



St Paul the Apostle School

Winston Hills

NEWSLETTER

14 May 2014

Dear Parents, carers and friends of St Pauls,

Today when I was walking through the library I picked up a book called ***Growing Great Families – How to Bring Out the Best in Your family (Ian & Mary Grant, Random House, 2004)***. I was flicking through and came to a page that quoted a 40 year old study that claimed outcomes for children tend to be good provided three basics were looked after.

1. The early experiences of the Child are Rich
2. Care is Consistent
3. Children are loved

As parents these three are a given, although we do know that around the world there are many children who are not as fortunate as our children are. We love and care for our children and by reading and talking with them, playing with them, taking them on outings, and laughing and crying with them we are providing them with those rich experiences. At school these three areas also often provide the basis for all that we do with the children.

Loving our children is a given and we see this reflected at school in the way we teach them to accept and celebrate each other. We know that children thrive on consistency, not only in their care but in the daily routine of school. Often for our younger children if we are not consistent with our routines and the way we handle different situations they can become upset and unsettled at school. We also know that in order for children to succeed at school we need to be consistent and persistent with the way we approach their learning.

As teachers we believe that in order for children to learn it is important that they are provided with a variety of rich learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom that allow them to make many different connections and to develop to their full potential spiritually, intellectually and socially. Each week at St Paul's is indeed a very busy week with so many opportunities and rich experiences being made available to our students.

Over the next week we have all of our Year Six children travelling to Canberra, children preparing and receiving their first Eucharist, children assisting with Mini Vinnies, Year Four visiting Old Government House, the leaders visiting Parliament House in Sydney, 60 children taking part in the Writers' Festival at the Riverside Theatre, children practising for the Expo, children taking part in numerous Gala days, children running Chess Club, children learning how to use Google Docs, children preparing for musical performances with both the band and choir – the list goes on and these are just a few of the many wonderful experiences that are part of the learning here and indeed support our children on their journey as they grow into confident adults.

I encourage you to take the time each day to talk to your children about all the wonderful things that are part of their day at school. Perhaps use this as part of your prayer each day with your children, thanking God for all the wonderful opportunities that we have and for all the people in our lives that make these experiences possible.

NAPLAN

As you would be aware this week all of our Year Three and Year Five Students will be sitting NAPLAN. The teachers have done a great job to prepare our students and to ensure that they are not feeling anxious. Yesterday the children did the Language Conventions and Writing part of the assessment. Today they will do the Reading component and tomorrow, Mathematics. If your child is away for any of the assessments a make-up day is available on Friday. At St Pauls we look at NAPLAN as something that will highlight the growth of each child as they journey through school NAPLAN is just one of the many tools that provides us with data to help plan future learning. I encourage you to talk to your child about NAPLAN and to reassure them regularly over the next few days.

WORKING BEE

This Saturday we have a working bee for parents of children in Years One and Five. This is a great opportunity to build community spirit while supporting the school. All helpers will be treated to a BBQ lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.

CANBERRA

We wish all our Year Six students and teachers a safe journey to Canberra. Mrs Standring and Mrs Long will be accompanying the Year Six Teachers. (Mrs Long is replacing Mrs Ricketts) We will look forward to hearing all about this exciting learning experience next week.

Regards, Jane Misk.

Religious Education

But someone will say: "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

Diocesan Works Fund Appeal will be held in our parish and school over the next few weeks. The Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) is an appeal that raises the funds needed to organise and run a wide variety of services to help the underprivileged or disadvantaged people in our community. I have included in this week's RE section a letter written by our Bishop introducing this new fundraising appeal. Our school will be asked to contribute to the fund in the week starting 19 May.



'My Dear People,

The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal is the way schools and parishes can give financial support to the ministries and care services in Parramatta Diocese. Each year more than 20 000 enquires for assistance are made to CatholicCare by youth, families, single mothers, the disadvantaged, the indigenous, the elderly and persons with a disability. This Appeal also provides funds to educate seminarians, deacons and catechists so the Catholic faith can grow and be shared with others.

By sharing a financial gift, you can touch the lives of thousands of people in Western Sydney who are supported through programs that teach, heal, support, nurture and feed. You will make a difference.

Please give generously so their services can be expanded to reach more people. Contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP

DWF envelopes will be sent home next week; please consider contributing to this worthwhile Appeal.

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standing
Religious Education Co-ordinator



MOTHERS' DAY STALL

A huge thank you to Mrs Cheryl Long and Mrs Jaye Harkin for co-ordinating the Mother's Day Stall last Friday and our gratitude also to all the parents who assisted by setting up the stall and selling gifts and raffle tickets. There were many lovely gifts so we trust all our mothers and grandmothers enjoyed their gifts and had a lovely day last Sunday.

WALKATHON Just a reminder to keep collecting your pledges

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

The children attending the Sydney Writers' Festival this coming Monday (19 May) need to **assemble in the library at 8.30am**. The bus will be leaving at 9.00am sharp. All children need to wear their full Winter Uniform and bring their morning tea and lunch with them in a smaller bag. Children also need to bring paper, pencils and a clipboard in order to

participate in the various activities. Children may also bring money to purchase books available for sale, written by our visiting authors. We look forward to the wonderful opportunity of getting to know and learn from Cornelia Funke, Steven Herrick, Andrew Joyner, Ursula Dubosarsky and Felice Arena.

KINDERGARTEN MASS

The date for Kindergarten Mass has been changed because of the Walk-a-thon. The Mass will now be held on **Thursday 22 May**. Thank you Father Raring for accommodating this change.

GOOGLE DOCS TEAM

A group of Year 5 children and the Year 6 Publishing Team have been working with Miss Paul and Mrs Taylor to create presentations using Google Docs and Google Apps. These presentations will be available to view later this term. Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work.

MOTHERS DAY CLASSIC 2014

This year a group of St Paul's Mums entered the Mother's Day Classic as a school team. Early on Sunday morning this group of wonderful mums, The 'Onesie Mumsies', met at Parramatta Park, forgoing their sleep-ins and breakfast in bed - they opted instead to join in this community event.

With pride the team ran, jogged and walked the 8km and all finished in high spirits and much to their surprise the team won the trophy for Largest School Team!

We are proud St Paul Mums and have decided we will make this event a tradition. Hope you can join us next year.



CREATIVE ARTS EXPO 2014

Expo Practise times – Week 4

The following Expo dance groups will be required for rehearsals next week (Week 4)

- Monday lunchtime (Parish Centre): Candyman and kids, lollipop
- Wednesday lunchtime (Parish Centre): Candyman and kids, lollipop
- Friday before school (Music room): Candyman and kids, gummy bears



Dear Parents

The children of St Paul the Apostle Primary School Band cordially invite you to attend



'An Evening of Music'

to be held on Thursday evening, 5th June 2014 at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start, in the Parish Centre.

This special evening gives each of our band children the opportunity to demonstrate their progress on their chosen musical instrument. They will entertain you with both 'small group' songs, and a short band performance.

Come along to encourage and support your child and to help make this evening a memorable one. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Sparks, Band Director

PS: Dress for musicians is smart casual.



MUSIC NOTE

The melodrama 'The Dragon Returns' will be performed by the Choir on Thursday 5th June at 2.30pm.

The performance will be in the Parish Centre and parents are invited to attend.

Hear how the Tales of Count Boris BeStinky are presented by our primary children.

Leona Nash, Primary Music



Dates to Remember

May

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| 15 | Year 6 leave for Canberra; | NAPLAN Numeracy Years 3 & 5 |
| 16 | NAPLAN make-up day; | Infants Assembly – Kindergarten prepare; |
| | Year 6 return from Canberra (evening) | |
| 17 | Working Bee Years 1 & 5; | First Holy Communion 2.00pm |
| 19 | Sydney Writers' Festival, Parramatta Library, | |
| | 8.30am 'Biggest Morning Tea', Father David Scott Parish Centre | |
| 20 | Computer Skills Competition 7.55am; | Boys Soccer Gala Day, Rooty Hill |
| 21 | Year 6 excursion to Baulkham Hills Council Chambers | |
| 22 | Kindergarten Mass 9.10am | |
| 23 | WALK-A-THON | |
| 24 | Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians; | First Holy Communion 2.00pm |

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS

Our Social Skills Focus for next week is

Be committed to finishing your work

