



St Paul the Apostle School Winston Hills NEWSLETTER

12 March 2014

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

Moving further into the **Lenten** season, I am very aware of what I need to do in preparation for Easter. I hear that many people are giving up something for Lent and contributing generously to Caritas. We are asked to do both of these things, but I am going to ask you to consider something else. I wonder what it is that we can take up for Lent. Each week I try to do something extra. It may be as simple as greeting everyone I pass, or enquiring about health of family members, or performing a random act of kindness, or praying more, or being a better friend or simply listening actively. I wonder what you will 'take up' for Lent?

Thank you to everyone who came along to the **sunset disco** last Friday night. At 4pm that afternoon I was not sure if we would go ahead because of that terrible storm! But go ahead it did and we all had a great time. Thanks to the many staff members who were able to come along – some great moves ladies! A very special thank you to the many parents who assisted on the evening – setting up before and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks goes to Sean and Jennifer McIntosh, Cheryl and Stephen Long, Danielle and Daniel Bliss, Erin Bliss, Jaye Harkin, Mal Green, Brendan Byrne and Tim Hamilton. The night would not have been the success it was without your hard work – thank you so much. Our pizza man, Jason All, has left some cards in the office for anyone thinking of having a celebration.

On Saturday we are holding our first **Working Bee** for 2014. I believe that it is Year 6 and Kindergarten parents who are invited to come along and lend a hand. We have not had a very good response as yet and I am hoping that this newsletter will be a reminder for you all. I am very aware of Saturday commitments but also hope that you can spare a couple of hours to work on the grounds of St Paul's. Please send the note back or give the office a call. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Catholic Schools week is well and truly underway and I am enjoying see so many visitors to the school. On Monday we had a visit from Mr Whitby our Executive Director who visited Year 3 and read to some students. He also had to dance when the music came on! He said that he really enjoyed his visit and loved talking to the students and parents. Today and tomorrow you are invited to watch your child's gymnastics lesson. Also, tomorrow you are invited to a performance of '**The Gingerbread Man**' by Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. This takes place at 2.45pm on the school playground. All welcome. On Friday we will celebrate the end of Catholic School's Week with mass, open classrooms and a picnic morning tea. You are all most welcome to join us.

Next Monday the **Quality Catholic School's survey** will be sent home to 70 families who have been randomly selected by the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta. If you are one of these families, we ask that you complete the survey and return it to school by Friday March 21. The data from the surveys will be used in the planning process not just at system level, but also at a school level. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great week everyone. Remember to wear something **green** on Monday!

Marian Bell

Religious Education-

Project Compassion

During our Ash Wednesday liturgy Father Raining spoke about the importance of using Lent as a time to change. Almsgiving (making voluntary contributions to the poor) is one way that allows us to reflect on our lives and the lives of others. During the season of Lent, each class will have a Project Compassion box on their prayer table and the children are encouraged to donate money to this appeal. It is a great time for families to talk about the importance of reaching out to all people in need. You may also like to encourage your child to donate a portion of their weekly pocket money, do some extra jobs around the house to earn money or donate their canteen money rather than buying something. Every little bit counts, as it is our hope that all Project Compassion boxes will be full by the end of the Lenten period.



The money raised will be collected and forwarded to Caritas Australia. Caritas Australia works throughout the world in the hope of ending poverty, raising awareness of social justice issues and dignity for all people. This year they are focusing on Jesus' message: **'Have Life and Have It To The Full' John 10:10**. All people have the right to live a full and fruitful life, and it is through supporting organisations such as Caritas that we can fulfill Jesus' message as quoted above.

Our Mini Vinnies team will be raising awareness throughout the coming weeks by making iMovies, entering classrooms to share their thoughts on Caritas and preparing a colouring-in competition on St Patrick's Day. More information is included below about one of the upcoming events that your child may want to be involved in.

God Bless,

Mrs Leanda Standing, Religious Education Co-ordinator

Mini Vinnies News

On Monday the 17 of March, St Pauls will be celebrating St Patrick's Day. On this day, you can come dressed in green however you must donate a gold coin. The money collected on the day will go to charities our school supports such as Caritas and the school of St Jude. There will also be a colouring in competition as part of our St Patrick's Day celebrations. Competition entries will be on sale at lunchtime for 50c. There will be an infants and primary competition so make sure you buy the right one. All completed entries must be returned to Mrs Standing by Friday 21 March to be in the running for a prize. **Happy St Patrick's Day.**

By Holly and Genevieve (Mini Vinnies Team Members)



ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Monday 17 March, we will continue the school tradition of celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. The children are allowed to wear 'mufti' (ordinary play clothes) and **green** if possible (PLEASE do not go to the expense of buying any new green items!) To pay for this special treat, children are asked to bring in a gold coin donation. This year the money raised will go to Caritas Australia.

REMINDER

Parents of Year 4 students are reminded that the parent meeting for First Holy Communion takes place in the church **this evening at 7.30pm.**

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Stacey Harper (Liam Andrews 6J) on the birth of baby Ethan.

SCHOOL BANKING

Thank you to all the children who are using the school banking program. We are pleased to advise that the online rewards program has commenced. Tokens won't be distributed any more as the system automatically calculates the rewards. Each child will be notified when they are due for a reward. Keep depositing to get your rewards.

LIBRARY NEWS

During the Summer School Holidays some very enthusiastic and diligent readers entered the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.



We congratulate the following children for their participation: Aarushi Handoo, Bradley Peachey, Faith Kizana, Hayden Dwyer, Hayley Wallace, Jacob Cacciola, Kathryn Rendulic, Lily Moujalli, Myles Waciega, Nathan Kizana, Thomas Daniel and Zoe Abela. The Reading Challenge is a reminder to us that to read is to **learn** and to read is to have **fun**. The children will be receiving their well-deserved certificates this week.

PUBLISHING TEAM

Don't forget to check out this week's Publishing Team reports on the website. Lots of interesting articles.

Dates to Remember

March

- 12 Parent meeting for First Holy Communion - 7.30pm in the church
- 13 Parents invited to watch their child/ren's gymnastics classes
Musical performance presented by Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2, 2.45pm in school playground
- 14 Whole school Mass 9.10am; open classrooms; picnic morning tea for parents and children. Primary assembly 2.30pm in the parish centre - Year 3 prepare
- 15 Working Bee Kindy and Year 6
- 16 2nd Sunday in Lent; Father Dave's birthday
- 17 St Patrick's Day Green mufti day – gold coin donation
- 18 Year 2 Excursion to Rouse Hill; P & F Executive meeting 7.30pm
- 19 Feast of St Joseph
- 21 Stage 3 Mass 9.10am; Infants Assembly – Kindergarten prepare

GOOD FRIDAY - Stations of the Cross

A reminder to parents that if you have children in **Years 3-6** who would like to take part in the Stations of the Cross at 10.00am on Good Friday, April 18 please complete the slip below and return it to Mrs Standing by **Friday 14 March**. Please discuss with them the importance of the occasion and make sure they are committed to participating in this liturgy before you nominate them. Please note Good Friday is during the holidays this year and therefore we may have an extra practise during holiday time. More information will be sent home closer to the date. Thanking you for your continued support and co-operation, Leanda Standing (Religious Education Coordinator).



My child/renin Class/es.....
is/are interested in being involved in the Stations of the Cross liturgy. I/They understand they will be practising during their lunchtimes and will need to attend the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, **18 April at 10.00am**

Parent/Carer signature: _____

SEMINAR FOR PARENTS - Brett Murray - Anti-bullying speaker

Wednesday 19 March 2014 – starting at 7.30pm
in the School Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School,
7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills.

You are invited to attend this 2 hour seminar designed to empower and encourage parents on their incredible role and responsibility as parents and the influence and impact they have on their children.

If you are interested in more information or will be attending, please contact annemaree_eisenhuth@yahoo.com.au Tea and coffee will be provided.

RESEARCH ABOUT CONFIDENT KIDS

We are looking for families with children aged 4-8 years who are confident, worry-free and easy going. Eligible children and their parents will participate in a clinical psychology assessment that includes a phone interview, an appointment with the child and their mother, and a package of questionnaires. Families will receive a voucher in appreciation for their time and effort. This study has been approved by the Western Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee and Macquarie University Ethics. To find out if your family is eligible, please contact Maria Milic on (02)9845-6577 (Tues/Thurs) or email maria.milic@students.mq.edu.au

CATHERINE MCAULEY HIGH SCHOOL

We are trying to contact ex-students and teachers from Catherine McAuley High School, Westmead, for a reunion of the Class of 1972. Please pass this information on if you know anyone who 'fits the bill'.

I can be contacted via email tlohan@yahoo.com or find more information on the Catherine McAuley Alumni Facebook page. Anticipating numerous replies.

Regards, Trish Lohan



**Photos
from
our
Sunset
Disco**

