



# 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 & INSTAGRAM: StAgnesRootyHill

## Diary Dates

### 31 August

Year 8 Subject Selection  
Presentation

### 1 September

Year 10 Brainstorm

### 4 September

PDSSSC Boys  
Basketball Competition

### 4-8 September

Yr 7 & 9 Online NAPLAN  
Readiness Trial

### 15 September

Staff Spirituality Day - No  
supervision available for  
students  
NSW CCC Athletics  
Homebush

### 18 September

PDSSSC Girls  
Basketball Competition

### 22 September

Term 3 Concludes

### 9 October

Term 4 Commences

UNIFORM SHOP  
TRADING HOURS  
TUESDAYS  
10am - 12noon

25 August 2017

The date of this newsletter coincides with the anniversary of the death of the Catholic priest, Fr Maximilian Kolbe. It was 1941 and he was a prisoner in Auschwitz, the Nazi Concentration Camp in southern Poland.

On that fateful day the German camp commandant had selected a group of prisoners to be indiscriminately killed as punishment for an escape attempt.

One of the prisoners, a Polish soldier, broke down and begged for mercy because of his wife and young family who would have no support without him. A thin figure moved forward, took off his cap, and asked if he might take that man's place as one of the men to be executed. "Who are you?" he was asked. "I am a Catholic priest," he replied. He was Prisoner 16670, Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest.

The exchange was agreed. But they were not to be shot or gassed. They were to die very slowly by being starved of even the very little food that the prisoners were normally given. Their very slow death was designed to put others off from trying to escape. In the following days, the guards observed the condemned men dying slowly. They also saw that the men were gathered around Fr Maximilian, laughing together, praying and singing hymns.

One by one the men died - a slow death over many days. The last one to die was Maximilian Kolbe.

The Polish soldier - Franz Gajowniczek - survived Auschwitz and the war itself. Each year he visited Auschwitz and laid a wreath beside where Maximilian Kolbe died instead of himself.

In 1982, Pope John Paul II canonised Fr Maximilian and declared him to be a saint.

Fr Maximilian is a wonderful example of sacrifice and of our College Theme 'Make a Difference' - a truly inspirational figure of our Church.

Please continue to be kind to one another,



Peter Brogan  
Principal

## STAFF SPIRITUALITY DAY FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

Students are NOT required to attend school.  
No student supervision will be available.

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**St Clare's**  
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175 Buckwell Drive  
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**a diverse  
community  
learning  
together**

## *From the Assistant Principal*

### **MAKING THE MOST OF FEEDBACK**

Throughout the year you will have been receiving feedback from your teachers about your assessments. But are you making the most of this feedback? Many students are too focused on what mark they received and neglect to make the most of the feedback they are given. It's not just about what you did wrong either! The feedback is a chance to celebrate what you did right, what you understood and the skills and learning you demonstrated.

However, it is also a chance to address areas you found difficult or did not perform as well in. Below are some questions you can ask yourself when an assessment is returned to make the most of the feedback you are given.

When a test or exam is returned:

- What specific feedback did your teacher give you and how should you use that feedback?
- Will you be tested on these topics again or are they important for overall understanding in this subject?
- Which areas do you need to ask for help on as you still don't understand?
- Which questions from your test paper should you re-do? Re-do them!
- Should you re-write any questions or essays and re-submit?
- Was there any revision work you did not complete before the test?
- What topic areas do you need to review and revise, what should you do to address these?
- Are there topics you still need to finalise study notes on?
- Are there sections of your study notes that you need to re-do?
- Did you plan ahead to give yourself enough time to revise?
- What changes do you need to make in the way you study for that subject next time?
- Are there students who did really well that you can talk with to find what they did differently?

For other types of assessments:

- What parts of the assessment did you do really well?
- What did you enjoy about the assessment?
- What can you learn from the feedback you were given?
- Is there any part of the feedback you don't understand that you need to discuss with your teacher?
- Can you ask a student who did really well if you can look at their assessment so you can see what is needed to get top marks?
- What could you have done differently?
- Do you understand what you need to do to improve or do you need to ask your teacher for more guidance?

### **UNIFORM**

Most students wear their St Agnes uniform well, and with pride. There are always going to be some students who have lost items of their uniform or have worn out or grown out of things. This is generally no problem if the student has a note from their parent/caregiver explaining that the situation is short term. An exception to this is Sports Uniform. If a student does not have their correct Sport Uniform they should wear their normal full school uniform to and from school and then change into their other clothes for Sport, practical PDHPE, Dance or PASS class. Another area that requires regular attention is hairstyles. We remind students that for boys or girls, hair should be just one natural colour. Girls should have their hair tied back and for boys, their hair should be neat, tidy and off the face. Also for boys, hair length should not be below the collar or have less than a #2 clipper blade. Scalp designs or marked differences in length or style are not permitted.

*Ken Wolffe*



# *From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum*

## **2017 NAPLAN Results**

All parents of students in Years 7 & 9 have now received their NAPLAN reports. Please take the time to read through this report to see how your child is performing in the two key learning areas of literacy and numeracy. These tests provide an important measure of how all students are performing against national standards.

Within the NAPLAN reports all Year 9 students will have also received a supplementary report outlining if they have met the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC in 2020. As explained in earlier newsletters, all students need to score a Band 8 or above in reading, writing and numeracy tests by Year 12 to qualify for the HSC. Those students who have already achieved these standards in the recent NAPLAN tests have pre-qualified for the HSC award. Other students will be able to meet the standards by passing new, short, online reading, writing and numeracy tests when they are ready in Year 10, 11 or 12.

Students will have many chances to meet the standard and no student will be prevented from achieving their HSC due to their Year 9 NAPLAN results. These 45-minute tests will be sat at school and are different to NAPLAN tests. The reading and numeracy tests will include 45 multiple choice questions and the writing test will require students to respond to a question based on a prompt or stimulus.

Here is a [link](#) to a short video clip recently created by NESA that further explains the many chances students have to meet the HSC minimum standard.

## **NAPLAN Online Readiness Test**

NAPLAN will be starting to move from pen and paper to online testing from next year. NAPLAN online will have a wide range of benefits for students and teachers, including reduced time between testing and reporting, and a tailored test design that targets questions to student ability and improves the precision of the assessment.

To prepare for the move to online testing, NSW schools will participate in an online practice run, known as the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test. The test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes.
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online.
- provide students in NAPLAN Years 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

## **When is the Naplan Online readiness test?**

The test will involve all Year 7 and 9 students and will occur between Tuesday 5 September and Friday 8 September.

## **Do you need to prepare your child for the Naplan Online school readiness test?**

No, your child will not need any academic preparation for the school readiness test. This is not a test of their literacy and numeracy skills, but an opportunity for them to experience the online test format and for their school to assess its online testing capability.

## **How long is the school readiness test?**

The school readiness test includes two assessments: a writing assessment and a combined numeracy/literacy assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

Will schools and parents be provided with information on the results of the readiness test?

There will be feedback to schools about the technical information gained from the readiness testing. There will be no reporting of student test results from the readiness test.

## **Will my child need headphones or earbuds?**

Yes. Students in Year 7 and 9 are asked to bring your own headphones or earbuds.

## **What device will students be using?**

Students in Year 7 and 9 will be using their own iPad's and as such will need to download an app which will act as a lockdown browser. More information regarding this app and checking its installation will be provided to the students prior to the test period.

## **What provisions are there for students with disabilities/withdrawal or exemption?**

The school will use the existing information for these cohorts as outlined earlier in the year for the NAPLAN tests.

Additional information can also be found on the school website under ["Important notes and forms" tab/all year groups](#). If you have further queries, please contact me on 8882 0713.

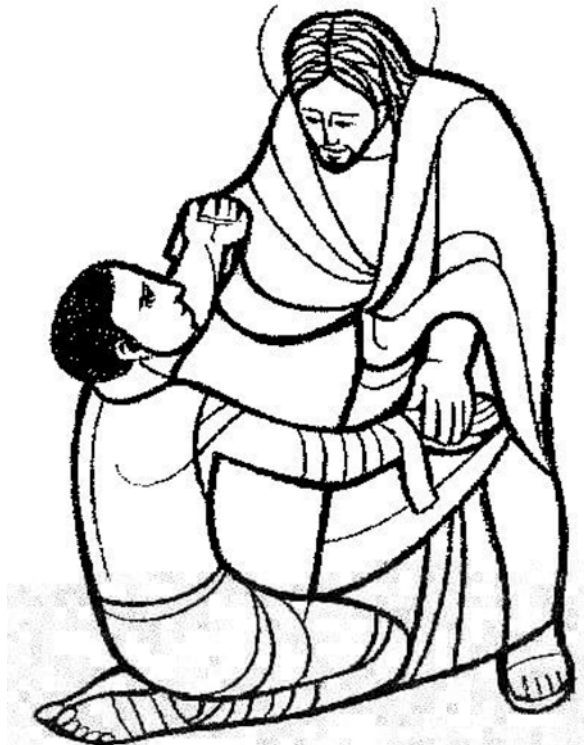
*Laurence De Martin*



# From the Religious Education Coordinator

## Pray with us through the Gospel of Matthew

Join us and pray with us in our Mission Goal as we learn more about Jesus and the theme of service through our weekly scripture reflections. The scripture focus on the Gospel of Matthew for Week 6 is "Jesus the Healer" (Mt 8:1-4).



When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Here are a few helpful points for our reflection this week:

- By Jewish law the leper was an unclean man. The priests would determine if the skin disease was leprosy or not, but if it was, you would have to be separated from those who are clean.
- But the real issue is the isolation. This man would live alone and he would die alone.
- This is desperate and miserable and lonely suffering man! His family has left him. His friends have left him. And in a moment of brave desperation he comes before Jesus. He encounters Jesus! He has heard about Jesus, and now he sees Jesus!
- "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." Notice and learn from this leper's question. He doesn't dictate to Jesus what to do. He doesn't test Jesus. He doesn't presume. He doesn't name and claim and demand healing. He lays before Him, in humility, his request.
- He knows Jesus can heal. He believes Jesus can heal. He wants Jesus to heal. But he rests in the sovereign providence of Jesus and leaves it to Him.
- Why does Jesus tell people to not tell anyone, but go to the priest? Why not tell people to go show and

tell? Jesus didn't want to be known as a political figure. Jesus is guarding against confusion about the primary message. He doesn't want to be known primarily as a healer

- Jesus is not just a healer, he is the savior! And his healing serves to validate the saving.
- During Jesus' ministry he is constantly telling people to keep a secret, but then after his death and resurrection. After He had made provision for forgiveness and peace with God, he tells them to tell everyone.

Since the Franciscan Schools Australia Conference early in August, this story, in particular the references to the leper has me deeply thinking of who the leper represents today. This story in Matthew's gospel has led me to reflect on the leper that is within all of us. At times, we seek for Jesus' healing only until we are very ill, to the point that Jesus is the only cure. Why do we long for the need for Jesus when we've exercised all forms available to us on this earth? But when we do reach out, Jesus already has his hands outstretched reaching for us. He doesn't ask questions why but simply reaches out. Let us be inspired by the actions of Christ in this story who sees each one of us not as one with leprosy, but with dignity and compassion especially to those who most need our help.



## Social Awareness Week

(14-18 August)

Last week St Agnes called week 5 "Social Awareness Week". The week was inspired by the Catholic Identity and Social Justice Portfolio Leaders and started with the World Vision 40 Hour Famine followed by Rice Day, No Electricity Day and the annual St Vincent De Paul Winter Sleepout.

| 40 hour famine      |                     |  |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| \$1,250<br>OUR GOAL | \$1,170.68<br>GIVEN |  |
| \$500<br>OUR GOAL   | \$864.30<br>GIVEN   |  |
| \$250<br>OUR GOAL   | \$476.58<br>GIVEN   |  |
| \$200<br>OUR GOAL   | \$328.94<br>GIVEN   |  |

TOGETHER WE RAISED:

# \$2,840.50

WELL DONE ST AGNES!!!

## Sacramental Program

In partnership with the St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, I'd like to invite any St Agnes student who is interested in completing the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation this year to email Mrs Reyes at [mreyes7@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mreyes7@parra.catholic.edu.au) to express your interest. I encourage our parents to have this conversation with your child if you have been thinking about their initiation to the Catholic Church or completion of sacraments. More information will be posted on our school facebook page and in the next fortnight newsletter. I look forward to your response soon.

## Rice Day & No Electricity Day

Rice Day was inspired by World Vision 40 Hour Famine and aimed to bring awareness to the millions of children who live on one cup of rice a day. At recess, our student leaders sold cups of rice for 50 cents each, and 20 cents extra for condiments. I witnessed some students simply donate for this great cause which was wonderful to see such generosity. As each student bought a rice cup, they also received a fact sheet of the magnitude of world hunger that exists in our world today. The fact sheets read:

*When you eat this rice cup, there are...*

*Nearly over 163 million children across the world who only have a bowl of rice for the whole day.*

Every year 250,000 to 500,000 children go blind from vitamin A deficiency. Vitamin A deficiency is a result of malnourishment and a limited diet. The consequences of this deficiency include tissue damage, blindness, and a weakened immune system. For those millions of people affected by vitamin A deficiency, one cup of rice a day could provide half the amount needed for a healthy diet.

The Rice Day Stall promoting our sign that read: Donating 50c will fill a cup with enough porridge, rice or beans to give one school meal to a hungry child. \$3.00 would feed a child for one week.

This small initiative was a success because of the enthusiasm and support of our student leaders in finding simple ways to bring awareness of social issues to our school community.

Thank you to the staff and students who kindly supported this day. May we come to know how our small change can make a big difference to one child.

All proceeds will be donated to the St Agnes Catholic High School 40 Hour Famine account.



The Rice Day Stall promoting our sign that read: Donating 50c will fill a cup with enough porridge, rice or beans to give one school meal to a hungry child. \$3.00 would feed a child for one week.



Angelique Mangahas, Deakin Ball, Vansh Thakker, Mary Yousif and Jonathan Israel representing the Catholic Identity and Social Justice Portfolio Leaders. Thank you for your great ideas and service to our school community!



This year we also held a 'No Electricity Day'. This involved no room lights, use of Apple TV's, data projectors and iPads. Teachers were encouraged to take this opportunity to go back to the basics in teaching and learning and this served quite a challenge for some newer teachers like myself. This day aimed to bring awareness of the quarter of humanity, 1.6 billion people who live without electricity, a commodity we often take for granted. Thank you to all staff and students who participated on this day. I pray that we become more aware of the social situations in our world, so we may empathise and understand that basic needs of human beings are not often basic for millions and so we may do our part in finding ways to assist them with what we are blessed with.

## St Vincent De Paul Society - Winter Sleepout 2017

Social Awareness Week concluded with the annual St Vincent De Paul Winter Sleepout that was a huge success! The theme of this night was inspired by Matthew's Gospel "As you did it to one of these the least of my people, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). The night began with a session on What is homelessness? where Year 10 learnt shocking statistics on homelessness in Australia. Let's have a look at the facts together:

- On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless
- 7,500 families are homeless
- Over 17,000 kids under the age of 12 have no home
- 39% live in overcrowded dwellings
- 20% stay in supported accommodation
- 17% couch surf



As our minds and hearts were slowly opened to the reality of homeless, we gathered together for a liturgy that gave students the opportunity to commit to one way they could share their blessings with others. As Mr Sadsad shared, God's blessings comes in many different forms - through time, talents, material things or simply through kind words of hope. In this light, students learnt about the do's and don'ts of conversations with those in homeless situations and this gave them a better understanding of power in a simple hello. One of the highlights of the evening was the game 'Choose Your Own Story' where students got into pairs and followed a sequence of events that required them to make a decision. After 18 stations, students found themselves in situations that they didn't expect but discovered that sometimes there are only two choices available and you need to make the best one in the time you've been given.

*"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless.  
The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty."  
(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)*

During the evening we had the opportunity to collate and pack the toiletry items that staff and students had donated to our SVDP Toiletry Drive. After a productive collaboration, we managed to pack at least 90 toiletry packs for the homeless. A wonderful effort, St Agnes! Students also wrote words of encouragement and sealed it with a prayer into the packs. The messages that were written were truly beautiful words of kindness and hope.

I'd like to extend a very big thank you to our teachers Mr Sadsad, Miss Valleri and Miss Raad for your ongoing support to ensure the success of this year's Winter Sleepout. Your time was so generously given and is deeply appreciated.

I'd also like to acknowledge the following Year 10 students who participated in the SVDP Winter Sleepout 2017. Christan Adriano, Jake Arman, Malik Baatjes, Deakin Ball, Frances Deocera, Ruby Devo, Skye Fernando, Meryle Galang, Sheanne Gloria, Angelina Huynh, Jomari Jeuco, Arunbert Jeyathansan, Angelique Mangahas, Renard Manuel, Josefina Mataele, Jade Meilak, Eiriz Merjudio, Mylyn Mesina, Ethan Montenegro, Carlos Montenegro, Angelo Morales, Byron Murphy, Jonathan Nansen, Alyanna Nuque, Paolo Ong, Kim Phan, Sarah Price, Rianna Pulido, Varnie Raman, Juan Sausa, Rucki Sivakumar, Chloe Sparks, Natalie Sukkarieh, Alexander Taco, Patricia Tolentino, Burt Tukala. Also, thank you to our St Agnes alumni, current Loyola students Brianna Raymond, John Gomez and Jeremiah Tukulea for assisting during the night. Thank you everyone for giving your Friday night to learning more about homelessness and the many ways you can make a difference:

Please pray with me as we remember those children, families, men and women who are homeless tonight. May our prayers reach out to them as we continuously seek to show our support through our works of service.

Prayer for Homeless Persons  
O God, you are a God of justice,  
mercy and compassion.  
Support us your servants of the poor,  
As we endeavour to bring your love and compassion  
to people who are homeless and in need of your love.

We prayer that we will see you,  
our all-loving God,  
in each homeless person we encounter,  
and in our service for those in need.

May we do all in our power,  
to support each person reach their potential,  
so they experience the fullness of life.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*In Christ,  
Mary Reyes*

## 2017 Winter Sleepout



Vinnies  
good works



## “Franciscan of the Fortnight” Award

The Franciscan of the Fortnight Award is a prestigious award that recognises the values of St Francis of Assisi today in the areas of service, relationships, dedication and prayer life unique to the St Agnes student.

Congratulations to the following recipients of the Franciscan of the Fortnight.



### Year 7: NEIL SWIN (7.7)

Neil displays amazing kindness and is constantly a fantastic role model to his peers. In Science, he had moved from an overcrowded science bench so that others who find it difficult to find a group can join, continuously offers kind words and support to other students when they are feeling down, opens doors for staff and students on a regular basis, offers students stationary if they have none, and seeks out other students offering them to sit with him when they are feeling isolated. Neil is a real blessing to work with and is always seen putting others first. Thank you Neil for sharing a spirit like St Francis who imitated Jesus at every opportunity.

### Year 9: CALLANDRA JANE (9.4)

Callandra is a caring, considerate student who applies herself to all schoolwork and follows the school rules diligently. She is very dedicated and passionate towards her studies in Photography and this passion inspires others to do their best. Thank you Callandra for being an excellent role model to other students in your commitment to strive for excellence in all that you do, just as St Francis' goal was to imitate Christ so others could see Christ through him.

### Year 10: ALEXANDER TACO (10.7)

Alexander is a student who is consistently helpful to others. He is always supportive of those around him, especially those struggling and are in need. He also works to share the message of Jesus. In drama class, Alexander is a polite member and puts a lot of passion and effort into his performances. In Science, he volunteers freely to even the little things like handing out and returning equipment while conducting experiments in Science. Alexander is committed to his studies and will seek out information for future lessons. He is a very persistent student and does not give up. Thank you Alexander for walking humbly in the spirit of St Francis, a person who helps others without the cost.



# *Japanese students visit St Agnes*

Thirteen Japanese students and six teachers from Godo Cho Junior High School visited St Agnes Catholic High School this week.

These students stayed with members of the St Aidan's Parish community while visiting Sydney. They arrived on Saturday 19 August, visited Sydney icons before attending St Agnes on Monday.

The students spent part of the day learning English and then were 'buddied' up with our Year 8 students to experience our classes, tour our school and share different cultural aspects. Communicating may have been hard at times at times, but universal smiles and laughter broke down all barriers.

On Wednesday afternoon, after sharing a Japanese BBQ, all students shared in an afternoon of activities hosted by the Japanese students. This was an enjoyable experience for all involved, with students playing games, listening to stories, and learning to write in Japanese.

The Godo Cho Junior High School students and teachers were impressed by how friendly and hospitable St Agnes students and every student found the experience rewarding.

It was a pleasure to have the students from Godo Cho Junior High School who have expressed interest in returning to St Agnes or returning our hospitality by inviting our students to participate in future exchange programs.





# Compulsory School Attendance

MESSAGE FROM GREG WHITBY

Dear parents and carers,

Since 1870, schooling has been compulsory in Australia. Unfortunately, for many children learning at school has been optional. The learning needs of some students have not always been adequately catered for in a traditional, one-size-fits-all approach to learning and teaching.

compulsory by delivering a schooling experience that caters to the needs, abilities and interests of each student. Our school leaders and teachers are working hard to ensure students receive a personalised, relevant and meaningful Catholic education.

There are many ways in which families can support their children to be prepared for learning at school. For example, by making school attendance a high priority in your family; by ensuring children get enough sleep, a good diet and regular exercise; by encouraging reading from an early age; by sharing the learning journey through an active involvement in your child's school, hobbies and extra-curricular activities, and so on.

Of course, in order for students to learn at school, they need to show up. In fact, it is illegal for school-aged children not to attend school. Even more troubling though, is the learning a child will miss if they do not attend school. If a student misses as little as eight days each term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of learning.

[This brochure](#) outlines the compulsory attendance guidelines from the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Education (D&E) - guidelines that apply to our own Parramatta diocesan Catholic schools - and your responsibilities as a parent or carer. Please take the time to read this important information and also to consider why schooling is compulsory... so children can be active and successful learners now and in the future.

Greg Whitby

Executive Director of Schools

## الإجبارية بالمدارس إلالتحاق

المدرسة في التعلّم كان الحظ، ولسوء. أستراليا في امي إلز التعلّم كان، 1870 عام ومنذ الرعاية، ومقدمي الأمور أولياء عزي في تقلّ يدي نهج في كاف بشكّل تلبيتها يتم لم الطلبة بعض لدى التعلّم احتياجات إن. الأطفال من للكثير بالنسبة اختياريًا باراماتا أبرشية في الكاثوليكية والمدارس اليوم، إلزامي يزال لا التعلّم أن حين في. والتدريس للتعلّم الجميع يناسب واحد المدرسة قادة. طالب لكل ومصالح وقدرات احتياجات يلبي الذي التعلّم تجربة تقديم خلال من إلزامي التعلّم يكون أن أيضا تريد من العديدي هناك. مغزى وذات الصلة ذات شخصية الكاثوليكية التعلّم على الطلبة حصول لضمان بجد يعملون لدينا والمدرسين جعل خلال من المثال، سبيل على. المدرسة في للتعلّم مستعدين لي يكونوا أطفالهم دعم خلال من للعائلات يمكن التي الطرق جيد غذائي نظام واتباع النوم، من كاف قسط على الأطفال حصول ضمان خلال من. عائلتك في علية أولوية المدارس في الحضور المشاركة خلال من التعلّم رحلة تبادل خلال من مكرمة؛ سن من القراءة تشجيع طريق عن. بانظام الرياضية التمارين وممارسة فإنها المدرسة، في للتعلّم الطلبة أجل من الحال، وبطبيعة. جرا ولمم اللاصفية، والأنشطة والهوايات طفلك، مدرسة في الأنشطة إشارة الكثر حتى. بالمدرسة إلالتحاق عدم لدراسة سن في مم الذين للأطفال القانوني غير من الواقع، وفي. تظهر أن إلى بحاجة كل أيام ثمانية من أقل يفتقد الطلبة كان إذا. المدرسة إلى يذهبوا لم إذا الطفل يغيب سوف التعلّم هو ذلك، من الرغم على للقلق إدارة من إلإلزامي التوجيه شادانثار الكتيب هذا يحدد. التعلّم من سنة مدى على غاب قد أنه الابتدائية المدرسة نهاية وبحلول مصطلح، باراماتا بنا الخاصة الكاثوليكية المدارس على تنطبق التي التوجيهية المبادئ - (D & E) ويلز ساوث نيو في التعلّم سبب في النظر وأيضا الهامة المدلولات هذه لقراءة الكافي الوقت أخذ يرجى. الرعاية مقدمي أو الوالدين كأحد ومسؤولياتك - الأبرشية المسبق قبل وفي الآن ونأجحين نشطين متعلمين يكونوا أن من الأطفال يتمكن حتى ... التعلّم إلزامية

للمدارس التثني في المديرو ويتبني غريغ

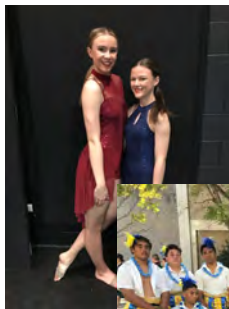
## PDSSSC Dance Team

عربي لكراسة

Congratulations to our PDSSSC Dance Team who competed at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre today.

All students were an absolute credit to our St Agnes community and amazed the crowd with their commendable performances in the Hip Hop, Contemporary, Solo Performance, Jazz and Cultural section.

Huge congratulations to our cultural performance which placed 2nd!! It was an extremely close score between 1st and 2nd. Well done to everyone.



## *PDSSSC Athletics Carnival*

On a warm, yet very windy, Wednesday morning on the 16 August the best track and field athletes from St Agnes gathered with the best athletes from the diocese to compete at the PDSSSC Athletics Carnival. The carnival was held at Blacktown International Sports Park with competitors also given the chance to move to the NSW CCC carnival if they were able to achieve 1st place in their respective final in field events and either 1st or 2nd Place in track events.

With many students struck down with illness St Agnes fielded a smaller squad than normal, but this still did not stop the great performances of many students.

- Dwayne Tukala in Year 7 won the boys 12 year Shot Put, therefore, qualifying for the NSWCCC competition.
- Veronica Dimo in year 8 also qualified for NSW CCC by finishing 2nd in both the 100m and 200m finals and winning the 14's Girls High Jump.
- Brooke Martin in year 8 who had to wait for the final track event of the day to win the Jr Girls 1500m walk and qualify for NSW CCC.
- A special mention must also go to Ila Fuimanon who won her 200m heats and placed 2nd in her 100m heat. Unfortunately for Ila her time was not fast enough to go through to the CCC carnival.

Well done to these students who will all progress to the NSWCCC Carnival, held at Sydney Athletics Centre, Homebush, on the 15th September 2017.

Many other students achieved a high standard and just missed out due to the strict qualifying rules. These students included, Deng Wol, Tong Dimo, Olivia Jackson and Solo Tafau. Lachlan Watson and Mark De Guzman both gave their best and were just pipped out of a place in the 800m races in what were two of the closest finishes of the day.

Tong Muorwal was disqualified after finishing first in the 400m final. Unfortunately for Tong, he ran out of his lane which left the judges with no option but to disqualify him.

A very big congratulations to all of the competitors. It is a huge achievement just to make it to the PDSSSC Carnival and to achieve as well as you all did is a fantastic result. Lets hope you all train hard over this year and come back stronger and faster than ever next year.

*Gavin Hilder*  
*Team Manager*

## *PDSSSC Sport & Girls Rugby League Team*

Each week our students participate in the Parramatta Diocese Secondary Schools Sports Council (PDSSSC) competition which provides the avenue for students across the diocese to experience most individual and team sports. It also gives students, depending on their ability, the chance to play in competition against other schools in the diocese during the weekly inter-school sports afternoon.

This term, teams represented St Agnes in Netball, Soccer, Rugby League and Ultimate Frisbee. Our Intermediate Boys Soccer team won the grand final on Thursday 2-0 but unfortunately, the Intermediate Girls Soccer team lost 3-0, but to even make it to the grand final was a huge achievement. Congratulations Mr Cruickshank and Mr Hilder and their teams.

Congratulations to our U/15 Girls Rugby League team. These girls played above their age group in the Schoolgirls State RL Finals yesterday, defending their State title. The girls represented St Agnes, and themselves, with pride and have been named the second best U/16 rugby league team in NSW. To us you are the champions! Thank you to Mr Chavez for his fantastic coaching.





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# Parents Guide to Technology: Keeping your Child Safe

"In a world where children are "growing up digital," it's important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills.

Teens need to know that once content is shared with others, they will not be able to delete or remove it completely; this includes texting of inappropriate pictures. "

Parents are encouraged to be constantly aware of their child's use of technology and all online activities like use of social media apps e.g. Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. Here at school, students are regularly informed and cautioned about cybersafety and the basic rules/guidelines to observe when online. We have had numerous sessions with the students on these topics with our own input like the brainstorm productions, Know Your Learner lesson activities, visits from the Police liaison officer and other pastoral sessions.

We would like to suggest a few strategies that parents can use in helping their children to be more Cybersmart and Cybersafe.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Have regular conversation with your child regarding their work and online activities.
2. Develop a structured after school plan for technology and non-technology based (e.g reading) activities
3. Encourage your child to consider other leisure/hobby/sporting activities
4. Contact your child's Learning Adviser to discuss work and general well-being
5. Switch off internet access after a certain time every night.
6. Try one of the following Apps to monitor technology usage:
  - OurPact
  - Screen Time

Please feel free to contact us if you need any further assistance or information.

**Usman Khan**  
Coordinator-Technology

**Nikki Valleri**  
Assistant Stage Coordinator - Year 7

**INSIGHTS**  
by Michael Grose - No.1 parenting educator  
parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

## Keeping kids safe in a cyber world

Social media sites have taken cyber bullying and harassment to a new level. Here's how to keep your kids safe when online.

Cyber bullying is one of the biggest, safety issues facing young people today. Bullying and harassment online is now commonplace. For instance, over a third of teenage girls have been sexually harassed via the internet.

The emergence of social media sites has seen cyber bullying go to a new level. Messages and images can now spread like wild fire reaching a huge potential audience in the time it takes to upload an image or shoot off a text message.

Once the family home offered young people an escape from schoolyard bullies. Now the cyber world is so invasive that their bedrooms offer no guarantees of safety any more.

The cyber world is enticing. Young people have always wanted to escape from their parents' world. In the past they hung out in shopping centres and pool halls. Parents tried their best to keep an eye on where their children were and what they were doing.

The online world is now the shopping mall of the 21st Century. Parents have the same responsibility to help kids stay safe in the online world as they do in the real world. "Stranger danger" and accompanying safe behaviours are just as relevant in the online world as they are in the real world.

Parents should use the same offline preventative strategies to maximise their children's online safety as they've always used. These strategies include: teaching children about the right way to behave online, don't let them spend all night in the cyber world, and ask questions about what they are doing and where they go when they're online.

Parents need to remind kids that things in the online world can spin out of control very quickly. A written message or an image can be circulated electronically so rapidly that the scope and scale of cyber bullying can be greater than any other form of bullying.

The following seven key messages form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids. They should be taught to kids so they become second nature, just as the messages about stranger danger were absorbed by an earlier generation.

1. Respect others. Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss with kids the types of messages and images that can cause harm to others when sent. Teenagers often walk a fine line with what they do and say to each other offline, yet it's relatively harmless. The same type of behaviour online however can be a different story.
2. Think before you send. Remind kids cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. A text message or image sent to just one person can be passed to a potentially unlimited number. Once they are sent they're almost impossible to erase and take back.
3. Treat online passwords like your house key. Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However there are some things, such as online passwords that they don't share, not even with their best friend.
4. Block bullies. Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages and addresses online. Similarly, they can block text messages from bullies as well.
5. Don't reply to harassment. Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides responding to bullying behaviour often simply encourages the bully to continue.
6. Save the evidence. If kids are bullied they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as proof if the bullies are brought to justice.
7. Tell someone. The inidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don't seek help, as they think there's something wrong with them. Talk with kids about going to a trusted adult, when they feel their rights or safety have been violated. They should with your help report online bullying to the appropriate service provider.

Sticking the proverbial "head in the sand" regarding kids' use of communications technology is no longer an option for parents. Savvy parents need to learn as much as they can about children and young people's online lives so they can respond to situations appropriately.

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**SAFE**

- Identity**
  - always remember to maintain a positive online identity and protect your personal information
  - make sure you have a good online reputation
- New opportunities**
  - the online world is full of them, communications, learning, collaboration, the possibilities are endless
  - remember to introduce them but think carefully
- Safe**
  - online personal safety is just as important as offline safety
  - always remember to "think before you post" and speak to a trusted friend if something is bothering you
- Advice**
  - advice is available from many places and if something goes wrong online you can get help
  - it's always best to talk to someone if you have any concerns
  - the Inside helplines are a good place to start
  - <http://www.insidehelpouts.com.au/insidehelpouts>
- Fraud**
  - be wary of emails promising something that sounds too good to be true and take care not to respond to "spam" or phishing messages
  - protect your personal information
- e-learning**
  - the internet offers so many possibilities, not only for entertainment and communications, but also for learning and education
  - check it out, don't waste these great opportunities for life-long learning

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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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## *From the Bishops Office*

### **St Patrick's Quarter**

The Diocese of Parramatta is to begin major planning on a new multi-stage project known as St Patrick's Quarter around the St Patrick's Cathedral precinct in Parramatta. The project will consist of a new Parramatta CBD school, new Diocesan building and a new residential/commercial complex. For further information, please visit [www.stpatricksquarтер.org](http://www.stpatricksquarтер.org) or email [comms@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:comms@parra.catholic.org.au).

### **Volunteers Needed**

Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service: The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in the Kimberley. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months. We are currently seeking volunteers for the Balgo, Bidyadanga and Warmun for the wet season. Accommodation and food is provided. For further details on how to be a part of this unique experience, and an application form, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator: Anneliese Rohr 08 9192 1060

Email: [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org) Web: [www.broomedioocese.org](http://www.broomedioocese.org)

### **Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta**

HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS CLASSES Kirinari, Xavier College, Llandilo Wiyanga, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas are accepting enrolments. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta provides an inclusive education for students, recognising that some students with a moderate intellectual disability may need additional support. High support needs classes provide students with an alternate platform that addresses their learning needs. Direct enquiries to Alma George, Manager Diverse Learning Needs, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta on 0407233622 or [Alma.George@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Alma.George@parra.catholic.edu.au) by Wednesday 30 August 2017.

### **Q & A Programme "Let's Talk About What Matters": 3 September**

Held at The Crypt, St Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 1.30pm - 3.00pm.  
September 3 - "Pluralism: Why can't They be more like me?" Captain Mona Shindy & Rev Peter Kurti;  
September 24 - "Social Media - A force for good?" Professor Gerard Goggin & Cecilia Hilder;  
October 1 - "Pornography: Who does it harm?" Rev Fr John Baron op; October 22 "Finding the Courage to make a Difference" Fr Frank Brennan sj AO and Alpha Cheng.  
No need to book. No charge. Further information: website: [catalyst-for-renewal.com.au](http://catalyst-for-renewal.com.au)  
Email: [catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au](mailto:catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au) or 02 9990 7003

### **Mount St Benedict Centre: 4 September**

Your Journey, Your Song - This day of reflection is an invitation to explore and celebrate the power of music and song in engaging us with our God. All are welcome - no previous singing or musical experience is required! Date: Saturday 9 September 10.00am-3.30pm. Facilitator: Beth Riolo and Marianne Patton. Cost: \$30.00. Morning Tea provided; BYO lunch. Bookings by: Monday 4 September. email: [mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au)  
Phone: 02 9484 6208 Where: 449D Pennant Hills Rd. Entrance off Hull Road.

## **The School Writing Competition for 2017 is NOW OPEN!**

Calling all Australian school students... prep to grade 12...

Write a poem or short story for your chance to win \$1,000 cash (\$500 for you & \$500 for your school)! And other AWESOME prizes.

All it takes is a burst of inspiration, a dash of creativity and a little bit of effort for great poems and stories to appear! We can't wait to read yours!

Entry is FREE at [Write for Fun.net](http://WriteforFun.net)! Entries close Thursday 31st August 2017.