



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

20-21 October

Year 7 Swim School

20-31 October

Yr 10 & Stage 5

Elective Assessment
Block

1 November

All Saints Day

2 November

All Souls Day

3-10 November

Yr 7-9 Assessment
Block

10 November

Yr7/2015 Information
Evening

12 November

Yr 9 Boys Vaccinations

14 November

Yr 7 Brainstorm
incursion

18 November

St Agnes Chess
Championship

21 November

CAPA Showcase
Evening

Yr 10 Reflection Day

17 October 2014

Dear Parents

Our home is the first school for our children and we parents are powerful models. What we say and do, is recorded by our children, and possibly used as evidence against us if we are seen to be inconsistent in our expectations of them yet fail to have an equal expectation of ourselves. Because we are the main caregivers, we provide the major influence on our children's lives.

We constantly demand respect from our children but it is not something that we should take for granted. Like most things of real value, respect has to be earned. The best way for us to earn respect is to give respect.

It is not easy to be a model for another human being but it is a big part of every parent's role. There is a saying that, "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been". Hopefully that will be the explanation for our wrinkles as our time as a role model gives way to our children making their own grown-up choices and, perhaps, taking upon themselves the mantle of role model.

As parents we provide children with a basic "road map" for navigating through life by equipping them with a variety of skills, beliefs, attitudes and most importantly values. We know that children need praise, encouragement and kind words to strengthen their self image and to make them feel that they are important members of our family and community. Just as important is their willingness to understand that they need to obey, that no means NO and that they will receive all they need and a conservative amount of those things they want.

Parenting is a balancing act with common sense as a good yardstick.

God, our Father,

You have gifted us with parenthood.

*Strengthen us when we have feelings of inadequacy
and are fearful of our own failings.*

Give us courage when we underestimate our own capabilities.

Encourage us to open our hearts fully to the working of your Spirit in our lives.

Amen.

*Peter Regan
Acting Principal*



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

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

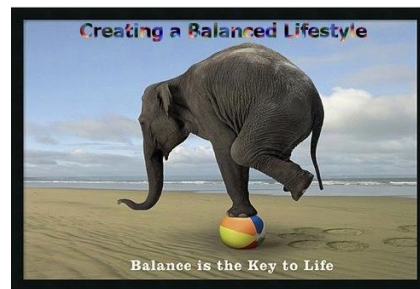
Loyola Senior
High School
91 North Parade
Mt Druitt
Ph: 02 9832 4455
Fax: 02 9832 1839

*a diverse
community
learning
together*



From the Assistant Principal

In recent assemblies I had the opportunity to discuss with students the importance of 'getting a balance' in their lives. Term 4 is a hectic time in regards to assessments and examinations. It is always encouraged that your sons/daughters fully commit to their studies and always strive to achieve their best. It is of great importance that, while pushing themselves, students have an understanding of the importance of having a balanced lifestyle and that they don't experience 'Burnout' at such a young age.



Here are some tips to prevent burnout:

- Healthy eating, exercising and sleeping habits
- Take extended breaks from technology
- Learn how to manage your stress
- Set limits and boundaries
- Explore your creative side

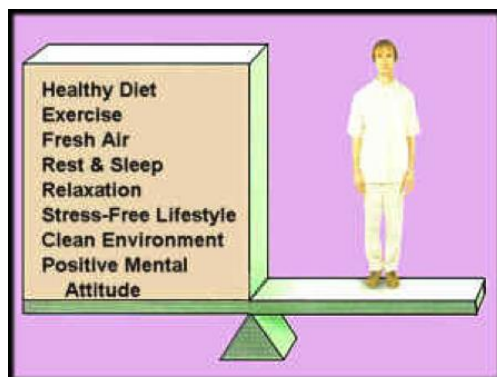
At St Agnes we address these areas across our curriculum, in particular in our Pastoral Care and PDHPE programs. At the end of last term our student leaders promoted R U OK Day, where students were encouraged to communicate with their peers concerning their mental well being. Too often we assume those closest to us are doing OK. Mental Health issues within Australia are on the rise, therefore the importance of looking after ourselves needs to be emphasised both in school and at home.

Encourage your child to play a team sport, join a youth group or go out and get their first part-time job. All of these outlets provide an opportunity for them to further develop their inner-being whilst providing a balance needed in their everyday lives.

If you feel your child is not coping with the stresses of everyday life, in particular their schooling, please feel free to contact the school to make use of our available support structures available. Alternatively, you can access our [school website](#) where you will find an extensive list of 'external student support' contacts for a range of areas requiring assistance including Mental Health agencies.

Please don't hesitate in contacting me if you have any concerns with any aspects related to your son's/daughter's education either by phone 8882 0722 or email jcruickshank@parra.catholic.edu.au.

John Cruickshank
Acting Assistant Principal





From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator

During Term 4 students will be undertaking final assessment tasks in each of their subjects. Many of these tasks will take the form of an examination. An examination period can often be a stressful and overwhelming time for many students. It is therefore most appropriate that I provide students with some strategies to help them best prepare for their upcoming examinations.

Two Weeks Before the Exam

- Make up a set of study notes for each exam.
- Each set of study notes should summarise any readings, class notes and any handouts.
- Type up the study notes so they are easily readable.
- Use highlighters to accentuate important ideas and concepts.
- For the next two weeks, read through your study notes three times each day. Do *not* try too hard to memorise the information. Just read the notes once, three times per day.
- Practice answering examination style questions.

The Night Before the Exam

- Read your study notes as usual.
- Go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.
-

The Day of the Exam

- Set your alarm and get up early.
- Read your study notes one more time before the examination.
-

During the Exam

- If you feel tense, relax, take a deep breath, and remember that you know the material because you've been reviewing it for the past two weeks.
- Read the entire exam before beginning to write.
- Read each question a second time, then answer that question.
- Keep your eye on the time while taking the exam, allowing enough time to finish.
- Avoid focusing on one question and running out of time on others.
- Use the entire exam period rather than rushing through the paper.
-

Below is the Years 7-9 Term 4 Examination block. A copy of it has also been placed on the school website and Moodle. I encourage all students to work to their very best this term and have a successful end to the 2014 academic year.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

St. Agnes Catholic High School

Years 7-9 Term 4 Examination Block: Monday 3rd – Monday 10th November 2014, San Damiano Centre

Session	Monday Day 1 – 3 rd Nov	Tuesday Day 2 – 4 th Nov	Wednesday Day 3 – 5 th Nov	Thursday Day 4 – 6 th Nov	Friday Day 5 – 7 th Nov	Monday Day 6 – 10 th Nov
Periods 1/2 Students to go to normal Period 2 lesson at the completion of the exam	Year 7 Maths	Year 7 PDHPE	Year 7 Science Year 9 Maths (in normal classes)	Year 8 PDHPE	Year 7 CL	Year 9 Geography
Periods 3/4 Students to go to normal Period 4 lesson at the completion of the exam	Year 9 PDHPE	Year 8 Maths	Year 8 Science	Year 9 Religion	Year 9 Science	Year 8 Religion
Period 5			Catch Up Exam Time		Catch Up Exam Time	



From the Religious Education Coordinator

Staff Spirituality Day

On Friday 19 September, whilst students enjoyed an early start to the school holidays, staff enjoyed a pleasant day engaging in our Franciscan Charism with Fr John Boyd-Boland. Fr John led staff in a deep and reflective conversation of what it is to be Franciscan and how we can best model these virtues within an educational context. Fr John who resides and is School Chaplain for Padua College, Kedron in Brisbane brought many years of experience and wisdom to our staff and it was certainly a beneficial and enlightening day. We look forward to implementing in the near future the numerous ideas and suggestions that were discussed.



Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

The feast of St Francis falls on the 4th October every year. This year St Agnes came together as a school community to celebrate not only the Feast of St Francis, but also the 35th anniversary of St Francis being named the patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II in 1979. All students received a celebratory lapel pin for the 35th anniversary and all of our Year 7 and 8 students received a Tau cross, the cross that St Francis wore and included as part of his signature.

We celebrated Mass with Fr Pat Mullins, who in his ever enthusiastic manner was able to inspire us to look at the wonder and awe of nature, where we see God's presence, just as St Francis did in his time. Mr Regan and Mr Cruikshank planted a memorial olive tree in remembrance of the 35th anniversary. We look forward to taking part in another celebration of St Francis' feast day next October.



Peace and All Good, Pace e Bene!!

Julie Atkins

Religious Education Coordinator

St Francis Feast Mass



More photos on our website under Galleries



Information Technology Creativity

MaKey MaKey is an invention kit for the 21st century. It can turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the Internet.

Any material that can conduct at least a tiny bit of electricity will work with the MaKey MaKey clips including ketchup, pencil graphite, finger paint, fruit, etc. Alligator clips connect two objects to the MaKey MaKey board, for example, you and a banana or you and pencilled shapes drawn on a piece of paper.

When you touch the object you make a connection, and MaKey MaKey sends the computer a keyboard message. The computer thinks MaKey MaKey is a regular keyboard (or mouse) and produces a response. The object on the computer moves or makes a sound.

Students worked in collaborative teams and challenged each other's ideas in Mr Khan's Information Technology Elective class, loaded up the computer program Pacman and drew touch pads on a piece of paper with a pencil. By touching the drawing the lead transferred electricity through the MaKey MaKey device to play Pacman.

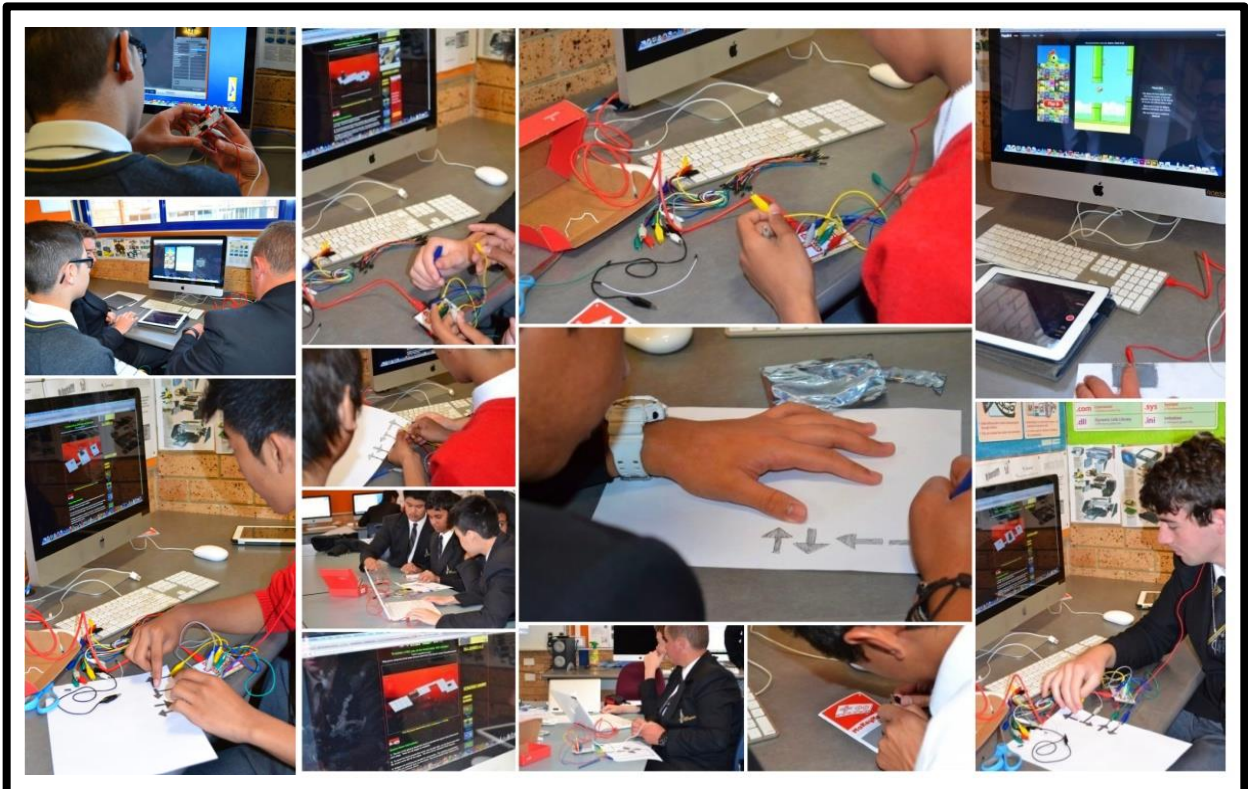
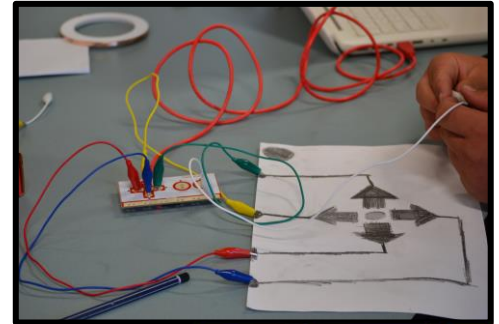
Other ways to use MaKey MaKey are:

- load up facebook or gmail and send a message on a custom-made alphabet-soup keyboard
- hook up the MaKey MaKey to something fun, like bananas, and the bananas become piano keys

For more information on how MaKey MaKey can be used visit mackeymackey.com.

Usman Khan

Information Technology Teacher





eValuating Our Year 8 Have a go, Share and eValue iPad Program

At the start of 2014 we launched our 1:1 iPad program with our Year 8 students. These students have been using their iPads in all subject areas to help explore lesson content and activities.

This process is a reflection of the commitment of staff to integrate modern technology into our curriculum and recognition of your child's attitude to learning within a technological environment.

Last term our Year 8 students were asked to reflect on our 1:1 iPad program. They were provided with a series of questions that allowed them to share their thoughts and feelings towards using an iPad to assist their learning. The staff and leadership team of St Agnes have examined the students' feedback to improve our teaching and learning.

Below are three interesting results from the survey. A PDF version of the students' feedback is available from our website <http://www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au> (Student names have been removed from the uploaded results.)

Damien McGuire

Emerging Technologies Coordinator

I feel that the iPad and its Apps have helped me improve my learning.		
Response	Average	Total
Agree	<div><div></div></div> 65%	114
Slightly Agree	<div><div></div></div> 28%	50
Unsure	<div><div></div></div> 3%	6
Slightly Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 1%	2
Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 2%	4
Total	<div><div></div></div> 100%	176/176

I am more able to show my teacher what I have learnt by using my iPad instead of a pen and paper.		
Response	Average	Total
Agree	<div><div></div></div> 44%	78
Slightly Agree	<div><div></div></div> 36%	64
Unsure	<div><div></div></div> 11%	19
Slightly Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 7%	12
Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 2%	3
Total	<div><div></div></div> 100%	176/176

I enjoy my subject lessons that allow me to use my iPad more than those that don't.		
Response	Average	Total
Agree	<div><div></div></div> 59%	104
Slightly Agree	<div><div></div></div> 28%	49
Unsure	<div><div></div></div> 7%	12
Slightly Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 3%	6
Disagree	<div><div></div></div> 3%	5
Total	<div><div></div></div> 100%	176/176

YEAR 9 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY





Sign and Graphic Industry Work Inspiration

Last term Micah Romero, Year 10, attended a three-day Sign and Graphic Industry Work Inspiration Program facilitated by the Visual Industries Suppliers Association (VISA), AusSip and the Parramatta Catholic Education Office.

This program gave him the opportunity to gain practical experience in the design and manufacture processes associated with the graphics industry.

Micah had the opportunity to work with leaders in the field of graphic design including Graphic Art Mart, Roland and Hewlett Packard, creating and producing various posters and career boards as well as gaining exposure to laser cutting, t-shirt and sign printing.

On the last day of the course Micah presented his work and shared his learning journey with other participants, graphic industry mentors and teachers.

Below is a reflection from Micah ...

Being up against other Year 11 and 12 students from other Parramatta schools, I was one of the lucky students to experience the Sign and Graphic industry. This program was organised by the local Mount Druitt TAFE but held at Sydney Showgrounds in Homebush. It allowed me to experience car wrapping, neon letter crafting and designing my own t-shirt. The program was a great experience especially because I am interested in working in the designing and creative work of the industry.



Damien McGuire
TAS Teacher



History Elective Excursion to Madame Tussauds

Madame Tussauds is known for displaying wax statues of celebrities and world known people. With only 17 museums around the world, Sydney is lucky to be able to provide such an exciting tourist attraction.

On the 17 September 2014 History Elective students were given the fantastic opportunity to attend the gallery in Sydney. We boarded the train at Rooty Hill station and arrived in Sydney one hours later. Upon arriving we had a small snack, enjoying the amazing scenery before finally entering the exhibition.

We were all excited, especially the first time attendees. We went on a guided tour seeing the making process of the wax statues, and were then allowed to roam through the exhibition, touch the statues and take photos with the celebrities. It was unbelievable how real the statues looked, even their height and foot size are the same as the real person. Photos were taken with historical figures, world leaders, and sport stars, those in the music industry, television stars, movie stars and many more.

Everyone, including the teachers, enjoyed themselves and we heard positive feedback from the students.

"It was a cool experience", said Ryan, Year 9.

Isabella, Year 10 said, "I thought it was fun, exciting and I enjoyed the interactive elements of the galleries".

We would like to thank Ms Carlin, Ms Devine, Mr Chavez and Mr Cruickshank for organising this excursion and providing us with an unforgettable experience.

Natalie Mansour
Year 9 History Student





Word of the Week

BLATANT

Definition - Obvious or undisguised
E.g. The answer was blatantly incorrect.

Word Puzzles

Can you find the bones of the human body listed in the word search below?

U	I	L	B	U	J	I	V	M	N	G	A	M	T	S
L	A	M	U	I	N	A	R	C	Y	L	L	A	A	F
N	C	K	U	R	C	A	Y	B	R	G	L	N	R	F
A	K	L	U	R	L	O	V	X	Z	X	E	D	S	Y
Y	S	M	A	U	C	E	C	H	Z	S	T	I	A	V
C	E	U	P	V	R	A	A	Y	L	Y	A	B	L	N
F	A	A	R	T	I	R	S	A	X	C	P	L	S	X
H	C	R	E	E	I	C	P	Q	G	B	O	E	F	X
S	D	B	P	B	M	R	L	S	T	E	R	N	U	M
C	R	F	E	A	A	U	F	E	S	U	I	D	A	R
A	Y	J	T	C	L	I	H	R	I	E	R	G	J	W
K	R	G	A	X	B	S	Q	K	V	K	S	O	W	M
H	S	T	X	U	C	P	H	A	L	A	N	G	E	S
N	E	A	L	A	T	R	I	C	E	Z	D	Z	F	M
M	L	A	T	I	B	I	A	Z	P	V	W	N	A	G

CARPALS
CRANIUM
HUMERUS
PATELLA
RADIUS

CLAVICLE
FEMUR
MANDIBLE
PELVIS
RIB

COCYX
FIBULA
METACARPALS
PHALANGES
SACRUM

SCAPULA
TIBIA
STERNUM
ULNA
TARSALS

Word Ladders

Can you change the word at the top of the ladder into the word at the bottom of the ladder, by changing just one letter at a time, to make a new word on each rung of the ladder?

cork
mare



Sport Achievement - Congratulations Jayden

Jayden recognised as talented referee

JAYDEN Simunovic, 15, of Plumpton, has been named this year's recipient of a Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association award at the Blacktown City Soccer Referees Branch 2014 Awards Night recently.

Jayden received the Junior Referee Award.

He said he was very surprised and humbled with the win.

"It's an honour ... I've tried hard and just try my best to give people a fair game," he said.

His mum, Yvonne, said Jayden was very passionate about the game to make sure it was held in high regard.



Referee mentors Carly Fuda and Tristan Harris with Jayden Simunovic (centre).

BDSFA's chief executive Jack Taylor said Jayden deserved to be recognised for applying himself "really well".

"He's a very mature young man who applies himself very well," Mr Taylor said.

"If he stays on this path, he can do whatever he wants."

BLACKTOWN CITY ART PRIZE 2014

Theme: From Little Things Big
Things Grow

Eligible Age Groups 5-15 years
Entry delivery 14-15 November 2014

10am - 5pm

To Blacktown Arts Centre
78 Flushcombe Road
Blacktown

More information and Entry Form
www.artscentre.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

HANDY FINANCIAL SERVICES

MORTGAGE BROKERS

LOAN ADVISORY

DEBT RESTRUCTURE

"Your partner in financial success"

**Debts Out of Control
Why Continue to Struggle?**

**Talk to Us Today Call 8814 5077
Get Your Free Assessment**

Financially Stressed?



\$250.00 Offer

We are so **Confident** that we can help.

If we can't
we will Pay YOU \$250

Call 1300 464 263 or visit
www.handyfinance.com.au

**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



From the Bishop and the Catholic Education Office

Social Justice Gathering on 25 October

Explore and unpack the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement of 2014-2015. This year the focus is sport and justice. Pope Francis explains, "When an athlete, even as a 'pro', cultivates this 'amateur' dimension, he is contributing to the good of society, he is building up the common good through the values of generosity, camaraderie, and beauty." Find out how you can share the message of justice through sport in your communities, parishes and organisations. With the Justice & Peace Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Date: Sunday 25 October from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Venue: St Patrick's Church, 5 Drynan St, Summer Hill.

Couples invited to take part in Stronger Relationships Trial

The Australian Government has introduced the Stronger Relationships Trial to strengthen couple relationships. Couples are able to register if they are Australian citizens, over 18 years of age and in a committed relationship. The Stronger Relationship Trial provides couples with a \$200 subsidy to attend couple counselling, couple education such as pre-marriage courses or marriage enrichment seminars, or parenting courses. The subsidised counselling or education courses are available through approved organisations such as CatholicCare Parramatta.

Details: For more information contact CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0222 or visit www.ccss.org.au

Exhibition and Sale of Indigenous Art from 24-26 October

Everyone is welcome to this exhibition and sale of works by some of Australia's prominent Indigenous artists. The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Resources and Energy, will open the exhibition with a cocktail reception on Friday 24 October. The artist-in-residence during the exhibition will be Barbara Weir from the Utopia Community in the Central Desert, NT. All artworks will be for sale with proceeds to benefit the St Patrick's Cathedral Project and Ars Musica.

Opening hours:

Friday 24 Oct, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Saturday 25 Oct, 10am-4pm;

Sunday 26 October 10am-4pm.

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral
Hall, 1 Marist Place,
Parramatta.

Vocation Discernment Afternoon on 26 October

All young men who feel God might be calling them to the priesthood are invited to the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's Vocation Discernment Afternoon. The afternoon starts at 2pm and concludes with pizza at 6pm. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards
Vocations Director
tel 0409 172 700

*a diverse
community
learning
together*

COLOURS OF SPORT

Migrant Youth United

If you are aged 12 -18 years, from a refugee or migrant background, living in Penrith or surrounding areas, please join us for two fun filled days of team sports.

Hear about how you can join in local sporting competitions, learn new sporting skills and discover talents you never knew you had!!

Soccer & AFL	Basketball & Netball
Saturday 25th October 2014 South Creek Park Creek Road, St Marys 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Shuttle bus available from St Marys train station 9:15 am – 9:45 am	Saturday 1st November 2014 Penrith Valley Sports Stadium Herbert Street, Cambridge Park 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Shuttle bus available from Kingswood Train Station 9:15 am – 9:45 am

Registration forms must be completed by a parent / guardian to join in the day's activities.

For further information and to obtain a registration form please phone
 Helen on (02) 4736 7016 or Clare on (02) 4734 1603.

Organised by:

Supported by:

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

Important Information

AFTER HOURS SECURITY

NEW NUMBER

School Security Contact
9832 1028
Keep our school safe!

YEAR 7/2015

Enrolment forms for Year 7 2015 are available from our front office or from our website.

OFFICE HOURS

8.00am - 3.00pm
Closed during school holidays.
Message bank facilities available.

TAU BREAKFAST

Tuesday - Friday
7.40 - 8.10am
in the Canteen area

DO I NEED TO CLAIM A SIBLING DISCOUNT FOR SCHOOL FEES

If you have more than one child in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Parramatta you do not need to complete the form to get a discount.

Where children are in more than one school you will need to make sure that family information in each school is identical for sibling discounts to be calculated. Sibling discounts only apply in the current year and cannot be backdated or adjusted for prior years.

Parents should check invoice/statements carefully to ensure correct discounts have been received.

Forms are only required from new families with students in neighboring Diocese.

Download the form <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/school-fees>.

Go to 'Do I need to apply for a sibling discount on Diocesan Tuition fees'

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Year 7/2015 - Savings scheme - Spread The Cost, Lighten The Load.

Our Savings Scheme will take the sting out of paying for School Uniform.
Make weekly or monthly payments towards your uniform cost.

Payments can be made at the School Reception Office during school hours.

LEAVING STUDENT POLICY

Parents are reminded of the Catholic Education Policy regarding school fees if a student leaves St Agnes before the end of Year 10.

- A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing, must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.
- If a student leaves the school during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term.
- Written Notification of the new school and start date is a legal requirement

