



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 & INSTAGRAM: StAgnesRootyHill

Diary Dates

28 February

Art Elective Excursion

1 March

Ash Wednesday

6 March

Yr 7/2018 Information
Evening 6pm

6-10 March

Catholic Schools Week

13-15 March

Year 7 Camp

21 March

Harmony Day Concert

22 March

Athletics Carnival
Blacktown Olympic Park

27 March

Yr 7 Vaccinations

Add our Google
Calendar to your
Google Calendar via
our website

24 February 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians and Franciscan friends,

It has been a pleasure to return to St Agnes after a break that included a secondment to Emmaus Catholic College, Kemps Creek and carers leave for family reasons.

In November last year I needed to spend time with my mother who is in the final stages of dementia. Both my sister and mother live in Queensland, therefore, a substantial amount of time was spent travelling back and forwards to Hervey Bay attending to her and reducing the burden on my sister. Thank you to the many staff and parents who have expressed concern regarding this. It has been most appreciated.

I would like to personally welcome our Year 7 students and families especially those families who are new to the St Agnes community. I hope your experience here is a rewarding and fulfilling one.

This year our focus is on literacy and numeracy. These are important areas and we need to work together to improve the standards in these areas. I would ask all parents to encourage your son/daughter to read each evening. Every child at St Agnes is aware of their Lexile reading level and have the opportunity to borrow books from the library which is consistent with their level. Please encourage them to do this.

Our Formation or Mission Goal focuses on the Gospel of St Matthew and we will be learning about this Gospel as a staff and as a community. There will be various references to the Gospel of Matthew in the newsletter.

Throughout the Diocese of Parramatta, which extends from Windsor to Katoomba to Dundas to Rooty Hill, we have 82 schools in the region. This year there will also be a strong focus on student attendance throughout the Diocese. Continuity of attendance is extremely important in student learning and the statistics stated in the Assistant Principal's address may assist you as to why we, as a Diocese, see it in this way.

I look forward to meeting you throughout the year at the various functions we have as a community.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns you have whether it is related to school fees, uniform or family matters.

Ultimately, we work together so that your child receives the best education that can be provided.

Take Care and God Bless
Pace e Bene.

Peter Brogan
Principal

YEAR 7/2018 INFORMATION NIGHT

6 MARCH 2017

PRESENTATION
6.45PM

SCHOOL TOURS
6PM & 7.15PM

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 Assistant Principal

Every day counts

Attendance at school provides children with opportunities to develop the basic skills for learning, and assists in the development of social skills including communication, self-esteem, teamwork and friendship building. There can be little argument with this statement. Attendance at school does not guarantee engagement with the work but it is an essential feature of learning.

We know, of course, that regular attendance assists learning. But what has not been able to be measured up, until now, is how large an effect absence has on learning.

The Australian Government recently conducted a detailed study of the relationship between attendance at school and student achievement. Some of the findings were:

1. Average academic achievement on NAPLAN tests declined with **any** absence from school and continued to decline as absence rates increased. The data strongly suggests that **every day of attendance** in school contributes towards a child's learning,
2. There is no "safe" threshold. The effects of absence also accumulate over time. Absence from school was related to lower achievement in numeracy, reading and writing not only in the current year, but in **future years** as well.
3. Unauthorised absences had a significantly greater effect on achievement than authorised absence. Even small amounts of unauthorised absence from school were associated with substantial falls in average NAPLAN test scores.
4. Improvements in absence rates over time, particularly for unauthorised absences, protected students from falling further behind and in some cases were related to improvements in NAPLAN scores.

We know that absence from school is due to a number of factors and may at times be unavoidable due to illness or complex family situations. We also know that low attendance rates are a strong indicator of a student at risk.

Now that it is clear that any absence (authorised or not) has an effect on learning, we need to work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for students. Parents need to understand that when their child misses school it can have an ongoing impact on their learning. The school wants to support parents and provide opportunities for students to catch up when they have missed work. Some examples that we provide are Maths help and Homework and Assignment help that occur after school.

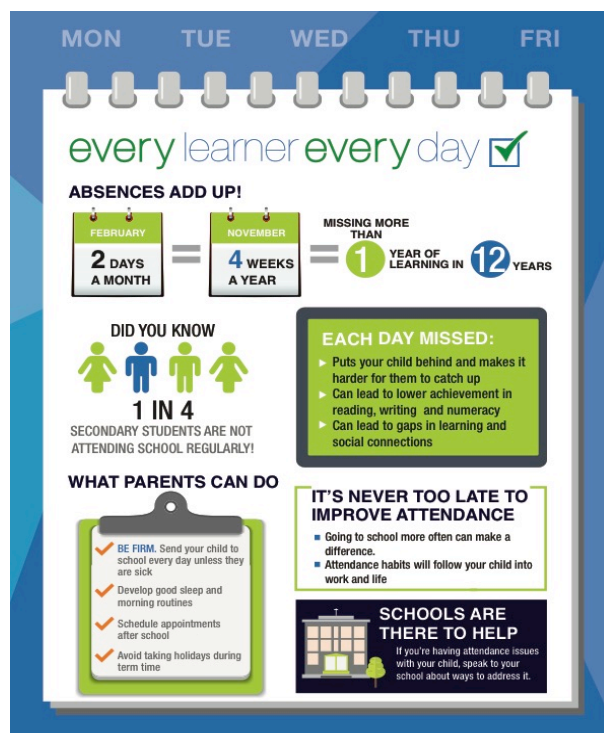
We will also provide more visible recognition of students with high attendance levels and more regular contact and follow up with families where attendance rates are below 95%.

One day of absence per fortnight (90% attendance) means a student misses 4 weeks of school a year. Across all years of school this equates to an entire school year lost. Every 5% increase in absence equals another 2 weeks of school lost per year. These effects accumulate over time.

A student with an attendance rate of 85% would have missed 6 weeks of school and across all years would equate to almost 2 years of schooling lost.

Every day counts.

Ken Wolffe



From the Acting Religious Education Coordinator

St Agnes has a proud Franciscan Charism, which is passed on to all students as they are inducted into our school community. This does not stop with the students and staff who are new to our community, but continues to be enriched by the staff and current students, whereby they continue, like Saint Francis, to 'Walk in the Footsteps of Christ'.

On Friday 10th February, as a community, we opened our new school year with our Annual Mass. At this celebration, Father Patrick Mullins SJ (presider) reminded each of us of our responsibility to not only live up to the Gospel values, but also how we can continue to be Disciples of Christ. At this celebration we inducted new staff and students into the community, as well as the new School and Portfolio Leaders. In spite of the heat it was a wonderful celebration to begin our school year.

"Lenten Season"

At St Agnes, we are currently preparing our community for the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (1st March) and is the period preceding Easter, which is devoted to fasting and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness.

St Agnes will be partaking in the Diocesan charity initiative - Project Compassion. Project Compassion is but one example of what charity exemplifies. It is the giving of not only monetary means but also of oneself to others. To listen, to show compassion, to help when help is needed. Let us, as a Franciscan community not only live our school motto "To Truth Through Love", but also live as true Franciscans and see that even in the weakest and most vulnerable, we are but masterpieces in God's creation.

The Gospel of Matthew

As mentioned in the last newsletter, as a community we are consolidating our understanding of scripture. Through consolidating our understanding we are opening up dialogue between students and teachers in regards to the context the Gospel is written for our community as well as trying to see how the scripture can be lived out in our daily lives. This year, we are widening the discussion to include parents of our students. We are asking each of you to engage with your student in discussing the Gospel and its meaning, and to post your reflections on the scripture through our school's Moodle page. This will be opened very soon. It is never too late to start this discussion, you will find that by opening the dialogue with your child, you may be enriched by their understanding and also in turn they be enriched by yours. This dialogue is vital to our School Formation Goal, and is one in which the conversation continues outside the classroom.

Some simple questions may include;

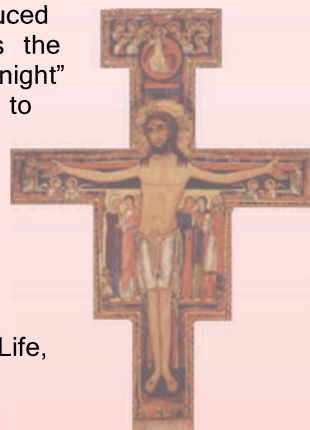
- Who is Saint Matthew? Why is he important?
- When did Matthew write his Gospel?
- Where did he write his Gospel?
- What type of community was he spreading the message of Jesus to?

Pace e Bene

Patrick Madigan

"Franciscan of the Fortnight" Award.

A new initiative being introduced To St Agnes this year is the "Franciscan of the Fortnight" Award. This award is given to students who display at least two of the following four core Franciscan values in their day-to-day life at St Agnes.



The core values are;
Service, Dedication, Prayer Life,
Relationships.

Each of these qualities are pertinent to the daily life at St Agnes, as well as building upon the values of love, compassion, truth and justice already embedded in our school. The following students are to be congratulated for their wonderful achievement so far in improving life at St Agnes as well as living our the Franciscan values.

Year 7 - Althena Fajardo 7.3

Althena is to be congratulated on her service and dedication to the life of St Agnes. Althena is a cooperative and friendly student who always helps others in class and offers her assistance at the drop of a hat. Well Done Althena.

Year 8- Christina Abi-Chemouni 8.1

Christina is to be congratulated on her contribution to the prayer life at St Agnes. Christina is a polite and friendly student who constantly exhibits her faith outwardly in all she does. It is through this strong sense of faith, as well as, her dedication to care for those around her that makes her a deserving recipient of this award. Congratulations Christina.

Year 9- Nera Pulido 9.6

Nera is a current Year 9 student who has displayed, brilliantly, the values of service and relationships. Nera has demonstrated a remarkable ability to approach and accept all new students to the school who are finding it difficult to make new friends. She has shown an excellent ability to form new relationships in a non-judgmental way, always choosing a kind and sensitive approach towards those in most need. Congratulations Nera.

Year 10- Mitchell Jenkins 10.4

Mitchell is already a well-known personality at St Agnes. Mitchell always exhibits the qualities of dedication and service. A current portfolio leader, Mitchell has displayed amazing leadership qualities with our Year 7 students as well as giving of his time to Garden Club and other extra-curricular initiatives on offer. Congratulations Mitchell.

Opening School Mass

It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends celebrate our Mass to bless the 2017 academic year. A big thank you to Fr Patrick Mullins SJ for celebrating with us. We look forward to our new year and the many ways our young men and women can be involved in parish life and continue to grow in their faith.



From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

Years 7-10 Assessment Handbooks are now available on the school website. They have also been placed on the school Moodle. These handbooks are designed to give students information about formal assessment procedures. Dates have been provided for all relevant assessments. Some assessment dates may be changed with sufficient notification of two weeks given to students due to changes in the school calendar.

Assessment is used to find out what a student needs to learn, how well a student is doing as a course progresses and how well a student did at the end of a unit. Assessment can be formal or informal. An example of informal assessment would be a teacher's judgement of the work completed in class or participation in a particular activity. Formal assessment can include tasks such as assignments, exams, research projects, performances, portfolios and practical tests. Formal assessment tasks include information on the outcomes that are being assessed and an indication of what students have to do to achieve a given grade.

I have included an extract from the Assessment Handbooks regarding student responsibilities. It is important that all students familiarise themselves with them. These are as follows:

- Speak with the Teaching and Learning Coordinator, or the Principal, if you are in doubt about the requirements of the Assessment Policy.
- Cooperate with the process of Assessment.
- Inform the school if you are to be absent on the day of an assessment task.
- Do not plagiarise (i.e. copy) other peoples' work. Malpractice or dishonesty will lead to a zero mark.
- Ensure that any questions about marks, grades or comments awarded for an individual piece of work are resolved at the time the work is handed back.
- Demonstrate that thorough effort and achievement have been met for the requirements of that course.
- Complete all assigned work to the best of your ability.
- Complete the task on the set date that it is due. Penalties will apply for late submissions.

Students also have access to the Google school assessment calendar that outlines, on a term basis, all assessment dates. Students should familiarise themselves with these dates and make use of Homework Club that takes place every Tuesday afternoon between 2:30-3:30pm in the library to receive assistance from teachers in the completion of their tasks.

Laurence De Martin

HOMework CLUB

in the library

Every Tuesday afternoon

2.30pm - 3.30pm

NSW Premier Reading Challenge

The 2017 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge will be starting on Monday 6 March.

The challenge is designed to encourage a love of reading and to give students the opportunity to experience quality literature.

It is not a competition but an individual challenge for each student to read more and more widely.

More information can be found at www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

FREE SEMINAR FOR PARENTS



THE CYBER SAFETY LADY

RAISING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS

- Social Media safety/privacy
- Maintaining a spotless social media profile
- Keeping your child safe online
- Protecting your child from adult content
- Strangers online
- Cyber bullying
- Online stalking
- Balancing your child's screen time
- Managing kids digital devices
- parental controls

GUEST SPEAKER:
Leonie Smith
'The Cyber Safety Lady'

FREE REGISTRATION (ESSENTIAL):
[CLICK HERE](#)

WHEN: Monday, 27 February 2017
(6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

WHERE: Gilroy College, Marie St, Castle Hill (parking available)
The PRC Annual General Meeting will be held prior to our seminar.

Light supper and refreshments will be provided and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

www.prc.catholic.edu.au

[f @prcparra](#) [@prcparra](#)



Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



PRC
Partners in learning

Alumni – Jasmine Kowe

To the community that is St Agnes

Quite often in my life I have come across some stories and things that both amaze and inspire. Below is a story about some members of the St Agnes Family.

The story is about a family that has bestowed a great honour on us by sending their children here for us to teach. They have moved on and are living their lives, and to them I send my best wishes. The parents, however, have embarked on a new journey; a journey that is moving and truly thought provoking.

Enough from me, I think that it is best summed up in the words of a former student, Jasmin Kowe. This is her story.

Brian Doran

Hi Mr Doran,

It was nice catching up with you the other night, as we discussed my parents Sharon and Chris Flynn have recently fostered 4 young children through the Barnardos 'find a family' program. I would like to take the opportunity to explain what they have gone through.

Originally my Mum, Sharon, met my Step Dad Chris at my Year 8 parent teacher interview night at St Agnes back in 2003. Myself, and my brother Dylan, attended St Agnes as well and my stepsister and stepbrother, Aimee and Joshua. So once my parents moved in together and we became a family there was 4 of us kids all attending St Agnes a modern day Brady Bunch as many family friends nicknamed us.

Once us older kids left school, got jobs and moved out of home, my parents talked about how different us kids had been raised and how they would have loved the opportunity to raise children together. As time went by my parents realised the house was now very quiet and large without us all there and began to look into the idea of adopting a child. They decided on this route as Chris himself was adopted and had a very positive experience and liked the idea of providing that to a child.

They found the 'Find a Family' program through Barnardos which of all the agencies seemed the most reputable and suited what they were looking for best. This is where they started the process; the idea of the program is to foster the children (already deemed by the courts to never be returned to their parents) while the adoption process takes place.

There were many interviews and courses involved, as Barnardos wants to make sure people are doing this for the right reasons as well as assessing their capabilities. In one of the interviews my parents were asked if they would consider taking siblings, as Barnardos likes to try to keep sibling groups together where possible. Without hesitation or discussion they both said they would be happy to take a sibling group, they had seen us kids grow up together and knew how close and important a sibling relationship is.

From there they went through many course days and many, many more interviews, which also included us four adult kids being interviewed also. After all the information was gathered they had a formal interview and it was decided by Barnardos that my parents were approved for 'up to 4' children. From this point my parents were paired with a family of 4 boys ages being 8, 3, 2 & 1.

They then had play dates where they got to meet the kids and take them to dinner and fun activities like bowling and the park. This then progressed into sleepovers as moving day grew closer. On the 6th of January 2017 the kids officially moved in. This was a big change on the household but Mum and Dad have coped very well, especially seen as only after 1 week mum had a fall and now has a broken leg. Still this did not stop them, they just need a little extra help now, but all us older kids are happy to chip in.

All through everything they are the most amazing people, they actually get embarrassed when they are praised for what they are doing. My mum and Dad said they just see it as they had the extra room, time and love to give and wanted to be able to make a difference in a child's life and were lucky enough to get to make a change in 4 little boys lives.

People ask all the time "Why four?" My parents believe because they were approved for up to 4 children by Barnardos after months of intense interviews and studies, it would be a disservice to not take all four. The children's case manager (who has been with them from the start) said she is just so pleased as they did not think they would find a family willing to keep the 4 children together.

The transition process depending on the kids can usually take months but the boys are now into a set routine and have settled in. Many people will adopt/ foster which is such a wonderful selfless thing to do, I am just amazed and in awe of my parents as they have taken 4 so that a family doesn't have to be separated. It is a huge undertaking but has made

our family closer and stronger than ever.

We can't praise the Barnardos agency enough as they made the process so straightforward and continue to provide so much support to my parents even now.

If there are any questions you have just let me know, I am very proud of them and am happy to tell people about this amazing thing they are doing.

Kind regards
Jasmin Kowe

Year 7 'Meet the Teacher' Evening

*Walk with me –
I am the extra mile*

Wednesday evening saw Year 7 students, their parents/caregivers and staff join together to discuss Year 7's transition into our community. Lots of formal and informal discussion was exchanged over a beautiful supper, made by our TAS department.



Year 10 Leader Inductions



Leaders taking the School Oath



School Leaders:, Eiriz Merjudio, Eric Regalado, Petar Barisic and Paige Carriglio with their proud parents.



Environmental Leaders



Events Leaders



Peer Support Leaders



Pastoral Care Leaders



Digital Media/Communication Leaders



Catholic Identity Leaders



Social Justice Leaders

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams



Sports Leaders





House Leaders

2017 School Leaders

Portfolio	Female Student	Male Student	Mentor
School Captains	Paige Carriglio & Eiriz Merjudio	Petar Barisic & Eric Regalado	Mr King Mr Wolffe
Catholic Identity	Theia Debulos & Patricia Tolentino	Angelo Ball	Mr Madigan
Social Justice	Angelique Mangahas & Evana Mansour	Christan Adriano	Mr Sadsad
Pastoral Care	Alyssa Chua, Meryle Galang & Kirsty Conna	Armin Ramazanzadeh	Mr Hilder
Peer Support	Josephine Zammit & Ashley Galea	Wol Tong & Caleb Cunningham	Ms Gale
Events	Hannah Plaatjes, Natalie Sukkarieh Skye Fernando & Rayanna Franco	Hanok Basaznew & Jay Ng	Ms Raad
Environment	Tanika Tuddenham, Deepa Chand & Rianna Pulido	Mitchell Jenkins	Mrs Hitchcock
Digital Media / Communications	Hanna Harvey, Hana-Marie Kayrouz & Madelyn Harper	John El-Ghossein	Ms Valleri
Sport	Olivia Jackson	Jordan Petersen	Mr Devine & Mrs Tomich
House Chisholm: Francis: MacKillop: Xavier:	Kristina Bonic Taylah Lee Jade Meilak Jazmin Taylor	Ante Barisic Michael Jabuka Renard Manuel Burt Tukala	Mr Devine & Mrs Tomich

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator


Ask WHAT when kids act up

"Asking WHY when kids misbehave generally closes down a conversation and puts them on the defensive. There's a better question to ask when kids behave poorly. Ask a question beginning with 'WHAT?'"

WHY.....?
 'Why on earth did you do that?'
 Most of us have said this to our kids at some stage.
 They hurt a sibling and we say, 'Why?'
 They argue and fight at the meal table and we say, 'Why?'
 They deliberately come home from an outing later than agreed and we say, 'Why?'
 This is a natural reaction. But often kids can't articulate why they have done the wrong thing. Boys, in particular, will usually reply, 'I dunno.' They know something isn't right, but articulating it is another matter.
 Besides, asking WHY is pointless.
 Even if they give you a reason for their poor behaviour ('cos she hit me first', 'I'm not hungry anyway', 'I was late because I lost track of time') where do you go to from there?
 Asking WHY when kids misbehave generally closes down a conversation and puts them on the **defensive**.
 There's a better question to ask when kids behave poorly. Ask a question beginning with **'WHAT?'**
 Okay, your first reaction to misbehaviour maybe **'What the.....'** but hold that thought in. Better to ask questions such as:

- **WHAT were you thinking when you hurt your sister?**
- **WHAT were you doing when you decided to stay out late?**
- **WHAT was happening when you argued with your friend?**
- **WHAT should you have done when you didn't want to eat and decided to annoy your sister?**
- **WHAT will you do next time when you feel like acting like that?**
- **WHAT do you think your brother meant when he said that you were.....?**
- **WHAT will you do now to make it up to your brother?**

These types of questions are **reflective** and **restorative**. They require children to reflect on their thinking, their behaviour and the situation at hand. This opens up conversations that lead to learning.
 Effective discipline helps children learn better ways of behaving. Some of the questions lead children to the important aspect of repairing or **restoring** relationships they may have damaged through their behaviour and so take some responsibility for the way they acted. Taking responsibility and making amends is another vital aspect of discipline.
 Importantly, asking **what?** when kids' misbehaviour impacts on others leads them further down the road from **self interest** to **social interest**, where they consider the well-being of others. It's also in line with the types of questions teachers are asking your children when their behaviour adversely affects others.



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www.parentingideas.com.au

Parenting ideas
 MICHAEL GROSE

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New Student Prayer

Jesus, I am stepping out onto the threshold of a completely new beginning.

I know that this is a wonderful opportunity that You have given me and I ask that You be with me to lead and guide me, as I seek to become accustomed to the changes in my schooling.

Help me to make some good friends and help me as I adjust to the new surroundings and different teachers.

Lord, I pray that You bring some good friends into my life that are supportive and encouraging.

Help me to work hard and settle in quickly and easily.

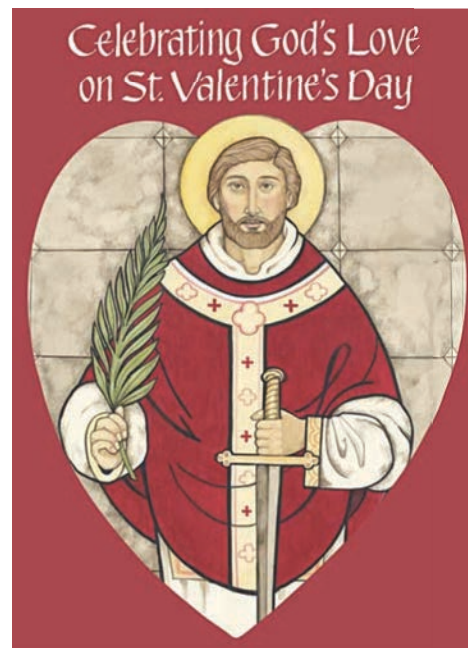
Amen

Rose Day

The origins of Valentine's Day

St Valentine was a 3rd Century priest living in Rome during the time Emperor Claudius II passed an Edict forbidding the marriage of young people. Claudius II did this because he believed unmarried men made better soldiers than married ones, and to ensure the quality of his soldiers in battle, he banned marriage. The news of the ban came as a huge surprise to the Romans but there was hope because Valentine defied the order and went on to perform secret weddings for many young couples. Eventually, he was caught and imprisoned for not following the command of the Emperor. Legend has it that the prison guard's blind daughter was brought over to Valentine where he prayed and healed her.

On the 14th February, 269AD, Valentine was stoned and beheaded because he supported the marriage of Christians. May his prayers be with us.



St Agnes Rose Day

On the 14th February, St Agnes experienced their annual Rose Day. Rose Day is a fundraising event, held on Valentine's Day, where roses and notes are delivered to loved ones, friends, teachers and family. This year was particularly special because Valentine's Day fell on a school day, which made the atmosphere for the day more significant.

As one of the Year 10 Portfolio Leaders I got the opportunity to participate in this event. With the help of the Events team and Digital Media team, 610 roses were prepared, sold and delivered.

This year, our aim was to raise awareness for the true meaning of Valentine's Day and to make the day about valued friendships and not simply romance. We did this by sending an email to the school community informing students of the origin of St Valentine and how the day came to be. We also allowed students to purchase notes to write meaningful messages to their peers.

On the day, we delivered and distributed all the roses and by recess students had received the flowers they ordered. It was especially wonderful to see how many people bought roses for their parents, grandparents and friends.

Hannah Harvey

Digital Media Portfolio Leader

Dear St Agnes,

I would like to sincerely thank you for the support you have shown our school community in the lead up to Rose Day. Every year on the 14th February you spread God's love around St Agnes by generously giving each other roses. Rose Day is not the only time you do this, you also spread His love when you help or be kind to each other (1 John 4:8). May you always follow in the footsteps of Christ by loving each other as Jesus loved us.

A big thank you from the St Agnes community to our wonderful leaders for working tirelessly to wrap, label and organise 610 roses. Without their hard work and dedication Rose Day wouldn't have been possible.

Events Portfolio Leaders:

Hanok Basaznew, Skye Fernando, Rayanna Franco, Jay Ng, Hannah Plaatjes & Natalie Sukkarieh.

Digital Media Portfolio Leaders:

John El- Ghossein, Madelyn Harper, Hana- Marie Kayrouz & Hannah Harvey

Other Leaders and Year 10 helpers:

Jade Meilak, Meryle Galang, Alyana Nuque, Eiriz Merjudio & Deakin Ball.

God bless,
Josiah Raad



**CHRIST
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
COMMUNITY
OF SCHOOL**

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

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

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

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Donate your Trees to Us

Each year Blacktown residents receive 2 free trees, shrubs, grasses, groundcovers or herbs from Blacktown Council Nursery to plant on your premises. Many residents don't take this offer up. Instead you can donate them to our school.

To donate your free allocation of plants to St Agnes please complete the following permission slip and return it to Mr Madigan.

I (name) _____ of

(address) _____

have NOT collected my 2 free plants from Blacktown Council this financial year and would like to donate them to St Agnes Catholic High School for planting on school grounds

Signed _____

Date _____



School Fee Statements

School fee statements were dispatched yesterday from the Catholic Education Department Parramatta and it has been noted that there has been a delay in mail delivery.

For those families who receive their statements after the Flexible Payment Plan offer return date of 17/2/17, the return date has been extended to 24/2/17 to return your FPP offers to CEDP.

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

For more information or questions answered regarding school fees please contact Mrs Kelly Pickett on 8882 0702.

Penrith Observatory

Date: 11/3/17

Event name: Public Astronomy Night - Getting to Know the Neighbours

Event details:

A guided tour of the Solar System, including how it formed, the different planets and a close up look at the star at the centre of it all, our Sun.

Includes presentation, short 3D movie, tour of the dome area and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue Address: Penrith Observatory,
Western Sydney University Werrington North
campus, Great Western Highway

CAPTIVATE
the spirit of expression

Good luck CAPTIVATE Commercial Dance Ensemble

The CAPTIVATE
Commercial Dance
Ensemble will be performing
at The Sydney Flames
basketball game this
Saturday.

Good luck to the following St
Agnes students who will be
representing the CEO

Maddison Harris yr 9

and

Jazmin Taylor yr 10.



**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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Competitions & Community Announcements

What Matters? Writing Competition

The What Matters? competition is run annually by the Whitlam Institute within Western Sydney University. What Matters? is a writing competition that gives students a chance to speak out about what matters to them in society today.

Theme

What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society?
What would you change if you could?
What do you want other people to care about?

How to enter

Write a 400-600-word opinion piece on what matters to you and why. Entries must be typed on A4 paper. Strictly one entry per student. All entries must be accompanied by assigned entry form. Entry forms, and prize descriptions can be downloaded at the following website:

[https://www.whitlam.org/the_program/what_matters_writing_competition/what_matters_2017 - What Matters? 2017 NSW/ACT competition](https://www.whitlam.org/the_program/what_matters_writing_competition/what_matters_2017_-_What_Matters?_2017_NSW/ACT_competition)

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Closing date: Friday 5 May 2017.

Write for Fun

Students all over Australia are invited to enter their poems OR short stories, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer into the 2017 Schools Writing Competition!

There is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter.

Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by the closing date of Friday 31st March 2017.

The Book

Poems and short stories entered into the competition will be considered for inclusion into our 2017 Write4fun anthology! 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

Entry details and prize description available at [Write for Fun Competition](#)



**SYDNEY
Blue Sox**

The SCA Sydney Blue Sox School Holiday Camps are hosting a 2 day camp over the April school holidays that will cover all aspects of the game. In the areas of fitness, strength and conditioning to hitting, pitching, base running and fielding, players will reap the benefits of professional instruction.

All players that register and attend the Sydney Blue Sox School Holiday Camp will have the opportunity to make themselves better ball players in a safe and fun filled environment.

More Information [click here](#)



MIL0 T20 Blast is for girls and boys 7-12 years old that want to play fun games of cricket.

FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER AT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU

*Tickets apply to the cricket.com.au competition

