



# St Agnes Catholic High School

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to truth through love

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

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

## Diary Dates

### 9 May

Yr 9 Passover Incursion

### 10-13 May

NAPLAN Testing

### 16 May

Athletics Carnival

### 23-27 May

Yr 8 - 10 Semester 1  
Exam Block

### 6 June

Year 7 Vaccinations

### 7 June

Yr 10 Vietnam Veteran  
Incursion

### 14 June

Staff Development Day

### 15 June

Yr 9 A line Kokoda  
Memorial Excursion

### 16 June

Yr 10 Careers Expo

### 27 June

Parent/Teacher  
Interviews

### 29 June

Yr 7 RE Excursion  
Yr 9 B line Kokoda  
Memorial Excursion

### 1 July

Term 2 Concludes

### 18 July

Term 3 Commences

6 May 2016

*"Happy Mothers' Day means more than have a happy day.  
Within these words lie lots of things we never get to say.  
It means, I love you, first of all, then thanks for all you do.  
It means you mean a lot to me and that I honour you."*

*Nicholas Jordan*

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. No doubt, when Mary was asked to be Mother of God, she found Gabriel's message difficult and thought immediately about her limitations. We are only being human if we find it difficult to accept that God could have a plan for us, as He did for Mary. We can be somewhat reassured by the fact that Mary did not have to do anything but just let God act in her life. So, all that is necessary for us is to allow God to dwell within us. At the Marriage Feast of Cana, Mary gave every generation of Christians a challenge when she said, "Do whatever He tells you". John 2:5.

When Mary gave her humble answer of "Yes", she agreed to let God love her and as a result she gave Jesus to the world and for this she is forever revered. At His crucifixion, Jesus announced Mary to be the mother of all, when He said through John to us, "She is your Mother". John 19:27.

As our Mother, Mary would wish that we, like her, would allow God to love us and through that love, be witnesses to Jesus in the ordinary daily actions of our lives. There is no doubt that Mary's humble acceptance of God's plan for her is a model for all Christians. Mary, Mother of God and Mother of us all, you received Jesus readily and generously. Help us with our everyday problems and weaknesses and uncertainties, to receive Jesus as you did, to be open to God's Love. Amen.

This Sunday is an opportunity for us to express our gratitude and thanks for all that mothers do. The mother infant bond is an intense relationship of unparalleled human affection. It is the foundation of the child's emotional and physical survival. Motherhood is also about nurturing, sacrificing, loving and, ultimately, letting go. No wonder the saying: "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short time but their hearts forever".

*Mary, Mother of God  
And spiritual Mother of us all,  
May all mothers who seek your help,  
Experience your unfailing protection.  
Lead all mothers and their children  
To your Son, Jesus.*

*Peter Regan*

*Peter Regan  
Principal*



*Happy Mothers &  
Grandmothers Day*

**CHRIS  
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

*a diverse  
community  
learning  
together*



## FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I would like to begin by thanking the students, parents and teachers who have made my first week at St Agnes a happy one. St Agnes is a very warm community; I have been impressed by the positive approach students take to their studies, sport and community activities. I am certain I will enjoy my time as the Acting Assistant Principal of this school.

As students begin Term 2 I remind them that they are here to work hard in all their classes. They should ensure they have all the equipment they need for each day and they should apply themselves to their studies in every lesson. A good education will give them the ability to make choices for their futures.

### Uniform

Now that Term 2 has started, all students are expected to be wearing their winter uniforms. The school uniform enhances our school community and makes our students visible in the wider community. This means that all students should be wearing their blazers to and from school, except when they are wearing their sport uniform.

Girls should be wearing stockings and boys should be wearing the school tie. All uniform items should be labelled to prevent them from becoming lost. If there is a good reason for students not wearing their uniform properly they should talk to their Learning Advisor about the reasons for this.

### iPads and Technology

Year 7 students had their Technology Day on Friday, during which they were introduced to their iPads. As part of the day Mr McGuire and other teachers taught students how to make the most of some of the apps they have installed on their device. The iPads and other forms of technology are important learning tools in the 21st Century; however, all students, all of the time, must use these tools appropriately.

Whilst at school, students must use their iPads for learning. Students have learned that incorrect or illegal online behaviour will not be acceptable at this school. Students should **be safe, be respectful and be responsible** in the way they engage with the online world.

### PAT-R Reading Tests

At the end of Term 1 all students sat the Progressive Assessment Test - Reading (PAT-R). This reading test allows teachers to understand the progress your child is making in reading. The test gives important information to help teachers plan effectively for student learning. This term, students will also complete the Progressive Assessment Test - Mathematics.

Mary Refalo  
Assistant Principal



## OBSERVATION WALK INVITATION

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VIEWING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO VIEW HOW YOUR CHILD LEARNS IN 2016?**

An invitation is extended to you to be part of our parent group to join our Leadership Team on Observation Walks through our classrooms during the week of **Monday 23 to Friday 27 May**.

Times available are

Monday 9-10am

Tuesday 11-12noon

Wednesday 12-1pm

Thursday 9-10am

Friday 11-12noon

Please contact Mrs Annette O'Keeffe on 8882 0703 to book an appropriate time to join our Leadership Team.



## FROM THE TEACHING & LEARNING COORDINATOR

Term 2 is an extremely busy time in the schools academic calendar. All students are completing assessments for all of their subjects prior to the issuing of Semester One Reports in the last week of term.

Students in Years 8-10 now have available, on Moodle as well as the school website, their Week 5 Examination Timetable which will be held between 23 - 27 May. In addition, Years 7 & 9 students will be sitting for their NAPLAN examinations next week, 10 -12 May.

I remind all students of their responsibilities when it comes to the completion of assessment tasks. These responsibilities are outlined in their Assessment Handbooks and should be referred to if unsure.

Below are some strategies to use when revising for their exams:

- Create a revision timetable. Budget your time wisely to ensure that you cover all the topics in the exam.
- Schedule short revision times rather than one lengthy session; this helps with concentration.
- Assign specific segments of work to each revision time.
- Alternate harder tasks with easier ones.
- If you need help, ask someone who is good at the subject. Friends, family, and teachers are all good options.
- Combine different study activities in each study session.
- Set realistic limits on the amount of study that you do.
- Allow regular breaks for rest and relaxation.
- Make sure that your study space is available when you need it (and is free from unnecessary distractions).
- If you lose concentration, stop studying and do something else, but before you stop decide when your next study session will be and what you will study.

Good planning and effective preparation will mean that you will not need any last minute cramming efforts. Cramming the night before is proven to be ineffective because you are taking in so much information at once that it is impossible to memorise it all.

For your reference, below is the Years 8-10 Term 2 Examination Timetable.

**Years 8-10 Term 2 Examination Block: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 - SDC**

Session	Monday Day 1 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Tuesday Day 2 – 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday Day 3 – 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday Day 4 – 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday Day 5 – 27 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Periods 1/2</b>  Students to go to normal Period 2 lesson at the completion of the exam		Year 10 Maths	Year 10 HSIE  Year 9 Maths (in normal classes)	Year 9/10 Commerce	Catch Up Exam Time
<b>Periods 3/4</b>  Students to go to normal Period 4 lesson at the completion of the exam	Year 9 HSIE	Catch Up Exam Time	Year 8 Maths	Catch Up Exam Time	

I wish all students the very best in their upcoming assessments.

*Laurence De Martin*

*Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum*



## CSDA DEBATING

Good luck to our debating teams competing in the Catholic Schools Debating Competition. We have four teams across Year 7-10 competing this year and you are more than welcome to attend and show your support for our students.





## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

### Year 10 Retreat

On Wednesday 27 April 80 Year 10 students, along with 6 teachers, ventured to the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in Grose Vale to spend some quality time away from the busyness of our daily school lives. The theme of the retreat centred on Mercy, as we are in the Year of Mercy.

Students spent time learning, reflecting and applying their own ideas to Mercy, in general, but specifically in the school community and in their own family settings.

Students designed their own individual symbols for Mercy and printed them onto a banner in the shape of the Tau cross. We aim to complete, frame and display the finished banner in the San Damiano Centre.

Year 10 spent time in prayer in the beautiful Chapel at Benedict XVI, focusing on scripture related to Mercy.

Student formation in the faith is an important part of Religious Education. The facilities and the time spent away from home were, and are, extremely beneficial to our faith forming developing students.

With such a successful retreat we are hoping to plan another for Year 10 in 2017.



### Special Religious Education (SRE)

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that we now have 17 Year 10 students who have been trained in SRE to teach to our local primary schools at Eastern Creek and Rooty Hill.

Our SRE Teachers are:

Eastern Creek - Isaac Jabou, Simon Derjani, Carolyn Sanaty, Dana Mallouk, Mariam Toma and Alyssa Alcala

Rooty Hill - Ruby Putt, Renee Obedoza, Monica Vave, Rose Putt, Miles Ponce, Brianna Raymond, Gabrielle Norton, Olivia Putt, Bethany Mendoza, Aerianne Mojica and Sofia Gabarda.

*Julie Atkins*

*Religious Education Coordinator*



## PANTHERS GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE GALA DAY

Fifteen willing, and talented, Year 7 & 8 Rugby League players represented St Agnes at the end of last Term at the Annual Penrith Panthers Girls Gala Day. The girls trained twice before the Gala Day to work on and improve their techniques and game structure in readiness for the day.

Our team focus was to work on our tackling and defensive structure, but most importantly, enjoy the day of team bonding, having fun and playing some good games of rugby league.

The girls played 3 games against Jamison High School, St Clare's Catholic College and Chifley High School, Dunheved campus.

Game 1 - We defended from the kick off against Jamison, where the girls were like a brick wall in defence. Jamison was under pressure from the start and Selenna caught a kicked ball on the full and ran 60 metres to score! Tayla scored 2 tries and another try to Selenna rounded out an 18-0 win. One of the prouder moments of the whole day came at the conclusion of the game when the opposition coach came over to praise our team for their 'good manners' on the field of play.

Game 2 - The "local" derby against St Clare's Catholic College where the girls put on another powerful defensive effort. St Clare's team had numerous chances to score within our 20-metre area but our girls were resolute in their tackling again. This was awesome to see and we scored 4 tries to their nil for a 20-0 win outcome. Katie, Selenna and Solo, who scored a double, found their way over the try-line.

Game 3 - The final were the winners of Pool A and Pool B. We finished on top of our pool so played against Chifley High School, Dunheved Campus. "One more effort" was our motto for this game as there was a lot to play for. Mr Regan, who came down for support, watched the girls' determination and effort and witnessed some long-range individual and team tries by Tayla, Solo, Katie and Selenna to triumph with a 26-0 victory.

Winning the Gala Day means the girls will now represent the Penrith District at the State Cup to be held later on in the year. Well done girls on your efforts and conduct throughout the whole day.

Team: Solo Tafau, Sailimalo Toso, Leduina Piliae, Tyla Amiatu, Katalina Vave, Rosalina Mauava, Litia Lausii, Rachel Ika, Kathleen Sikuea, Selenna Fuimaono, Sheila Asiata, Katie Asiata, Kalini Loloa, Otile Manafokua, Brooklyn Casey

*Christopher Chavez*  
Coach







## KOKODA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Two Year Ten students had the privilege of applying for the Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge sponsored by St Marys RSL in conjunction with St Marys Leagues Club. The Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge is a program designed for young Australians who have leadership potential. The successful candidates receive the chance to perform the physically and mentally demanding Kokoda Trek, which also comes with a great historical, cultural and environmental learning experience. The Club is willing to endorse the values of this program and sponsor two local students to take part in this trek valued over \$6000.

Tony El-Ghossein and Brianna Raymond of Year 10 both applied for this program and were excited by hearing about the great success this program has had over the past 4 years with previous participants. They instantly began to work on their resumes and collating supporting documentation to apply. A week of mental suffering and tension occurred until both students received a call from Cathy Rowley (Marketing Manager St Marys Rugby League Club) notifying them that they will receive an interview from the board. This was an amazing accomplishment and very unexpected as there were only five applicants chosen from hundreds of applicants to receive an interview. The interviews were held and both students were very nervous and but always tried to remain calm. The Club President, Marketing Manager and a member from the Board of Directors conducted the interviews and were very friendly and both Brianna and Tony quickly felt comfortable to answer the questions asked to the best of their ability.

Awaiting the result was by far the hardest part of the whole process. The students were notified of the results on the Thursday of the last week of the holidays and unfortunately Tony was unsuccessful. Understandably Tony was quite upset but was heartened by the fact that he was asked to apply again next year. Tony also stated that he was very proud of what he had already achieved and grateful for the opportunity he was given.

Brianna was contacted by a Board Member of St Marys Rugby League Club and was told that she was one of two successful applicants. She is unbelievably excited at the prospect of taking this journey of a lifetime and looks forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

Brianna said she is so grateful for the opportunity and she is sure that the trip will change her as a person and make her stronger. She also looks forward sharing her story and gaining more experience to be able to mentor young people to achieve phenomenal things.

Congratulations to Brianna and we wish her good luck in preparing for such an adventurous walk. We know she will do well in representing herself, the Club and St Agnes.

*Gavin Hilder*

*Stage 5 Coordinator*



Please encourage your child to enter the Premier's Reading Challenge - details can be found at: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

The challenge is designed to encourage all young people, including teens, to read for leisure and to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read as many books as possible in a specific period of time.

This may also be an opportunity for you to read aloud with your teenager - or to at least to read the same books and talk about them together...model reading and enjoy the challenge together! Any students who wish to enter the Premier's Reading Challenge email your child's name, grade, date of birth, and current school to the PRC team at [prc@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:prc@det.nsw.edu.au)

**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

## ANZAC CEREMONY

On 26 April St Agnes commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the Anzac landing on the shores of Gallipoli. The students were extremely reverend and reflective on this solemn occasion. Many were moved to tears as the school leaders led the school in prayer and read a requiem for the fallen.

We were honoured to have the Norton family in attendance and have Gabrielle Norton read the Ode, while wearing her late Grandfather's medals with pride. Our special guest Mr John O'Brien, secretary of the Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch, delivered a moving speech to a very quiet and respectful student body.

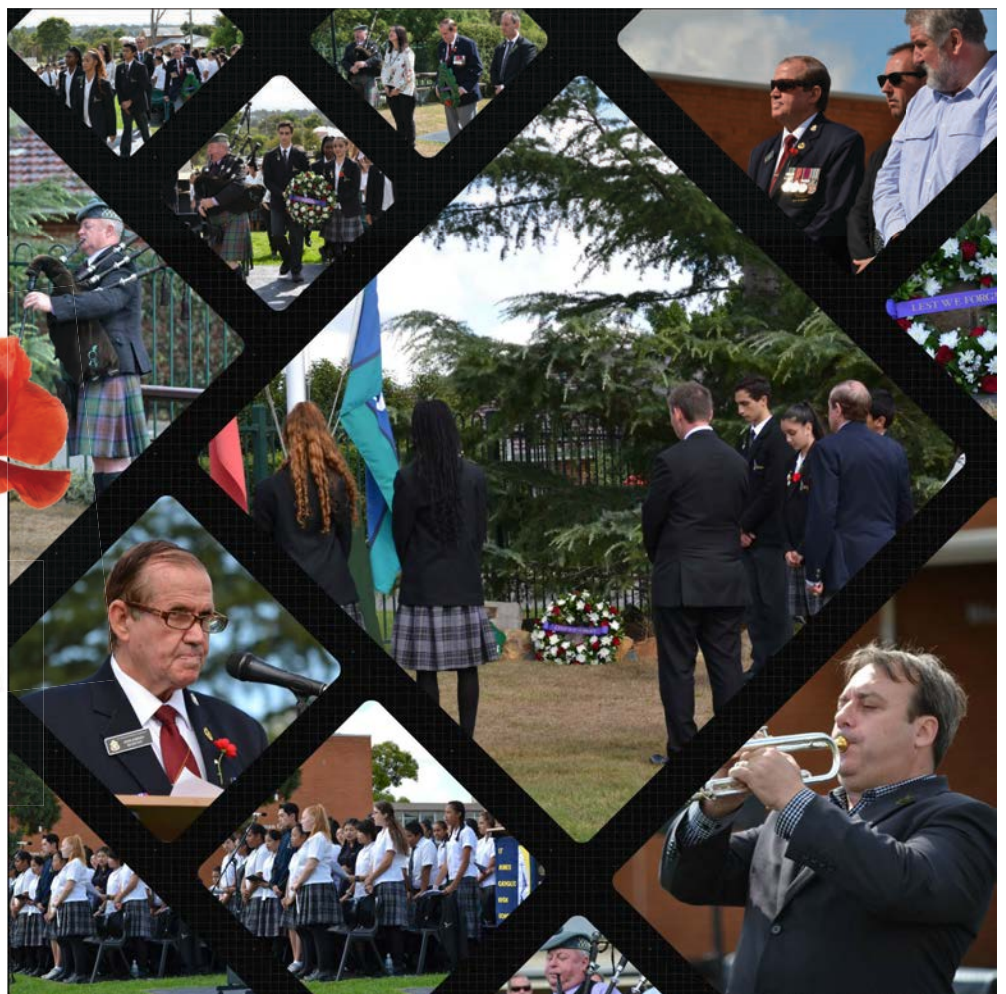
The highlight of the service was our exemplary musicians and choir who were complimented for their professionalism and talent by the accompanying piper Mr Barry Gray. Both Mr Gray and Mr O'Brien have expressed their desire to continue supporting our school in future services. Mr Gray, a noted musician in his own right, expressed a desire to make a recording with our choir. On the day, our choir sang a moving rendition of Amazing Grace, the New Zealand National Anthem in both Maori and English, a version of the Australian National Anthem in the language of the traditional owners of the land on which our school is located, the Darug language, as well as a beautiful version of our National Anthem in English. Their professionalism is a testament to the commitment and school spirit of the students and teachers who willingly give of their time to represent our school so well.

This day would not have been a success without the support of the school executive, Mr Regan, Ms Refalo and teachers Mr Cruickshank, Ms. Gale, Mr Doran but most especially Miss Juarez and Mr Weaver. A special thanks for the help and support provided by the school leaders; Joy Odemwengie, Tony El-Ghossein, Martin Mangahas, Piadora Rahme and Sean Rhodes.

*Bonita Carlin*  
HSIE Coordinator



*Lest  
we  
forget.*



*a diverse  
community  
learning  
together*





## PDSSSC CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

### 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

On Tuesday 3 May Mrs Bickford and Mr Chavez accompanied 12 students to Eastern Creek for the Annual PDSSSC Cross Country Carnival. Students were selected to compete in this carnival through our school carnival and had the opportunity to represent NSW Combined Catholic Colleges.

Under glorious weather conditions we arrived as a team nice and early and settled into the area. Students were required to run 3, 4 or 6 km in their respective race. Many students had competed at the district level in previous years and were focused on their job ahead. All students represented St Agnes with great heart, pushing themselves to the best of their ability. Over 50% of the students from our school finished in the top half of their races.

Some exceptional efforts though came from Zachary Turney (16<sup>th</sup>) and Jasmine Thomas (14<sup>th</sup>) who finished in the top 20 in their races, Ebonie Loudoun who finished 8<sup>th</sup>, but the standout was from Dante Soares who will represent Parramatta PDSSSC at the NSWCCC Carnival after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and earning a spot on the finishing dais. This is the first time in a very long time that one of our runners has finished in the top 3 in the district.

Good luck to Dante at the next level of competition and congratulations to all St Agnes representatives at the PDSSSC Cross Country; Adut Akok, Aman Dimo, Furutu Egg, Ebonie Loudoun, Angelique Mangahas, Tyler Micallef, Jayden Reddy, Dante Soares, Jasmine Thomas, Elly Turney, Zac Turner, Jack Youhana



**Are you a budding young photographer?**

**Do you want your art to say something your words can't?**

The Pixel Prize encourages students to address a topical theme through a creative, visual medium. These young photographers will be given the opportunity to connect with a photographic community and share their work with friends, family and the public. For more info go to <http://www.thepixelprize.com.au>.

2016  
Youth Symposium A Festival of Films  
High School Competition

now with more time TO FILM!

Help us give young people a voice by creating a 2-3 minute film on **Cyberbullying – the effect and how we solve it.**  
The competition is open to groups of High School students in Year 7-12.

**Prizes!**

- All eight finalist teams will work with Filmpop, who will provide free guidance and professional editing worth \$595 per film.
- All eight finalist films will be screened at an Awards Ceremony in Sydney on Friday, 12 August 2016.
- All eight finalists will receive a Leadership Workshop run by Burn Bright, to take place on the day of the screening, which will include a tour of a film set.
- The winning film team will receive \$1,000 for their school.

**Terms and Conditions**

- Story ideas and films must be original.
- Final eight films may be used by Interrelate for promotional purposes and shared via social and other media channels.
- One teacher must be nominated as a Coordinator for the competition.
- At least one student from the team must be available to participate in the Leadership Workshop and Awards Ceremony on Friday, 12 August 2016.
- Please about consent here.

For further info go to  
[www.interrelate.org.au](http://www.interrelate.org.au)

