



# St Agnes Catholic High School

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to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

[www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au)

## Diary Dates

**15/16 August**  
Commerce Stalls

**16 August**  
No Electricity Day  
PDSSSC Athletics  
Carnival

**18 August**  
Yr 10 Winter Sleepout

**22 August**  
PDSSSC Dance  
Competition

**22-23 August**  
Year 8 RE Online  
Assessment

**23 August**  
Year 10 RE Online  
Assessment

**24 August**  
Girls State Final Rugby  
League

**25 August**  
Year 10 Geography Dee  
Why excursion

**31 August**  
Year 8 Subject Selection  
Presentation

**1 September**  
Year 10 Brainstorm

11 August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

On Sunday, 27th August, our Bishop, the Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL, will launch this year long Diocesan journey "to bring about a community and political culture that values fair and compassionate treatment of people seeking refuge and protection in Australia."

The launch will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Seven Hills, from 2.00pm-4.00pm. Please read the Bishop's letter, which is included on page 10 of our newsletter.

Bishop Long recently wrote to the Diocese about the challenges we face from the growth and changes in western Sydney. He asks us not to fear these changes, but instead know when 'to let go of the old ways and old habits and embark on the new' so that we can continue to be the face of Christ and meet the growing needs of the Diocese.

Bishop Vincent's letter can be viewed via this Catholic Outlook [link](#).

Bishop Long has once again called for us to reach those on the margins and fringes of society, to be the Church of the poor, and the Church for the poor. As Catholic educators, we must continually reflect on how we can take up this call. In our existing and new schools, we must ensure that Catholic Education reaches those on the margins, and that we can continue to meet the growing needs of our families and students.

Peter Brogan

## Feast of St Mary of the Cross (August 8)

Loving and Provident God,

We give you thanks for the life and goodness of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

You placed within her heart the desire to promote the love of Jesus in the lives of little children through education.

Her loving and compassionate heart led her to a life of service to the poor, and to the neglected men, women and children of society.

Inspired by her example may we follow in her footsteps with a joyful heart and live by her motto: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

St Agnes, pray for us.  
St Francis, pray for us.  
St Matthew, pray for us.



## From the Assistant Principal

### Good Learners set goals, and identify strategies to achieve them.

Sometimes in life things 'just happen' to us, and that is often what makes life so interesting. We can't plan for everything. To paraphrase Scottish writer Robert Burns; "The best laid plans of mice and men can often go awry". But everyone should have a 'roadmap' anyway - there may be many obstacles and diversions along the way, and the destination may change, but a roadmap can at least give us something to aim for.

For many of us this means setting goals. Goals give us the power and reason to act in ways that move us to learn, change and grow. When we set our own goals, we are creating a pathway to our preferred future.

How do I identify possible goals? Goals first have to come from your areas of interest and need - if there's no real motive for your goal, then it's not likely you'll find the motivation to achieve it. A good place to start is a self-assessment of your learning strengths and needs. Teachers often have students complete a self-review when they receive back marked work. We ask students to write down, based on their feedback, what they did well, what needs improvement, and what steps could be possible to help them next time.

Another form of this is the SWOT analysis:

<b>Strengths</b> What strengths do you have? What works for you?	<b>Weaknesses</b> What could you improve? What should you avoid?
<b>Opportunities</b> What opportunities can you spot to help you move forward?	<b>Threats</b> What obstacles stand in your way?

Below is a completed SWOT analysis

<b>Strengths</b> Strong written expression. Able to write a long response	<b>Weaknesses</b> Paragraph structures. Not enough detail
<b>Opportunities</b> Homework club. Time in class to read the novel	<b>Threats</b> Short attention span. When I don't like the novel/film/poem

If students approach this genuinely, they will hopefully see a few areas emerge for their attention. Encourage them to have a go with their next piece of returned work.

*Ken Wolffe*

### WANTED - Families to host a Japanese student 19-23 August 2017

Students are aged 16-17 years & speak some English

What you need to provide:

- A comfy bed (sharing is fine)
- 3 meals a day
- Daily transport to/from St Agnes

Families are paid \$50 per night per student for hosting the student.

Students attend school on weekdays and enjoy family life with you on the weekend.

Further information regarding the program visit [www.vsociena.com](http://www.vsociena.com) or call Takashi [ushinohama@vsoceania.com](mailto:ushinohama@vsoceania.com) or mobile 0408 468 538

# *From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum*

## **Year 9 NAPLAN results and the HSC minimum standard**

Within the next few weeks Years 7 and 9 students will be receiving their NAPLAN results. As you have been previously made aware changes to student's eligibility for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2020 will firstly impact current Year 9 students. Below is a message from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) explaining the new processes.

### **HSC minimum standard required to receive the HSC from 2020**

Literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation for success in life after school. This is why eligibility for the HSC is changing. From 2020, students will need to show they have the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to complete everyday tasks.

**Your child will have a number of opportunities from Year 9 to Year 12, and even after the HSC to show they meet the HSC minimum standard.**

Some students will meet the requirement early through their Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy. However, most students will show they meet the standard by passing short, online reading, writing and numeracy tests in Years 10, 11 or 12.

The writing test will require students to respond to a question about a prompt or stimulus.

### **Year 9 NAPLAN reports available in mid-August**

Your child's Year 9 NAPLAN report will indicate which online HSC minimum standard test/s (if any) they will need to pass to be eligible for the HSC certificate. Remember your child has three more years of learning before the HSC and can take the HSC minimum standard online tests in Years 10, 11 or 12. Year 9 NAPLAN is a good chance to check they are on track or get support to meet the minimum standard by Year 12.

If your child has achieved a Band 8 or above in reading, writing or numeracy, the NAPLAN report will indicate that they have "Met the HSC minimum standard early" in the respective area/s.

**Your child can sit the online HSC minimum standard tests when they are ready.**

There are three separate 45-minute online tests: reading, writing and numeracy. Students don't have to pass all three tests at once and can attempt each test up to twice a year. The reading and numeracy tests each contain a maximum of 45 multiple-choice questions. You can try some sample reading and numeracy questions at <https://hscliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

For more information visit <http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au>

*Laurence De Martin*



# From the Religious Education Coordinator

## Pray with us through the Gospel of Matthew

Join us and pray with us in our Mission Goal as we learn more about Jesus and the theme of service through our weekly scripture reflections. The scripture focus on the Gospel of Matthew for Week 3 and 4 is **"The Golden Rule in Relationships"** (Mt 7:1-12).

**"Do not judge**, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.

**Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

**In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;"**



## Here are a few helpful points for our reflection this week:

- The first line "Do not judge" is saying don't be like the Pharisees who judge. The Pharisees were hypocritical, self-righteous, and arrogant. Their motive was not to help people, or love people, but to condemn them.
- When we judge we are putting ourselves in God's place. When we judge we are placing ourselves above others.
- Jesus is saying that self-righteousness leads to a faulty view of ourselves. We can't see the giant log in ourselves! We are blind to our own sinfulness!
- If we are going to apply the golden rule, we need to follow the Beatitudes!
- When Jesus says, "ask, seek, knock" he is saying we should never grow tired of asking because God never gets tired of hearing and answering. Imagine being a leper...and not asking the doctor for antibiotics.
- Love is the New Commandment that Jesus gave. If God loves us like this, then we should love others the way that we would like to be loved.

## Franciscan Schools Australia Conference 2017

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you our experiences and some insights from the FSA Conference that was held last week from the 2nd to 4th August, with colleagues Miss Josiah Raad, Miss Nikki Valleri and Mr Patrick Madigan. The 2nd August was also the **Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula**, the small church that Francis rebuilt, marking the place where the Franciscan Order began. The FSA Conference is a bi-annual gathering of schools, educators and organisations that seek the Franciscan charism to guide their work and spirituality to which St Agnes Catholic High School has been a member for many years. We also shared this conference with our companions from St Clare's Catholic High School Hassall Grove, St Francis of Assisi Primary School Glendenning and Good Shepherd Primary School Plumpton. The focus of this conference was **Francis One with All, A Spirituality for All** and is creatively shown in the conference logo of Francis imitating Jesus.

We began the conference with a welcome to country by Kadoo Tours and a liturgy that welcomed all our Franciscan companions with the procession of the FSA Message stick. This Message Stick has been entrusted to Franciscan Schools Australia by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry for Victoria community which reflects St Francis of Assisi canticle of creation. Francis calls out to all of creation as brother and sister, revealing the core of the Franciscan worldview: that God is the source of all being; that the Creator God is the Parent; that all creatures therefore are brother and sister to one another; that everything deserves love and respect. Francis saw God in everything and so do we. Francis calls us to look upon the earth with humility and with an open and grateful heart, aware of the divine goodness in all things.

The Fr Stephen Bliss Fofm, the FSA Conference Coordinator began with the First session titled **"A Man for All"**. Fr Stephen posed the question, *how do we infuse Franciscan values in our lives and in our schools?* and this challenged our thinking from the very start. As the popular Prayer of St. Francis states **"Make me an instrument of your peace"**, do we actually take up the many opportunities to promote peace? We learnt that this is only achieved if we have a Franciscan heart. This means we live in humility by imitating Jesus in how he washed the disciples feet and cared for the wounds of the outcasts. It is by *sitting with the other* that marks what it means to be Franciscan. This concept was further explored throughout the conference.





Next, Friar Joe McKay ofm taught us all about **"Francis: One with Creation"**. When Francis preached to creation, this opened his eyes to the beauty of all things because all living things shared the same beginning. And because of this truth, we have a duty to care for our environment with piety. He reminded us that contemplative prayer (deep reflective thought) is important in order for us to truly be one with creation. Jacqui Remond, the National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, spoke about the danger the anthropocentric worldview; seeing everything as irrelevant unless it serves one's immediate interests but rather encouraged us to adopt a worldview that is of sublime communion, a moment of awe with the gift of creation and life - going forth and doing God's work to protect, care and grow our common home. This session empowered us to read the second encyclical of Pope Francis' '*Laudato Si - On Care for Our Common Home*' to aims to guide us to follow the See, Act, Judge model as stewards of creation. An interesting Francis fact: it was at the age of 43 when Francis went blind, that he wrote the Canticle of Creation:

## Canticle of Creation

*O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,  
to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
he is strong and shines magnificently.  
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars  
which you have set shining and lovely  
in the heavens.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth fruits and vegetables  
of many kinds and flowers of many colours.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love of you;  
and for those who bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience  
- you will grant them a crown.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,  
whom we must all face.  
I praise and bless you, Lord,  
and I give thanks to you,  
and I will serve you in all humility.*





Day 2 began with a morning liturgy about the third session **"Francis and the Leper"**. We prayed in Visio Divina (Praying with Art) and contemplated on the image of Francis and the Leper. Pray with me at this moment. As you read the story below and stay with a piece of it that has captured your attention. Allow it to bring forth a word, image, or emotion and listen with your eyes. What is God trying to tell you?

*"When I was in sins, it seemed extremely bitter to me to look at lepers, and the Lord himself led me among them and I practiced mercy with them." So greatly loathsome was the sight of lepers to him at one time, he used to say, that, in the days of his vanity, he would look at their houses only from a distance of two miles and he would hold his nostrils with his hands. But now, when by the grace and the power of the Most High he was beginning to think of holy and useful things, while he was still clad in secular garments, he met a leper one day and, made stronger than himself, he kissed him. From then on he began to despise himself more and more, until, by the mercy of the Redeemer, he came to perfect victory over himself."*  
**(Thomas of Celano, First Life of Saint Francis)**

Francis and the Leper brings to light the 'yuck factor!' a common response we can all relate to. Our response to what is *yuck* is like the wall built around Assisi, the *leprosarium* that kept those with leprosy on the other side. This is a reminder of the social problems that exist today, the problems we respond with as *yuck*! The lepers had a bell around their neck and Francis was known to run quickly at even the slightest ring. He was terrified of them but later soon discovered he was no different with the leprosy in his inability to love the other God had created. Through Francis' conversion, he said "What nauseated me is now the source of my ministry" and this is where the idea of *sitting with the other* came to light. To love another person, is to see the face of God revealed and Francis deeply planted this truth in this heart.

A highlight of the conference was the Conference Mass at St Thomas More Catholic Church celebrated by our very own Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen along with the talented musicians and choir of St Agnes and St Clare's Catholic High School Hassall Grove. Ms Juarez, Mr Jadrijevic and Mr Geoff Brain accompanied our students to celebrate this very special evening with us. They did an amazing job in leading us to prayer through music and song and were highly congratulated by the Franciscan conference delegates, not only on their involvement but also to their commitment to travel to Brighton Le-Sands from Western Sydney, on a school night! I am certain Bishop Vincent will not forget these students. Following the Conference Mass, Bishop Vincent delivered a humbling, encouraging and empowering keynote address on Francis and the Leper, to which he highlighted that the Catholic Church needs to be more like a hospital that cares for the sick, the marginalised, the lowly and the outcasts; this is what the church is commissioned to do.



**ABOVE**  
 Mr Madigan, Mrs Reyes, Miss Valleri and Miss Raad with Bishop Vincent! What a special photo opportunity.

**BELOW**

(Top): William Palaki and Prince Martin Gonzales  
 (Middle): Jason Cabrera, Eric Regolado, JC Ogo and Mr Jadrijevic  
 (Front): Kathleen Sikuea, Angelique Mangahas, Bishop Vincent, Eiriz Merjudio, Vitoryna Vaifale and Ms Juarez.





Day 3 was focused on **"Francis: A Call to Action"** with Fr Bernie Thomas ofm and he highlighted the need to trust ourselves and then a trust in God for Franciscan work to flourish in our own lives and in our communities. With very little knowledge and skills of carpentry, Francis, with his own hands build churches as God commanded him to, with trust as his strongest tool. Francis didn't do things in halves; he gave all things his all. The famous quote by St Francis *"Preach the gospel, and when necessary use words"* was challenged by Fr Bernie that this was simply not enough. Instead calls us to start using words and preach the Good News! This means, we need to read the scriptures more and to educate ourselves on the gospels. This was a very empowering call that complements the St Agnes Mission Goal of 2017.

To end my reflections from the FSA Conference, I leave you with these thoughts. Pope Francis is an inspirational role model and calls us to a deeper understanding of what the future may hold for generations to come. This conference allowed us to encounter new horizons called by our faith, our commitment to Catholic education for young people in the spirit of Francis and Clare, and to network together in professional dialogue about issues presented by the keynote speakers and raised throughout our discussions in the conference table talk sessions.

We hope that the conversations and the networks shared throughout this conference will challenge us and extend our thinking to making a difference with our colleagues, students, parents and community of St Agnes.

**"You are beauty, You are meekness; You are the protector,  
You are the guardian and defender; You are strength; You are refreshment.  
You are our hope, You are our faith, You are our charity, You are all our sweetness,  
You are our eternal life: Great and wonderful Lord, God almighty, Merciful Savior."**

(Francis composed this prayer of praise on Mount La Verna in September 1224, when he received the stigmata.)

## Social Justice News

### Winter Appeal - St Vincent De Paul Toiletry Drive

More than 17,000 children under the age of 12 have no permanent home. Children face an 18% higher risk of poverty compared to other age groups. What can we do as a St Agnes community to support those who are experiencing homelessness today?

Thank you to our wonderful staff and students who have already donated to our St Vincent De Paul Toiletry Drive. Let's make the box overflow! These toiletries will be packed and donated to the Vinnies Van to be distributed to our local areas of Mt Druitt and Parramatta. Each year group is responsible for donating the following items:

- **Year 7 - Toothbrush & toothpaste**
- **Year 8 - Soap/body wash & cotton buds**
- **Year 9 - Shampoo/Conditioner and deodorant**
- **Year 10 - Face towels & combs**
- **Blankets, beanies and scarfs donations are also welcome**



If you would like to donate to our toiletry drive, we would be very grateful for your support. **All donations will be collected until Week 5, Friday 18th August.** Thank you for your generosity.

### Social Awareness Week

In Week 5, the Catholic Identity and Social Justice Portfolio Leaders have initiated **Social Awareness Week** by developing opportunities to bring awareness of social issues that need our attention and assistance today. I encourage all staff and students to be involved in these initiatives next week so together we can learn and observe the many ways we can make a small difference to the lives of those most in need.

Social Awareness Week involves:

**MONDAY: Rice Day**  
**TUESDAY: No Electricity Day**  
**FRIDAY: Winter Sleepout (Year 10 students only)**

May we seek God in all that we do, so others will know what love is.

*In Christ,  
Mary Reyes*



# “Franciscan of the Fortnight” Award

The Franciscan of the Fortnight Award is a prestigious award that recognises the values of St Francis of Assisi today in the areas of service, relationships, dedication and prayer life unique to the St Agnes student.

Congratulations to the following recipient of the Franciscan of the Fortnight.

## Year 8: CARLOS DANIAL (8.2)

Carlos is a Catholic Identity Portfolio Leader and is very committed to the projects and initiatives of his team. His contribution to the school during the Angelus and liturgies is a wonderful example of his faith in being a good role model to the Catholic prayer life. Carlos has a strong work ethic and shows kindness to all students. He is optimistic, enthusiastic and highly committed to all he does. Thank you Carlos for volunteering in many ways to bring awareness of what it means to be a person for others through word and deed.



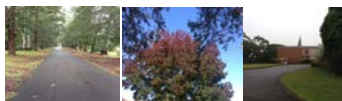
## Congratulations Kerrell

Congratulations Kerrell Del Rio, 7.2 who received two silver medals in the NSW Taekwondo State Championships last week. Kerrell has qualified to compete in the National Taekwondo Championships this coming October in Bendigo, Victoria.

Kerrell has been training in Taekwondo for the last 3 years with minimum of 2-3 times per week. He has competed in various tournaments throughout the last 3 years and has won several Gold, Silver & Bronze medals along the way. His passion for the art is what drove him to win Gold in the 2015 National Championships and gold and silver at the State Championships this year.



**The Australian Christian Meditation Community (NSW)** invites you to its annual two-day live in retreat, a time of immersion into the ancient and gentle prayer of Christian Meditation. A time of spiritual renewal in the beautiful surroundings of the Marymount Mercy Centre at Castle Hill.



**Stillness Silence Simplicity**

### *A two day live in retreat*

**Monday 21 August and Tuesday 22 August 2017**

This two day retreat offers formation in Christian meditation to teachers, school communities and all those wishing to bring Christian meditation to children and young people. It is a time to deepen the practice of meditation where we step aside from thoughts, words and images and recover in the silence a personal prayer of listening, attention and love. A time to experience the meaning of the words of the 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart: *There is nothing so much like God as silence.*

*Teaching children to pray opens up a way of hope and wisdom... The spiritual life of children has much to teach us about ourselves. If we can understand how to teach religion to children we will have remembered something that is essential and yet remains forgotten in most adult consciousness and social life.*  
Laurence Freeman OBE

**Where:** Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Road, Castle Hill  
**Time:** Arrival time day 1 is 9.30am for registration. Departure time day 2 is 3.00pm.  
**Theme:** An experience and formation in the prayer of Stillness, Silence and Simplicity  
**Cost:** \$250.00 per person, includes single room accommodation, all meals, teachings and workshops  
**RSVP:** 30 June 2017  
**Enquiries:** Penny Sturrock 0409 309 344 or [lorionia@bispod.net.au](mailto:lorionia@bispod.net.au)  
Booking form available on website [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

Attending courses in Christian Meditation run by the Australian Christian Meditation Community (ACMC) NSW is supported and encouraged by Sydney Catholic Schools and may be used as currency to maintain accreditation according to the policy, Accreditation to Work, Teach and Lead in Systemic Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Sydney. Participation in this course equates to 9 hours of formation for Currency.



## Why consistency improves kids' behaviour

One of the simplest ways to improve a child's behaviour is to be more consistent.



Children love their parents to be consistent as they are able to predict how they will act. A consistent approach to discipline helps put kids in control of their behaviour.

Consistency means as parents we follow through and do as we say we will. It means resisting giving kids second and third chances when they break the rules or behave poorly around others. When we let kids get away with two or three infractions of the rules we often come down very hard eventually, which causes resentment. Act early and prevent poor behaviour from escalating is the best approach.

Consistency also means both parents in a dual parent family get their act together and respond in similar ways when children are less than perfect. Children learn from a young age to play one parent off against the other when their standards differ or communication is poor. Sole parents need to be consistent with how they react when children behave poorly.

A consistent approach is shown through a clear set of limits and boundaries that provide kids with structure and teaches them how to behave. Studies show that families with very few boundaries or rules are more likely to have children who behave poorly around others, or don't consider their own safety.

Children like limits and they also like to push against boundaries. One study has shown that kids will push parental boundaries about one third of the time. This is a normal, but irritating expression of a child's push for independence and autonomy. Some toddlers, teens and other tricky types will push twice that amount, which is very hard work indeed.

Consistency is often sacrificed by busy parents and put in the "too-hard basket". When parents are tired, stretched and overworked the last thing we want to do is engage in a battle with a strong-willed child over what are sometimes petty issues. Besides, consistency can make a well-meaning parent who values relationships feel downright awful.

But giving in rather than holding your ground is not a smart long-term strategy. If you give in occasionally kids will learn that if they push hard enough, or give that winning smile, you will eventually give in. Consistency is about being strong. It takes some backbone to be consistent.

Here are some ideas to help you be consistent with your kids:

1. **Focus on priority behaviours.** It's difficult to be consistent with every single misbehaviour, but it's easy to focus on one or two. When you are consistent with one or two priority behaviours it has a positive impact on other behaviours.
2. **Give yourself a tangible reminder** about the behaviour you want to follow up. Leave a note somewhere telling yourself that you need to "Walk away when a child whines. Don't give in." Or "Catch your kids doing the right thing when they resolve a problem without arguing."
3. **Check your routines.** Make sure you have simple routines for troublesome times of the day such as bedtime or mealtimes.
4. **Act rather than overtalk** or repeat yourself when kids misbehave. Sometimes it's really inconvenient to set a consequence, as you may have to battle a tantrum that follows. But the stand-firm approach pays off in the long term as kids learn eventually that you mean what you say, and say what you mean. That's what firm, consistent discipline requires.
5. **Agree to a joint position** with your partner about a range of parenting issues such as discipline methods, going out, the use of technology, alcohol, sexuality and other important areas.

For more practical ideas to help you raise happy confident kids subscribe to Happy Kids! Michael's free email newsletter at [Parentingideas.co.au](http://Parentingideas.co.au). You'll get a free Chores & Responsibilities Guide when you do.



# Year 9 Sustainable Biomes Dioramas

In Geography Year 9 are studying “Sustainable Biomes” to help us understand the different biomes and the impact humans are having on the environment. 9A1 researched and created dioramas of different biomes in groups, looking at the geographical features of the biome, the flora and fauna found within it and the impact of human activity on the environment.

The students achieved amazing results through their creativity and enthusiasm for the task and the dioramas are now on display in the school library. Well done 9A1!

“The beginning of this term, our class (9GEOA1) were assigned to create a mini model diorama of a specific biome; ours was the Tundra biome. This diorama was created with plaster cloth, paint, Styrofoam, flour, glue and other materials that composed the entirety of the project. We had to compose research about the tundra and analyse the climate, flora and fauna on there. The project spanned for a week or so and was quite enjoyable in the aspect of creating.”

*Angelene Concepcion, Micah Fernandez, Katelyn Leonardo*

“Currently in Year 9 Geography we are studying the unit ‘Sustainable Biomes’. We had an informal task to create a diorama of any biome of our choice. Our group specifically chose the Grasslands biome. We used two cardboard boxes to make the base of the biome. We also used shredded green paper to make the grass. We also used plastic animals and plant figures as well placing information about the biome in the sides and back of the box. Overall, it was extremely beneficial to complete this task as it gave us hands on experience of investigating the grasslands biome. Many thanks to Mrs David for giving us this wonderful opportunity.”

*Nathan Kako, Jonathan Israel, Kye Ferreira and John Jadulco*



# Walking with Refugees and People Seeking Protection



27 July 2017

Thursday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

A recurring theme in our Gospel Message is the need for all of us to open our hearts and minds to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. To this end, I invite representatives from our each of our parishes, our schools, our agencies and our religious congregations to attend the launch of a year-long Diocesan Journey:

## **"Walking with Refugees and People Seeking Protection"**

The aim of the Journey is to galvanise a Diocese-wide, faith-filled urge to bring about a community and political culture that values fair and compassionate treatment of people seeking refuge and protection in Australia.

The launch will take place during Migrant and Refugee Week:

**Sunday 27 August 2017 from 2pm to 4pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall  
7 Grantham St Seven Hills**

Our special guest speaker will be Father Tom Smolich SJ, the newly appointed International Director of Jesuit Refugee Services.

I will be inviting all Catholics living in the Parramatta Diocese to think seriously and to pray earnestly about the challenges that face us all as we walk with this year long journey.

Firstly, it is time for us to deal decently and compassionately with people seeking protection - while still preventing people smuggling, saving lives at sea and maintaining the integrity of Australia's borders.

Secondly, it is time for us as a responsible world citizen, a wealthy and resourceful nation to develop the policies that enshrine the best of our traditions rather than the worst of our natures.

Most importantly, as Christians, we cannot remain content with the status quo, especially when that status quo is less than what God wants for us as individuals and as a community. Pope Francis recently said on the Feast of the Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph that "As we fix our gaze on the Holy Family of Nazareth as they were forced to become refugees, let us think of the tragedy of those migrants and refugees who are victims of rejection and exploitation, who are victims of human trafficking and of slave labor." *Angelus address 29 December 2013.*

In the months following the launch of our Journey the Diocesan Social Justice Office will be initiating a series of community conversations across every parish and every school within the Diocese. These conversations, held in collaboration with several partner agencies already working in the field, will be our key to engaging the hearts and minds of all Catholics in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - leading to a better understanding of the issues affecting those trying to seek a better life in our beautiful country. I encourage widespread participation.

Following the Launch those attending are invited to stay for a light afternoon tea. To assist with catering, we ask that you kindly indicate if you will be attending the launch, by telephoning the Social Justice Office 8838 3461 or letting us know online at: <https://register.eventarc.com/38860/invitaiton-to-migrant-and-refugee-sundaylaunch-27-th-august>

***"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in."  
(Matthew 25:35)***

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

**CHRIST  
CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY  
OF SCHOOL**

**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

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community  
learning  
together*

## From the Bishops Office

### Volunteers Needed

Chisholm Cottage is a four bedroom accommodation house in Westmead operated specifically to offer comfortable, affordable accommodation to people from regional NSW who are attending or accompanying loved ones to hospital stays or medical appointments in Sydney. Chisholm Cottage is operated by the Sisters of Charity Outreach. We are currently seeking Volunteers to assist with housekeeping, laundry and front office duties including washing, ironing, taking guest reservations and welcoming guests. Are you interested in volunteering for either morning shifts from 9.30am to 1.00pm or afternoon from 1.30pm to 4pm? Please contact: The Volunteer Co-ordinators, (02) 832 6432. Learn more about Chisholm Cottage by visiting <http://www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au/>

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

#### Early Bird Registration

Early-bird registration has now opened for the largest gathering of young Catholics since World Youth Day Sydney in 2008!

Bishop Vincent & Catholic Youth Parramatta invite young people from Year 9 to 30 years of age to celebrate the young heart of the Church, with 15,000 others, at this year's triennial ACYF being hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney (December 7-9) at Sydney Olympic Park.

Visit [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au) now to secure the \$250 early bird rate before August.

For all enquiries contact Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta, James Camden, 02 8838 3428, [jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au)

Volunteers for ACYF? ACYF is looking to engage around 600 volunteers will be needed

## School Policies

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

At St Agnes we expect each student to attend on every school day in each school term, and that punctuality and reliability are to be fostered. We consider that the development of these habits will contribute to the development of responsibility and self-discipline in each student and to an orderly school routine.

I would like to remind parents and students of routines and expectations particularly around punctuality in the morning and am seeking parents' support in this area.

The school day begins with Homeroom at 8.15am. Any student who arrives at the school after 8:15am must obtain a late note from the Student Office.

A student who is absent from the school on any day is required to present to their Learning Advisor, on the day of their return, a note from a parent/guardian explaining their absence if a phone call to the school is not made on the day of absence.

### **Behaviour Management Policy**

Interviews with students regarding behavior are based on procedural fairness, and a right to an unbiased decision. Corporal punishment is not a procedure used in the Diocese of Parramatta.

### **Complaints**

Complaints are addressed in a timely manner applying principles of natural justice and confidentiality. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Stage Coordinator in the first instance regarding any problems affecting their child. The Principal and Assistant Principal are available to discuss any matters which cannot be resolved in a timely manner.

### **Diary Use**

Students have been asked to use their diary to assist planning. All homework and assignments must be written in the diary. It is essential for parents/guardians to check the diary weekly. The diary is our primary mode of communication between home and school and assists our students as learners. If you have noticed your child is not using the diary as required or you have any concerns please contact the appropriate Year Coordinator.



## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### *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

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**CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

**ACU**  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**

**pixelprize**

**ENTRIES CLOSE  
FRI 15 SEPT**

**HIGH SCHOOL  
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**  
2017 THEME: **EMPATHY**

Australian Catholic University's Pixel Prize Photography Competition aims to engage young people in visual arts, encouraging the use of photography as a powerful tool to communicate valuable messages to society. The 2017 theme is 'Empathy'.

VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR DETAILS on theme, prizes, entry requirements, judges, exhibition openings, prize-giving dates and how to enter the competition.

**WWW.THEPIXELPRIZE.COM.AU**

The competition is sponsored by the Faculty of Education and Arts at ACU. See competition terms and conditions on the relevant sections of the Pixel Prize website for entry requirements.

**WESTERN SYDNEY  
APPRENTICESHIP  
& TRAINEESHIP  
EXPO**

**29 August 2017**

3.00 - 8.00pm  
FREE Public Entry

Penrith Panthers Exhibition  
Marquee, Mulgoa Road, Penrith

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If you're interested in being an exhibitor, email [brandi.carter@tafesw.edu.au](mailto:brandi.carter@tafesw.edu.au) or call 021 9208 9506

**MANAGING THE BULL.**

**A 5 week course for young people who are bullied**

**STOP BULLYING**  
STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.

**MTB Program Outline**

W1	31/8/17	Profiling the Bully.
W2	07/9/17	Strengths and self-esteem.
W3	14/9/17	Communication skills.
W4	21/9/17	Building support networks.
W5	28/9/17	Personal protection plan.

**THURSDAYS 3:00pm – 5:00pm @ WAAT,**  
Buran Close, Mt Druitt (Behind Police Station)

**Managing the Bull program is a 5 week program that builds resilience in bullied teens.**

Suitable for young people who:  
Want help dealing with bullying  
Want to build resilience and confidence  
This program is for 12 – 16 year old young people

**For registration contact Paula Roughley @**  
Western Area Adolescent Team (WAAT)  
Buran Close, Mt Druitt NSW 2770  
**Phone: (02)9881-1230 Fax: (02)9625-9110**

**NSW** Health  
Western Sydney  
Local Health District

**RAGE**

**A 4 week anger management course for young people.**

**RAGE Program Outline**

W1	9/08/17	The many faces of Anger.
W2	16/08/17	The 4 T's of Anger.
W3	23/08/17	Healthy expression of Anger.
W4	30/08/17	Getting through the guilt of Anger. Relaxation, exercise & diet. Summary & Awards.

**Wednesday 3:30pm – 5:30pm @ WAAT Youth Health Service**

The RAGE program is a 4 week program that introduces the topics of: reflecting on anger, recognising anger symptoms & identifying the different faces of anger.

RAGE is a strengths-based anger management program. It is a solution focused program that is hands on, practical and also fun for participants.

RAGE is run by trained staff in a youth friendly setting at WAAT

RAGE is the intellectual property of RCI

Suitable for young people who:  
Want help dealing with anger or violence  
Have been suspended from school  
Have been in trouble for anger or violence  
Want to improve relationships with family & friends  
This program is for 12 – 18 year old young people

**For Registration Contact Andre Zeballos @**  
WAAT [andre.zeballos@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andre.zeballos@health.nsw.gov.au)  
Buran Close, Mt Druitt NSW 2770  
**Phone: (02)9881-1230 Fax: (02)9625-9110**

**Youth Health**

**NSW** Health  
Western Sydney  
Local Health District