
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Introduction from New Chairperson – Emma Hill
6. Correspondence
7. Treasurers report
8. Parish Priest report
9. Principals report
10. Fundraising Coordinators report
11. Grants Coordinator report
12. Social Coordinators report
13. Working Bee Coordinators report
14. PRC Representative report
15. General Business

Discussion about how the school community would like to interact with the P&F e.g. structure/content of general meetings, method of communication, provision of guest speakers at meetings etc...

16. Close of meeting

School Band Holiday Workshop

Do you have bored children sitting around the house during the Easter School Holidays?

Is getting your child to practise their instrument becoming a chore?

Why not consider coming along to one of TSA's Easter Holiday *Combined Band Workshops*?! These workshops are all the best bits of regular Band Camp (minus the waterslide and disco!) rolled into the one day. For most beginners it will be their first introduction to band and for our senior students it will be a chance to join together with other senior students from other schools and tackle some more challenging repertoire. For more information and to enrol for the workshop, please visit www.teachingservices.com.au

Charity Corner

Just as we wore a 'touch of green' for St Patrick's Day we are inviting you to wear a 'touch of yellow' on Friday 27 March – No Gold Coin required! I received a very beautiful letter from Tamara Widjaja in 6L which is included below explaining this request. It would be lovely if we could show our support for Seth.

Dear Mrs Bell

I am writing to ask you if the whole school could wear a "touch of yellow" on Friday 27 March to support a 5 year old boy named Seth. This boy was born without an immune system and so he needs a second bone marrow transplant as the first transplant failed. Seth's dad (Nik) will be the donor and give his son whatever he needs, there's no guarantee Seth will make it through the next four months. This gives me goosebumps.

All his family want is to show Seth he has support by hanging up photos, of people wearing yellow, in his hospital room. People can also post pictures of themselves wearing yellow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram - weareyellowforseth. and SCID, to support Seth.

If you would like to see pictures and more info on Seth go to: www.ourlittlehero.wordpress.com

**Love from
Tamara Widjaja 6L**