



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

26 November 2014

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

Last Sunday's Gospel was from Matthew 25: 31-46. It is one of my favourite pieces of scripture and a timely reminder for us as we draw closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth. Jesus acknowledges acts of kindness:

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then his disciples said:

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?"

And Jesus answered:

"I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me."

I challenged the children at Monday's assembly to think about what acts of kindness they could show one another. I wonder if they shared that with you? For whenever we look after someone by feeding or clothing or welcoming or visiting or showing an act of kindness, we are doing the same to Jesus.

The school looked beautiful on Monday morning thanks to the efforts of all who attended our final **working bee** for 2014. Special thanks must go to Mrs Misek, Mr Tomei and Mr Byrne for coordinating the morning's work. Thank you also to the many families that came along in support. You all worked so hard and on behalf of the school community I thank you all.

Last night was our final **Parents and Friends** meeting for 2015. It was a well-attended meeting as we looked at the year in review and the wonderful achievements of 2014. Also at the meeting the groups voted in favour of giving the school \$20,000 towards the artificial turf and rounded up the trivia fundraising to \$10,000 towards computers here at St Paul's. Thank you to everyone who came along to the meeting and to the P & F executive for all of your hard work throughout the year. This is a very hard working group who have contributed so much to this community, not just monetarily but also in time. The children are the beneficiaries always and for that I am truly grateful. I would like to make special mention of Danielle Bliss and Cheryl Long who have been long time members of the P & F Association and who will be finishing up at St Paul's this year. Thank you to both families for your commitment to your roles and for everything you have done for St Paul's over many years.

You may have noticed that we have begun the placement of the **artificial grass** on the bottom playground. The company doing the grass offered to come earlier than the January holidays – so we jumped at the chance! The play area will be limited this week to keep the children safe but we will be back playing in the area next week.

At our **garden** meeting last week we had an enthusiastic discussion about beginning a vegetable garden. We went for a walk around the school and decided on some areas that would be suitable for our garden. We are going to begin next week by planting sunflowers and pumpkins in the area behind the kindergarten room. By the time we get back from holidays, we should see lots of growth. The other area we have looked at is the 'quiet area' on the playground. We are looking to place some raised beds in that area and we are hoping that someone has some contacts with raised garden beds made from Colorbond corrugated steel. Please drop me a line if this is the case.

Please look for a separate letter coming home about the **Christmas concert** today. I am aware that there was conflicting information in last week's newsletter and for that mistake – I apologise and beg forgiveness. I am looking forward to the evening and I hope to see all of you there to help celebrate our end of year.

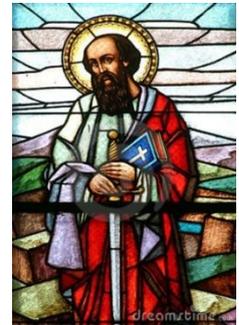
Have a great week everyone.
Marian Bell

Religious Education

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come. Mark 13: 35

Catholics all around the world will commence Advent this Sunday. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. Our belief as Catholics is that the Lord is coming.

‘During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present. Today we can reflect on the past track record of God and so begin to understand what it means to us now for the sake of what is to come, in our own future and that of our world.’ © *Liguori Publications Excerpt from Advent - A Quality Storecupboard The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer*



This week every child and teacher in our school has been invited to make a handprint, which will be used to create an Advent wreath. Every Monday morning as part of our preparation during Advent, our school community will come together in prayer, led by members of our Mini Vinnies team. Within the prayer service we will light an advent candle as we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. You are all invited to join us in prayer.

In last week's newsletter I referred to our Outreach program where the Year Six students visit Woodberry Village and shared stories with the residents. This week I have included some reflections of the visits.

Yr 6 Reflection Of Woodberry Village

by Marc Seif

Over the last few weeks the Year Six students have had the privilege to visit the residents of Woodberry Village. This was an amazing experience for all students as we were reaching out to others in the community. For many residents it was very emotional to have children visiting them at the retirement village. It was a great honour for us to meet such wonderful people and converse with them about their history. Many of us felt our hearts being touched while listening to the residents' amazing stories.

On Thursday 20th, we were also given the opportunity to visit them. We served morning tea and then moved to the auditorium for our performances to entertain the residents. There was a range of different performances including singing by Georgia.B, Georgia.E, Monty, Charlotte, Genevieve and Marc, Corey, Nicholas, Lincoln and Xavier as a Boy Band. Our dancers were Makayla, Sarah, Georgia.A and Skye. Instrumentals were by Cameron, Eoin, Rachael, Thomas and Jessica.

The residents seemed to really enjoy it and some were even singing along! Overall, Woodberry Village was a wonderful experience and a superb way for us to provide a community service while having an incredible time!

Woodberry Village

by Corey Fitzsimons

Over the past two weeks, 6G and 6J were given the opportunity and privilege to visit the elderly people in Woodberry Village, Winston Hills. While we were there we talked to the residents about each other's lives. It is hard to believe how much times have changed since when these people were young.

This brought back to the residents a lot of nostalgia and some were delighted to share their stories of days gone by. Some people even said they could remember back as far as when they were as young as us.

Some of the stories were sad. We listened to a resident tell her story about when her husband went to war as a young man but never returned. This reminded me of how blessed I am to not have to witness things like that in my life.

There were many happy stories also as the residents loved sharing their youthful adventures with us.

On the first week of visits both classes took their scrapbooks to show the residents.

This was exciting as the residents were really interested in our lives and about where we come from and our backgrounds.

On the second week of visits we took our Pom Poms and worked with the residents to make them.

They really enjoyed this as some residents really liked doing craft work. These Pom Poms were given to the residents as a little gift in keeping with the spirit of Christmas.

On the Thursday we visited the residents again and were given morning tea. We talked to the residents about their lives and related them to ours. Some talented singers, instrumentalists and dancers performed their items to the residents. The talented singers were Georgia B, Georgia E, Monty, Charlotte, Genevieve and Marc, Corey, Nicholas, Xavier and Lincoln as a band. The dancers were Skye, Sarah, Makayla and Georgia A. The instrumentalists were Thomas, Rachel, Cameron, Eoin and Georgia A. The residents enjoyed these performances and some even sang along.

Year 6 had a great time and enjoyed the humour and stories of the residents as well as feeling we had given back a little of the blessings which we have in our daily lives.

As you can see, the Year Six students and the residents both gained so much from this experience.

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standring (Religious Education Coordinator)

Prayer:

Almighty Father,

Please help all the people around the world who are not as fortunate as us this Christmas. Help us to remember that Christmas is not just about presents – it is about being thankful for your son, Jesus, who gave his life for us.

Amen

(Adam D'Costa 5M)

Social Networking Problems

It has come to the school's attention that some of our students are using social networking sites inappropriately. The following are some suggested guidelines on the responsible use of social media for students.

- I should never use ICT disrespectfully, dishonestly or unlawfully**
- I should never say or do things that I wouldn't like others to do or say to me**
- I should never share personally identifiable information**
- I should never access sites meant for people in older age groups than me**
- I should never give my password to anyone except my parents or my teacher**

Please read this with your children and set boundaries for the use of social media. Most social media websites and apps require that children be 13 to sign up – not primary school age. Parents should be aware of the problems that young minds are unable to discern between what is appropriate to post and what is not appropriate. Please look at the following web site.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/social-media>

WE NEED HELP SEWING MASCOTS

Our names are Haylee Shelton and Kate Sloane and we are in year 5. We have suggested to Mrs Bell that from next year the school has mascots. This would mean each colour house will get its own mascot. We were thinking that Red would get Elmo, Blue - Cookie Monster, Yellow - Big Bird, Green - Oscar the Grouch, as well as a school mascot which will be a lion. For this to occur we will need parents, grandparents and teacher volunteers who can sew. If you are able to help, please leave your name and phone number at the school office. Thank you.
Haylee and Kate.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - TEALIGHTS

We have 120 tea light candles in a plastic cup for sale at \$2 each. These would be ideal for the Christmas Concert. If anyone is interested please purchase from the school office.

CLOTHING SHOP NEWS

Thursday 11 December will be the last day of trading in the school clothing shop for 2014. We will only be open for sales from 8.30am-10.30am as we will be conducting a stock take from 1.30pm.

Thank you,
Sarah Haber.

Ice Blocks

Would you like to cool down during lunch time?

If you answered 'yes' to the above question, then Year 6 can help you! To raise some extra money towards their graduation, Year 6 will be selling ice blocks in the playground during lunch. You will be able to purchase Zooper Dooper ice blocks on Thursday 27 November and Tuesday 9 December for **50cents** each.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for supporting Year 6.



ST PAUL'S NETBALL CLUB 2015 REGISTRATION



St Paul's Netball Club is looking for new players for the 2015 season.

If you know a girl turning 7, 8, 9 or 10 in 2015 who would love to play netball, then we would love to hear from you. Players do not need to attend St Paul the Apostle Primary School, so if you have any friends interested then please let them know.

We are looking for up to 3 new players in the 7's and 10's, and up to 2 new players in the 8's and 9's.

To enquire or to register, please call Club Registrar
Nicole Brown on 0407 868 093

Dates to Remember

November

28	Christmas Concert – gates open 5pm
30	1st Sunday of Advent; Kindergarten Mass 9.30am



December

- 4 Year 6 leave for Vision Valley
- 5 Swimming Carnival, Years 2-5, Homebush; Year 6 Vision Valley
- 7 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 8 Feast of The Immaculate Conception; Reports go home



Catherine McAuley Year 7 2016 Enrolment

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools was introduced in October 2014 which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese. The key change in the new policy is the removal of the concept of 'feeder' parishes and schools.

In light of these recent changes it means the letter sent to all primary school parents of Year 5 girls concerning enrolment at Catherine McAuley for Year 7 2016 is now incorrect. That letter referred to feeder schools and advised that Catherine McAuley would not need to interview applicants from feeder schools who apply for a place at Catherine McAuley.

Please be advised that given the new Enrolment Policy and given the great demand for places at Catherine McAuley all applicants will continue to be interviewed as was past practice.

A reminder that applications for Year 7 2016 must be submitted by the closing date of Friday 27th March 2015 to be considered for first round offers. Offers of admission will be made during Term 2.

A Year 7 2016 Enrolment Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 17 March 2015 after the Catherine McAuley Open Afternoon/Evening which will now take place from 4.00 – 6.30pm.

Please contact Catherine McAuley School Reception if you have any further questions regarding enrolment on 9849 9100 or visit our school website www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

COUNSELLING COURSE

The St John of God Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace.

It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 3 February 2015. The cost for the course is \$450.00 for the year with an early bird offer of \$400.00 if paid in full by the end of February 2015.



For enquires please contact:

Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432;
Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0408 705 848;
Jannelle Carlile - 0431 598 004; or
Email: counselling1969@gmail.com