



St Agnes Catholic High School

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

Follow us on FACEBOOK: StAgnesRootyHill

Instagram: StAgnesRootyHill

to truth through love

Diary Dates

7 - 11 November

Year 7-9 Exam Block

7 November

PRC Meeting

11 November

Year 10 LA Appreciation Day

14 November

Last dose for Year 7 Vaccinations

16 November

CAPA Night

22 November

Year 10 Beach Day
Yr 7-9 Swimming Assessments

23 November

St Agnes Chess Competition
Yr 7-9 Swimming Assessments

24 November

Yr 8 Aline Art excursion

25 November

Jamberoo Award Day

28 November

Yr 7/2017 Information Night 7pm
Yr 8 Bline Art excursion

29 November

Yr 10 Graduation Mass

1 December

Yr 10 Formal

4 November 2016

Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ, known as the paschal mystery. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the central story of the Christian faith. Indeed, the Christian community was first formed by the need to remember the paschal mystery and is still formed by it, day in and day out. The death and resurrection of Jesus is not a historical event, which can be studied in a detached manner. Christ continues to die and to rise again in our world. This is celebrated at Mass. For Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus is as much part of the present and the future as of the past.

This week I invited Principals from our feeder primary schools to experience the St Agnes community in action. These Principals had never been to the school previously so it was interesting to hear their reflections. They commented on the 'feeling' of the school, the community atmosphere and the quality of classrooms that our students experience. These reflections are important as we maintain the high standards of education here at St Agnes.

During my absence from St Agnes I'm not sure if the results from the NAPLAN testing for 2016 were communicated to our community. I can state the results were once again outstanding and congratulate our students on their performance. In particular our Year 9 cohort performed above the state average and ranked one of the best in the diocese. Congratulations to our staff who guided our students in achieving these results.

Peter Brogan

Peter Brogan
Principal

"Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive."

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus



Jubilee Year of
Mercy

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

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

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



FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Term 4 is a time for learning and study for both teachers and students.

Opportunities for teachers

Many teachers from St Agnes have been taking opportunities for further study this term, including attending courses in the following areas:

- Masters Degrees in Educational Leadership
- Mental Health First Aid
- CEDP Mathematics and English Conferences, where teachers from St Agnes presented their 2016 research project
- Building Relational Trust
- Understanding and Managing Behaviour for Teachers Aides
- Religious Education Teacher Formation Conference
- Accreditation days for VET courses.

This commitment from teachers allows the learning opportunities for students at St Agnes to be dynamic and contemporary, and it identifies our school as a place of learning for all.

Opportunities for students

Many students have been involved in a range of activities in and out of school. These have included:

- Recognition and workshops for the Year 10 Catechists
- Wetlands excursions for Year 8 students
- Global Equity Day for Year 10 students
- University Immersion Day for Year 10 students
- Captivate workshops for drama, dance and music students in Years 7 - 10

We would also like to congratulate our students on their participation in opportunities away from the classroom, where they can continue to learn.

We have, however, noticed that some students are not applying themselves fully to their studies at this early stage of the term. This newsletter is a good reminder that we still have a quarter of the year to go. This means a quarter of our learning time at school this year. As such, students will continue to have regular classes during which their teachers have planned the next steps of their learning, they will complete their assessments and they will have homework to complete as usual.

If you notice that your son or daughter is becoming ambivalent about school or their studies, can you please talk to them about the importance of remaining focussed on their studies throughout the term. Students should not be unnecessarily absent from school this term either; unnecessary absences impact on students' learning and engagement in school life.

Some things to note as students travel to and from school

Some students are calling into the local 7Eleven store to purchase icy drinks before or after school. The empty containers are being left as litter in the yard and drinks are being spilled in classrooms. We would like to let you know that we have asked students are not to purchase these drinks before school and that they are not allowed to bring them onto the school grounds.

In the afternoons, students who catch buses home are not allowed to leave the school grounds and return to catch their bus. They must remain in the school grounds until their bus has arrived. The only students who leave school independently are those who walk home, are being picked up or are catching a public bus.

Whilst the mornings or afternoons are still cool, students need to wear their blazers to and from school over their jumpers. The jumper alone should not be worn to and from school, in accordance with the school's uniform policy.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of St Agnes and look forward to opportunities to meet and talk with you during the term.

Mary Refalo
Acting Assistant Principal



FROM THE TEACHING & LEARNING COORDINATOR

Maths in I.T. Day at Western Sydney University

On Tuesday 25th October, eight Year 8 students, Hedrone Aquino, John Belocura, Callandra Jane, Rosa Belle Jueco, Nathan Kako, Priyanshi Sharma, Jayden Sharma and Ellyse Tecson, under the supervision of Mrs Vincent and myself, represented the school at an academic enrichment day at Western Sydney University Kingswood Campus.

More than 120 Year 7 and 8 students from Western Sydney high schools were in attendance, where the focus of the day was to provide students with a hands-on experience across a range of exercises and challenges linked to Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Technology (STEM)

Students were given the chance to meet academics and researchers to raise their awareness of the exciting and diverse opportunities in these fields. Fostering a deeper interest in STEM and showing students how important these areas are will benefit them in the future as they progress to further study and careers.

Students across all schools were divided into five groups in which they rotated across five activities that comprised of the following:

- The Rubik's Cube
- How to Juggle Numbers
- How Does Maths Go In Here?
- The Solar Car Challenge
- The Mathematics and Technology Campus Race

Overall, the eight students were grateful for an enjoyable experience and the school hopes it is able to visit the university again.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum



St. Agnes Catholic High School

Years 7-9 Term 4 Examination Block: Monday 7th – Friday 11th November 2016, San Damiano Centre

Session	Monday Day 1 – 7 th Nov	Tuesday Day 2 – 8 th Nov	Wednesday Day 3 – 9 th Nov	Thursday Day 4 – 10 th Nov	Friday Day 5 – 11 th Nov
Periods 1/2					
Students to go to normal Period 2 lesson at the completion of the exam	Year 9 English	Year 9 PDHPE	Year 9 Maths	Year 8 Maths	Year 7 Science
Periods 3/4					
Students to go to normal Period 4 lesson at the completion of the exam	Year 9 Geography	Year 7 Maths	Year 8 Science	Year 9 Science	Year 9 Religion
Period 5					
		Catch Up Exam Time	Catch Up Exam Time		Catch Up Exam Time

Examination Guidelines:

- Students are to follow teacher's instructions at all times.
- There is strictly no talking during any examination.
- No borrowing will be permitted during examinations.
- Students must have all necessary equipment with them.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Every November we celebrate two major feast days in the Catholic Church, All Saints Day on the 1st November and All Souls Day on 2nd November. Following is a general introduction to these major feasts along with a prayer.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on 1st November. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on 2nd November, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints, that is, those recognised in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church.

Members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches, such as Anglican, Lutheran and Anglican churches, commemorate All Saints' Day.

Generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness.

Dear God,

Thank you for the example of the Saints.

I desire to join in their company, worshiping you forever in Heaven.

Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ.

Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did.

Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours.

Amen.

All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is a holy day set aside for honoring the dead. The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity. The Anglican Church is the largest protestant church to celebrate the holy day. Most protestant denominations do not recognise the holiday and disagree with the theology behind it.

According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord;

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

St Vincent de Paul – Christmas Hamper Drive

Every year at this time the St Agnes community comes together to support St Vincent de Paul by donating food products and Christmas items to make Christmas Food Hampers. Our goal every year is to make as many hampers as possible, hoping that we have at least one per homeroom.

Your child/ren have been advised of the specific item/s that they need to supply to their class hamper. If you are able to donate more you are more than welcome to do so.

St Vincent de Paul, through their work, constantly reaches out to those people on the margins of our society. These Christmas Hampers will help those people, within our local community, who are finding it tough, especially during the Christmas period, to have a much happier and stress free Christmas.

Your assistance with this social justice initiative is greatly appreciated. I hope to be handing over another impressive donation showing the generous nature of the St Agnes Catholic High School Community.

Pace e bene

Julie Atkins



St Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Hampers

You can help St Vincent de Paul spread Christmas cheer this year by donating items for our Christmas Appeal Hampers. Hampers are distributed through our local Conference members. Please place your donations into **re-usable shopping bags** (e.g. canvas). These are most manageable for our members and volunteers and also potentially useful to our recipients. In addition, please ensure that all food items are in date with several months until expiry.

Below is a suggestion of items you might like to include...

- | | |
|--|--|
| ❖ Tins of shoulder ham* | ❖ Jellies |
| ❖ Christmas cake/pudding | ❖ Jam/honey/vegemite |
| ❖ Long life custard/cream/milk | ❖ Coffee, tea, sugar |
| ❖ Christmas decorations (eg. Bon-Bons, tinsel) | ❖ Hot chocolate/Milo |
| ❖ Christmas plates/napkins | ❖ Gravox |
| ❖ Tins of fruit | ❖ Pasta and pasta sauces |
| ❖ Lollies | ❖ Meal base ingredients |
| ❖ Chips | ❖ Tins of vegetables (eg. carrots, peas, corn, potatoes) |
| ❖ Biscuits (assorted) | ❖ Drinks (eg. soft drink, fruit juice, cordial) |
| ❖ Salsa | |
| ❖ Rice | |

**Please keep ham separate to complete hampers so that we can accommodate for our clients who do not eat ham for religious reasons.*

Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this festive season extra special for families in need this Christmas!





ST AGNES/MULTICULTURAL DAY

St Agnes Feast Day is celebrated worldwide on 21st January of each year to commemorate the martyrdom of Agnes at the young age of 13. As we are on school holidays at this time we have traditionally celebrated St Agnes Day on our Multicultural Day. This occurred on 21st September this year, which started with Mass.

St Agnes is proud that we can bring our community together on Multicultural Day to accept, support and encourage each other no matter what culture they represent.

Here are two students' accounts of the day



St Agnes Day was on the 21st September. We came together and wore our cultural clothes to celebrate how lucky we are to live in such a diverse community. The different cultural clothes worn by staff and students impressed me. Later in the day St Agnes was split into year groups and exchanged traditional foods with others in their homeroom to share as lunch. I got to try many different types of foods that I had never tried before!

Towards the end of the day we watched cultural performances composed by students. I thought the day was very enjoyable because I was able to experience cultures my friends came from which helped us create a stronger bond. This is a moment I will never forget and I cannot wait until the next St Agnes Day!

Nathan Luk

Year 8 Digital Media and Communications Leader



"We are all different, which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity life would be very boring." -Catherine Pulsifer

As St Agnes Day approached, students spent countless lunch times and after school time to practice and prepare for the day. When the day had finally arrived on Wednesday 21st September, the true spirit, acceptance and multiculturalism of the St Agnes community were shown.

Students were given the opportunity to wear clothing that had cultural significance to them. It brought many to the realisation of the many nations and stories there is present in the school community.

There were several different dances from the different cultures of students, which was enjoyed by both the students and their family members, the extended community of St Agnes. It was an enjoyable day that gave many smiles.

"It was amazing just to see what the school community holds, the differences we have and what makes us a community like no other."

Yustina El-Rab

Year 8 Digital Media and Communications Leader



**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**

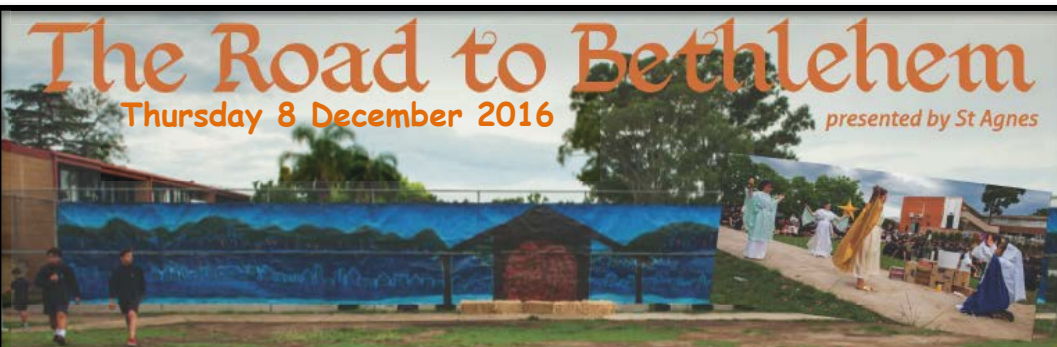
YEAR 10 FORMAL

Year 10 parents are reminded that your school fee account must be paid in full, or a suitable arrangement organised before a formal ticket is authorised for your child.

Please contact Mrs Lorraine Bailey on 8882 0706 if you have questions regarding your school fees account or if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

The Road to Bethlehem

Thursday 8 December 2016 presented by St Agnes



Walk back in time to the Messiah's miraculous journey, at St Agnes Catholic High School. During this joyful occasion you will participate in a breathtaking interpretation of the Nativity story. The staff and students of St Agnes have worked hard to present an outstanding live performance, to bring the past to the present. This play will evoke emotions of jubilation, astonishment and admiration as the Christmas story is revealed through a live re-enactment.

Join the festive spirit and become a part of the play, by dressing up in nativity themed costumes to enrich your overall experience. Prepare to be mesmerised by the angelic choir and musicians, who enhance the performance with songs of praise and gratitude.

Skoolbag


Smartphone school to parent communication



"Skoolbag" is a smartphone application that allows you to easily access a range of information about the school from a smartphone or device.

"Skoolbag" is available to download for free on both Apple and android devices including smartphones, tablets and computers.

Please find the free App in your App store.



Use Google's free online calendar to keep track of important events occurring at St Agnes.

Visit the App store.

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose — No. 1 parenting educator



Go visual to manage kids

If you have a visual learner – and this includes most boys – or a child who likes to think they're calling the shots, then your reliance solely on verbal messages will mean not everything will get done. And much will be resisted.



Use visual prompts and reminders

Here are four ways to go visual when you want to 'manage' your kids:

- 1. Construct simple 'to do' lists.** Help children remember routines by placing three to five important things on charts. Place them where he or she can see them. These can include bedroom cleaning routines, getting ready for school routines, getting ready for bed routines, even chore charts.
- 2. Place non-negotiables on signs.** My son had a "KEEP OUT!" sign on his bedroom door as a child, indicating in strong terms to his sisters his wish for privacy. For most bedrooms is certainly well! Parents can do something similar when circumstances suit. For instance if you have family meetings then place simple rules on signs such as, "Talk about one thing at a time", "No interruptions" and "Stick to the point". By going visual you indicate that this is important and non-negotiable.
- 3. Cue kids to behave well.** Teachers often use cues to get kids to behave well in class. This prevents interruptions to lessons. Kids are cued to look at them. Look for opportunities to cue kids with hand gestures at home. For instance, point to your eyes to remind a child to make eye contact when talking to an adult. When you want them to clean their teeth and get ready for bed, get your child's attention, point to the bathroom (using open palms) and look at the ground to avoid eye contact and convey expectation.
- 4. Write a note.** There are times when you can write a little note to your children that may prompt them to think about their behaviour. I'm not sure if you realised it but I felt embarrassed when you back-chatted me in front of Auntie Jenny yesterday. This type of written message reduces defensiveness and allows kids to take ideas on board in their own time. We need to do much more of this so kids can reflect on their behaviour.

If I had my time as a parent again, I'd be more aware of using visuals rather than verbal when I managed my kids. It would have made life easier for my kids and also for myself. I tended to go verbal when I didn't really need to.

When we go verbal with all our instructions we often teach kids to shut down. As a principle, try to go visual as much as possible and keep your words for conversations, relationship-building and encouragement.

Do you use a roster for kids' jobs?
Do you put two or three things on a list for your children to read each day?
Do you use hand gestures – such as pointing to a bedroom – while you say a child's name indicating you want them to go to their room?
If so, congratulations! You are using the visual mode to help your kids be organised, cooperative and well behaved.
Most homes are highly verbal in that we rely on our words to ensure things get done. We tend to tell kids what to do through words rather than pictures or hand signals, relay important messages using words and even verbally give kids lists of things to do.
This may appeal to auditory learners and easy kids.
If you have a visual learner – and this includes most boys – or a child who likes to think they're calling the shots, then your reliance solely on verbal messages will mean not everything will get done. And a great deal of what you want to get done will be resisted.

When we go verbal with all our instructions we often teach kids to shut down. As a principle, try to go visual as much as possible and keep your words for conversations, relationship-building and encouragement.

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CAPA NIGHT

16 November
6 - 8pm
You're invited



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



FROM THE BISHOPS OFFICE

Inside Catholic Outlook's November issue (available from the student office)

- Annual Diocesan Family Sunday gathering
- LIFTED Live: Young talent rocks St Patrick's Cathedral
- DWF November Appeal - Share your Christmas joy
- Parish profile: One big Holy Family at Mt Druitt
- News from our Catholic schools
- Seminarian Shinto Francis a candidate for Holy Orders
- City of Parramatta a Refugee Welcome Zone

Bringing Laudato Si' to Life - From Vision to Action: 10 November

With Fr Sean McDonagh SSC, Irish eco-theologian and Columban missionary, who will contribute to bringing the vision of Pope Francis' encyclical letter Laudato Si' to life and action in churches and the wider community, in dialogue with other faiths and with environmentalists. Time: 6pm for 6.30pm start - finishes at 8.30pm, Australian Catholic University, Gleeson Auditorium, Barker Rd, Strathfield. RSVP 7 November. Information: www.columban.org.au tel (02) 9352 8021, admin.cmi@columban.org.au

Way of Mercy Pilgrimage concludes: 13 November

The Way of Mercy Pilgrimage with the Mercy Cross and relics of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Teresa of Kolkata will conclude on Sunday 13 November with a ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral commencing at 4.30pm.

At the 6pm Mass, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will close the Cathedral's Holy Door. A sausage sizzle fundraiser will follow with proceeds going to Arrupe Place, a drop-in centre for newly arrived Australians run by the Jesuit Refugee Services Australia.

LIFTED Sports Day 2016: 13 November

Catholic Youth Parramatta seeks referees to assist with the annual Diocesan Sports Day between 16 parish youth groups on Sunday 13 November at St Dominic's College, Kingswood. We require referees for touch football, soccer, basketball and volleyball. Please get in contact with James Camden, Catholic Youth Director, tel (02) 8838 3428 or via email jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 17 November

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 7pm-8pm for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood contact Fr Warren Edwards, Director of Priestly Vocations, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

'Waiting for Gabriel' Seminar for Couples Hoping to Conceive: 20 November

From 1.30-4pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre (attached to IFM building), 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Hosted by Life, Marriage & Family Office, Diocese of Parramatta, tel (02) 8838 3441, lmf@parra.catholic.org.au

Meditatio Outreach on Meditation & Ageing: 20 November

A Meditatio Seminar with Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Fr Laurence will lead this Meditatio Outreach on Meditation & Ageing with keynote speakers, a panel, personal testimonies and small reflection groups, interwoven with meditation and contemplative practices. Registration 10am, first presentation 10.30am, Eucharist will conclude the day. Morning tea provided - BYO lunch. At St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia.

Details: <http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org/> Bookings: acmcmeditatio@gmail.com

Advent - a Season of Hope: 26 November

Reflection Day for Women with presenter Sr Mary Louise Walsh ISSM. From 9.30am-3pm at Mt Schoenstatt, Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: \$25, BYO lunch - morning & afternoon tea provided. To register tel (02) 4773 8338, info@schoenstatt.org.au