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SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au
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to truth through love

Diary Dates

9 April
Palm Sunday Walk

24 April
Staff Development Day

25 April
Anzac Day

26 April
Term 2 Commences
Year 10 Retreat (to 28/4)
Anzac Ceremony

28 April
Yr 7 iPad Awareness
Day
Year 7 Brainstorm

**2 MAY
OPEN DAY**
For prospective
enrolments
Tours

3pm - 4.15pm
Information Session
3.30pm - 4.15pm

HERO DAY TALLY

Chisholm: \$1840.05
Francis: \$1524.23
Mackillop: \$1624.40
Xavier: \$1497.58
Other: \$57.65

Accumulative Total:
\$4988.68

*All proceeds donate
to Caritas.*

7 April 2017

Dear parents, carers and Franciscan friends,

Thank You for a wonderful term her at St Agnes. Our students have had a busy and long term of learning committed to this journey.

I would like to congratulate you on raising such inspirational young men and women who believe learning is important.

No one works in isolation in raising these young adults and the leadership role of parents is significant. The degree of difficulty depends on the style of leadership we choose to use and our reason for choosing that style.

If we choose an autocratic style, where we totally dominate and use the benefit of our adulthood to impose our will on our children, then, we will be in for a power struggle and have to use threats, fear and punishment to achieve what we want.

If we choose the opposite extreme and choose to use a permissive style and be absent from them in a physical or emotional manner then all we will be doing is controlling chaos.

If we choose to use a combination of both then this style will be based on respect, love and trust, where cooperation and positive communication are enjoyed on a daily basis. They will feel safe and accepted free to be the people they are. If our leadership has a confidence about it, it will inspire our children to take up the leadership role in their lives.

It is important because for better or worse parenting styles tend to repeat from one generation to the next. Good parenting roles, good teaching roles go hand in hand in producing positive young men and women.

This is why our relationship as a learning community and parent community is vital. Lets all do what we can to enhance this.

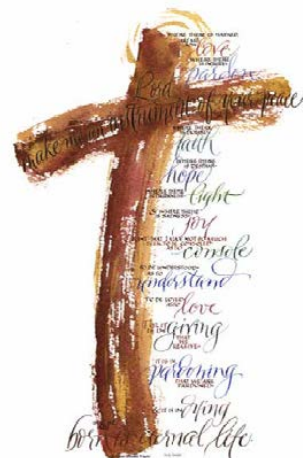
"Jesus our leaders, with the guidance of the Spirit within us, may we bring a spirit of joy, generosity and enthusiasm to the leadership role we have as parents and teachers."

May our children learn about you by the way we lead our lives."

Amen

Pace Bene

Peter Brogan
Principal



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From the Assistant Principal

As always, Term One has been a busy time at St Agnes. One of the major events was our 2018 Year 7 Information Evening in March. We hosted a large number of parents and students with an information session in the San Damiano Hall along with tours of the school to view facilities and subject displays. We are very grateful to the large number of students who made themselves available to assist with performances, displays and tours of the school. We are very pleased with the feedback from families about our facilities, the range of subjects and activities available and how welcoming the school is. A feature of the last few weeks has been "Hero Friday" where Homerooms have been raising money for Caritas at recess and lunch. With Yr7 still to show next term what they have planned, Years 8, 9 and 10 have raised thousands of dollars. We are very pleased but not all surprised at how enthusiastic students and staff have been in raising money for charity.

We have also seen Year 7 bond as a group after spending 3 days at an Outdoor Education Camp. Despite some rain the students and teachers had a great time with activities such as the Flying Fox, Mud World, Giant swing, Abseiling and a High Ropes course. All returned happy but very tired. We are confident that this experience will serve as a community builder for this group of students. Over the past few weeks we have also had students participating in Swimming Carnivals, Athletics and Cross Country as well as Chess tournaments, Dance competitions and the Easter Show. They may need a rest over the holidays.

All parents would be aware that student attendance has been a major focus this year following an extensive review of attendance data from 2016. While a significant number of students have excellent attendance rates there is always room for improvement and we will continue to work with families where there are concerns. Absences add up quickly. In our discussions with families it is often a surprise for parents to learn how many days students have been absent. A 10% absence rate adds up to one day off per fortnight which is 4 weeks of school lost per year and more than an entire year of schooling across K-12. Anyone can get sick and some absences are unavoidable, however it is important for parents to set the standards. Allowing questionable absences tells our students that they do not have to turn up if they don't feel like it and they do not have to persevere when things get tough. This is not the message we want to send. We need to work together to communicate to our young people that they will need to demonstrate commitment and a strong work ethic to be successful in life.

Ken Wolffe

ANZAC DAY - APRIL 25th

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
Lest we forget.*

(extract from the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon)

Anzac Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions. Each year Orange holds an ANZAC Day March to remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice and lost their lives in wars that Australian troops have fought in. The Blacktown District has a history of many of our young people going to defend our country.

As a school community, our school strongly supports our armed forces both in Australia and overseas as they embrace most truly our own values of compassion, courage and hope.

ANZAC Day is an important day for our school and we will be commemorating our troops on 26 April 2017.

From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

Term One Interim Reports

Term One Interim Reports have been issued this week and this is a good opportunity for students to reflect on how they have begun the 2017 academic year. These reports provide feedback to both students and parents on the areas of classwork, homework, application and conduct in class. It is important that students take on board the feedback given to them by their teachers and continually seek ways to improve and strive to do their personal best in every subject.

Semester One reports will be issued at the end of term two, with parent-teacher interviews also to be held during this time. These reports will contain specific subject information, indicating the levels to which course outcomes have been achieved, as well as overall course grades. They will provide a summary of each student's academic progress for the first half of the year.

New Minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standard

The NSW Government has announced that from 2020, all Year 12 students must reach a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC.

Students undertaking Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017 (the Year 12 HSC students of 2020) will have the first opportunity to prequalify for the new minimum standard. Students may prequalify by achieving Band 8 or above in their Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests.

Students who have not prequalified will need to demonstrate they meet the standard by achieving a pass in new online reading, writing and numeracy tests that will be developed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). These online tests will be made available to students in Years 10-12 from 2018. Students with Band 8 or above in all three NAPLAN areas will not need the online NESA tests. Students with Band 8 in one or two areas will only need to sit the online NESA test in the area in which they scored below Band 8.

Secondary students should note that:

- the Year 9 NAPLAN language conventions test is not included as a prequalification requirement.
- the prequalification requirement can be achieved by Year 9 students only. Students in Years 5 or 7 who achieve Band 8 in NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests will NOT prequalify for the minimum standard.

Further information is available at

<http://www.stagnesrotyhill.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/210/UserFiles/Resources/minimum-standard-parents-p1.pdf>.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

School Reports

Term 1 Interim Reports were distributed on Tuesday. If they weren't received please collect them from the front office.

These reports are worth saving for future reference. By law the school is required to keep your child's school reports ONLY for the period of their secondary schooling.

We have had ex students, as far back as 1985, requesting a copy of reports. Reports are not kept indefinitely.

School reports are required to be submitted with senior high school, university, and Defense Force applications.

NOTE: - There will be a \$10 administration fee to retrieve and copy past school reports.

RAGE PROGRAM

The RAGE program is a 5 week anger management program for young people and introduces the topics of: reflecting on anger, recognising anger symptoms & identifying the different faces of anger.

RAGE is a strengths-based anger management program. It is a solution-focused program that is hands on, practical and also fun for participants. RAGE is run by trained staff in a youth friendly setting at WAAT Youth Health Service. RAGE is the intellectual property of RCI

Suitable for young people who:

- Want help dealing with anger or violence
- Have been suspended from school
- Have been in trouble for anger or violence
- Want to improve relationships with family & friends
- This program is for 12 - 18 year old young people

MONDAYS 1/5/17 to 29/5/17 3.30-5.30pm
@ WAAT Youth Health Service, Mt Druitt
Register- Call Nathan Kachwalla
Buran Close, Mt Druitt NSW 2770
Phone: (02) 9881-1230 Fax: (02)9625-9110

From the Acting Religious Education Coordinator

As we enter Holy Week, the lead up to Jesus' passion and ultimate sacrifice, may we each take the time to reflect on the true meaning of this season. I would like to thank the St Agnes community for their support and commitment to our Caritas fundraiser, led by Mr Sadsad and the Social Justice team, in ensuring that we help support those who are most in need. I wish you all a safe Easter period, spending time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Week 5 of Lent

"If you live according to my teaching, you are truly my disciples." (John 8:31)

Reflection

O Eternal Truth, true love and beloved eternity. You are my God. To You do I sigh day and night. When I first came to know You, you drew me to yourself so that I might see that there were things for me to see, but that I myself was not yet ready to see them. Meanwhile you overcame the weakness of my vision, sending forth most strongly the beams of your light, and I trembled at once with love and dread.

I sought a way to gain the strength, which I needed to enjoy you. But I did not find it until I embraced "the mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who is above all, God blessed for ever." He was calling me and saying: "I am the way of truth, I am the life."

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things, which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed you fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace. ... Saint Augustine

Lenten Fact

St. Leonard Casanova (1676-1751) of Porto Maurizio, Italy, reportedly erected over 600 sets of the Stations of the Cross throughout Italy.

Lenten Action

Surprise someone with an act of kindness.

Prayer

*God of mercy,
You wash away our sins in water,
You give us a new birth in the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood
of Christ.*

*As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, increase our awareness
of these blessings, and renew Your gift of life within us.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. Amen.*

Patrick Madigan

"Franciscan of the fortnight" Award



Year 7 - Ashanti Ellison 7.3

Ashanti is to be congratulated on her strong relationships she has developed, as well as the support she shows students within the school community. Her friendly demeanor and positive attitude are a fine example to others. Well Done Ashanti.

Year 8 - Prince Martin Gonzales

Prince Martin is to be congratulated for his service and dedication to life at St Agnes. He constantly volunteers to do things in homeroom, and assists with many events both at school and various competitions outside school. He takes pride in all aspects of St Agnes life, and is a great support to students and staff alike. Congratulations Prince Martin.

Year 9 - Jonathan Israel - 9.4

Jonathon is to be congratulated for his service and dedication to the day-to-day life at St Agnes. He constantly volunteers to do things in homeroom, and assists with many events at school. He takes pride in all aspects of school life, and is a great support to students and staff alike. Well Done Jonathon.

Year 10 - Michael Jabuka

Michael is to be commended for his service and dedication to ensuring a safe and supportive school community. Through his leadership role, Michael has shown true leadership through all he does, and is dedicated to all aspects of the St Agnes community. Congratulations Michael.

Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday, 22nd March, St Agnes held its annual Athletics Carnival at Blacktown International Sports Park.

The day started off cloudy but without a drop of rain it promptly began at 8am with the 800m and 400m track events. After a quick homeroom in the grandstand all students moved off to their age events. Despite the grounds being wet everyone is still excited to participate in the day.

Throughout the day each age group will rotate around the different events these include Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Discuss, Javelin and the 100m & 200m track events. All the students were encouraged to wear their house colors and participate in each of these events.

During the day it was evident that student participation was at a very high level with even Mr Sadsad getting involved the Long Jump. As the day continued the temperature increased so many people used umbrellas and water to keep cool, teachers even took some groups into the grandstand for some shade.

All in all, the Athletics Carnival was a huge success, with Xavier being crowned the winning house once again.

Natalie Sukkarieh & Mrs Tomich



SCHOOL RESUMES & WINTER UNIFORM

A reminder that school resumes for all students on Wednesday 26th April. Monday 24th April is a Staff Development Day. All students are required in full winter uniform which includes a blazer. Jumpers can be worn only UNDER your blazer.

For more clarification on our uniform policy please view our website page [School Uniform Policy](#).

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE

If you have paid your school fees, thank you. If you need to discuss school fees please contact the Business Manager, Mrs Kelly Pickett, on 8882 0702. Payment can be paid by Eftpos, Bpay, Postbill, Cash and Cheque.

PDSSSC Swimming Carnival

On Friday, 24th March, the annual PDSSSC Swimming Carnival was held at the Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush Bay. The carnival was attended by all of the Secondary Catholic Schools within the Parramatta Diocesan and there were hundreds of students participating.

Joel Lack, of Year 7, who raced in the 50m Freestyle, 50 Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke and 100m Freestyle, represented St Agnes Catholic High School.

Joel swam very well throughout the day, represented our school with pride and achieved some personal best times as well as finishing 6th in the 50m Breaststroke.

It was a great day and wonderful experience for Joel and I would like to congratulate him all on his achievements and thank Joel's parents for coming and support him on the day.

Mrs Ely
PDHPE Teacher



Why is a Rich Vocabulary Important?

Words are the currency of communication. A robust vocabulary improves all areas of a student's communication – listening, speaking, reading and writing. Having a broad vocabulary and being able to convey one's knowledge, understanding and opinions is important for success in all subject areas.



A robust vocabulary

- **Gives a student the ability to say what he/she means.** By having several words at their disposal for describing an event or emotion, they can be explicit when sharing their ideas and opinions.
- **Helps a student understand what other people are saying and what she/he is reading.** Vocabulary is the foundation for comprehension. Unfamiliar words become holes in the text, preventing a student from completely understanding what he or she has just read.
- **Bolsters a student's ability to grasp ideas and think more logically.** The greater number of words a student has, the more he or she can interpret ideas from others, and express their own ideas.
- **Boosts a student's power of persuasion.** Having a rich vocabulary will help a student communicate in a more engaging way. Relying on one or two words to describe an idea will be repetitive and not as persuasive, as relying on a vocabulary of 10-15 similarly descriptive terms.
- **Helps a student make a good impression on others.** How articulate a student is constitutes a big part of the impression she or he makes on others.
- <http://www.k5learning.com/blog/top-5-reasons-learning-vocabulary-important>

Tips for Fostering Vocabulary Development at Home

- Sometimes students prefer to 'play it safe' and only use familiar words that they can spell confidently. Encourage your child to use alternative or more descriptive/interesting words in their writing, even if they are not 100% sure of the correct spelling. Eg *big* - *enormous*, *expansive*, *stupendous*. *Nice* - *wonderful*, *delicious*, *congenial*. Being able to use a word appropriately is one skill and being able to spell it correctly

**CHRIST
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COLLEGE
COMMUNITY
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St Clare's
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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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is another. Both of these are important, but one should not create a barrier for the other.

- Talk about what they can do when they discover unknown words
 - Use a dictionary or thesaurus.
 - Try using context clues to find the meaning. Does the rest of the sentence or paragraph give you some clues?
 - Is this word similar to another word you already know?
 - Does the word have a prefix/suffix that you understand?
- Discuss the multiple meanings of some words and what context they can be used in.
- Notice new/interesting words when you're reading or watching television and discuss them with your child.
- Ask your child to explain in their own words what they think a word means.
- Encourage your child to play word games or puzzles such as Scrabble®, Boggle® and Scattergories®, or free word game apps.
- Ask your child to nominate the most interesting/effective word they have read in a text or used in their own piece of writing.
- Talk about the difference between informal language used in casual conversations and language used in a formal piece of writing.
- Encourage your child to read. A lot! Books, websites, magazines, signs, directions, recipes... the list is endless. A wide variety of reading material will expose them to a wide variety of new words.
- Talk about the importance of having a broad vocabulary and why we should all make an effort to keep expanding our vocabularies.

School Policies

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Agnes we expect each student to attend on every school day in each school term, and that punctuality and reliability are to be fostered. We consider that the development of these habits will contribute to the development of responsibility and self-discipline in each student and to an orderly school routine.

I would like to remind parents and students of routines and expectations particularly around punctuality in the morning and am seeking parents' support in this area.

The school day begins with Homeroom at 8.15am. Any student who arrives at the school after 8:15am must obtain a late note from the Student Office.

A student who is absent from the school on any day is required to present to their Learning Advisor, on the day of their return, a note from a parent/guardian explaining their absence. This note is required irrespective of the required phone call.

Behaviour Management Policy

Interviews with students regarding behavior are based on procedural fairness, and a right to an unbiased decision. Corporal punishment is not a procedure used in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Complaints

Complaints are addressed in a timely manner applying principles of natural justice and confidentiality. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Stage Coordinator in the first instance regarding any problems affecting their child. The Principal and Assistant Principal are available to discuss any matters which cannot be resolved in a timely manner.

Diary Use

Students have been asked to use their diary to assist planning. All homework and assignments must be written in the diary. It is essential for parents/guardians to check the diary weekly. The diary is our primary mode of communication between home and school and assists our students as learners. If you have noticed your child is not using the diary as required or you have any concerns please contact the appropriate Year Coordinator.

Fees

Difficulty Paying Fees?

A reminder to parents that the Term 1 fee accounts are now overdue. Should you be experiencing any difficulties with payment of fees please don't hesitate to contact either the Business Manager Mrs Kelly Pickett Ph 8882 0702 to discuss the matter. All matters relating to the payment of fees are discussed in the strictest of confidence.

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

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Doonside

Ph: 02 9831 1817

Fax: 02 9831 6430

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From the Bishops Office

Sign up to be the first to find out when the app is released!

The Diocese of Parramatta is developing an app to help you keep in touch with what is happening in the Catholic Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

'Come and See' Weekend Retreats for Women

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. These retreats offer a one-to-one encounter and include prayer time, talks and accompaniment. Bring only a holy Bible and a smile! Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. For more information contact Sr Paula tel 0451 965 638, vocationscsfn@gmail.com

Journey through Holy Week with Catholic Youth Parramatta: 9 & 14 April

All are invited to join youth and young adults of the Diocese for the Palm Sunday Procession, WYD Mass & Event at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta on Sunday 9 April. The procession down Church Street with Bishop Vincent will depart at 5.30pm from Parramatta Town Hall following a short liturgy.

On Friday 14 April the Good Friday Night Walk will take place at 10.00pm through the night departing St Patrick's Church at Blacktown and concluding at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta at 7am.

Building on the success of more than 1300 participating last year, the journey will again take us through the parishes of Blacktown, Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Parramatta.

Further details on Catholic Youth Parramatta Facebook Events. Inquiries to James Camden, Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta, (02) 8838 3428 or jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au

The Office of Tenebrae: 10 April

Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. A Holy Week reflection liturgy with Scripture, psalm chanting and motets. St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta, at 7.30pm.

Chrism Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral: 12 April

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will preside at this year's Chrism Mass, which will be concelebrated by the priests of the Diocese of Parramatta, assisted by the deacons. During the Mass, the Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick will be blessed and the Oil of Chrism consecrated. These holy oils will then be given to the parishes for use during the year. During the Mass, the priests renew their commitment to priestly service. Everyone is welcome. Mass at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Stations of the Cross at Mt Schoenstatt on Good Friday: 14 April

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Let the consequences do the teaching

Behavioural consequences are a parent's best friends. When consistently applied consequences will improve kids' behaviour and increase personal responsibility.

Related: Reasonably Respectful

Too often parents will overtalk or repeat themselves to get cooperation from their kids. Too much talk and most modern kids tune out.

Alternatively, parents who protect their kids from the consequences of poor or selfish behaviour aren't doing them any favours as they are robbing them of terrific learning opportunities.

I love the notion of behavioural consequences as they teach kids to take responsibility for their lives and to make smarter choices.

Parents can use two types of consequences - logical and natural consequences.

A logical consequence is used more frequently in family situations. They require adult intervention and are used when their behaviour disturbs other people. A child who makes a noise in the family room is asked to leave, children who refuse to clean their toys lose them for a period of time, and teenagers who come home late from a party lose the right to go out next time.

The 3 R's of consequences

Consequences often involve the withdrawal of a privilege or a right. For example, a teenager who spends more time than agreed on Facebook, may lose access to technology for a day or two.

Restitution, or making up to someone for unfair treatment or for loss of a possession is another form of consequence. A child who willfully breaks his sister's toy may make full or part payment for a replacement. In both these examples the consequences are related to children's misdeeds, and are **reasonable** and **respectful** of their dignity.

A natural consequence involves NO adult interference. For instance, a child who leaves an excursion note at home will miss the excursion, a child who spends all his pocket money on the first day will have nothing for the weekend and a child who oversleeps and misses the bus walks to school. In these examples, children learn from the direct consequences of their own decisions and thus they are not protected from negative outcomes from their parents.

Here are four simple tips to help make sure your consequences are effective:

Tip 1: Set consequences like a neutral cop.
Issue a consequence using sarcasm or anger and your kids will be angry at you. Issue it like a neutral cop free from emotion or without being heavy-handed and your kids are more likely to be mad at themselves.

Tip 2: When possible, negotiate consequences prior to engaging in new activities.
If your young person is going out for the first time with friends at night, talk about their behaviour and home time. Also discuss the likely consequences if kids don't stick to the agreement. As a rule, kids are more likely to abide by consequences when they've had a say in deciding them.

Tip 3: Avoid life sentences.
Ban a child from going out for a few days rather than leaving the duration open-ended. Set a time frame for the consequences and remember the second of the 3 R's - **reasonable** - means that parents shouldn't go overboard with consequences.

Tip 4: Don't acquiesce to tantrums...or guilt.
If your child issues a threat saying something like, "There's no way you can make me come home at six o'clock. Don't risk to the bath. Defect to my saying. We'll talk about this tomorrow." Don't give into the threats of running away or non-cooperation. "Thank you for letting me know. I'll be home at six o'clock. I want what is best for you." Avoid stating what you would love to say, which might sound like, "Thank you for running away. You wouldn't last more than two days before you are back here begging for a good feed and comfortable bed!"
Bite your tongue instead, and let the consequences do the teaching!

For more practical ideas to help you raise happy confident kids, subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael's free email newsletter at parentingideas.com.au. You'll get a free Chores & Responsibilities Guide when you do.

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