

News Up-date



21 May 2014

Dear Parents,

On Saturday 30 children from our school and parish made their first Holy Communion and over the next two weeks more of our students will receive the Eucharist for the first time. I would like to congratulate all of these children and their families on this very important occasion in their lives. Holy Communion is an incredible gift and the amazing thing about the gift is that it can be unwrapped time and time again in our lives, and every time we do this, the gift will be brand new. Each new unwrapping gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the gift actually is. For us, who have so many distractions in life, we might sometimes forget about God, forget about the Eucharist, forget to pray each day, forget to read the New Testament. First Communion day for a family member, can be a time of renewal for all family members, perhaps a time to unwrap the gift again and discover an understanding that is truly relevant to where we are in life. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of God's love and love is something that all of us can use plenty of.

*"Jesus, we ask you to bless the children who are to receive you in Communion for the first time. We ask you to bless each one of us, so that we might have a renewed understanding of your gift of love.
Amen."*

Please also keep Father Raning and his family in your prayers. Sadly his mother passed away on the weekend. Father Raning has travelled to the Philippines to farewell his mother and be with his family.

This week you will be receiving some information about booking your child/ren's half yearly interview. This year all interviews will be booked via an online booking system. This is a simple and easy system that allows you some choice and flexibility when trying to arrange multiple appointments with teachers and is easy for the teachers as it saves the time of allocating appointments and trying to ensure there are no clashes with siblings. If for any reason you are unable to access the online booking system please contact the school and we will assist you.

You will notice that this year the allocated time for the half yearly appointment with your child and their teacher is 15 minutes. One area that we have been given some feedback on from both staff and parents is the need to look at the reporting system at St Pauls. This year in addition to the 15 minute appointment you will receive a report that contains the E-A grading for your child and the numbers across the cohort as well as a general comment that will outline some areas of strength and areas for development for your child. This report is modelled on one that the majority of the primary schools in the Parramatta Diocese are using.

The report will be sent home in the week prior to the interviews. We encourage you to take some time to talk over this report with your child and to discuss with him/her what he/she might think goals for Term 3 and 4 could be and what specific areas you might like to discuss with the teacher. Reports and interviews should be a positive time for you and your child where you work together with the teacher to celebrate achievements and discuss how you can support your child in the areas that need improvement and plan for future learning. I encourage all families to take the opportunity to make an appointment and meet with the teacher. Please remember that it is important that your child also attends this interview.

During Term Three there will be an opportunity for you to give us some feedback on this midyear reporting process.

On Wednesday I had the privilege of escorting our two school captains to an afternoon tea at Parliament House hosted by Mr David Elliot MP (Member for Baulkham Hills).





While we were waiting to go in we were fortunate to meet the Premier of NSW, Mr Mike Baird. The Premier took the time to stop and talk to our students even though he was rushing to speak in Parliament. We were also lucky to be given our own private tour of some of the legislative assembly meeting rooms. The Captains were able to stand at the same window that Governor Macquarie stood at all those years ago. Thank you to Mrs Skye Duncombe who kindly drove us in and waited to bring

us home in all the traffic.

On Saturday we held our Working Bee - Thank you to all the families who were able to give up some of their busy weekend to help out pruning and beautifying our gardens. Your generosity is much appreciated by all of us.



Finally I would like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Jackson, Miss Galera, Mrs Standring and Mrs Long who took our Year Six students to Canberra this week - an excursion is always an exhausting but fun and rewarding experience for teachers and students - an overnight one doubly so. I also commend the children on their excellent behaviour.

Mrs Bell will be back on Monday. We look forward to welcoming her back and hearing all of her holiday news.

Enjoy the rest of the week
Warm Regards
Jane Misek

Religious Education

When, eventually, they arrived at Emmaus, the two disciples invited the other traveller to stay with them. "When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then, their eyes were opened and they recognised him." Luke 24:29 -31



On Saturday it was my privilege to attend the first of three 'First Holy Communion' celebrations. During his homily Father Raning asked the children how they were feeling about their first reception of the Eucharist. As the children responded, '*worried, excited, nervous and happy*', Father Raning spoke of the memories he held of his own First Communion and how the emotions the children felt were similar to the ones he experienced. Interestingly, he spoke about having the same emotions today, as he prepares and celebrates every Eucharistic celebration. He reflected on the importance of keeping these emotions alive as they continue their life journey and revisit the Eucharist and develop into active members of our Church community.

Throughout the period of preparation, the students have come to understand, that Jesus becomes food for their souls. As their parents, who chose to have them Baptised as Catholics, it is your duty to support and encourage them to receive Communion afterwards, as often as they can, in order to renew and remain close friends with Jesus. This is because, when we receive communion, we receive Jesus and all that he stands for: his compassion towards the sick and disadvantaged, his forgiveness of those burdened by guilt, his call on people to share their wealth, his teaching of the true meaning of love.

In Father Raning's absence Father Lito Layug will be presiding over First Communion Mass on Saturday 24 May and Father Joe Ngoc will be celebrant on Saturday 31 May.

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

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

This year's visit to the Parramatta Riverside Theatre was once again a wonderful event. We were entertained by the most vibrant, interesting, talented and funny authors. **Ursula Dubosarsky** and

Andrew Joyner entertained us with their book reading of "Too Many Elephants in this House". Andrew showed the children how to draw elephants.

Felice Arena who wrote the **Specky Magee** series with **Garry Lyon** about AFL football, had the theatre in stitches about the mispronunciation of his name. Stephen Courtney in year 5 was lucky enough to be picked to go on stage to perform an AFL football catch in slow motion.



Steven Herrick read some of his humorous poems, including "Ten Things your Parents will Never say to You". **Cornelia Funke**, read a few chapters of her book "Ghost Night". The audience was captivated and pin drop silent listening to her haunting tale.

The children represented the school beautifully with perfect behaviour. A wonderful day was had by all who attended. Thank you to Mrs Jackson for accompanying us.

Mrs Taylor, Teacher/Librarian.

National Simultaneous Storytime took place today. The children from Kindergarten to Year Four, were able to enjoy a digital version of the story "**Too Many Elephants in This House**" written by **Ursula Dubosarsky** and illustrated by **Andrew Joyner**. They cuddled their elephants from home and hopefully by participating in this wonderful literary event, witnessed how fun and valuable books can be.

Mrs Taylor



SPORT NOTE

Sport is a great way for children to work together as a team and it encourages them to be physically active. There are so many benefits of sport for children including reducing the risk of obesity, improved personal skills and greater confidence. So put the technology down and **let's move!**

SPORTS SOCKS

The new St Paul's sports socks are now available in the Uniform Shop. Cost: \$7.00pr 9-12, 13-3; \$7.50pr 2-8, 7-11. If your child is wants to wear white socks on sport days, they must be the new St Paul's ones, otherwise the children are to wear brown socks.

REMINDERS

The **WALK-A-THON** is being held this Friday 23 May and will start at 9.15am. Please ensure all sponsor cards are returned to your child's class teacher by tomorrow.

Spaces at the **BINGO NIGHT** (Friday 30 May) are selling out fast so if you'd like to be part of this fun night get your booking/payment in this week.

Wrapping of the Bingo prize hampers will take place next Wednesday morning, 28 May. Thank you to all those who have already offered to help.



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. **A full dress rehearsal will be held at 1.00pm tomorrow.**
Leona Nash, Primary Music



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS



The 2014/2015 Entertainment books are now available. They have 2 for 1 meal deals, movie vouchers, discounts at local attractions and loads more. Books are \$65 each for Sydney West. Please contact Bernadette D'Silva on 0414 588 670 if you would like to purchase one

CREATIVE ARTS EXPO 2014

Expo Practise times – Week 5



The following Expo dance groups will be required for rehearsals next week (Week 5)

- Monday lunchtime (Parish Centre): Candyman and Kids, Gummy Bears
- Wednesday lunchtime (Parish Centre): Candyman and Kids, Gummy Bears
- Friday before school (Parish Centre): Candyman and Kids, Peppermint Twist

HALF YEARLY PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This year we will be using an online booking system for our parent teacher interviews to be held from, Tuesday 10 June until Tuesday 17 June. The process for booking a 15-minute interview with your child's teacher is outlined below. Parents choose the teachers and times that they want, removing any chance of timetable conflicts. Parents get an emailed confirmation of their interviews, and can confirm, cancel or re-schedule on the internet at any time.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions

BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 30th MAY at 9am

The screenshot shows the website interface for booking parent/teacher interviews. It includes a search bar with the school event code 'AV92D' and a 'Go' button. Below this are three numbered steps: 1. Enter your details, 2. Choose teachers, and 3. Choose times. A final step shows an email icon and instructions on how to receive the booking confirmation.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
<http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code>

Enter AV92D school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

1 Enter your details

2 Choose teachers

3 Choose times

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don't have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend's house or on their phones, you are welcome to contact the school office from 21 May onwards, and we will assist you with your booking. Interviews are strictly 15mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 9639 2555