



# 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)

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

## Diary Dates

### 1 November

All Saints Day

### 2 November

All Souls Day

### 3-10 November

Yr 7-9 Assessment Block

### 10 November

Yr7/2015 Information Evening

### 12 November

Yr 9 Boys Vaccinations

### 14 November

Yr 7 Brainstorm incursion

### 18 November

St Agnes Chess Championship

### 21 November

CAPA Showcase Evening

Yr 10 Reflection Day

### 24 November

Yr8A1-4 Geography Excursion

### 25 November

Yr 10 Beach Day

### 26 November - 3 December

Loyola Trade Orientation Days

31 October 2014

Dear Parents

In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared St Francis of Assisi to be the Patron Saint of the Environment. Here we were, in all our modern sophistication, turning to a person who lived in the 13th Century, seeking his guidance and inspiration to deal with our global pollution and the collapse of our planet's eco-systems. What would St Francis have known about matters such as these?

Certainly, he would not have been familiar with the terminology but Francis held a very strong belief that God was present in everything around him so that wherever he encountered nature, in its many expressions, he encountered God. For St Francis the world around him drew him to God, and everything around him was an expression of God's love. His attitude to nature was a humble one in that he realized that all of us are reliant on the environment for our survival.

Francis' affinity with affection for nature was expressed in his song "Canticle of the Sun" which he composed in 1225. In this Canticle he used intimate expressions such as, "Brother Sun" and "Sisters Moon and Stars", "Brothers Wind and Air", "Sister Water", "Brother Fire" and in one-verse states:

*"All praise be yours, my Lord, through  
Sister Earth our Mother, Who feeds us in  
her sovereignty and produces various fruits  
with coloured flowers and herbs."*

Francis ends his song with the following words: "Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks, and serve him with great humility." Now there is a worthwhile piece of guidance and inspiration: be humble. The word originates from the Latin "humus" which means "of the earth". The humble are close to the earth and see themselves as part of the "whole" and dependent on the 15 environments for their daily needs and continuing existence. St Francis would have been inspired by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and in particular the statement: "Blessed are the humble for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5:5.

There is little doubt that there is a real connection between nature and spirituality - just ask any gardener! Mother Teresa supports the theme of St Francis' Canticle when she writes, "We need to find God and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness, God is the friend of silence."

See how nature, trees, flowers, grass, grow in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence in order to touch our soul."

As St Francis states to all of us: 'Go out and preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.'

Peter Brogan  
Principal



## ***From the Assistant Principal***

This Saturday we celebrate "All Saints Day". These people are the heroes of the church, people to aspire to and emulate. We will remember and hear about the Saints who dedicated their life to God. They allowed God's spirit to work through them, and to fill them with love so that they could do ordinary things extraordinarily well.



Our children's choice of heroes usually follow a fairly predictable pattern. Young children often choose their parents or grandparents as heroes because of their role as immediate providers and caretakers. As students grow they choose peers as heroes, often someone close to their own age who had "made it big" as a rock star or a sports person. Older students usually admire people who can think for themselves and act individually. Celebrities can become heroes to our children mainly because they are attractive, rich and famous and not for any redeeming qualities they may have.

Teaching our students about the Saints is a privilege that we experience at St Agnes. By understanding their different levels of courage and noble qualities we are able to see they inspire us and push us towards a better self. The students are able to see that these Saints are like everyday people. They stumbled, wavered, even made fools of themselves, but they rose and accomplished something of great importance. We have the opportunity to see ourselves in them: the ability to overcome weakness, fear or insecurity and to be brave, courageous and kind.

Helen Keller, a famous author has these encouraging words for us:

*"I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest person."*

Good luck with your week ahead and the challenges that you may face.

*Peter Regan  
Assistant Principal*

### ***Year 7/2015 Information Evening***

Monday 10 November 2014

7.00 pm

in the San Damiano Centre.

Information will be provided for a smooth transition to  
Year 7.

Further information is available on our website

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

Or by telephone: 8882 0700

or email: [stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au).



## From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator

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In the last newsletter I included tips for students on how to study and prepare for their final exams of the year. In this edition I will focus on exam taking techniques that will benefit all students when sitting for their exams.

Studying is only a part of getting good results on your exam. No matter how hard you study as a student if you do not know how to go about taking a test, whether multiple choice or extended response, you will not score the highest possible mark.

Below are some useful test taking techniques, strategies and suggestions.

- Make good use of your reading time by carefully reading and re-reading each question.
- While you are answering one question, information about another may suddenly occur to you. Write it down somewhere because when you come to that question, perhaps an hour later, you may have forgotten it.
- If you have time go over and check your paper. Look for obvious errors such as having skipped a question. Read your answers to see whether you have anything extra to add.
- Do not spend too long on multiple-choice questions. With multiple-choice questions it is best to cover the answers and work out your own before looking at the choices on the paper. If you cannot answer it then have a guess. Never leave a multiple choice question blank.
- Never omit an entire question. No matter how well you answer other questions you must leave time for all questions. A perfect answer can still only earn a certain number of marks. If you don't write anything you cannot receive any marks. Write something. It may at least give you a few marks.
- If you do run out of time, use point form as a way to summarise what you intended to write. It may earn you one or two extra marks.
- Do not waste precious time on 'waffle' or on re-writing the question. If you do not know the answer write a couple of key words and move onto the next question.

*Laurence De Martin*

*Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum*







## *From the Religious Education Coordinator*

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On the 24 August 2014, Team IGNITE, Justyn Ball, Rosseti Flores, Komal Chand, Laura Van Eck, Gurjit Sandhu, Mikhaela Ponce, Joseph Youssef, Ronza Israel and Aaron Paje all from year 10, Mr Sadsad, Mr Petrie and Ms Atkins, made their way to Brisbane to participate in a Catholic Youth Conference organised and run by Emmanuel Worship.

The trip was very long but all participants were high in spirits looking forward to what was to come. Some of the students had never crossed the NSW border before, so it was great to see the excitement and enthusiasm on their faces when we did. We made many stops and you can only imagine how many times we were asked 'Are we there yet?'

Surfers Paradise was a definite hit with the students. Lucky for us they had the night markets on the beach for our arrival. We stopped and shared a meal before continuing on to our accommodation at Grace Lutheran College, north of Brisbane.

During day 2 we were able to do a little sight seeing in Noosa. The students walked the shops and played on the beach until we needed to head off back to the start of the conference at 5pm.

The opening rally of Ignite was powerful. The St Agnes Team Ignite did not know what to expect - but after the opening night rally we were empowered by the spirit. Over the next few days we participated in workshops run by youth ministry, Priests, Nuns, musicians. We had the privilege of sitting through keynote talks from religious members who shared their conversion stories. I believe the authentic nature of their stories helped all to see the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our students were particularly moved and energised by the modern religious music that we were exposed to. We are going to include this in our Year 10 Graduation Mass this year.

Overall, the Ignite Conference was well worth the effort of driving up to Brisbane and forgoing our holidays. We look forward to future Ignite conferences and hope that St Agnes students will be in attendance for 2015.

A truly transformational journey!!

*Julie Atkins*

*Religious Education Coordinator*





Fiction  
Books  
Write  
Communicate  
Read  
Share

COMICS  
SPEAKING  
MOVIES  
FIRST  
HOUSE  
HOWEVER  
READING  
UNDERSTAND  
PEOPLE  
LEARN  
REALLY  
TAKE  
REMEMBER  
KNOW  
BOOK

## Word of the Week

SEPARATE

**Definition** - To keep apart or divide

**E.g.** The students were asked to separate into two different groups.

## Word Puzzles

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in ☐ boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

LBLAET

				<input type="checkbox"/>	
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TPA

<input type="checkbox"/>		
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ZAZJ

	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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PIH HPO

	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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SAALS

		<input type="checkbox"/>		
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BLMALROO

				<input type="checkbox"/>			
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		C				
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## What's in a word?

How many words can you find in the following MATHS term?

PYTHAGORAS' THEOREM

Taken from Wuzzles and Puzzles

## FUNDRAISING FOR ST AIDANS CATHOLIC CHURCH

To cater for an increasing community St Aidan's Catholic Church is holding a fundraiser to extend and refurbish the church by holding a raffle.

\$20 per ticket

1<sup>st</sup> Prize- \$10,000 cash

2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$5,000 cash

Purchase tickets at the Church foyer after Saturday and Sunday Mass

More information - Elizabeth Idaszak 9625 8404

Draw held on 10 May 2015

Paper submissions open on Fri 21st November with the Student Experiment Symposium to be held on Friday 12 December.

A maximum of five students are allowed to participate per paper submission.

## UNSW Science Information Day

This full-day activity is open to high school students in years 10, 11 and 12 and is de-signed to provide attendees with a taste of university life as a science student at UNSW. Contact: [science@unsw.edu.au](mailto:science@unsw.edu.au)

The Asia-Pacific Youth Organisation (APYO) is looking for people between the age of 16 and 30 to join them in promoting discussion about the political, diplomatic and economic issues facing the Asia-Pacific region.

<http://apyo.org/join/>

The program aims to provide talented high school science students (in Years 9 and 10) with additional challenges and stimulation in the areas of biology, chemistry and physics. Students are provided with the opportunity to engage with University teaching staff and current researchers, access first-class facilities and make friends with people who have a mutual interest in science.

**HANDY FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
MORTGAGE BROKERS    LOAN ADVISORY    DEBT RESTRUCTURE

A man and a woman are shown from the chest up. The woman, on the left, has several sticky notes on her face: 'عاطف' (Empathy) on her forehead, 'مروءة' (Honor) on her right cheek, 'مودة' (Affection) on her left cheek, and 'مودة' (Affection) on her chin. The man, on the right, has sticky notes on his face: 'مروءة' (Honor) on his forehead, 'عاطف' (Empathy) on his right cheek, 'مودة' (Affection) on his left cheek, and 'مودة' (Affection) on his chin. They are both looking directly at the camera with neutral expressions. The man is resting his chin on his hand.



Call 1300 464 263 or visit  
[www.handyfinance.com.au](http://www.handyfinance.com.au)



## 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

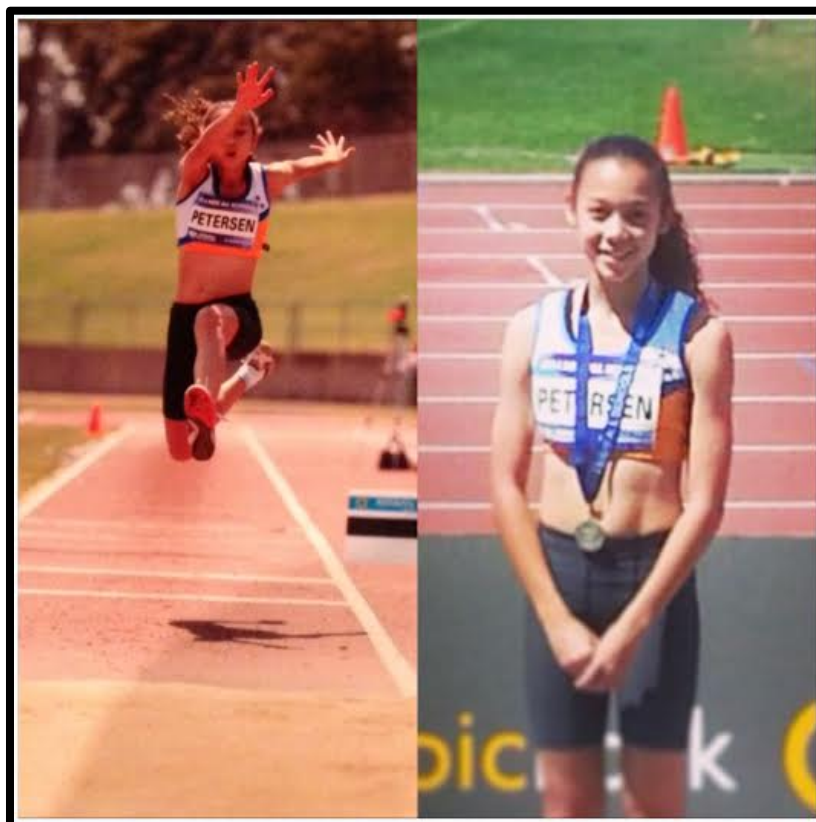
Fax: 02 9831 6430



## Sporting Achievement

Alexandra Petersons competed in the All Schools Athletics Carnival two weeks ago. She came 1<sup>st</sup> in the U/15 Girls Triple Jump and will attend the Australian Championships in December.

Congratulations Alexandra and good luck in December.



## Youth January Holiday Programs 12 - 19 years 2015

Spaces are "LIMITED" forms need to be back no later than 12th December 2014 Family & Community Services



### Wet & Wild

When: Wednesday 14th January  
Time: Marayong House - 9.15am - 3.45pm  
Doonside Cottage - 9.45am - 3.30pm  
Cost: \$7.00 **BYO Lunch or money for lunch**



### Skatel Penrith

When: Friday 16th January  
Time: Marayong House - 10.15am - 3.30pm  
Doonside Cottage - 10.45pm - 3.15pm  
Cost: \$7.00 **Lunch provided - Wear comfortable cloths & socks**



### Palm Beach

When: Monday 19th January  
Time: Marayong House - 9.15am - 5.00pm  
Doonside Cottage - 9.45am - 4.30am  
Cost: \$7.00 **BYO Lunch or money for lunch**



### Movies-Hoyts

When: Wednesday 21st January  
Time: TBA  
Cost: \$7.00 **BYO money or snacks**



### Marayong House

64 Falmouth Road, Quakes Hill, 2763

Phone: 96265312

No youth will be denied access to a program because of the cost.

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

## AFTER HOURS SECURITY

### NEW NUMBER

School Security Contact  
9832 1028  
Keep our school safe!

## YEAR 7/2015

Enrolment forms for Year 7 2015 are available from our front office or from [our website](#).

## OFFICE HOURS

8.00am - 3.00pm  
Closed during school holidays.  
Message bank facilities available.

## TAU BREAKFAST

Tuesday - Friday  
7.40 - 8.10am  
in the Canteen area

## YEAR 10 DATES

25 November - Beach Day  
26 November - 3 December - Loyola Trade Centre Orientation Days  
1-5 December - Loyola Senior High School Orientation Days  
8 December - Farewell Breakfast/ Mass Practice/ Homeroom Activities  
9 December - Graduation Mass  
10 December - Formal at Blacktown RSL

Parents are reminded that your school fee account must be paid in full, or a suitable arrangement regarding the finalisation of the account must be in place, for the formal ticket to be issued. If you have any queries about your statement or need an extension to pay your account please contact Mrs Rita Mizzi on 8882 0706.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the Business Manager, Mrs Lorraine Bailey on 8882 0702 immediately.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Does your son/daughter deserve recognition for a job well done outside the student community? Let us know.

Please email: [pregan@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pregan@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST AGNES

If you are aware that your child, who is in Years 7-9, will not be returning to St Agnes for 2015, it is requested that you notify the school. We request this notice in writing, including your child's anticipated date of departure from St Agnes and the name of the school he/she will be transferring to.

## STUDENTS TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If your child requires a leave of absence from school for any period during the year you will need to complete an [Application for Exemption from Attendance at School](#) and forward it to the school office at least one week prior to the anticipated leave commencement date.