



# St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

28 May 2014

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

To travel is a privilege and a wonderful experience. It opens our eyes to the world around us, to our brothers and sisters everywhere and the connection we all share despite our location. My recent travels enabled me to meet many people, listen to their stories and be a part of their lives for short time. One of my favourite activities was a walk through the farmland in Vinales, Cuba. We walked through fields and came face to face with oxen and other beasts of burden. While it was confronting to see these animals, it was the harsh reality of life on a farm. The farmers and their families work long hard hours but welcomed us into their homes to share a story and a coffee. It made me think about the simple things and how much I take for granted in my busy life. This family taught me much and among the lessons learnt, I am reminded that hospitality and generosity is so important no matter how much we have in this life. I am and always will be grateful for this experience and I thank God for my many blessings. Thank you for the lovely welcome back I have received from so many. Thank you also to Jane Misek and Leanda Standing for leading St Paul's and looking after the community in my absence.

Last Saturday I was present at the **First Eucharist** of some of the students of St Paul's. They too are on a journey - one that has been planned for a long time and one that will continue and remain with them forever. Congratulations to the students and their families. I am sorry I missed the first group, but I look forward to celebrating Eucharist with the next group this Saturday.

I am conscious that Term 2 has been very busy and will continue that way for the next few weeks. I am delighted about the response to our on line booking system for the interviews. The teachers have been preparing for these **interviews** and I am about to read the first of the **reports** due to go out shortly. Thank you to the teachers for embracing the changes to the reporting system and for all of the work done in completing the reports. Please make sure you complete the booking for your interview before Friday May 30.

This week a letter will be going home to all families who have applied for enrolment at St Paul's in 2015. We are going to use the same online booking system for the **enrolment interviews** and hope to complete them all by the end of the term. This is an exciting time in the life of these little people and I am looking forward to meeting our new prospective students.

Have a great week everyone – see you at Bingo on Friday night!  
Marian Bell

## *Religious Education*

**“Then he led them out as far as Bethany and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”** Luke 24:50-53.

A second group of St Paul's children and their families celebrated their children's first reception of the Holy Eucharist on Saturday. It was another lovely Mass presided over by Father Lito. During his homily Father reminded the children of the importance of keeping the joy of Jesus alive in their lives. He spoke about the importance of reacting to our Saviour, as we would our favourite entertainer. Even as adults this is an interesting thought. How can we share the great joy we receive when we participate in the Eucharist with all we meet?



One way is to open our hearts to our God by celebrating The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday 29 May) next Sunday. As the Scripture passage above highlights, the disciples returned to Jerusalem after this event with great joy. For many of us this may be an odd feeling, as when our loved ones die we feel a great sadness or emptiness, which is so unlike the feelings of the disciples. Pope Benedict shared his insights about this topic when he wrote in his book *Jesus of Nazareth*: “The disciples do not feel abandoned. They do not consider Jesus to have disappeared far away into an inaccessible heaven. They are obviously convinced of a new presence of Jesus. They are certain that he is now present to them in a new and powerful way. ... They know that he is now permanently among them in the way that only God can be close to us.

The joy of the disciples after the ‘Ascension’ corrects our image of this event. ‘Ascension’ does not mean departure into a remote region of the cosmos but, rather, the continuing closeness that the disciples experience so strongly, that it becomes a source of lasting joy.”

At the ‘Ascension’ we are told that Jesus, “Lifting up his hands blessed them. While he blessed them he parted from them.” Luke 24:50,51. The gesture of hands outstretched in blessing, expresses Jesus’ continuing relationship to his disciples and to us. In our faith we know that Jesus holds his hands stretched out in blessing over us. This is why, as we commemorate the feast of the Ascension, we should be motivated to go about our life with joy, Christian joy.

May we share the joy with our Year Four on Saturday as Father Joe Ngoc welcomes them with outstretched hands and welcomes them into Eucharist with our Lord as they receive Him for the first time.

The Stage Two teachers have changed the date of the Year 3 and 4 Mass. It will now be held on **Thursday 5 June** so all of the Year Four children can receive communion together for the first time as a year group. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.

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

### **ONLINE BOOKINGS – PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

A reminder that the closing date for parents to book an interview with teachers will end on Friday 30 May. Please contact the office if you need assistance logging on. Step by step details were published in last week’s newsletter.



### **A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY**

#### **Book Club**

Scholastic Book Club Order forms went home yesterday. This issue will be due back to school on Monday 2 June. *A reminder that we will no longer be accepting cash as payment for these orders.* Payments can be made by cheque or credit card. There is definitely **NO OBLIGATION** to buy any books.

#### **Premiers Reading Challenge**

Congratulations to the following children who have completed the Challenge:  
Lily Brame, Benjamin Smith, Zac Brame, Sophia Barnett, Isobel Cassin, Blake Shanahan, Cassandra Wijaya, Corey Fitzsimons and Marc Seif. There are still 52 children who are well on their way to completing the Challenge so keep up the good work and continue reading.

#### **Helpers Required**

We require a few helpers to assist with repairing and covering books in the library. If you have some spare time just drop into the library on a Tuesday or Thursday and see Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili. You are welcome to take books home to cover if that is easier for you to manage.

### **WALKATHON**

The children had a great time at the walkathon last Friday. Thank you to the many parent helpers who helped on the day. We could not run this event without your help. Now is the time to start collecting your sponsorship money and sending it to the office with your sponsor card.

## SPORT NOTE



On Tuesday 20 May, James Halwe, Jason Attard, Marc Seif, Joel Irving, Michael Kobeissi, Eoin Fitzpatrick, William Egan, Jordan Bugeja, Alex Ghosn, Stephen Courtney, Corey Fitzsimons and Nicholas Long represented St Paul's in the Boys Soccer Gala day at Aquilina Reserve, Rooty Hill. All students are to be congratulated for their co-operation and efforts on the day. Also, a huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers, Zoran Bosnich, and Cheryl Long for coaching and supervising the children on the day – your

efforts are greatly appreciated.

## CREATIVE ARTS EXPO 2014

### Expo Practice times – Week 6

The following Expo dance groups will be required for rehearsals next week (Week 6)

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

## BANKING NEWS

Please note that your deposit books will now be returned to you on either Thursday or Friday. Our banking day is still **WEDNESDAY**. The change in returning of deposit books is due to the processing of deposits which is either am or pm on Thursdays.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Georgina 0417 285 572 or Kate 0411 223 933 if you have any questions.

## MUSIC NOTE



The melodrama 'The Dragon Returns' will be performed by the Choir on Thursday 5 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

- 28 Sacramental Enquiry Night for parents of **Year 3** children, 7.30-pm in the Church.
- 29 Ascension Thursday
- 30 Rugby League Knockout, Kellyville; Infants Assembly - Year 2 prepare; On-line bookings for parent teacher interviews close  
P & F Bingo night; 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start
- 31 First Holy Communion 2.00pm

### June

- 1 PRC General Meeting DAC Mt Druitt 7.00pm
- 2 P & F Meeting 7.30pm
- 4 Science Competition 8.00am
- 5 Stage 3 Mass (changed from Friday 30 May); 'The Dragon Returns' 2.30pm;  
Band concert 6.30pm Parish Centre
- 6 Rugby League Knockout, Kellyville; Year 3 excursion to Warragamba Dam;  
Kindergarten excursion to the Zoo-