

St Agnes Catholic High School

ph: 8882 0700 fax: 8882 0790

email:stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au

to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au Follow us on FACEBOOK: StAgnesRootyHill

Diary Dates

30 November

Year 8 Bline to Wetlands, Homebush Year 7 Drumming Excursion

30 Nov - 4 December Loyola Senior High School Orientation

1 December
Christmas Liturgy
"Road to Bethlehem"

8 December Year 10 Graduation Day

9 December
Formal Night

11 December
Academic/Sport Award
Ceremony

16 December
Last Day for Students

17-18 December
Staff Development Days



21-22 January Administration Office/ Uniform Shop Open

27 January
Staff Return to School

28 January
Year 7 Commence

27 November 2015

The last Sunday of the Church's year is dedicated to the feast of Christ the King. It is an opportunity, before Advent begins another Christian year, to touch once more the core experience of our faith. There was a sign on the cross of Jesus, which said 'the king of the Jews'. When you see a crucifix these days, it is often represented by the initials INRI (which represent in Latin 'Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews'). Pilate, who had the sign put up, was being ironic.

Nobody looked less like a king than Jesus on the cross. But we believe that this is how God chooses to show leadership in our world. It is a reminder that a Christian sees the world differently. Sometimes, common sense values are turned upside down

Peter Brogan

Peter Brogan Principal



A Prayer for Advent

O God of promise, with cloud and fire, by day and by night, you led Israel from slavery to the land of milk and honey.

Show us your path; teach us to trust you.

O God of promise, through your prophets and angels, with wonders and signs, you prepared the way for Jesus.

Show us your path; teach us to follow to you.

O God of promise, from the manger in Bethlehem to the empty tomb, you walked with the least and the lost.

Show us your path; teach us to rely on you.

O God of promise, in water, bread, and wine, in Advent word, you draw our eyes to your coming at the end of time.

Show us your path; teach us to delight in you.

Amen.

CAPA Night has been CANCELLED

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

From the Assistant Principal, Mr Peter Regan

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet - the same colour as used in Lent.

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet.

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. The Gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us. Especially as our lives become extremely hectic and chaotic during the festive season and the end of the school year.

Lord Jesus,
as we patiently wait,
open our hearts so that they
may be filled with your light and love.

The students of St Agnes have been involved in many events over the past term. It is rewarding to see the amount of talent that we have at our school. I have been extremely proud and privileged to watch our students participate in many sporting events, Captivate Dance, Choir and the CAPA Night. Congratulations to the winning house for this year - Chisholm - who will make the annual trek to Jamberoo.

I would also like to say thank you to our parents/guardians who continually support the many initiatives we have at St Agnes Catholic High School. We are all learning every day, and growing both individually and as a community.

I would encourage our students and parents to speak out if they see things happening in our school, which are not consistent with our values. The members of our Executive are always available to discuss your concerns. We must all take responsibility for making our school a place where every member feels welcomed and accepted.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Regan Assistant Principal

a diverse community learning together

From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator, Mr Laurence De Martin

Year 10 Record of Student Achievement (RoSA)

On Wednesday, 9 December, Year 10 students will be able to access their RoSA grades via the Students Online facility (http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/) provided by the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES). Year 10 students should become familiar with this website as it will provide them with a wealth of information as they enter Years 11 & 12.

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

Transition to Year 11

Over the next week our Year 10 students will be visiting Loyola Senior High School as part of their Year 11 Orientation Program for 2016. Students will experience the elective subjects they have selected for their final two years of schooling, as well as visit the Trade Training Centre for those who have elected this pathway.

Commencing a new school with new teachers, studying different subjects and receiving greater amounts of homework and assessment tasks will all be part of a senior students experience next year. The transition from Year 10 to Year 11 can be quite an overwhelming one for many students, particularly if they do not have effective study skills in place to cope with these demands.

Students who are successful in the Higher School Certificate years of study are those who are committed to their studies and have excellent time management strategies in place. Students who are able to remain focused and eliminate any distractions should be able to succeed. Developing positive study habits early in Year 11 will hold students in good stead towards meeting the many challenges presented to them throughout their final Higher School Certificate year.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

Apple Store Online Portal and In Store Purchasing

CEDP Family Funded Apple Store Purchasing Information

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

Product Purchase and Pricing

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

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

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

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

Apple Store, Penrith
Phone +61 2 4702 9420
penrithbusiness@apple.com



Christmas Items eg. Bon Bons, Tinsel, Christmas Plates / Serviettes

Tins of Shoulder Ham

Christmas Cake/ Pudding

Long life Custard/Cream/Milk

Tins of Fruit

Lollies

Chips

Biscuits

Salsa

Drinks eg. Soft drink, fruit juice, cordial

Rice

Jellies

Condiments eg Jam, Honey, Vegemite

Coffee / Tea / Sugar

Hot Chocolate

Milo

Gravox

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

Pasta, Pasta Sauces

Meal Base Ingredients

From the Religious Education Coordinator Ms Julie Atkins

Gospel Reflection Sunday November 22, 2015

Christ the King

I was reading the reflection from "The Word Among Us", a Catholic devotional online website, which expressed beautifully Sunday's Gospel. I have included some of it here for you -

What a beautiful picture John paints of Jesus, the King we celebrate today! He is the "firstborn," "faithful," "ruler" who has "made us into a kingdom" (Revelation 1:5, 6).

Reading this passage, we might come away with the idea that as King, Jesus has everything sewn up. He is enthroned in glory, and we are enjoying our life in his kingdom.

But that's not exactly how things are, is it? We know there is still suffering in the world. We know there is still sin in the world. We even know there is still sin and temptation in our own lives! It seems like a contradiction, doesn't it?

Not really. While Jesus truly is the King of kings and Lord of lords, he has not yet come back to take full possession of his kingdom. And that means that his enemy, the devil, is still out there, engaging us in a battle with his lies and temptations. His main strategy is to conquer us through complacency. He knows that if he can fill our minds with doubt, worry, and self-centered thoughts, we'll become indifferent to God. We'll also become dull to the Holy Spirit's presence and live only for ourselves.

This is why the Mass is so important. At Mass, we remember and celebrate the power of Jesus' resurrection. But even more than that, we receive Jesus in the form of bread and wine. He comes to feed us with his grace and his power so that we can be strengthened for the battle. His word helps us stay clear-minded, and his Body and Blood give us divine grace and favour.

So when you come to Mass, come with an open heart. Come before your King, and let him feed your heart and your mind. Come and confess that his grace is the only way you can possibly win the battle. Call on him, and he will come to your defense.

"All hail to you, King Jesus! You are my comfort in affliction and my strength in battle!"

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival

On December 3 four Year 9 students along with myself will be traveling to Adelaide in South Australia to participate in the Australian Youth Festival. The students representing St Agnes are Gabrielle Norton, Kylee Ball, Piadora Rahme and Martin Mangahas.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival occurs every two years. It brings together Catholic students from years 10 to 12 from all of Australia. The Festival presents relevant keynote speakers for youth, also small group opportunities for students to participate in, celebration of the eucharist and other activities for students to engage further with their faith.

We will be returning, hopefully refreshed after a jam-packed 4 days spent at the Festival. We return Sunday December 6, ready to head back to school on December 7.

We are all excited, as the festival is getting closer, and ask that you keep us in your prayers whist we are away.

Bethlehem

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

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

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

In our next newsletter we will include photos of the performance.

Julie Atkins
Religious Education Coordinator





As you would be aware there are a lot of needy families in our community. Part of the St Agnes tradition is to help support these families in our Annual Christmas Hamper collection for St Vincent De Paul.

We invite all our community to bring Christmas decorations, Christmas puddings, and non-perishable goods that families can use on Christmas Day.

When we get involved as a community to help our neighbours who are in need, then our love for God is manifested through this action.



Congratulations to Mrs Diane Clifton, our Canteen Manager, for receiving a 5 star rating from the Blacktown City Council Health inspector last Friday. She continually maintains a healthy and friendly environment in the Canteen for all at St Agnes.





On Sunday 22 November Gabbie Oca, Carlos Huelgas, Sheryl Galacio, Crystal Jueco and Eric Regalado represented St Agnes Catholic High School on stage in the Kool Skools Competition 2015.

There were 30 schools that participated in the Kool Skools Competition, which is a nation-wide songwriting project offered to state and private schools and colleges.

The NSW entries included Northern Beaches Christian School, Balgowlah Boys Campus, St Andres College, St Agnes CHS, Mackellar Girls Campus, St Clare's CHS, Gilroy Catholic College, Xavier College, John Paul II College, McCarthy Catholic College, Delany College and Canterbury Girls High School.

Gabbie, Carlos and Sheryl were awarded the Special Judges' Award for Songwriting and Performance for their track 'Would You'.

Brianna Raymond was nominated for *Best Mainstream Artist* with her track "Take Me With You".

Kylee Angelika Ball was nominated for *Best Acoustic Track* singing "If You're Reading this Letter".

Nominated for Best RnB Track - "ILY" was Hanok Basaznew and Gabbie Oca, Carlos Huelgas and Sheryl Galacio with "Would You".

Eric Regalado performed his original track 'Winter' on the awards night.

St Agnes has three entries that are featured in the top 100 tracks for all Kool Skool entries - 'ILY' by Hanok Basaznew, 'Would You' by Gabbie Oca, Carlos Huelgas, Sheryl Galacio and 'Take Me With You' by Brianna Raymond.

Kool Skool's Top 100 Songs are featured on the following link: https://soundcloud.com/paul52/sets/kool-skools-best-of-2015-selection

Students, staff members, family and friends are welcomed to attend our CAPA Night tonight, 27 November 2015 between 6-8pm, where you can listen to our students who featured on our Kool Skool album.

The official album will be launched on the CAPA Night and an opportunity to meet and greet the performers for an autograph. Albums will be sold for \$10.

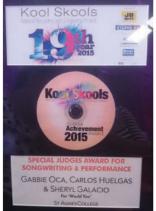
Thank you to all students for representing the school in such a positive manner and giving the audience a stellar performance showcasing your many talents.

We are both very proud to mentor these students and give them these opportunities to develop their musical skills.









Robert Weaver & Jeunelle Juarez Music Teachers









Knox Grammar Chess Tournament 2015

On Sunday, 8^{th} November 2015 five students from St Agnes' Chess Team took part in the Knox Grammar Chess Tournament.

Team A: Edmond Luk, Nathan Luk and Reuben Rajlawot

Team B: John Gomez, Stephen Atalla

The boys showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship on the day playing against their opponents from various schools around the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Thank you to the all boys who participated, and their parents who came to show their support on the day.

We look forward to many more chess competitions next year!

Jeunelle Juarez Chess Coordinator



Ms Juarez with Nathan Luk, Reuben Rajlawot, Edmond Luk, John Gomez & Stephen Atalla



















FAO: School Principal

Dear Sir/Madam,

NEW BUSWAYS TIMETABLE FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

Commencing Sunday 29 November 2015, all Busways services in Western Sydney will have new timetables.

These feature revised departure, arrival and trip times, to improve reliability and maintain train connections.

This will also mean new accessible trips across the network.

These changes could affect your connections with the school buses.

Please visit the following link for more information http://www.busways.com.au/information/news/bus-network-changes-western-sydney-region

Changes to SSTS applications and the introduction of the School Opal card.

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) gives eligible students free or subsidised travel between home and school, on the approved train, bus or ferry services.

From term one 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process.

The introduction of the new School Opal card and online application form will provide significant benefits for schools:

Automatic renewal

Most parents, guardians and students won't need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school student travel pass and will automatically receive a School Opal card in 2016.

However, parents, guardians and students will need to apply if the student:

- · is just starting school and has not had a pass before
- is in a transition year (i.e., year 2 to 3, or 6 to 7)
- is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school
- or, if the student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Reduced distribution

While School Opal cards will automatically sent to schools for existing pass holders for distribution for travel in term one, all new applications received for travel from the start of 2016 will be sent directly to the student's nominated address.

Online application form

Schools will no longer need to keep the SSTS application form as parents, guardians and students can go online from 2 November 2015 to complete their application form, print it out and return it to the school.

Fewer forms

Schools will only need to endorse a single application form for each student's eligible address and send it to a single address (Locked Bag 5085, Parramatta 2124) even if they are applying for multiple services.

Simplified replacement process

Schools won't need to endorse additional applications for lost, stolen or damaged passes, as parents, guardians and students simply need to visit www.transportnsw.info/school-students or call 131 500 to order a

new School Opal card. Schools can continue to follow their current processes for students who have lost their pass.

Online eligibility assessment

The new online application portal will automatically assess eligibility based on distance rules.

Same eligibility rules

The eligibility rules for subsidised school travel remain the same for travel inside and outside the Opal network. Students may need to live a minimum distance away their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance or further.

Schools can find out more about the School Student Transport Scheme at transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools

How you can help?

- Display the enclosed poster on the school noticeboard.
- Distribute the flyers to students and parents.
- Encourage applicants to go online to apply for 2016 travel in the Opal network via your
 communication channels. The application is available at transportnsw.info/school-students. Paper
 forms that have already been completed and submitted to Transport for NSW or a transport operator
 will be processed and do not need to be resubmitted.
- Responsibly dispose of any remaining blue SSTS application forms.
- Add digital tiles and banners to add to your website when they arrive via email.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Passes and Schemes on 02 9891 8900 or 1800 227 774.

Thank you for your support.

Transport for NSW

SEEKING MENTORS

Would you like to give something back to your community?

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's Post School Options Team is looking for suitable employers to provide one-on-one mentoring in the workplace for secondary students. We are seeking people in small business who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program, on a voluntary basis.

The volunteer mentor, hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week for 2 school terms (May to September, excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are provided with complimentary mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment 'Mentoring in the Community' for their participation.

Employers can be from any industry, as an individual in a trade areaclerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty, or connected to a major employer for example, Bunnings. Or Woolworths etc.

Please consider this call for assistance so that this program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities. If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact Leoni Jeavons-Fellows, Coordinator Post School Options on 0424 750 583



YEAR 7/2016 ORIENTATION DAY

On Wednesday 25 November 2015 St Agnes was full of life and brand new faces; it was Year 7/2016 Orientation Day! We welcomed new students with icebreakers, tips from the peer support leaders, academic advice, introduction to student life, and an amazing BBQ lunch! We look forward to welcoming all new students in 2016.

Olympic Park Wetlands – Year 8 Geography Excursion

Tuesday, 24 November, half of the Year 8 cohort ventured out on a Wetlands expedition.

The Olympic Park Educators treated our intrepid geographers with care and professionalism and our students responded with enthusiasm. They were engaged, excited and well behaved.

We learned about the history of the Wetlands, its uses and abuses of the land in Homebush Bay and finally, we learned about the value of this unique environment and the need to protect it.

Students tasted the leaves of mangrove trees, tested the ph levels and acidity of the water. They measured the humidity in the rain the strength of the wind and the temperature of the wetlands. They analysed and recorded the flora and fauna and learned how natural filters such as reeds help to clean the storm water polluted by industry.

Both teachers and students enjoyed the day and were grateful for their learned guides who obviously had a passion for what they do.

Many thanks to the Year 8 students and their supportive teachers, Mrs Beckett, Mrs Copping, Mr Azzopardi and Mr Sadsad.

This experience will be repeated with the remainder of Year 8 students on the 30 November. Hopefully they will find the experience equally as valuable.

Ms Bonita Carlin HSIE Coordinator





TAX FILE APPLICATION PROCESS

From 1 January 2015 the Australian Taxation Office. in partnership with Australia Post, has been making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'. If you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday Watch this video http://tv.ato.gov.au/atotv/media?v=bd1bdiubkctq5u

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

St Aidan's Primary 1-5 Adelaide Street Rooty Hill

Ph: 02 9625 3181 Fax: 02 9625 5612

Sacred Heart Primary

23 Nelson Street Mt Druitt South Ph: 02 9625 8733 Fax: 02 9832 2258

Holy Family Primary
Weber Crescent
Emerton

Ph: 02 9628 9232 Fax: 02 9628 9589

St John Vianney's Primary

17 Cameron Street
Doonside

Ph: 02 9831 1817 Fax: 02 9831 6430

a diverse community learning together

Campbelltown Art Gallery - Year 8 Art

As part of their learning and appreciation of Art in our Society, Year 8 students were afforded the opportunity to attend The Fisher's Ghost Exhibition at the Campbelltown Art Gallery on 10 and 17 November 2015.

The Fisher's Ghost Award was open to all professional and amateur artists, including a student entry section.

There were an astounding variety of artworks in different genres and techniques on show.

Students were involved in artist led workshops. One of these artists, Linda Brescia, was a former St Agnes student and school captain in the 1970s.

As an audience students were able to engage in these artworks and offer ideas and opinions. The Educational Officer, Edwina Hill, was very impressed with the insightful comments some of our students made.

Thankyou to Miss Valleri, Miss Juarez, Mr Madigan, Mr Weaver, Miss Gale, Mrs Copping and Mrs Rutkin for their help in making these excursions successful.

Here's what some of our students had to say about their experience:

I enjoyed viewing the artworks around the museum the most as it was interesting to see what artists have created. Kimberlie Casal.

Personally, I enjoyed drawing self-portraits in the workshop as I had a better understanding of how to draw portraits overall. Anonymous

I enjoyed the activities, especially the puppet making. Angelique Mangahas.

I liked the whole day including Macca's. Jade Meilak

Anneke Reemst
CAPA Coordinator



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



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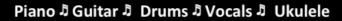
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Skoolbag is a mobile App that allows communications between the school and parents and students. It works through smartphones and smart devices eq. iPads, tablets. You can

- receive push alerts for
 - Notifications
 - School events
 - Newsletter releases
 - Important school notices.
- · send through student absence notifications through the eForms tab.
- search any information parents will need to know.



Skool**bag**



