



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

16 December

Last Day for Students

17-18 December

Staff Development Days

2016

21-22 January

Administration Office Open

8am-2pm

Uniform Shop Open

10am -12noon

27 January

Staff Return to School

28 January

Year 7 Commence

29 January

Year 8-10 Commence

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11 December 2015

A Prayer for Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

God of mercy, help me to remember:

My ancestors came across the seas!

Help me keep in my mind

Those who came long ago

And those who now come to our shores.

As I face you in prayer, God of Compassion,

I remember my country's words:

Send them back or Stop the boats.

Then I fear, not your anger

But the steady gaze of boundless love

and unlimited compassion

That impel me to hear Jesus' command:

Love one another, as I have loved you

Or Pope Francis' call to open our hearts

To a universal communion

Which excludes nothing and no one.

Daring to step into such relationship, I pray 2015RefugeesPC

For those forced to leave family,

home and all they hold dear;

May they find safe passage and helping hands.

I pray for an end to the wars and oppression

that forced them to leave;

I pray that those who welcome them

are blessed in abundance.

And with deep humility

and a heart hungry for justice,

I pray that we Australians, citizens and leaders,

Open our eyes, our minds and our hearts

That we may see, understand and welcome

our brothers and sisters.

May our change of heart penetrate to our beginnings

As strangers in this land.

May we allow those we displaced

- the First People of this land - to welcome us.

Then knowing, in humility, what it is to be welcomed,

We will know how to welcome

the strangers who come to our shores.

This we ask in the name of Jesus your Son,

In whom we are no longer strangers. Amen.

*Peter Brogan
Principal*



**CHRIS
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

**Parent/Teacher
Interviews**

Tuesday 15 December

Bookings can be made
through our [online booking
system](#).

This day is a normal
school day for students.

**a diverse
community
learning
together**

From the Assistant Principal, Mr Peter Regan

As we come to the end of our school year, we are thankful for the many opportunities we have had as a community. For each of us the memories will be different.

~ there have been tough times through which we have supported one another.

~ there have been joyous times when we celebrated the gifts and talents that enrich our community.

~ there have been times of welcome to new families and times of saying goodbye to others.

In reflecting on the year, I believe we have continued to grow as a community as we focus on our relationships with one another. We are truly blessed to be part of such an authentic Catholic community. As this is the final newsletter for 2015, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the commitment of one and all.

Thank you...

- To the dedicated, professional and committed staff who do so much behind the scenes to ensure that our students are provided with the best education in a safe, supportive and respectful environment. There are many hours spent preparing, reflecting and investigating before and after the school day. We say a special thanks to and farewell Miss Zarebski, Mrs D'Souza, Ms Guldbrandsen, Suzan Boulattouf, Anthony Davey and Mrs Sukkarieh (Maternity Leave) for all they have contributed to the school community during their time at St Agnes.
- To the supportive and encouraging parent community who trust the school. Your faith and acknowledgement of this school is heartening and reflects in the students' attitudes. Thank you to all our parents/grandparents who have assisted in many ways to support our school during 2015. For those parents leaving the school community after many years, thank you.
- To Father Allen and Father Pat for leading our faith development. We appreciate and give thanks for the support and spiritual guidance that he gives us on a regular basis.
- To the students all of whom have achieved so many milestones during 2015. We are extremely proud of your achievements, academically, socially and physically.

We look forward to wishing our Year 10 students and those leaving all the very best next year, we hope they take a little of St Agnes with you for the rest of your lives. A prayer for our Graduates

*Creator God, help me to know your will for me
Let your light shine in the depth of my heart
That I may know what you want me to do with my life
Help me believe that you have a special plan for me
Lord I know I pass through this life only once
Help me decide how you want me to make a difference
Give me the wisdom to hear your voice and the courage
to answer your call
Above all give me peace of mind and heart.*

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with family and friends. If you need anything over the holiday period please contact me on pregan@parra.catholic.edu.au. I will be on leave for the first 5 weeks of Term 1 and take the opportunity to thank Mr Cruickshank who will be filling in for me.

Peter Regan

Assistant Principal

From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator, Mr Laurence De Martin

When reading the Semester Two reports I encourage all parents to talk to your child about their effort and achievements this semester. Some children try very hard and find learning difficult. They deserve praise and encouragement. Some children find learning easy and often do not try as hard as they could. Your encouragement here is critical as well. As parents your response to their report has a great influence on your child's future attitudes and efforts towards learning.

On Friday 11 December the Semester Two Academic Awards Ceremony was held in the San Damiano Centre for students in Years 7-9 who excelled in their academic studies. I would like to congratulate all award recipients on their diligent and consistent efforts in attaining pleasing results in their studies throughout Semester Two. These students have put in the extra effort, commitment and work that have led to their achievements. Below is the list of award recipients.

Caitlin Adema	7.1	Clarissa Ayoub	8.1	Alyssa Alcala	9.1
Abigail Asiata	7.1	Deakin Ball	8.1	Phoenix Amiatu	9.1
Bathsheba Asiata	7.1	Kristina Bonic	8.2	Kylee Ball	9.1
Vanie Barcelon	7.1	Paige Carriglio	8.2	Mary Barcelon	9.1
John Belocura	7.1	Kimberlie Casal	8.2	Sharon Cabasag	9.2
Carlos Clariz	7.2	Kirsty Conna	8.2	Jomiko Cabigting	9.2
Angelene Concepcion	7.2	Caleb Cunningham	8.2	Olivia Carroll	9.2
Yustina El-Rab	7.2	Rheana Cusi	8.2	Erica Cunan	9.2
Kiera Everingham	7.2	Theia Debulos	8.2	Tyra Diola	9.2
Micah Fernandez	7.3	Ruby Devo	8.2	Tony El-Ghossein	9.3
Jordan Ferry	7.3	Mikaela Diocera	8.2	Sofia Gabarda	9.3
Maddison Harris	7.3	Sheldon Dominguez	8.3	Kristy Goodwin	9.3
John Jadulco	7.4	John El-Ghossein	8.3	Amy Keryo	9.4
Callandra Jane	7.4	Rayanna Franco	8.3	Jamye-Lee Laing	9.4
Rosa Jueco	7.4	Hana-Marie Kayrouz	8.4	Edmond Luk	9.4
Katelyn Leonardo	7.5	Taylah Lee	8.4	Dana Mallouk	9.4
Nathan Luk	7.5	Angelique Mangahas	8.5	Martin Mangahas	9.4
Mikaella Manalo	7.5	Evana Mansour	8.5	Valanteina Mekhail	9.5
Emily Moyse	7.5	Eiriz Merjudio	8.5	Aerianne Mojica	9.5
Elijah San Pascual	7.7	Mylyn Mesina	8.5	Joy Odemwengie	9.5
Rhiannon Soans	7.7	Bianca Pace	8.6	Shamone Prasad	9.6
Lilly Thomas	7.7	Aloisia Palaki	8.6	Ruby Putt	9.6
Alyssa Willis	7.8	Jordan Petersen	8.6	Piadora Rahme	9.6
		Hannah Plaatjes	8.6	Brianna Raymond	9.6
		Monique Portelli	8.6	Erica Reddy	9.6
		Rianna Pulido	8.6	Georgia Sabellico	9.7
		Armin Ramazanzadeh	8.6	Anmolpreet Singh	9.7
		Eric Regalado	8.6	Damian Sutrisno	9.7
		Natalie Sukkarieh	8.7	Kaela Tavares	9.7
		Jazmin Taylor	8.7	Jasmine Thomas	9.7
		Patricia Tolentino	8.8	Angela Truong	9.8
		Shiani Vimalathanan	8.8		

I take this opportunity to wish all families the very best over the festive season and look forward to the challenges and rewards that will be presented to students in 2016.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

From the Religious Education Coordinator

Ms Julie Atkins

The Road to Bethlehem

On Tuesday 1 December St Agnes Catholic High School came together as a community to celebrate the re-enactment of the Nativity. Starting at 9am the school came together on the back playground which had been set up to visually represent the temple in Jerusalem, the Bethlehem streetscape by night, Persia and Nazareth. Students relived the story that not all are familiar with but which is so important for the Catholic faith.

As a Catholic school the story of Jesus, his birth, death and resurrection are so important that we must retell it and emphasise the importance of each aspect of such a great life. The story leading up to the birth of Jesus came to life with Herod, Zecariah and Elizabeth, Anne and Joachim (Mary's parents), Arch Angel Gabriel, the annunciation, the visitation, and the Maggi from the East. In retelling the story the additional characters (animals) helped to show the simplicity of the birth of Jesus and the majesty by which this baby was held in esteem by the Maggi, the shepherds with their sheep who added a greater sense of reality, the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem to the stable where Jesus was born and the camels which carried the 3 Maggi - Melchior, Casper and Balthazar to see the new born king were majestic and added another layer to the re-enactment.

This year we invited 5 local Catholic Primary Schools to view the performance. Students in year 4 from Sacred Heart, Holy Family and St Aidan's were mesmerised and captured by the story of Jesus' birth.

We will recreate the nativity for the students again in 2016, not only for St Agnes, but for our surrounding schools as well and hopefully be able to share this occasion with our families.

I would like to thank

- the teachers who were involved in the production, Mr Madigan, Miss Brogan, Miss Valleri and Mr Sadsad for their inspiration, vision and hard work bringing this production to life.
- Mr Doran and Mr Szczygiel for willingly choosing to play a role in the re-enactment.
- our students who so eagerly performed in this production.
- Ms Green and her team of costume design volunteers who gave of their time freely to assist with the production.
- Mr Brogan and Mr Regan for the support and confidence you have shown in all of us.

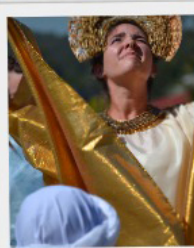
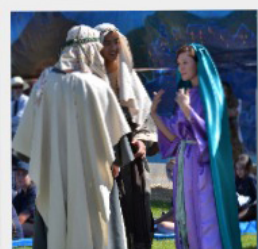
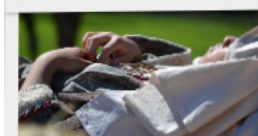
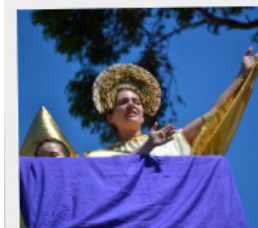
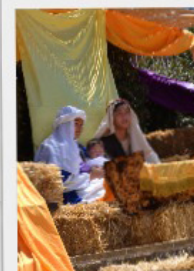
May God bless all of you in this holy season of Advent.

Graduation Mass 2015

On Tuesday we came together, as a school, to celebrate the journey of our Year 10 students who leave us to continue their life journey. We celebrated Mass together as a school at the Church of St Patrick in Blacktown with Fr Peter Confeggi.

We wish our Year 10 students all the best as they continue their journey. We pray that they both travel with the light of their faith and continue to share their faith on their journey.

Journey safely with Jesus by your side!!





St Vincent de Paul Society

Christmas Hamper Appeal

On Friday 4 December we were extremely proud to hand over 27 Christmas hampers and two billy carts to the St Vincent de Paul Society to distribute to families within our local community who, at this special time of year, are doing it 'tough'.

St Vincent de Paul is always available for any family who needs assistance. We are extremely proud, and blessed, to help them with your Christmas hamper donations, as it is one way that we show we can put others before ourselves and learn as Christ taught us to be in service of others.

Thank you to all students, families and staff for contributing to this worthwhile social justice project.

We will, of course, do this again in 2016.



Australian Catholic
Youth Festival
3-5 DECEMBER
ADELAIDE 2015

A small contingent of Year 9 students travelled to Adelaide, South Australia, on Thursday 3 December to participate in the Catholic Youth Festival.

Martin Mangahas, Piadora Rahme, Gabrielle Norton and Angelika Ball were all unsure, and nervous, about what to expect at the festival but after the first plenary session they were very enthusiastic to see what was in store during the remainder of the weekend. Below are some students' reflections of the experience...



The experience at ACYF was quite a memorable one. I will never forget the first time I walked into the first plenary we were apart of. There were thousands of youth in there for God. I watched everyone in praise and it warmed my heart. Now truthfully, raised in a Catholic family, I would say my faith beforehand was quite strong. But in a way, something was missing. This experience made me wonder about my faithfulness, loyalty and how much time I gave to God and even though we think things are 'enough' it never actually is. There is always more we can give to God and I think that's what was missing in me, the will to do more. The conference also taught me one extremely significant thing; no matter how broken, how messed up we are as individuals, God can do something magnificent out for you.

My favourite speakers were Father Rob Galea, Jason Evert and Steve Angrisano. All three had a way of connecting with the youth that I have never encountered before and this really changed my perspective on things. They taught me to allow God to love and speak to us and to open up our hearts. This really moved me.

The overall experience has motivated me to keep in touch with my faith and no matter how far we stray away, God will always be there to love us when we do come back.....Kylee Angelika Ball



From Martin Mangahas

As I had never heard of an Australian Catholic Youth Festival since recently, I had very few ideas and expectations from the festival. The expectations I had were all based on the information I received on the orientation night. I expected the festival to be held in a very traditional Catholic way with about twenty Bishops who were going to be at the venue. I also anticipated a lot of masses and liturgies throughout the three days and lectures about key Catholic principles from the priests. Moreover, I discovered that people like Fr Rob Galea, who was a former X Factor contestant, and Jason Evert, a renowned speaker from the USA, were going to be present at the festival which made me very keen to. Overall, I had a general sense of high expectations from the festival in terms of fun and spiritual nourishment.

The festival experience, however, greatly exceeded my expectations. From the opening plenary to the closing mass, there was a never-ending vibe of excitement greatly due to the sense of knowing that three and a half thousand youths from all over the country share the same faith as you. The festival took a very contemporary approach and therefore was very engaging to the youth as Bishops took 'selfies', priests played with the nuns in a game of fooseball and rock music was played in plenary sessions. I strongly believe that this is evidence that the Church established, by the Apostles of Jesus two thousand years ago, is very dynamic and can be given a modern, more youthful approach while still keeping the same principles and teachings since the past two millennia.

Overall, I believe that the three days I spent at ACYF are well spent and will stay in my memories for many years to come. My top three best moments was Jason Evert's What's so great about being Catholic? , Steve Angrisano's Go Make A Difference and Fr Rob Galea's A work in progress. Not only did I enjoy the songs and dancing but I also felt a more deeper and stronger bond with God throughout the three days. I believe that now I have the mission to share this experience with others, as I really want others to feel the same way I felt during these three days.

From Piadora Rahme

On the 3rd December, I, along with three other students, had the opportunity to attend a three-day festival regarding our Catholic faith.

My experience at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide is one of the most memorable Catholic pilgrims I have been a participant of. At first I was expecting many formal prayers and lecture workshops, however it was a completely different take on the Christian faith. The festival was able to capture the attention of the youth through various modes of prayer. Uplifting songs, as well as engaging dances to accompany the songs of praise, were common throughout the plenaries and workshops. These insightful and joyous hymns were one of the main highlights of the trip as they were able to include everyone with their simplicity to learn, as well as reaching out to the crowd.

A number of guest speakers and singers became the best experiences and workshops to attend. Jason Evert was by the far the most captivating and inspirational speaker of the event. In one of his talks, called 'Why are we Catholic?' Jason motivated and moved me throughout his speech. He was an informative, skilful and entertaining speaker who made our view of Catholicism easier to understand. His connections to past and present miracles including humorous stories, helped reach out to the youth at the festival.

Not only were there speakers, however amazing singers, such as Father Rob Galea (a former contestant on the XFactor), and the duo Gary and Natasha Pinto. These singers performed hymns in the plenaries and workshops, which were accompanied with a homily-like, talk expanding certain themes they were exploring.

Overall, I found the experience at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival a very knowledgeable, inspirational and fascinating gathering for 3,500 other young Christians who sought new ways to praise God. It opened up a unique method of connecting with God and taught me a range of valuable life lessons which I will carry everyday for the rest of my life. The enriching program will resume again in a few years time in Sydney, which I am definitely considering applying for.



Year 10 Graduation Mass
St Patrick's Church, Blacktown
8 December 2015

God our Father

*We can look back over the last few years
and recall the friendships that have formed
and the good relationships that we have developed.*

*We give thanks for all who have enriched our lives in various ways:
At home, in school, in church, and in the local community.*

We are conscious too, Father, of mistakes that have been made and relationships that have gone sour.

We ask for healing of what has been negative in the past, as we place ourselves into your hands.

*Inspire us in the years ahead to live in such a way that we readily apologise when things go wrong, as well as
expressing thanks and encouragement to those who are a part of our lives.*

*We give thanks, Father, for the gifts, talents and skills that you have given to each one of us. We think of
people who may have received less than others but have made much of themselves. We remember, too, those
who have overcome great difficulties, and all who have inspired us because they have given of their best.*

*In giving thanks for what has been in the past, we ask for your blessing on our present and future. We pray
for wisdom in setting our priorities and in making our choices that we may live fully and make our part of the
world a better place because of the care and compassion that we bring into it.*

Amen



Year 10 Perpetual Award Winners

We were privileged to farewell our Year 10 students at their Graduation Mass on Tuesday 8 December at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. The realities are that the vast majority of students leave St Agnes as fine young adults who go on to make a difference in society by living the values they have learnt at St Agnes. It has been a pleasure to watch the Year 10 students grow into mature young adults a credit to the families they represent. We wish them all the best and success for the future.

A number of students received awards and are congratulated on the awards they received.

Leadership

Ricky Gagliardi, Natalie Mansour, Gabbie Oca & Carlos Huelgas

Performing Arts

Rendelle Alpas (Dance), Maleta Nia Pohahau (Drama), Gabbie Oca (Music), Ricky Gagliardi (Art) & Francis Galipot (Photography)

Sporting Achievement

Jack Redman & Helen Sikuea

Catholic Life of the School

Rendelle Alpas, Reinier Tricia Garcia, Michael Fernandez & Jeremiah Asiata

Public Speaking and Debating

Rienier Tricia Garcia (Leadership), Vanessa Policarpio (Sportsmanship), Melissa Toohill (Persuasiveness) & Muskan May Sharma (Improvisation)

Learning Commitment

Lauren Cusi, Erica Leonardo & Jenny Phan

2015 Dux of the School

Gabbie Oca



Ian Bridge Award
Thi Do



Ruben F Scarf Award
Reinier Tricia Garcia



Sr Audrey Graham Award
Thi Do & Benjamin Allatt



Blessed Helene de Chappotin Award
Ricky Gagliardi



Ed Husic Award
Bailey Raymond



Fr John Morreau Award
Natalie Mansour



Caltex All Rounder Award
Maleta Nia Pohahau

2015 Sport Award Ceremony

St Agnes held their Annual Sports Award Ceremony today to recognise individual and team achievements on the sporting field. Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

Competition 1 Most Valuable Players

Event	Names
Junior Girls Volleyball	Gemini Togatuki
Intermediate Boys Volleyball	Edward Pese
Intermediate Girls Volleyball	Theresa Toomalatai
Junior Boys Touch Football	Dante Soares
Junior Girls Touch Football	Sheila Asiata
Intermediate Boys Touch Football	Jack Redman
Intermediate Girls Touch Football	Helen Sikuea
Junior Boys Basketball	Byron Murphy and Renard Manuel
Intermediate Boys Basketball	Ethan Tecson

Competition 2 Most Valuable Players

Event	Names
Junior Boys Soccer	Tong Dimo
Junior Girls Soccer	Katalina Vave
Intermediate Boys Soccer	Geoffery Mogga
Intermediate Girls Soccer	Jasmine Thomas
Junior Girls Netball	Ebonie Loudourn
Intermediate Girls Netball	Helen Sikuea
Junior Boys Rugby League	Burt Tukala
Intermediate Boys Rugby League	Jeremiah Asiata

Competition 3 Most Valuable Players

Event	Names
Boys Ultimate Frisbee	Adriel Carmines
Girls Ultimate Frisbee	Maria Mata
Intermediate Boys AFL	Jack Redman
Intermediate Girls AFL	Marie Vaegaau
Junior Boys Futsal	Jye Skarski
Junior Girls Futsal	Claire Galea
Intermediate Boys Futsal	Eder Mansoor
Intermediate Girls Futsal	Jasmine Thomas

Competition 4 Most Valuable Players

Event	Names
Junior Girls Basketball	Ebonie Loudourn
Intermediate Girls Basketball	Amelia Lausi'i
Junior Boys Oztag	Dante Soares
Junior Girls Oztag	Selenna Faimiano
Intermediate Boys OzTag	Thomas Latu
Intermediate Girls OzTag	Helen Sikuea
Open Boys Cricket	Bryce Wellings

PDSSSC Gala Days

Junior Boys Basketball Premiers

Byron Murphy	Renard Manuel	Joshua Tolentino	Angelo Morales
Jomari Jueco	Christian Adriano	Jake Arman	Kimie Obrero
Dylan Ashby	Carlos Montenegro	Burt Tukala	Coach: Mr Hilder

PDSSSC 2014 Premiers and Runners Up

Intermediate Girls Volleyball Runners Up

Krystel Lauafia	Marie Vaegaau	Theresa Toomalatai	Monica Vave
Susan Tafau	Florence Ng Lam	Daphne Villi	Theresa Lomano
Seuloni Taufui	Tusi Ale		Coach: Mrs Bickford

Junior Girls Volleyball Runners Up

Deepa Chand	Josefina Mataele	Aloisa Palaki	Gemini Togatuki
Merlye Galang	Myia Vendrasco	Aaliyah Villaneuva	Katalina Vave
Katie Asiata	Litia Lausi'I		Coach: Mr chavez

Junior Girls Touch Football Premiers

Olivia Jackson	Ebonie Loudoun	Jazmin Taylor	Sheila Asiata
Claire Galea	Sarahphine Dunlop	Solo Tafau	Sailimalo Toso
Lavita Taulia	Monique Portelli		Coach: Miss Gale

Junior Boys Basketball Premiers

Byron Murphy	Renard Manuel	Joshua Tolentino	Angelo Morales
Jomari Jueco	Christian Adriano	Jake Arman	Kimie Obrero
Dylan Ashby	Carlos Montenegro	Burt Tukala	Coach: Mr Hilder

Intermediate Boys AFL Runners Up

Zachary Turney	Bailey Raymond	Marley Skarski	Jeremiah Asiata
Manoa Ratubalavu	Lewis Jackson	Jack Redman	Sean Erupi
Mitchell Dodds	Raymond Nansen	Edward Pese	Jysiah Uele
John Piliae	Thomas Latu		Coach: Mrs Bickford

Junior Girls Futsal Runners Up

Olivia Jackson	Claire Galea	Hanna Plaatjes	Alexandra White
Paige Carriglio	Bianca Pace	Nisreen Esho	Katalina Vave
Rhiana Pulido	Natalie Sukkarieh	Monique Portelli	Suman Ghairat
			Coach: Mr Hilder

Junior Boys Futsal Runners Up

Gianni Fragomeli	Tong Dimo	Dante Soares	Jye Skarski
Joshua Fuamatu	Wol Tong	Gai Khon	Francesco Lagana
Andrej Vijackic	Tong Murorwal	Anyana Murorwal	Liam Kelly
Caylan Rama	Jack Youhanna		Coach: Miss Gale

Intermediate Girls Futsal Premiers

Layla Homs
Ebony Lord-Zarb
Krystel Lauafia

Ruth Akinba
Kate Asamoah

Chantel Seia
Furutu Eggu

Jasmine Thomas
Tusi Ale
Coach: Miss Gannon

Intermediate Girls AFL Premiers

Brianna Raymond
Tania Koro
Seuloni Taufai

Monica Vave
Helen Sikuea
Caterena Tuiletufuga

Ruby Putt
Daphne Vili
Shanel Schuster

Theresa Toomalatai
Clara Gawro
Coach: Mr Chavez

St Agnes Swimming Carnival - Age Champions

Age		Athlete
12 Years	Female Champion	Micah Fernandez
12 Years	Male Champion	Shazim Siddique
13 Years	Female Champion	Claire Galea
13 Years	Male Champion	Jordan Petersen
14 Years	Female Champion	Monique Portelli
14 Years	Male Champion	Hanok Basaznew
15 Years	Female Champion	Alana-Kerri Broomham
15 Years	Male Champion	Carle Mansbridge
16+ Years	Female Champion	Danica Dominguez
16+ Years	Male Champion	Aaron Fuamatu

St Agnes Cross Country Carnival - Age Champions

Age		Athlete
12 Years	Female Champion	Lily Thomas
12 Years	Male Champion	Rithick Naiker
13 Years	Female Champion	Ebonie Loudoun
13 Years	Male Champion	Dante Soares
14 Years	Female Champion	Jasmine Thomas
14 Years	Male Champion	Tong Dima
15 Years	Female Champion	Brianna Raymond
15 Years	Male Champion	Hasib Ghairat
16+ Years	Female Champion	Gullian Leonardo
16+ Years	Male Champion	Bailey Raymond and Martin Galang

St Agnes House Competition

*The 2015 Winning House is
Chisholm*



From the Bishops Office

Bennelong Brass with Owen Morris: 13 December

A Concert of Sacred and Festive Music including Greensleeves, Silent Night, Prince of Denmark's March, Royal Fireworks Music, Renaissance madrigals and other festive and sacred music. Starts 2pm in St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook. Tickets at the door. Suggested donation \$20 adult, \$15 pensioner/concession. Children under 15 free.

Holy Hour for Vocations: 18 December

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 7pm-8pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr Warren Edwards: tel 0409 172 700 or send an email to vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

Christmas Carols at the Shrine: 19 December

The Schoenstatt Sisters would like to invite you to join them for an evening of carol singing at the Shrine. Please bring a blanket or chairs and some snacks if you wish. Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels and shepherds. From 7pm to 8.30pm outside Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa.

Mass of the Holy Innocents: 28 December

The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville. Mass will be followed by rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville. Lunch available - please bring a plate to share. Everyone is welcome to pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. Inquiries (02) 9629 2595.

Schoenstatt Girls Camp: 8-10 January 2016

Girls aged 10-14 are invited to a three-day camp at Mt Schoenstatt. We will explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Program also includes prayer, craft and fun activities. Time: from 4pm on Friday 8 January to 4pm on Sunday 10 January. Venue: 'Home of Light', Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd., Mulgoa. Cost: \$90 (includes food and accomm). RSVP: Monday 21 December (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka 0439 537 843, sr.m.luka@bigpond.com (fax (02) 4773 8530).

Free Retirement Planning Seminar: 20 January 2016

Australian Catholic Superannuation presents this FREE seminar on how to optimise your savings for retirement and potentially save tax with an account-based pension. Tax savings could be \$'000s each year from age 56. From 10am-1.30pm at Parramatta Leagues Club, 13-15 O'Connell St, Parramatta. Partners and friends welcome. Book now tel 1300 658 776, www.catholicsuper.com.au/seminars

Positions Vacant

1. Team Leader, Child Safety and Professional Services: Catholic Education Office Sydney

Applications are being considered for the position of Team Leader, Child Safety and Professional Services. For further information please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close **Friday, 18 December 2015**.

2. Seeking mentors: Would you like to give something back to your community? Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's Post School Options Team is looking for suitable employers to provide one-on-one mentoring in the workplace for secondary students. We are seeking people in small business who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program, on a voluntary basis.

The volunteer mentor, hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week for two school terms (May to September, excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are provided with complimentary mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment 'Mentoring in the Community' for their participation.

Employers can be from any industry, as an individual in a trade area - clerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty, or connected to a major employer for example, Bunnings. or Woolworths etc. Please consider this call for assistance so that this program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities. If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact: Leoni Jeavons-Fellows, Coordinator Post School Options, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta tel 0424 750 583.

2016 School Fees

The table below shows the breakdown of School Fees at St Agnes Catholic High School. Fees are divided into three equal amounts, invoiced in Terms 1, 2 & 3. Payment is due 28 days from the Statement Date unless an arrangement is made with the Finance Department.

2015 fee arrangements must be renegotiated for the 2016 school year.

(Overdue fees may be referred to a Collection Agency as instructed by the Catholic Education Office)

PER YEAR	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Diocesan Fees (A)**				
Diocesan School Fee	\$1968	\$1968	\$2184	\$2184
Diocesan Building Levy	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735
School Fees				
Resource Fee	\$615	\$555	\$555	\$555
Activity Fee	\$132	\$144	\$228	\$138
Overnight Excursion	\$300	Nil	Nil	\$120
PASS <i>Elective</i> Fee	Nil	Nil	\$96	\$96
TOTAL (2016)	\$3750	\$3402	\$3698*	\$3828*

*Students in years 9 and 10 will be charged separately for excursions that relate to their elected subjects.

**Additional charges apply for families who are not Australian Residents - further information available from the school office.

A. Diocesan Fees

These fees are set by, and collected on behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta and are passed onto the Catholic Education Office. They are directed towards supplementing Commonwealth and State Grants (which cover about 80% of the running costs of the schools) for the payment of teacher's salaries, general running costs associated with the school and the administration of the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.

Sibling reductions for Diocesan School Fees only apply to those children attending Systemic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta and St Dominic's College at Kingswood or systemic schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay.

PER YEAR	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1st child	\$1968	\$1968	\$2184	\$2184
2nd child	\$1476	\$1476	\$1638	\$1638
3rd child	\$984	\$984	\$1092	\$1092
4th child	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Fees Payment Dates

Fee billing dates for 2016 are as follows

Term	Statement Date	Final Date for Payment
1	4 February 2016	7 March 2016
2	29 April 2016	30 May 2016
3	21 July 2016	22 August 2016

Accounts for fees are issued in Terms 1,2 and 3. It is anticipated that no other fees will be payable for 2016 (with the exception of elective subject excursions).

Changes to School Free Travel Scheme

providing quality public transport
30 November 2015



The Principal
ST AGNES CATHOLIC HI SCHOOL
PO BOX 24
ROOTY HILL NSW 2766

Busways Group Pty Ltd
ABN 48 114 855 551
T (02) 9497 1800
F (02) 9440 1044
5 Bridge St, Pymble NSW 2073
(Locked Bag 61 Pymble NSW 2073)
www.busways.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

As you are aware, from the beginning of the 2016 school year there will be major changes to the School Free Travel Scheme (SSTS) for the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area. Busways will no longer issue Student free travel, term or replacement passes.

The major changes to the system and those which will impact on Parents, Guardians, Students and School Administrative Staff, include:

1. Parents, guardians and students over 16 years of age who wish to apply for a School Opal Card must apply on line at transportnsw.info/schools-students.
2. Transport for NSW will be issuing eligible students with School Opal Cards.
3. Term and replacement passes will also be issued by Transport for NSW
4. All inquiries in relation to the School Opal Card are to be directed to 131 500.
5. Busways depot staff will be able to assist with lost property, school services and timetable enquiries.

It would be appreciated if you could also reinforce with students issued with a School Opal Card the need to tap on when they board a Busways service and tap off as they leave the bus.

In closing, we would like to thank all school administration staff for their assistance over the many years the current system has been in effect. Furthermore we wish you all the best for the future & may the transition to the new School Opal Cards be a smooth and worthwhile process.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Hogan & Dianne Lewis
Busways Group

Busways Blacktown P/L ABN 60 000 171 437 F (02) 9628 9960 F (02) 9625 4583 150 Genderning Rd Genderning NSW 2761	Busways Blacktown P/L Penrith Depot F (02) 4722 9960 F (02) 4722 6160 47-53 Mullens Rd Penrith NSW 2750	Busways Blacktown P/L Wentworth Depot F (02) 434 4300 F (02) 4577 9654 91 Mulgrave Rd Mulgrave NSW 2756	Busways Geoford P/L ABN 59 817 812 619 F (02) 4368 2217 F (02) 4368 2577 42 Empire Bay Dr Kincumber NSW 2231	Busways Wyong P/L ABN 57 450 044 726 F (02) 4362 6665 F (02) 4302 5831 9 Arden Rd Woongah NSW 2259	Busways North Coast P/L ABN 55 106 202 340 F (02) 6582 2449 F (02) 6582 2386 6-8 Donham St Port Macquarie NSW 2444
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SUMMER KIDS CAMPS

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

- ✓ New friendships
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Great value
- ✓ Safe

Summer is all about having FUN in the great outdoors. There is no better way for kids to jam-pack their school holidays with adventure and excitement than by attending a Sport and Recreation Kids Camp.

Choose from day programs and residential camps to Duke of Edinburgh Award journeys. Activities include raft building, mountain biking, flying fox, giant swing, cookouts and more. With so many programs on offer, you'll be sure to find a camp your kids will love.

Kids day camps start from \$50. Residential camps include 24-hour supervision, accommodation, meals and activities, and many offer supervised transport to and from Central Station, Sydney.



sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps | 13 13 02
fb.com/nswsportandrecreation



The Magic Flute or The Rabbits

The Magic Flute | 30 December — 16 January | Sydney Opera House
The Rabbits | 14 – 24 January | Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay

Take children on an adventure through music, with one of Opera Australia's family-friendly summer operas.

Watch little faces fill with wonder at the fantastical puppets in *The Magic Flute*, created by *The Lion King's* Julie Taymor.

Older children will love *The Rabbits*, a moving story with incredible costumes based on the famous picture book by Shaun Tan and John Marsden. The show explores Australia's colonisation with a mix of humour, poignancy and stunning music.



TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute Courses

SWSi are offering *fee free courses during December and January. These include short courses in Trade and Career Readiness and Foundation skills which you may be able to refer to your clients. The course list and flyer are attached. The courses are designed to provide students with an introduction to TAFE SWSi and various industry areas with a strong focus on practical skills. Please share with your networks.

SWSi also offer Certificate II Pre-Employment pathway courses for most trades. I am available to discuss further, please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

*Fee Free exemption eligibility applies, students must be permanent residents or Australian Citizens and not currently enrolled in school.

PENRITH OBSERVATORY School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Saturday 12 December – 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm

SPACE JUNK - Our planet isn't the only place we are leaving trash. Orbital debris, the collection of old or unused man-made objects in orbit about the Earth is a real problem to satellites, the ISS and rockets when they launch. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: Astronomy Nights: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: westernsydney.edu.au/observatory, What's On

Contact: Tel: (02)4736 0135 Email: r.mccourt@westernsydney.edu.au

westernsydney.edu.au/observatory

www.twitter.com/uwsobservatory

www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory

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

*a diverse
community
learning
together*

Congratulations Tylisha Turner

Tylisha represented Australia in Auckland, New Zealand during the World Gojo Ryu Karate Championship on 27-29 November 2015.

She competed in the Kata and the Kumite Individual Cadet Female (14 & 15yrs) competition and placed third overall.

This competition was a lead up to the summer Karate Olympics. Good luck in your future endeavours for the sport Tylisha.



2016 - Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has announced a Jubilee Year of Mercy which began yesterday with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and concludes when he closes that same door on the 20th November 2016.

Pope Francis says: At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The motto for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.

For more information go to <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

Congratulations to our 2016 School Leaders

It is with great pleasure we announce Kaela Tavares, Tony El-Ghossein, Piadora Rahme, Martin Mangahas and Joy Odemwengie as our 2016 School leaders.



**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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together*

Important Information

AFTER HOURS SECURITY

School Security Contact
9832 1028
Keep our school safe!

2016 TERM DATES

Term 1 27.1.16 - 8.4.16
Term 2 26.4.16 - 1.7.16
Term 3 18.7.16 - 23.9.16
Term 4 10.10.16 - 20.12.16

2016 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

The school office will be closed from 17 December 2014.

2016 OPENING HOURS

21 January 2015 8.00am - 2.00pm

22 January 2015 8.00am - 2.00pm

25-26 January 2015 CLOSED

Normal Opening Hours from 28 January 2015

8.00am - 3.00pm

Closed during school holidays.

Message bank facilities available.

2016 UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Thursday 21 January 10 -12 noon

Friday 22 January 10-12 noon

Tuesday 26 January 2015 CLOSED

Normal Opening Hours during school terms
(From 2 February 2015)

Tuesdays only 10.00am - 12.00noon

*St Agnes wishes everyone a
Merry and Blessed Christmas
and a Very Happy & Prosperous
New Year ahead.*

