



# St Agnes Catholic High School

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

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

to truth through love

## Diary Dates

### 22 November

Year 10 Beach Day  
Yr 7-9 Swimming  
Assessments

### 23 November

St Agnes Chess  
Competition

### 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  
Yr 7 Drumming Incursion

### 5 December

Yr 7/2017 Orientation Day

### 6 December

Yr9 Aline Swim School  
Yr 7 Drumming Incursion  
Yr 5 Technology Day

### 7 December

Yr 5 Technology Day  
Yr 7 Aline Swim School

### 8 December

Road to Bethlehem

### 9 December

Sport/Academic Award  
Ceremony

18 November 2016

### *Advent is nearly upon us.*

*The four weeks of Advent allow us time to ponder how Jesus came into this world in such a stunningly humble way. As we contemplate His birth in a bed of straw in a messy stable, perhaps, we see our own life as being a little bit messy.*

"The Season of Advent affords us the opportunity to get in touch with our own spirituality, to reflect on the journey we've taken over the past year and to set goals for the coming year - spiritual resolutions."

"Our life is often distracted, self-centred and sometimes leaves us wishing we were better people. But if we can slow down and refocus our attention, we might realise that God is there, waiting to love us even though we have so many unfulfilled good intentions and so many run-fulfilled desires about our spirituality."

"Our faith is not a vaccine that prevents bad things from happening to good people. Rather, our faith is the new seed that brings forth new life and hope out of a life that contains struggle, difficulty, conflict and maybe misunderstanding."

It has been my privilege to see the messiness of our lives reflected in the goodness of the St Agnes community. Time and time again I witness the works of our staff and students living out the Gospel values in how they treat each other and how they live out their faith. These experiences are inspirational as they add to the story of St Agnes. As a parent I hope you celebrate the giftedness of your children as each day I have the pleasure to witness it in their lives.

*Peter Brogan  
Principal*

## Year 7/2017 INFORMATION NIGHT 28 November 2016

Places for Year 7/2017 are still available. Enroll NOW

Call our enrolment officer on 882 0704.

Enrolments from all year groups are welcome

*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*

*a diverse  
community  
learning  
together*

## FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### **Congratulations to all students for working hard at school**

We would like to congratulate students for their hard work during the first half of this busy term. They have been diligent in their preparation for exams and assessments and are being rewarded for their efforts as they receive their results for the completed assessments.

Whilst there are a number of activities occurring at school in the next few weeks that are an adjustment to the usual school routine, classes will carry on as normal. There are units of work in each subject that teachers are preparing, and that require students to concentrate fully on learning.

There are five weeks of learning left in the year - a significant amount of time that shouldn't be wasted. With this in mind, please continue to talk to your children about what they are learning at school and what is happening in their classes.

### **Year 8 focus on reading**

We have been lucky enough to employ a support teacher this term to allow us to work with students in Year 8 on pushing their reading skills to a new level of critical analysis. Two teachers, Miss Valleri and Miss Brogan, work in a range of Year 8 classrooms to facilitate reading and writing extension by working with students on complex texts. During these times, students are challenged to contribute to discussions about written and visual texts and the class work by articulating and deepening their ideas. They are also invited to respond to the texts and the classwork in written form.

We are very excited about this project and its potential to take students to a new level of learning and critical analysis.

### **Uniform**

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, I would like to remind students that they should be wearing the summer uniform neatly. In the case of cooler weather, the blazer is to be worn over the shirt, not the school jumper, when travelling to and from school. It is okay for students to wear their shirts without their blazer if the weather is warm.

Hair cuts, particularly boys' cuts, need to be tidy and blended. Haircuts that include shaved sides and long tops are not allowed and will invite unhappy consequences for students involved.

The uniform policy can be found on page iv of the student diary.

### **Attendance**

Thank you to students and their families for ensuring students avoid taking unnecessary absences from school. As I have said in previous newsletters, regular absence impacts on a students' learning and his or her ability to remain on top of their schoolwork.

The expectations around regular attendance remain in place for all students between now and the end of the year.

*Mary Refalo  
Acting Assistant Principal*

## NOVEMBER 11, REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11 marked the anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18). At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years' continuous warfare. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. Staff and students at St Agnes observed one minute's silence at 11 am last Friday, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.



## FROM THE TEACHING & LEARNING COORDINATOR

### Year 10 Record of Student Achievement (RoSA)

On Wednesday December 7 Year 10 students will be able to access their RoSA grades via the Students Online <http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/> facility provided by the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES). Year 10 students should become familiar with this website since it will provide them with a wealth of information as they enter Years 11 & 12.

When using the system, students will be able to access an electronic record of their Year 10 grades that can then be generated into a pdf document and downloaded. A formal RoSA certificate will only be provided to students who have indicated to the school that they are leaving the school system at the end of the year to undertake either an apprenticeship or full time employment. It is hoped that all Year 10 students take the time to reflect on their results and begin planning ways that they can improve for next year.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

### Apple Store Online Portal and In Store Purchasing

#### CEDP Family Funded Apple Store Purchasing Information

Apple provides a number of ways to help families buy the devices to support student learning. These include the local Apple Store and a custom online store, which has been built specifically for CEDP schools.

#### Product Purchase and Pricing

To purchase the Apple products visit <http://byod.parra.catholic.edu.au>. This custom page offers great features and access to all products and accessories of the regular Apple Online Store, like free delivery.

Families can also visit their local Apple Store. Notify them that you are from a **Parramatta Diocese Catholic School** to get special pricing, advice or discuss the products that they might be considering. The contact centre is also available on 133-622.

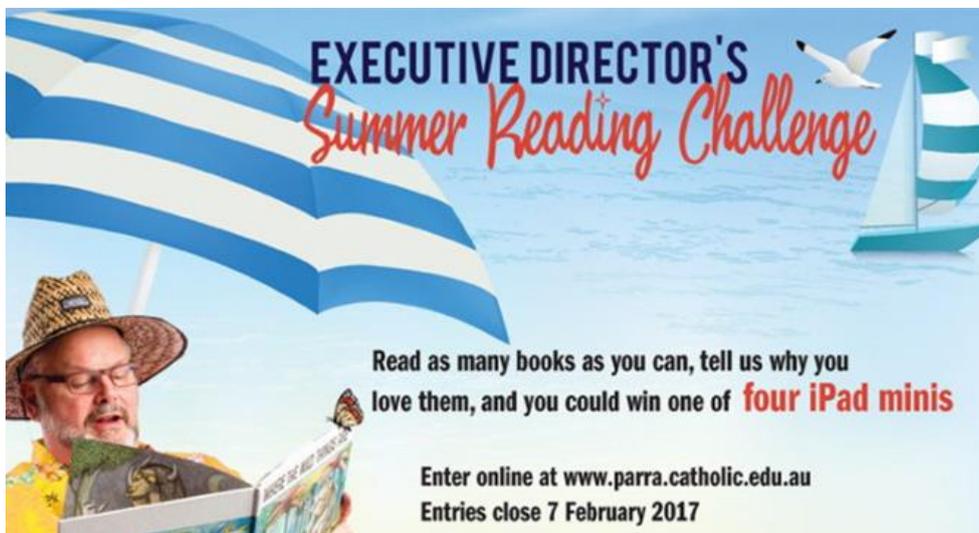
Apple offers special iPad and Mac pricing for students attending Parramatta Diocese Catholic Schools. This special pricing is available for purchases made at Apple Stores, through our school's customised online store or via the Apple contact centre. If families are purchasing in-store or over the phone just let the specialist know our school's name.

Finance options are also available for purchases if families are purchasing at an Apple Store or online.

Apple Store, Penrith

Phone [+61 2 4702 9420](tel:+61247029420)

[penrithbusiness@apple.com](mailto:penrithbusiness@apple.com)



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S**  
*Summer Reading Challenge*

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **four iPad minis**

Enter online at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Entries close 7 February 2017

The poster features a man in a straw hat reading a book, a large blue and white striped flag, a seagull, and a sailboat on a blue sea.



## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR



### Suggestions for the St Vincent de Paul Society Hamper Appeal

#### Christmas Items

eg. Bon Bons, Tinsel, Christmas  
Plates / Serviettes

#### Tins of Shoulder Ham

#### Christmas Cake/ Pudding

#### Long life Custard/Cream/Milk

#### Tins of Fruit

#### Lollies

#### Chips

#### Biscuits

#### Salsa

Drinks eg. Soft drink, fruit  
juice, cordial

#### Rice

#### Jellies

Condiments eg Jam, Honey,  
Vegemite

#### Coffee / Tea / Sugar

#### Hot Chocolate

#### Milo

#### Gravox

Tins of Vegetables eg. Carrots,  
Peas, Corn, potatoes

#### Pasta, Pasta Sauces

#### Meal Base Ingredients

**Gospel Reflection Sunday November 20, 2016**

### **The Feast of Christ the King**

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This feast is even more significant in this Year of Mercy as it indicates the end of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy set down by Pope Francis. I was reading a reflection on the website Catholic Religious Australia, of this Sunday's gospel and have shared it here for you:

*In this week's gospel, we find a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of the bullies, writes Sister Veronica Lawson rsm.*

Sadly, there have always been those who scoff at others or make fun of them, generally because they themselves feel threatened in some way. Those who suffer such bullying behaviour often feel powerless and demeaned. There may be some comfort for such people in today's gospel. We find here a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of the bullies.

The first response is that of Jesus who refuses to retaliate when the soldiers mock him or when another convicted criminal ("one of the criminals hanging there") derides him. Another dignified response comes from "the other" criminal. This man has the insight to recognise that Jesus is innocent. He also has the courage to challenge the injustice of what is going on around him. Having offered his challenge, he then turns to Jesus and addresses him by name: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." His request reveals his faith in Jesus as the human face of God. It also reveals his knowledge of Jesus' mission, first announced in Galilee: "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God ...."

Jesus points to God and God's reign or empire. Jesus' criminal companion points to the reign or empire of Jesus. The reign of God and the reign of Jesus are one and the same. In turning to Jesus and putting his request, this criminal becomes a disciple and receives the assurance of a share in Jesus' life with God: "Today you will be with me..." "Jesus, remember me" is a fitting prayer in the face of all life's struggles. It is a prayer for mercy. Next time we sing these words or pray them in our hearts, we might spare a thought for the one who first uttered them, a convicted Jewish criminal who had the courage to rise above his own suffering and challenge the unjust oppression of an innocent neighbour. Like Jesus, he was and continues to be an instrument of God's reign. His capacity to challenge the injustice of Jesus' execution might be a source of inspiration for us as we struggle to find mercy and justice for the Earth as well as for the innocent ones who seek asylum in our midst only to find them subjected to the torture of exile and hopelessness.

The title of today's feast reminds us of the boundless nature of God's rule or reign: we celebrate Christ Jesus as ruler of the universe, of all that is and of all that will be. As our understanding of the universe expands, we find ourselves caught up in the ever creative, and saving, presence of a merciful God. This feast might serve as a reminder that every year needs to become a year of mercy and of justice.

### **St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Hamper Appeal**

We are once again supporting St Vincent de Paul by donating food products or Christmas items.

I would like to thank all of those students and families who have already donated and would encourage those who have not to participate so as to help those people in our local community who are in need of help at this time of year.

We hope to aim to meet last year's donations where we were able to donate 26 Christmas Hampers to the Rooty Hill chapter of St Vinnies.

Students are able to bring in items until the end of November, if you wish to make more than one donation feel free to do so.

Many thanks for all the support that you and your families have provided for the St Agnes community, and our wider community.

### The Road to Bethlehem

We are gearing up for our re-enactment of the Nativity again to happen on December 1. As St Francis of Assisi did in his time, we will re-enact the nativity with live animals, and we have both teachers and students performing.

On the day we would ask students to come dressed up as shepherds, angels or biblical characters from the story of Jesus' birth.

We have invited primary students from St Aidan's, Holy Family, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart and St Francis of Assisi to attend our annual performance.



### The Way of Mercy and closing of the Holy Door

On Sunday night St Agnes was represented by Ms Atkins at St Patrick's Cathedral to conclude the Way of Mercy and The Jubilee Year of Mercy, which officially ended in our Diocese with the final closure of the Holy Door at the Cathedral. Ms Atkins accepted a gift from the Diocese which was a print of Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal Son". This print will continue to remind us of the many graces we received during the Year of Mercy.

*Julie Atkins*  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

## RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to the following staff members who received Certificates of Recognition for dedicated and faithful ministry to Catholic Education.

### 40 years

Mr Peter Brogan

### 25 years

Ms Mary Refalo  
Mrs Nola Balzan  
Mrs Suzan Habib  
Mr Rajesh Kumar  
Mrs Aroona Naidoo

### 15 Years

Mrs Lorraine Bailey  
Mrs Bonita Carlin  
Mr Rajend Singh

### 10 Years

Mr Christopher Chavez  
Mrs Melissa Devine  
Mrs Susan Hagarty  
Mr Patrick Madigan  
Mrs Donna Missio

### 5 Years

Mrs Alexandra David  
Mr Gregory Devine  
Mrs Tahlia Hitchcock  
Mr Suraj Knshna  
Mrs Connie Rana  
Mrs Jane Rutkin  
Mr Harry Sadsad  
Mrs Adele Sukkarleh

## WEEKEND RETREATS ONE OF THESE RETREATS COULD BE THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU

Sometimes you need...

- Time out from your day to day life
- Some new insights, directions and inspiration
- A break to go within, reconnect with self and Your God
- Opportunities to immerse yourself in nature

Visit our website for our Weekend Retreat Brochure  
[www.stjosephscentre.org.au/photos/phpy860Cv.pdf](http://www.stjosephscentre.org.au/photos/phpy860Cv.pdf)  
St Josephs Centre, Baulkham Hills Sydney NSW



## KOKODA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Over the Term 3 school holidays, I was honoured to embark on the journey of a lifetime - completing the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea, the same trail that our Australian soldiers fought along during the Second World War in order to protect our country. The opportunity was in the form of a program called the 'Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge' that was targeted towards young people with leadership potential and qualities that could be further developed in order to shape confident, strong leaders. By being nominated at school to apply through St Marys Rugby League Club, I was humbled to be chosen to take on the challenge.



The trek was a ten-day journey of grueling uphill's, arduous downhill's and very slippery conditions that tested every single one of the people in my group. Each and every day brought its own set of challenges, whether it was homesickness, a physical injury or the mental war that raged in your head as you climbed. To my surprise, for me, the experience was more mentally challenging than physical, yet it still pushed me to my limits and allowed me to see what I was truly capable of.

I completed the trek with 32 other young people that I didn't know at all, in the beginning, but soon became very friendly with over our journey. Led by renowned Vietnam War Veteran, political representative and experienced leader Charlie Lynn, we were all able to develop as young leaders and as the next generation for change in our own communities. Having Charlie, as my leader was incredible - I was able to gain so much knowledge from him about what it means to be in a leadership position, about Australia's wartime history and the losses sustained at the Trail. Every day brought a new lesson for us to learn and keep in our minds as we trekked through the beautiful and breathtaking surroundings.



The trek took us through thick and dense jungle of the Trail and many local villages that lie on it. To see people and families that own next to nothing was an eye-opener. The local people were warm and welcoming, and they were very happy even though they didn't possess any of the luxuries that we do in our modern society - things like hot showers, proper furniture, mobile devices, computers, even modern toilets. These are all aspects of our lives that we take for granted, these people happily lived without everyday. This part of my journey really encouraged me to reflect on my own home and all of the things that I have to be grateful for.

Trekking through such a unique environment posed a challenge at first, on account of the fact that I had rarely been exposed to such humid and tropical climates. As everyone in my group soon learnt, the human body takes a few days to acclimatise and during this time, it's essential to stay hydrated. Not drinking enough water could prematurely end the experience and cause a great deal of damage to one's health, so hydration was vital. The surroundings were unlike anything I had ever witnessed - towering mountains and lush green hills, bright blue skies, and views that words simply cannot describe. The feeling of conquering each big climb and seeing the lookouts on top is truly unbelievable.

**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*

Upon completing the journey, I immediately felt a sense of overwhelming accomplishment. The thought that I would finish the trek was one that seemed unreachable a mere few days before the trek, so to finally reach that point of completion was an incredible feeling. I have learnt so much about myself and my capabilities from embarking on this journey, and I am looking forward to the future where I can use my experiences as a point of inspiration for other young people who may be hesitant to trust themselves and take every opportunity, even if it seems like a crazy risk.



Not only have I learnt about my own capabilities, but I have also learnt about the rich history of the Kokoda Trail and the diverse culture of Papua New Guinea. I have learnt to truly appreciate the resources we have here in Australia and since arriving back at home, I have viewed everything differently, through the eyes of someone who has seen and experienced so much in such little time.

The trail tested me in the best way possible and because of it, I have emerged a stronger, more capable and able leader.

None of this would have been possible without Mr Cruickshank, Mrs Hitchcock and Mr Hilder help nominating me to apply, and St Marys Rugby League Club for sponsoring me for this life-changing and memorable trek. So to all who supported me throughout this journey, I thank you. I am very eager to work with St Marys Rugby League Club over the next twelve months as a youth ambassador and to represent the school and our area with pride.

*Brianna Raymond, 10.6*



*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



## CREATIVE CAREERS PRESENTATION

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November some of our CAPA elective students from music, visual arts and photography attended a presentation with Dr Michelle Cantazaro, a professor from the University of Western Sydney. This presentation explained the importance of creativity in our lives.

Dr Catanzaro discussed how creative skills not only lead to creative jobs such as graphic designing and being a musician but also fed into other non-creative jobs such as commercial roles like banking and big business companies.

She spoke about future jobs that haven't been created yet and therefore thinking outside the box is very important asset to have.

Art related fields fall into many areas of profession, for example, the film industry, computer programming, animation and software building, teaching, childcare, web design, advertising, photo journalism and multibillion companies such as Apple and Microsoft

The students involved were very respectable and interested. They took this opportunity to ask Dr Catanzaro many questions around this topic.

Thank you to Dr Michelle Catanzaro, Miss Juarez and the all the students who attended. It was a very rewarding and informative session.

*Anneke Reemst*  
CAPA Coordinator

## PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (PRC)

Mrs Linda McNeil, the Executive Director at Council of Catholic School Parents, (CCSP) and Mr Greg Whitby, the Executive Director at the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP) presented two presentations at the PRC meeting on 14th November 2016.

Mrs McNeil spoke about how the PRC was formed back in 1990 as a result of a parent movement to make the Government and Catholic Officers realise that the parent voice was missing. The birth of CCSP came five years later, representing Catholic School parents at a state level. Mrs McNeil highlighted organising a PRC and CCSP conference in September 2017 in Manly after the success of the conference held previously at Parramatta which was supported by the Catholic Education Department, Parramatta. It was a national and global movement, as the conference was connected with a session held in Toronto, Canada. These organisations are about developing a connection between the Diocesan Officers and Diocesan Parents.

Mr Whitby stated that the Catholic Education in Western Sydney the good position at the moment. He discussed the changes in the educational environment and highlighted the following actions needed to do even better;

- act today not tomorrow . It is the urgency of responding to every child's needs now not later.
- a plan for constructed work in aim to transform and improve the experience of school, not forgetting the fundamental catholic mission to work hard and strive to become better people.
- every school needs to be organised and reshaped very differently to open up to the new system as no one system size fits all schools. All students and teachers are different. It is all about diversity, collaboration, individuality and connectivity.

Mr Whitby spoke about Cyber Safety and pleaded not to blame the devices but to blame the poor parenting and teaching .He asked to think about safety as a challenge that we need to overcome together as well as a wonderful opportunity for students to grow. We learn from it and should move forward.

The Catholic Education Office has been working on a new curriculum frame to do things differently and to fulfil every child needs. The project is STEM (Science ,Technology , Engineering and Mathematics) and will be a change for the future of education. The headquarters of STEM will be located at Sydney Science Park in Luddenham.

*Lorette El-Ghossein, member of the St Agnes PRC*