

News Up-date



19 March 2014

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

As you know we celebrated St Patrick's Day on Monday of this week. It was fun to be a little bit Irish for the day! Thank you for sending your children to school in green and for contributing to the Caritas appeal. We raised \$492. If you forgot to send in your gold coin – it is not too late to send it in. St Patrick was remembered for many things. In particular I liked that he used the shamrock to explain the Blessed Trinity – three in one. St Patrick was a humble, pious and gentle man. His love and total devotion to and trust in God is a shining example to each of us.

On Saturday we had our term 1 working bee. Thank you to the many parents and children who came along in support. We managed to get quite a deal of work covered in the morning thanks to the hard work of all involved. Thank you to Brendan Byrne for coordinating the working bee and I look forward to planning our next day in term 2. If you were unable to attend this term's day, you will be most welcome at future working bees. The success of these days is due to the generosity of parents and I urge you to take up your commitment to support the school that you made at the enrolment of your children. Thank you in anticipation of your support

On Thursday at 10.30am the whole school will participate in a Fire Drill. It is a requirement that we hold drills for fire, lock down and lock out so that in case of an emergency, the children and staff are clear on what must happen to keep everyone safe. The reason I am letting you know is so that for the first one for 2014, the children are all prepared. If you think your child is anxious and will worry, please discuss it with them and bring it to the attention of your child's teacher. We will hold another drill later in the term. If you are a parent helper on Thursday, you will also be involved. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great week everyone,
Marian Bell

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Luke 22:19 - Do this in remembrance of me

At baptism we were welcomed into the Catholic Faith, a community of believers who are invited to engage with others who also believe in Jesus. As part of this community we are reminded that the Eucharist calls us into communion with one another. We cannot be a church on our own as we are many parts that make up one body – the church.

This year with the guidance of Father Raning we will be continuing to offer opportunities where our school and parish community can come together and deepen our union with Christ and experience communion with one another during Sunday Eucharist. Throughout the year, every fifth Sunday's 9.30 am Eucharist, will be a school mass. Parents and children will be invited to participate in Eucharist together and then share a symbolic breaking of bread in the form of morning tea.

This year's first School Sunday Mass will be a Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and will be held on Sunday 30th March. Children in Years 3 and 4 will prepare and organise the mass. We encourage all parents and children to attend this mass as a way of giving thanks to God. If your child is in Year 3 or 4 and you would like to help with the morning tea, please email me at Istandring@parra.catholic.edu.au.

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standring, Religious Education Co-ordinator.



Mini Vinnies News

While the rest of St Paul's celebrated St Patrick's Day, eight Year Five Mini Vinnies members attended a day to meet with other Mini Vinnies students from the Parramatta Diocese. Like St Patrick, we spread the Word of God as we raise awareness for people in our community and throughout the world who need help. On the day we participated in Workshops before joining together in a liturgy.

Three Workshops were run on the day. There was a workshop on children enslaved to produce chocolate, a workshop about how Mercy Works aim to do something 'Today not next week' and lastly, a workshop by Catholic Mission on street kids and inequality throughout the world.

Before lunch the students from other schools provided us with a snapshot of what mini vinnies do at their school. We thank Martyn (Youth Coordinator for St Vincent de Paul) and the other presenters. We also thank Miss Magro and Mrs Byrne for carpooling and attending the day.

By Jackson, Tobias, Laura C, Alana, Adam, Lewis, Scarlett and Jennifer (Mini Vinnies Team Members)



PLEASE PRAY

Please keep the Disibio Family (Nicholas KI) in your prayers. Nicholas's baby sister is in hospital.

WORKING BEE THANK YOU



Thank you to all these Dads, Mums and children who came along and helped at the Working Bee: Darren, Dave and Nicholas Arthur; Damian, Halle and Ebony Borg; Joe Budwee; Brendan, Ainsley, Scarlett and Adelaide Byrne; Charlotte Casey, Kylie, Jack and Lara Cawley; Jason, Jessica and Noah Cummins; David, Nicholas and Genevieve D'Silva; Andrew and Oliver Drover; Dean, Charmain and Bryce Floody; Tim Hamilton; Emma, Maddie, Darcy and Eli Hill; Cheryl

Long; David, Megan, Sarah and Emily Prevett; Martin, Blake and Ciara Shanahan, Rob Silveri and Paul, Liam and Ryan Wendell.

KINDERGARTEN 2015 ENROLMENTS

We are continuing to accept enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2015. Please bring your child's original Birth and Baptismal certificates when applying. If your child was baptised at St Paul's a certificate is **not** required. A non-refundable application fee of \$30 is payable on return of the completed application.

HEADLICE

Several cases of Headlice have been reported in the school. We are asking that **all** parents examine their child's hair for signs of lice infestation and treat if necessary.

Please notify the office if your child has lice or nits.

We appreciate your co-operation in dealing with this frustrating problem.

SPORTS UPDATE

Next Tuesday 25 March we will be sending a team to represent St Paul's at the Parramatta Diocesan Girls Soccer Gala Day. Parents, please ensure your child brings a hat, sunscreen, plenty of water and their lunch. We wish the girls the best of luck. Keep an eye on the Sports update for the results of the day.

Our school Cross Country is fast approaching. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help out on this morning, however we still do require a few more parent helpers to ensure the event runs smoothly. If you are able to assist please fill in the slip at the bottom of the cross country note sent home last week or send a note with your child to Mrs Lambert.

Congratulations to Joshua Featherstone and Jason Attard who attended the Parramatta Diocesan Rugby League trials last week and were selected into the MacKillop Team. Well Done Boys!!!

Fiona Lambert, Sports Co-ordinator



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – DEBATING ADJUDICATOR

In Terms 2 and 3 groups of Year Six children will be involved in the Inter School Debating Competition. This competition involves St Paul's debating a range of topics with other schools within the area. It is a great opportunity for the children to develop their public speaking skills and confidence. We are looking for a suitable adjudicator to represent our school in this competition. It is a role that would involve sacrificing one hour (approximately) on a Friday morning. We are seeking somebody with some previous experience in adjudication or debating skill. If you feel you could assist in this area we ask you to please contact the school. Thanking you, Year 6 teachers

PUBLISHING TEAM REPORT

On Thursday 13 March, Kindy, Years 1 and Year 2 starred in 'The Gingerbread Man' musical. The musical was put together by Mrs Nash. Parents and primary grades watched. It was an amazing show and a great set-up! I'm sure the whole school would have enjoyed it. Thanks Mrs Nash!

On Monday our whole school dressed up in **Green Mufti** for St Patrick's Day. We all brought in a gold coin for Caritas. Altogether we raised \$492.00.

Please check the website for photos.

Georgia Austin and Rachael Bailey.

P & F NEWS

Walkathon

Please note a change of date for the walkathon. The walkathon has been changed to **Friday 23 May**. Further information will be sent home next term.

Mothers' Day Stall

Please note a change of date for the Mothers' Day Stall. The Mothers' Day stall has been changed to **Friday 9 May**. Information about the stall will be sent home early in term 2.

Easter egg Raffle

We are again holding our Easter egg raffle this year. A note will go home to each family next week.

Bingo Night

The Bingo Night is being held on Friday 30 May. This is a very enjoyable fun family night out. We are looking for a group of parents to organise this event this year. If you are able to offer your help please let us know. You can contact either Cheryl Long 0417674514, Jaye Harkin 0433282890 or contact the school office.



STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

On the last Tuesday of each month CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: "How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?" Date: Tuesday 25 March, Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

DISCOVER WHAT A MERCY EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

Year 7, 2016 Enrolment Information Evening

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites prospective families to the Year 7, 2016 Enrolment Information Evening at 4.45pm on **April 1**. Tour the College, collect an Enrolment pack, attend an information session, meet the Principal and College staff and enjoy a BBQ with the OLMC P&F. For enquiries, please contact the Registrar on 8838 1222 or email registrar@olmc.nsw.edu.au. Limited places available for Year 7 2015.

Minutes of St Paul the Apostle

P&F AGM 2014

Tuesday 4th March 2014

Welcome Prayer: Marian Bell

Meeting started: 7.35

Apologies: Anne Peachey

Minutes of previous meeting approved: Daniel Bliss and Cheryl Long

Matters arising from previous minutes: Nil

Chairpersons Report: I would like to start by thanking the 2013 P&F Executive for all of the behind the scenes work they do in making our many activities come to fruition. We say goodbye this year to some of our members who are stepping down from their current positions. We thank you for your hard work and hope that you will continue to support the P&F in any way that you can.

We held many events this past year – some fundraisers, some merely social – including the very successful Sunset Disco, Walkathon, Easter Egg Raffle, Entertainment Books, Bingo Night, Mothers and Fathers Day Stalls, Trivia Night and Movie Night and several Working Bees. I thank all of the parents who helped to organise our events, those who made donations and those who simply attended, your support is vital to the success of these events.

Last year we also had many 40th anniversary celebrations, including the 40th Ball. While this was not directly organised by the P&F, many parents were involved with the organisation, and of course, the celebration of that great night – a wonderful memory for many of us.

I would especially like to thank the office staff who have also put in many hours to help us with events, whether it be photocopying and distributing notes or collecting payments for various activities.

2013 was a great year for St Paul's and I look forward to 2014.

Correspondence as per attached sheet:

Treasurers report: Last year a total of \$41,000 was donated to the school.

\$30,000 was used to purchase technology and additional class readers/ library resources.

\$20,000 drawn from term deposit as approved at general meeting in August, as well as \$10,000 as budgeted.

The 2014 Budget put forward and unanimously accepted.

Principals Report: Firstly, I would like to table both Jane and my own thanks for the terrific welcome we have received since beginning at St Paul's 6 short weeks ago. We are both very grateful for it and very glad that we have been included in such a wonderful community and we firmly believe that we will grow from strength to strength. I believe that the school has been in excellent hands and we want to ensure this school goes from a good school to a great school. We cannot do that alone but working in a true partnership with parents makes it possible.

When asked to report on 6 short weeks, one would think that there was not much to report! How wrong! Some things that we have looked at and implemented change include:

- Less assembling before school, after recess and after lunch. We have saved on average 45 minutes of learning time a week as the children and teachers move straight into the learning spaces.
- Tested every child in the school using Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI).
- Kindergarten and Year 1 students have been assessed using the Early Years Assessment (EYA) tool.
- Lowest 20% of year 1 students have also been assessed using the EYA. Data from this assessment has given Jane the information she needs to go ahead with Reading Recovery.
- Determined the learning spaces that require more support from the leadership team and begun a strategic approach of support.
- Had a good look at technology in the school and how it is used.
- Had a good look at the reading resources in the school and begun to develop a plan for strategic purchases of more readers in the school.
- Looked carefully at the learning support model and changed to in class support.
- Taken school leaders to a leadership day at Springwood.
- Tightened up the implementation plans for literacy, numeracy and formation.
- Sport socks

- Uniform clarification – in particular Sport shoes
- Kiss 'n drop in the car park in the mornings. We began last Friday on a very wet morning and had over 90 cars. Of those 90 cars, only one person let me know that she preferred the older model. All other cars are happy to use the new method and people appear to be very grateful for the opportunity.
- Begun planning for next working bee.

Apart from all of the above – Jane and I have been seeking to understand how things are done around here, by whom and why? We are sure the staff are tired of us asking questions but that will not stop I am sure. Amid all of the school's agenda, Jane and I share the system's agenda and accountability. Our doors are always open – the email address is well known and I am hoping the we get to know each other well in the months and years ahead.

Social Co-ordinators report: A total of \$24,000 was raised in 2013 by our P&F community.

Thankyou to everyone who helped at any event , organised any function and all of those who supported the P&F in their efforts to raise money to help our children's schooling.

Working Bee Report: Thank you for the camaraderie and support of the community in 2013. Your help and all of the time that was volunteered to maintain our school environment and our playgrounds is appreciated. A big thankyou to the regular families that keep returning each working bee as well as those first timers.

Don't forget that it does not have to be your allocated year group on, if you want to turn up at any Working Bee your help is greatly appreciated.

PRC: AGM last night, Presentation on the Internet and Aps will be forwarded and presented at next meeting.

Elections for the 2014 Executive: Congratulations to our 2014 Committee.

Chairperson: Danielle Bliss

Vice President: Sean McIntosh

Secretary: Vanessa Cassin

Treasurer: Tim Hamilton

Social Co-Ordinators: Cheryl Long and Jaye Harkin

Working Bee Co-Ordinator: Brendan Byrne

Publicity Officer: Julie Dilles

PRC Representative: Megan Prevett

General Community Member: Tony Jasser

General Business: St Pauls Culture

At the end of our meeting Marion gave the quorum the opportunity to brainstorm the things they would like to keep and changes that they would like to see in our school culture. This was for ideas only no comments so far.

These ideas will be discussed at another general meeting.

Keeps

- Connection with Margaret Aylward (possibility of process of election looked at)
- Weeds on back playground gone forever
- Positive community feel
- Uniform should stay
- Student leadership but process looked at
- Shoes to stay/ policy
- Buddy system good
- Woolen jumper
- Sporting activities and representative sport not to be reduced
- X;mas concert to stay. Location to return to school
- Welcome ceremony stay
- Canteen stay
- Kiss and drop
- Reasonable amount of homework
- Increased amount of communication through email
- Hard copy of communications as well as email
- Homebush is a great venue for swimming carnival

Change:

- Fete to come back
- Feeder school pool to be used for swimming carnival?
- Kiss and drop in the afternoon
- Stationery kits/ resources provided by school
- Change brown shoes
- Head phones instead of ear muffs
- Website updated/ changed/ calendar
- Christmas concert back in playground
- On site before and after school care
- Marian made a proposal that a facebook page be introduced to upload stories of kids work, photos, recordings, messages (only to like/closed group)

Meeting Closed: 8.55pm