

News Up-date



2 April 2014

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

Last Sunday our **Stage 2** children, parents and teachers celebrated Eucharist with the parish community. I know that Mrs Standring has written about this also, but I wanted to offer my thanks to all those who were able to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity for parish and school to work closely together. It is also beautiful for the parishioners to witness our children's faith and enthusiasm for celebrating. I look forward to the next fifth Sunday celebration.

Kiss'n Drop is running very smoothly each morning. Thank you to all of the parents who are using the system safely. I would like to list a few reminders:

1. If you use the area before 8.30am – there will not be a teacher on duty. Please drive to the furthest available point and allow the students to exit on the left hand side.
2. Make sure the children's bags are in the car with you.
3. Parents remain in the car.
4. Drive off slowly and give way to traffic already in the car park.
5. Do not drop children at the first gate – this is unsafe and not acceptable at any time. If you need more time in the morning please park elsewhere and walk your child into school.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Learning support at St Paul's. At St Paul's we are fortunate to have a learning support teacher and teacher's aid working with teachers to address the individual learning needs of all students. In the past many students experiencing difficulty in the classroom were withdrawn from class for support. Our learning support now happens in the classroom with the classroom teachers. Every teacher is responsible for every child's learning and aligning our learning support to work in situ has many advantages for the children and for the teachers. Our most vulnerable students are receiving support for their learning. If you have any questions please come in and see me or email me mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our congratulations and best wishes go to **Miss Kathryn Reid** who on Saturday April 12 is marrying Michael Foster. I know you will join me in wishing Kathryn all the very best for her wedding day and a life of love and happiness. We look forward to seeing the pictures of the big day!

As you may be aware, a **new privacy legislation** came into effect in March of this year. I have attached some information on the collection of information called the Standard Collection Notice but for further information please go to <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/policy-central>

Have a great week everyone,
Marian Bell

Religious Education

“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10

We all lead busy lives, full of after school activities, sporting events or organising our household. Children are included in our hectic afternoon adventures, on top of this they live in a world full of electronic devices that continually connect them online communities. 'Down-time' is becoming harder and harder to achieve.

Every Monday our school community stops and participates in 'Christian Meditation'. It is more than 'down-time', it is a way for the children to experience stillness and silence through prayer. More importantly it is a way for them to allow Jesus into their hearts and develop a relationship with him that will continue to develop throughout their life.



During Christian Meditation, children are given the opportunity to set up a sacred space on which to focus. Then they listen to Sunday's gospel reading and reflect on it as they silently pray. During this time of silence the children are directed to close their eyes or bow their heads and silently repeat the mantra – Ma-Ra-Na-Tha. Maranatha is Aramaic for "Come Lord" and the children are encouraged to silently repeat this word during the period of silence so to open their hearts to our Lord. As the children continue to repeat the mantra it allows them to block out all other thinking and therefore experience God's presence in their lives. It is truly a beautiful way for anyone to connect with our Lord.

On the weekend the Stage 2 teachers, parents and children came together and shared the Eucharist at our first Sunday School Mass. I would like to thank the parents who took the opportunity to build our parish connections by joining in Eucharist together. It was truly an uplifting occasion. Thank you to all parents, children and teachers for preparing and participating in this Mass. I would also like to thank Father Raning and the Parish Council for inviting us to participate in Sunday masses. A special thank you also to Steven Fenech, who took the time during the week to learn the new hymns. His uplifting playing, combined with his voice and the voices from the choir, definitely added to the experience. Like many parishioners, I am looking forward to the next 'fifth Sunday' so we can come together again and celebrate.

During the mass the children participated in a reverent dramatization of 'Jesus healing the blind man'. If you were unable to attend the mass you can view the dramatization by following the link: tinyurl.com/SPTAWH1

God Bless

Mrs Leanda Standring, Religious Education Co-ordinator

Mini Vinnies News

During Lent our school has been raising money for CARITAS. One of our events was the St Patrick's colouring-in competition. This raised eighty dollars. Thank you to all the children who participated in this event.

We had the hard job of deciding who the winners were but we did it the fairest way possible. The teachers covered the names of the entrants and we judged only from the colouring in. We weren't allowed to look at siblings, kindy buddies or our own grade. After fierce discussions different groups voted on their favourite ones.

Congratulations to our winners.

Kindy:

Grace Love
Lucy Wynbergen

Year 1:

Kayla Ho
Harry Poole

Year 2:

Carla Monteria Junges
Alegra Frangi

Year 3:

Alex Khoury
Tom Kolic

Year 4:

Samantha Ellis
Claudia Farran

Year 5:

Ashby Cortes
Jenny Grubba

Year 6:

Josette Khater
Gisella Valore



SPORTS UPDATE

Next Tuesday, April 8, some of our Stage 3 girls will represent St Paul's at the Parramatta Diocesan Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day. If you are part of this team please ensure your permission note and medical emergency form is filled in and returned by Thursday so that a carpool can be sent home on Friday.

Next Friday, April 11, we are sending three teams to the Parramatta Diocesan Touch Football Gala Day. The teams will be travelling by bus which will be leaving school at 7.30am. Parents are welcome to leave their car at school and travel with their children on the bus. Siblings of the touch football teams are welcome to stay with Mrs Bell in the morning.

We wish all of these teams the best of luck. We will publish the results of these days in the newsletter following each event.

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the School Cross Country and all the parents who assisted to make this event a success. Next week there will be a full wrap up of all the children who placed in this event and will be eligible to represent St Paul's at the Parramatta Diocesan Cross Country next term.

Fiona Lambert, Sports Co-ordinator

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2015

If you have applied for enrolment of your child for Kindergarten next year, and have not yet returned the application form, along with all relevant documents, could you please do so by Thursday, 11 April 2014. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Sydney Writers' Festival



We still have 15 seats available for children in Years 3 – 6 to attend the Sydney Writers' Festival at Parramatta Riverside Theatre, Monday 19 May. The cost is \$30 per child, which includes entry and bus to and from the theatre. A permission note and payment will need to be completed before you can secure a seat. Please see Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili if you have any queries about this event.

Premier's Reading Challenge

We are thrilled that so many students have shown an interest in taking part in this challenge. Some children have already begun to record their books on the Reading Challenge website through their Student Portal. User Names and Passwords were issued last week. If you are still unsure about how to record books, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili. Remember that books for the challenge are clearly marked on the library shelves with a red, green or purple PRC sticker.

Borrowing

We will not be borrowing books this week from the Library. Could everyone have a good look for any library books they have at home and return them to the library by the end of this week to avoid receiving an overdue notice next week.

BAND NEWS

St. Paul's Primary School **Junior** Band will begin early morning band rehearsals on the first Wednesday back at school in Term 2 – 30 April in the band room at 8.30am, straight after **Senior** Band. These rehearsals will then continue every Wednesday during school term, until the end of the year, as well as the usual lessons during the school day.

I am very pleased to report to parents, that the loud and sometimes unusual 'noises' coming from the 'junior band' children's instruments, are gradually being replaced by musical sounds, and sometimes recognisable tunes! They are very much enjoying their band experience and look forward to their first performance, where they can showcase their wonderful talents, along with our Senior Band. Please put the concert date in your diaries – 5 June at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. An invitation will be sent home closer to the date.

All children should be encouraged to practise their instruments at least four or five times each week, for about 15 minutes each time. This will give them confidence in their note reading and playing, and allow us all to move forward more quickly with our songs.

If you have any questions about band, please email me on jenny@teachingservices.com.au or contact Teaching Services on 9651 7333.

I look forward to meeting you all at our performance in Term 2.

Jenny Sparks – Band Director

EASTER RAFFLE REMINDERS

Thank you to everyone who has already donated an Easter egg. Please keep the donations coming in. The final day to bring in your donation is this Friday 4 April. On this day we will be wrapping the prizes in the Art Room at 9am. If you have any time to spare please come and lend a hand.

Tickets in the raffle will be on sale next week for 50c each or 3 for \$1. The tickets will be sold by the teachers in the classroom and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 10 April.

Thank you for your continued support. Jaye Harkin and Cheryl Long, Social Coordinators.

