



St Agnes Catholic High School

ph: 8882 0700 fax: 8882 0790

email: stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au

to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au

Follow us on FACEBOOK: [StAgnesRootyHill](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesRootyHill)

Diary Dates

26 May

Sorry Day

Yr 9A Kokoda Excursion

27 May

Yr 9B Kokoda Excursion

29 May

Feast of Ascension Day

3 June

Loyola Yr 11/2015

Subject Selection Night

4 June

Yr 9 Lion King excursion

9 June

Queens Birthday Holiday

10 June

Yr 8 Reflection Day

11 June

Salsa Training Day

18 June

Yr 10 Lion King excursion

19 June

Yr 10 Careers Expo

20 June

Athletics Carnival

25 June

Parent/Teacher
Interviews

23 May, 2014

Dear parents and students,

Recently I, and a number of staff, had the opportunity to attend a conference on our results in the Quality Catholic Schools Survey which was conducted by Insight SRC from Melbourne. This company conducts annual surveys across Australia and other countries in a number of areas.

Schools in the Parramatta Diocese complete the survey in March and receive the results in May. The results measure growth in the following areas: organisational climate, teaching climate, student behaviour, student wellbeing and academic achievement.

This information is obtained from staff, students and parents. I would like to express my thanks to these groups from our community for their willingness to assist St Agnes on the journey of education for our students.

Our 2014 results were exceptional in all areas with substantial growth demonstrated. It has shown the strengths we have, and need to continue with, as well as the challenges we face for the next year. Overall, it was a very positive report which we need to celebrate and be proud of.

Please feel free to contact me regarding the information in the report as I am pleased to share findings with our parent and student community.

As I write this article I have been informed that an ex-student of St Agnes, Mile Jedinak, has been announced as the captain of the Socceroos for the upcoming World Cup in Brazil. Congratulations to Mile and his family on the prestigious honour. We wish him and the team every success.

Peter Brogan

Peter Brogan
Principal

*Bestow on me, O Lord, a genial spirit and
unwearied forbearance; a mild, loving, patient heart;
Kindly looks, a pleasant cordial speech and manners
In the exchange of daily life;
That I may give offence to none,
But as much as in lies in charity with all people.
Amen*



St Agnes
Catholic High School
Evans Road
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 8882 0700
Fax: 02 8882 0790

St Clare's
Catholic High School
175 Buckwell Drive
Hassall Grove
Ph: 02 9835 2466
Fax: 02 9835 2539

Loyola Senior
High School
91 North Parade
Mt Druitt
Ph: 02 9832 4455
Fax: 02 9832 1839



From the Assistant Principal

One of the great challenges that exist today in raising our families is the tension that exists between societal values and the values of Jesus. Whilst we may feel that this is only a concern for "our time", the reality is that these tensions will always exist...as they did in Jesus' time...it is we who have the responsibility and the opportunity to make the difference and to live honouring the values we say we live by.

In working with each other...

~ Are we proactive?

Do we focus on the positive aspects of our relationships?

~ Do we begin with the end in mind?

Do we take the time and space to consider what we value in life and then live by those values?

~ Do we commit to our number one priorities?

Do we spend a balance of time at work, with family, alone?

~ Do we look to understand the perspective of others?

Do we listen first to understand before trying to understand?

These are challenges Jesus put to His society. If Jesus were to live among us today, what would He say we have learnt from His life, death and resurrection?

We have the responsibility and opportunity as members of our communities to make a difference to so many people.

What do we say we value?

What values are we living by?

What would Jesus say?

It is not easy to honour these values everyday, but they do say... "Life wasn't meant to be easy!"

Peter Regan
Assistant Principal



Parenting Skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems.

In this course parents/carers are provided
with a model for working out:

~ What behaviour needs to be ignored. ~

~ Coaching teenagers to consider the consequences of their actions. ~

~ How to hold difficult conversations when agreements are breached. ~

When:

Mondays, 21st, 28th July and 8th August 2014

Time:

6-8:30pm

Where:

CatholicCare Blacktown Family Support
St Patrick's Parish Centre,
51-59 Allevah Street, Blacktown.



From the Religious Education Coordinator

REFLECTION DAYS

Students in Year 8 will participate in their 'Reflection Day' during Week 7 (10 June 2014). The Reflection Day program aims to provide students with an opportunity to further understand, appreciate and develop their relationships with God, family and friends, and to reflect on what it means to be a young person living a life based on Christian values. A separate information note will be sent home to inform you of the program and details at the beginning of Week 5 (26 May 2014).

Years 7 and 9 will have their Reflection Days in Term 3 whilst Year 10's day will be in Term 4. Information notes will be sent home to inform you of the program closer to the date.

NATIONAL SORRY DAY 2014

National Sorry Day is recognised as a National Day of Commemoration and Remembrance, a day to honour the Stolen Generations and all they have endured and all that has been lost through the removal of generations of aboriginal children as a result of the Forced Removal Policies of the past.

The theme for this year's National Sorry Day continues to be **"SORRY. Still Living On Borrowed Time!"** in recognition that there is still a lot to be done to achieve justice for the Stolen Generations. True justice and reparations includes real restitution, rehabilitation and compensation to the Stolen Generations for the many wrongs against them, wrongs that were highlighted in the 'Bringing them home' report.

The National Sorry Day Committee cited its recent achievements as including:

- Contributing to the development of the historic Apology to the Stolen Generations by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in February 2008 and helping Stolen Generations to participate in the day,
- Bringing about a motion through the Senate and Lower House in 2009, to recognise May 26th as National Sorry Day to be commemorated annually,
- Keeping Stolen Generations issues on the national political and policy agenda through our contribution to the 'Stolen Generations Working Partnership Agreement'
- Ensuring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are flown on Australian Government buildings on 26 May each year as part of ceremonial protocol 2011.

Although a number of these achievements are symbolic gestures, they are gestures that definitely contribute toward the recognition of Australia's First Nations Peoples, the significance of our history and the experience of the Stolen Generations. The NSDC continues to uphold its long standing motto of Recognition, Unity and Commitment as we move toward the ultimate recognition of our Indigenous brothers and sisters through a referendum and their inclusion in the Australian Constitution.

St Agnes will mark National Sorry Day on Monday May 26 through all students placing a hand with the Prayer for Aboriginal People (below) written for Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs in 1986, followed by a whole school prayer.

*Father of All,
You gave us the Dreaming
You have spoken to us through our beliefs
You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus
We thank you for your care
You own us
You are our hope
Make us strong as we face the problems of change
We ask you to help the people of Australia
to listen to us and to respect our culture
Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people
So that you can be at home in us
and we can make a home for everyone in our land
Amen.*

Prayer written for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Aboriginal People in Alice Springs, 1986

Julie Atkins

Religious Education Coordinator





Diocesan Works Fund Appeal

During the month of May, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Over the coming weeks we will learn about some of the ministries and people it supports. Also known as *faith@work* this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

Bishop Anthony Fisher^{OP} has written his letter on the back of the Giving Envelope, to you and other members of the Catholic community across Western Sydney to ask for everyone's support.

The *faith@work* appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. Of particular interest is Blacktown Neighbour Aid service, which assists the frail, aged, people with a disability and their carers in our community; and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) which trains religious education teachers who give witness to their faith in public schools in Western Sydney.

Your contribution enables services such as Blacktown Neighbour Aid, CCD and Catherine Villa (supporting homeless mothers aged 16-25) to respond to more people in need. Please be generous so these good works can continue.

Did you know?

Did you know that CatholicCare Social Services responds to more than 20,000 calls for help each year? There are many requests for relationship or gambling counselling, or for assistance in dealing with a disability, mental ill health or ageing.

Did you know that DWF supports the 13 seminarians in training and more than 1000 Catechists working in state schools in Western Sydney?

Did you know that DWF Appeal provides funds for Youth Ministry and Faith Education in Western Sydney too! Your donations will be Faith @ Work!

Tim is a 19 year old university student. He enjoyed a close relationship to his own grandfather who passed away two years ago and always encouraged him to "better himself". Tim decided to look into the **Blacktown Neighbour Aid** and became a friend to Norman. Norman is a 70 year old widower, who lives alone.

Although he has a daughter, her work and young family mean he sees her rarely, so Norman looks forward to his fortnightly visit and cup of tea with Tim.

"It's wonderful that he visits me. It gives me companionship" says Norman. "We enjoy each other's company" says Tim and "It gives me a really good feeling, I think my grandfather would be proud".



Blacktown Neighbour Aid is run by CatholicCare Social Services and has existed for around 20 years. They currently have around 70 clients and 30 volunteers but they would like to double their client base and triple their volunteers.

Your gift to the Diocesan Works Fund will make a difference to the life of Norman and thousands more who participate in the programs and services offered by the Church's social outreach agency, CatholicCare Social Services. It is faith at Work!

Please show you care with a gift to the Diocesan Works Fund.

CatholicCare makes a critical difference in the lives of for tens of thousands of women, men and children across Western Sydney through practical and compassionate support to the elderly, unemployed, bereaved, homeless, people living with disabilities and mental illness, young people and families in crises.

Please donate via the gift envelope or on line via www.parra.catholic.org.au



From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Year 10 Senior School Presentation

Next Friday Year 10 will be presented with a wealth of information on the rules, regulations and procedures associated with the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). The purpose of this presentation will be to get Year 10 student's to begin thinking about what subjects they plan to study in Years 11 & 12 and the career path they wish to take. Students will be given access to Job Guides through their Learning Advisors which they can borrow to take home and look through.

Alternatively, they can visit the link <http://www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au/> which will give them electronic access to this information. I encourage all Year 10 students to get as much information as possible in the lead up to their subject selections for Years 11 & 12 and to see me if they have any questions relating to this or careers.

Western Sydney Careers Expo

On Thursday the 19 June 2014 Year 10 students will be attending the Western Sydney Careers Expo held at Sydney Olympic Park. The expo is the biggest education and careers event in the Western Sydney area and provides resources and information for tertiary courses, career and employment options, the HSC, study strategies, and much more. A feature of the expo is the seminar program with presentations on course, career and study advice, employment opportunities and key HSC subjects. Students will receive invaluable career related information that will help them make more informed decisions as to their career choices.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum





Word of the Week

VULNERABLE

Definition - Capable of being attacked or physically and emotionally hurt.

E.g. St Vincent De Paul assists the weak and vulnerable.

Literacy Trivia

Last newsletter's answer

Q: Which word in the sentence below is a preposition?

I rode my bike around the lake several times during the week.

A: Around

This newsletter's question

Q: Which word in the sentence below is an adverb?

Yesterday, I completed my last history exam?

A: Tune into the next newsletter to check out the answer.

Literacy Fact

Did you know that the word 'UNCOPYRIGHTABLE' is the longest word in normal use that contains no letter more than once.

Need to Know Language Techniques

Palindrome - A word/sentence that reads the same both forward and backwards.

E.g. Was it a rat I saw?

How good are you at Naplan?

*Are you able to answer the following Year 7 Naplan question?
If not, this is what Naplan **WILL** test you on.*

Which sentence is correct?

The reward was shared between myself and Greg.

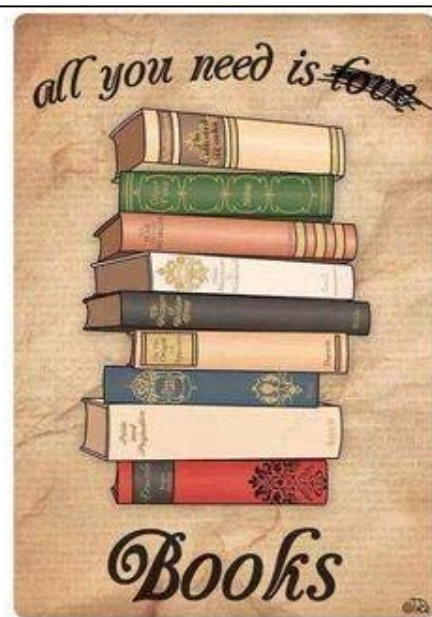
The reward was shared between Greg and I.

The reward was shared between me and Greg.

The reward was shared between Greg and me.

N.B. Last week's answer was - The rider was springing into the saddle when he heard the siren.

Taken from www.exceltestzone.com.au





Year 10 Dee Why excursion

On 6 May 2014, Year 10 students participated in a mandatory Geography excursion. The excited students welcomed a visit to the Long Reef peninsular and Dee Why beach.

Although rain was visible on the horizon, the predicted chilly, wet weather did not eventuate and we were blessed with a beautiful day.

The Year 10s presented themselves with pride and behaved equally as well. Our students were complimented by the bus drivers and the general public.

Students were engrossed in the opportunity to view the landscapes and witness the efforts to protect our pristine beaches. While at the beach, students completed worksheets by observing and recording the impact of human and natural elements on the coast. They learned valuable lessons about the need to protect our coastlines for future generation. The visit made a lasting impression on a few students who met and posed for pictures with the Dee Why Life Savers. The visit to the beach was a first for one student who had never visited a beach before.

Thank you to the teachers who attended and supervised the Year 10 cohort and made this one of the most successful excursion to date. Teachers were accompanied by four student teachers, who were grateful for the opportunity to attend an excursion, while on their practicum placements.

Bonita Carlin
HSIE Coordinator



Managing the Bull

A course for bullied teenagers

(This group for years 7, 8 & 9 students)

Teasing
Bullying
Intimidating
Threatening
Oppressing



Harassing
Persecuting
Hurting
Tormenting
Antagonising

All forms of bullying can cause serious emotional harm to children and teenagers that can last throughout their life, this impacts upon their future life goals and relationships.

'Managing the Bull is a 6 week course, that builds resilience and self esteem in bullied teens through games, activities and discussions. The course is held in a safe and supportive environment.

Participants will learn to:

Recognise Bullying
Discover inner strengths
Build self esteem
Communicate effectively
Deal with cyber-bullying
Build support networks
Use personal protection plans



For more information or to book into the course please phone

(02) 8822 2222

Diocese of Parramatta



CATHOLICCARE
Social Services

When: 23rd July—27th August
Time: 3.45pm—5.45pm
Where: CatholicCare Blacktown Family Support,
St. Patrick's Parish Centre,
51 -59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.
Cost: \$20.00 (if you have financial difficulties please phone)
Facilitators: Natalie Kirton and Amie Taylor



App Restrictions

With recent reports of a local person being charged with child grooming it is a good time to review your family's internet privacy settings and discuss online security with your child. There is a lot of practical information on privacy and resources to share with your children at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au.

Below are the ratings that Google uses for the Android Google Play Store and for the Apple App store. The rating can be found under the description of the App. Parental restrictions on Apple devices have an option whereby a parent can determine if an app gets installed or not. The information below can help you understand which apps young people should and should not be using.

Google Play Store

Everyone - Applications in this category should not collect user's location data or contain objectionable material. Applications should not share user content or include social features.

Low Maturity - Applications in this category may include instances of mild cartoon or fantasy violence or other potentially offensive content. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of providing location specific information or otherwise improving the user experience, but should not share the data with other users. Applications may include some social features but should not focus on allowing users to find and communicate with each other.

Medium Maturity - Applications in this category may include sexual references; intense fantasy or realistic violence; profanity or crude humour; references to drug, alcohol and tobacco use; social features and simulated gambling. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of sharing or publishing with the user's consent.

High Maturity - Applications in this category may focus on or include frequent instances of sexual and suggestive content; graphic violence; social features; simulated gambling; and strong alcohol, tobacco and drug references. Applications may collect user location data for the purpose of sharing or publishing with the user's consent.

Apple App Store

4+ - Apps in this category contain no objectionable material.

9+ - Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 9:

- Infrequent or mild occurrences of realistic violence
- Infrequent or mild profanity
- Infrequent or mild mature, suggestive, or horror-themed content
- Frequent or intense cartoon or fantasy violence

12+ - Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 12:

- Infrequent or mild medical or treatment-focused content
- Infrequent or mild references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use
- Simulated gambling
- Infrequent or mild sexual content or nudity
- Frequent or intense profanity
- Frequent or intense realistic violence
- Frequent or intense horror-themed content

17+ - Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 17:

- Unrestricted web access, such as with an embedded browser
 - Gambling or contests
 - Frequent or intense mature or suggestive content
 - Frequent or intense medical or treatment-focused content
 - Frequent or intense references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use
 - Frequent or intense sexual content or nudity
-
-



From the Bishops Office and Catholic Education Office

An evening for couples: 29 May

Do you find it difficult to make decisions as a couple?

Does one or both of you end up feeling compromised and without an equal voice?

Do your discussions often result in unpleasant arguments or cold wars?

Come and learn a method for making couple decisions. This unique Values Based Decisions Making framework will help you to learn how to connect with your deepest values for love and unity so that your choices become true couple decisions. Francine Pirola, an experienced marriage educator, a director and founder of the Smart Loving series courses, will give this presentation. From 7.30-9pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown. Admission is free. Bookings: Karin at CatholicCare Parramatta (02) 9933 0222, Marriage@ccss.org.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 29 May

A forum for young people aged 18-35 to come together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Sydney's most famous pub. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education Parramatta. The speaker is well-known journalist Miranda Devine. Topic: Communicating Virtue - How young people are hungry for meaning in an amoral age. From 5pm-7pm at The Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar - Catholic Education, Parramatta, sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 1-8 June

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches has produced resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which has the theme: 'Has Christ been divided?', a reference to *I Cor* 1:1-17. These resources have been adapted for use in Australia by the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia. They include: Ecumenical Service of Worship outline; Daily Prayers and Biblical Reflections; Prayer Cards. These resources can be downloaded and ordered from www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au

25 year Reunion of St Agnes Catholic High School Yr 10 from 1989: 15 November

Seeking ex-students and teachers who were in Year 10 at St Agnes in 1989 for a reunion. Don't be shy! Past students are planning a 25 year reunion for 15 November 2014. Please pass on this message to your daughter, other family members or friends if they attended the school. Further details will be published when available.

**OUR
PARISH
SCHOOLS**



PDSSSC Sport Results

St Aidan's Primary
1-5 Adelaide Street
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 9625 3181
Fax: 02 9625 5612

Sacred Heart Primary
23 Nelson Street
Mt Druitt South
Ph: 02 9625 8733
Fax: 02 9832 2258

Holy Family Primary
Weber Crescent
Emerton
Ph: 02 9628 9232
Fax: 02 9628 9589

St John Vianney's Primary
17 Cameron Street
Doonside
Ph: 02 9831 1817
Fax: 02 9831 6430

Date	Sport	Opposition	Result
Rd 1	Intermediate Boys Soccer	St Andrews	Win 2-1
	Junior Boys Soccer	St Andrews	Loss 4-3
9/5/2014	Intermediate Boys Rugby League	Clare	Loss 20-10
	Junior Boys Rugby League	Clare	Win 22-0
	Intermediate Girls Soccer	Nagle	Loss 1-0
	Junior Girls Soccer	Nagle	Loss 8-0
	Intermediate Girls Netball	Clare	Win 29-11
	Junior Girls Netball	Clare	Win 47-18
Rd 2 16/5/14	Intermediate Boys Soccer	Emmaus	Loss 4-1
	Junior Boys Soccer	Emmaus	Loss 8-1
	Intermediate Boys Rugby League	Emmaus	Win 18-4
	Junior Boys Rugby League	Emmaus	Win on Forfeit
	Intermediate Girls Soccer	Emmaus	Win 3-0
	Junior Girls Soccer	Emmaus	Loss 3-2
	Intermediate Girls Netball	St Andrews	Win 46- 17
	Junior Girls Netball	St Andrews	win 31-3



Year 8 Food Technology Assesment - Food of the World

*a diverse
community
learning
together*

OUR PARISHES

St Aidan's
9 Adelaide Street
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 9625 8404

Sacred Heart
23 Nelson Street
Mt Druitt South
Ph: 02 9625 8847

Holy Family
254 Luxford Road
Emerton
Ph: 02 9628 7272

St John Vianney's
17 Cameron Street
Doonside
Ph: 02 9622 3426



Important Information

SCHOOL NOTES

All School Notes are placed on our website.
www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au
(on the Parents/ School Notes tab)

LOST PROPERTY

Please place your child's name on all items of clothing. We have accumulated many items of clothing with NO name on them.

COMPLAINTS POLICY

At St Agnes Catholic High School, we are committed to providing a happy, safe environment for all staff and students. There are occasions however, when a member of staff, a student, a parent or a member of the wider community can sometimes be concerned about something that is happening at our school that appears to be unsatisfactory or unreasonable. For a copy of our policy please visit our website www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au/complaints-policy

AWARD SYSTEM

'The St Agnes Cup' is a House structure launched in 2009. It recognises and acknowledges student achievement & participation. It also enhances community involvement within each of the houses, not only on the sporting field. Students will be recognised for all their achievements and be awarded points that will contribute to their house's overall tally.

It is anticipated that this system will increase the sense of belonging to a particular group and encourage healthy competition amongst houses.

The St Agnes Cup commences Term 1, and follows through until Term 4 Week 5, to ensure all year groups are included in the final reward.

A series of competitions run on a regular basis throughout each term where all houses compete against each other in sporting, creative, cultural, culinary and other areas across the school community.

Students & houses are awarded with points that contribute to the final tally, which determines the overall winning house. Student involvement in all aspects of the school community, including extra curricular, academic, sporting and community service are acknowledged with points being added to each student's respective house.

Each term the winning house is rewarded and has the privilege of showering the school with their house colour. Ultimately, the house with the most points at the end of the year will enjoy a reward day.

OFFICE HOURS

8.00am - 3.00pm
Message bank facilities available.

TAU BREAKFAST

Tuesday -Friday
7.40 -8.10am
in the Canteen area

HOMEWORK CLUB

Tuesday afternoon
2.30pm—3.30pm in the Library
ALL WELCOME.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Tuesday - during school terms
10.00am -12 noon
Orders can be left at the office at any time and will be filled on the following Tuesday.