



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

15 October 2014

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

On Thursday evening and Sunday morning many of our children will be confirmed by the Bishop of Parramatta - The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP. This is a time of celebration for the whole community and I continue to pray for our students and their families. As I am sure you are aware, Bishop Anthony will be leaving Parramatta diocese to take up the position of Archbishop of Sydney. The children of St Paul's parish are fortunate to have Bishop Anthony as celebrant for their **Confirmation** during this busy time as he prepares for his next role. We are very grateful for Bishop Anthony's time and on behalf of the St Paul's Primary School, I sincerely thank Bishop Anthony for his guidance and leadership of our diocese and wish him well for his journey ahead.

Next Tuesday night at 7.30pm we are looking forward to the information night for the **2015 Kindergarten** parents. This is an important meeting for new parents and existing parents as we all prepare to welcome our newest members of the St Paul's community. This is an evening for parents only and we encourage you to make arrangements for your children to be minded on this occasion. If you have any questions or queries, please either phone or come into the office for assistance. I look forward to meeting with you all next week.

Last night we had a parent meeting to discuss some changes to the **student leadership for 2015**. It was a lively conversation and I really appreciated everyone's honest reflections and comments. Thank you to the parents who braved the storms to come along for this meeting. I hope you found the evening valuable and informative. If you need clarification or want to make further comment feel free to email me mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

I would like to invite anyone from our community to come to speak to the Year 5 students about leadership. In the next two weeks we will be workshopping with the Year 5 students about what it takes to be a leader. I am sure that parents/grandparents/friends from our community would have great insights to share with our students. Please let me know if you would like to help.

Some extra curricula activities have been happening at St Paul's this week. On Monday the children all participated in a free dance lesson by **Dance Fever** – the company who will be delivering a dance component of the PDHPE and Creative Arts syllabus. In term 1 of 2015 all children will participate in a weekly dance lesson culminating in a whole school performance at the end of the term. Yesterday the children also experienced a different musical experience – **Musica Viva**. Thank you to Mrs Nash for organizing the event and bringing this to St Paul's. The company were very complimentary of the children – their singing and their engagement in the performance. Well done everyone.

Remember that the Infants Assembly for Term 4 is on this Friday – hope to see you then. Have a great week everyone,

Marian Bell

Religious Education

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mark 8:22-25

Over the weekend I had the privilege of spending an hour on both Saturday and Sunday with Year Five students and other candidates from the parish community, who will be making their Confirmation on Thursday 16 or Sunday 19 October.



It was humbling to witness the candidates, along with their sponsors and parents, preparing for such an important part of their faith journey. Thank you to all the people who have worked hard, behind the scenes, to assist in preparing the candidates in readiness for this sacrament.

The sacrament of Confirmation seals us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and strengthens us to be more like Christ. Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Catholic faith, as the candidates make a commitment to renew their Baptismal promises.

All of the candidates being presented for Confirmation have chosen a Saint's name. The name they have chosen has a special meaning for each individual and will serve as a great example for each one of them in their own life choices.

The most Reverend Archbishop Elect of Sydney, Bishop Anthony Fisher, will be coming to St Paul's to confirm the candidates. This is indeed an honour and we welcome Bishop Anthony to our parish and school community.

On Thursday night the candidates and their sponsors are required to arrive at the church no later than 6:45pm and on Sunday no later than 9:15am. Please remember that no video or photography of any kind is to be taken during the mass. There will be photo opportunities after the mass.

Finally, I ask that, as a school community, we keep these candidates in our prayers as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation.

God Bless,
Miss Gemma Natoli (Acting Religious Education Co-Ordinator)

A PRAYER FOR THE POOR.

Almighty God,
Please help us to think of other people, not only ourselves. We feel grateful because we have all the things we need and eighty per cent of the world do not have proper drinking water or food. Please help us to think of others less fortunate by donating at least a few dollars a day.
If we keep donating, we will help make our world a happier place.
Thanks for all the things we have been given.
Amen.

By Tia Sarju and Madison Cummins.



Kiss 'n Drop

Please remember that **kiss 'n drop** has been designed for the safety of our students. I know that it has been well received but I am concerned about some parents who are not using the procedure safely and appropriately. Please remember the following guidelines:

1. Cars approach kiss 'n drop cautiously and drive right to the end of the pathway.
2. Children alight from the car on the passenger side (not always possible but aim for this please).
3. Children close door.
4. Cars move off slowly giving way to the traffic.

There have been some instances when the safety of children has been compromised and parents have not always been mindful of others. Please observe the guidelines. There will not always be a staff member on kiss 'n drop this term so I am relying on you to do the right thing and assist keeping our children safe.

We are still exploring ways to enable a similar system for the afternoon and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY

On Friday 10 October 2014, students from St Paul the Apostle participated in the Parramatta Diocesan Touch Football Gala Day at The Kingsway Playing Fields, St Mary's. All students are to be congratulated for their cooperation and efforts on the day. The boys' team came in equal 4th, the girls' team and the mixed team both came second in their respective divisions. Well done everyone! We would like to say a very big thank you to Monique Brennan, Troy Fitzpatrick, Damien Borg and Andrew Courtney for all their support on the day. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Angela Dunn and Fiona Lambert

REMINDER

The swimming program at St Paul's commences in Week 6, on Monday November 10 for children in Kindergarten – Year 4. Start preparing your children for their lessons by speaking positively about swimming and the upcoming program.



GRADE PE/SPORT DAYS TERM 4

An addition to last week's Sport Roster for Year Six students. Tuesday and **Thursday** are the days to wear your sport uniform.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Advanced Life Photography will be here on Sunday 9 November, to take family photos. If you are interested in having a photo taken, (which helps raise funds for our school), an information flyer is available at the office.

YEAR 7 SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENTS 2016

For any parents interested in selective high school placement for their child in **2016**, please go to this website for information www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

Dates to Remember

October:

- 16 Confirmation Liturgy 7.00pm
- 17 Infants Assembly
- 19 Confirmation Liturgy 9.30am
- 21 Kindergarten 2015 Parents' Meeting 7.30pm
- 24 Years 5 & 6 Surf Education Excursion to Manly
- 28 Parent Meeting re Uniforms 7.30pm
- 28, 29 & 30 Kindy 2015 transition mornings 9.15am – 10.15am
- 31 Holy Faith Awards 10.15am
World Teachers' Day

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS

Our social skills focus for next week is

Say 'thank you' when complimented; use eye contact and smile



FIRST FOOT FORWARD

First Foot Forward is run by the University of Western Sydney. It aims to provide its participants with opportunities and information that could assist them in making an informed decision about post-high school study options. The first FFF Family Open Night is being held at the University of Western Sydney, Parramatta South Campus, James Ruse Drive on Thursday 23 October, at 5.30pm. Building PS-EE.G.19



All you have to do is register online via www.usw.edu.au/primaryfamilynight tell us what session you want to attend, how many people you are bringing and we will do the rest. Alternatively you can email firstfootforward@usw.edu.au or call the team on 9678 7662.