



# St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

12 November 2014

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

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month we commemorate the end of World War 1. **Remembrance Day** is a time when we can pay respects to the soldiers who died in battle. Yesterday the children came together in prayer to remember our fallen. Standing in silence following the Last Post is so powerful and unites us with our brothers and sisters from all over the world knowing that at that time, we share a common language. We wear red poppies on Remembrance Day because poppies bloomed on the battlefields in Flanders. The following poem written by Lieutenant-Colonel John McRae (1915) is often read at these times. I invite you to share it with your families.

*In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*John McRae.*

Last weekend was very social for the St Paul's community. On Friday night Mrs Rodriguez and her team of helpers organised the **disco** for the children. I know that the children really enjoyed themselves and some told me that the teachers were pretty good dancers also. Thank you Leeanne for all of your work in preparation for the night and for ensuring the smooth running of the disco. Thanks also to Mrs Jasser and her team of helpers for a very successful **trivia night**. Many parents and friends joined in the fun of the evening and had a great time. Congratulations Mirna to you and your team for a fabulous evening. Both these events were examples of community coming together as well as an opportunity to fund raise. Thank you to all who were involved.

On Monday December 8, some members of **Sydney Kings** are coming to visit St Paul's. Thank you to Declan Agius and his mum Katherine for planting this seed of an idea and helping to make it happen. Declan has been a long time fan of the kings and I know that there are other children at St Paul's who share that passion. The visit will be from 2-3pm and parents would be most welcome to join us.

On Friday I have invited all interested parties to attend a **garden meeting**. I need to change the time to an afternoon time slot. I am very sorry for the change and I hope those interested can still make the meeting in the library at 2.15pm. I would like to discuss the possibilities of

creating a vegetable garden, what is involved in the process, some discussion around sustainability of the project and to go for a walk around the school to determine possible garden locations.

Finally, on Friday at 9.15am in the parish centre, the nominated school leaders for 2015 will be giving their **leadership speeches** to Year 4 and Year 5 students. Parents of the nominated students are most welcome to join us. Congratulations to the following students: **Jake Hardwick, Louis Bahan, Quinn O’Rielly, Nikolas Forrest, Adam D’Costa, Alana Attard, Tahlia Poole, Gabriella Watkins, Kate Sloane and Jennifer Grubba**. I wish them all the very best for Friday’s speeches and I look forward to sharing the outcome of the voting with them and the whole community.

Have a great week everyone,  
Marian Bell

## Religious Education

**Greater love has no one than this,  
that one lay down his life for his friends. John 13**

Yesterday, 11 November, we observed Remembrance Day with a simple prayer ceremony run by the members of Mini Vinnies. In the lead up to the service the teachers spent time discussing with the children the importance of this day by emphasising the symbol of the poppy. Many of the children made poppies, as a sign of hope for peace in our world. Other children drew pictures representing a peaceful world. These symbols of hope were added to our sacred space as we recalled the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by



representatives of Germany and the Allied Powers. The First World War officially ended, 96 years ago, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919. As a sign of respect we lowered the flag to half-mast and observed a minute silence to honour our dead and all our current members of the armed services that are still fighting for a better world today.



At Friday’s assembly, Mr John Neylan presented Mrs Bell and the Mini Vinnies members with a special certificate in honour of their contribution to the St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal. A special certificate was presented to Joyce Lord for her endless support to the appeal over the last ten years. Congratulations to all those who received the award.

In the lead up to our school concert we are asking for a gold coin donation on **Tuesday 25 November**. The gold coin is used to purchase gifts for those less fortunate. At our yearly concert the gifts will be presented to a member of the local St Vincent de Paul Conference and they will be distributed to families in our local community along with food hampers so they too will have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. More information on how you can donate items can be found in our Parish bulletin or you can leave the donations in the bins at the back of our church.

God Bless,  
Mrs Leanda Standring (Religious Education Coordinator)

### St Paul Award Recipients:

The following children received the St Paul Award at last week’s Primary Assembly:

**3V** – Kaitlyn Lafferty      **3S** – Peter Matis      **4TL** – Lewis Duncombe, **4P** – Jack Beeche,  
**5N** – Elizabeth Brogden **5M** – Kiarna Moujalli,      **6J** – Mark Seif      **6G** – Dylan Sarju  
Congratulations to these children for living out our school values.

## ***Prayer:***

Dear Our Heavenly Lord,  
Please help us to show our talents to other people and not hide them to ourselves.  
Please help us to be thankful and appreciate our talents as each and every one of us have different talents.  
Help us realise that our talents are special in every way and that we should show them to others.  
We ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen

*By Ebony and Madeline 4P*

## **DIOCESAN WORKS FUND**

Today, each family will receive an envelope from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta. You are encouraged to make a donation to the DWF appeal via the envelope (which can be returned to the school) or on-line, thus supporting the various ministries and outreach services operating in the Parramatta Diocese.  
Thank you.



## **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AT SCHOOL**

As you might be aware the NSW Workplace, Health and Safety Act places a legal obligation on all schools to ensure that people who work, study or volunteer on the site are safe. As you would expect the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our school communities is always our highest priority. We are consistently reminded to review our security and safety procedures. These include all parents or visitors to the site signing in at the office, gates locked during school hours and visitors and contractors to the site having approved licenses and identification.

With this in mind we are also required to carry out emergency evacuation and lockdown drills. Last week we had an emergency fire drill. The children were very calm and we all managed to exit the school and account for all teachers and children with minimal disruption.

Next week we will be having an emergency lockdown where children will be secured in classrooms and the school closed off to any outside visitors. This is not a cause for alarm, just a routine procedure that we are required to carry out. This will be explained to the children. The whole procedure will take about five minutes. Schools can be put into lockdown for a number of reasons and in my 25 years of teaching I have only been in a lockdown once. However, like all other public areas, it is essential that we do practice all emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all.

Thank you for your continued support  
Jane Misek

## **P & F TRIVIA NIGHT**

Our Masquerade Trivia fundraiser, held in the Parish Centre on Saturday 8 November, was a huge success. A night which we, as a school community, were able to have some fun and raise money for computers to assist our children and our school. At this time an amount of \$8,091 has been raised. Special thanks to the following people, who were an amazing team to work with: Alyssa Dwyer, Lauren Alley, Danielle Haddad, Lee-Anne Culnane, Bethany Power-Jones, Emma Cartwright, Carmel Khalil, Simone Howes, Tracey Biason, Maxine Arthur, Rennee Whittaker, Charlotte Maroun, Narelle Hart and Robert Tunchon.

Mirna Jasser  
Coordinator

## **SCHOOL DISCOS**

Thank you to all the children who came along and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Discos last Friday night. It was fun!! Special thanks to our mums and dads whose help was invaluable: Belinda and Maddie Hamilton, Simone Howes, Simone Lafferty, Michelle and Geoff Moreton, Tracey Biason, Dianne Attard and Jessica Gonzalez. We raised \$1385. A very special note of thanks to Mr Ivan O'Breza, our (retiring) DJ. Thank you Ivan, for 12 years of generous assistance.

Leeanne Rodriguez  
Coordinator

## SACRAMENTAL UPDATE

Last week, all parents in Years 2 and 3 were sent a letter regarding the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist in 2015. If you did not receive a letter, or if your child is in another class and has not received these Sacraments, please contact the office for a copy of the letter.

Sandra Sheehan  
Sacramental Coordinator.

## Dates to Remember

### November

- 17 Swimming program continues
- 18 Orientation morning at Gilroy College
- 20 Kindy 2014 Orientation morning 9.15am-11am;  
Uniform Shop open 8.30am-10.30am & 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- 21 Swimming Program finishes  
Oakhill College Orientation Day
- 22 Whole School Working Bee
- 25 Gold coin day for St Vincent de Paul  
P & F Meeting 7.30pm

## WORKING BEE REMINDER

**On Saturday 22 November**, we are holding a **whole school** working bee. Hopefully each family will be able to send along at least one member to help out on the morning. BBQ lunch will be supplied. A letter will be going home this week with more information and a reply slip for catering purposes.



## Band News

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The *School Band* is now taking enrolments for 2015 and participation is open to all students who are *currently in year 2-5*. No prior experience is required.

Students will have recently attended a **Concert** by the band and *Teaching Services Australia (TSA)* staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will also have received a yellow *Expression of Interest* form ("*Band Program Introduction*"). Students who return this form will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive *Enrolment Pack* with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

This yellow *Expression of Interest* form is due back to the school office **within 5 days**. You can download this note at [www.teachingservices.com.au](http://www.teachingservices.com.au) or for more information email [info@teachingservices.com.au](mailto:info@teachingservices.com.au)

