



St Agnes Catholic High School

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to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au

Follow us on FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: StAgnesRootyHill

Diary Dates

13-15 March
Minimum Standard
Testing

14 March
PASS Surf School A line

19 March
Cross Country

21 March
PASS Surf School B line

21-23 March
Year 7 Camp

28 March
Easter Show Excursion

29 March
Stations of the Cross

30 March
Good Friday/ Walk

2 April
Easter Monday

13 April
Yr 8 Brainstorm
Term 1 Concludes

30 April
Term 2 Commences
Anzac Day Service

9 March 2018

The past fortnight has been incredibly significant in the history of St Agnes Catholic High School with the announcement by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that St Agnes Catholic High School will have a Year 11 intake in 2019 and HSC cohort in 2020 which will position the school well to meet the needs of our students and families.

A Year 11, 2019 Information Night will be held on Monday 4 June 2018 which will outline the subject selection process.

I would however like to address a few matters:

- existing published events, including the formal and graduation mass, will still be held.
- students in Year 10 do not need to "re-enrol", transition is automatic. If your child is not attending St Agnes in 2019, you will need to notify the school in accordance with Diocesan policy.
- the student leadership model is under review, with proposed models being developed by current student leaders who will take these to the student body for consultation.

Planning is underway to refurbish learning spaces as well as a building program to meet the needs of our growing community.

Our Year 7/2019 Open Night was very well attended. St Agnes has an excellent reputation for performance, quality teaching, positive relationships, and pastoral care. This reflects the commitment and actions of every member of our community. It also means that there can be very high interest in spaces, if you have a child entering Year 7 next year or have friends/relatives for Year 7 or 11, enrolment forms are accepted now with a closing date of May 31.

Student safety - last week I shared news of an incident that occurred to one of our students on their way to school. This student handled the situation well and was able to reach safety. Please talk to your children about personal safety and discuss the safety tips on page 7.

Lisa Maree Browning
Principal



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From the Assistant Principal

Following from last weeks newsletter, here are more requirements to improve your child's improving children's learning.

3. Foster Inquisitiveness and Fantasy Play

Children are natural born scientists. Their research program gets going almost immediately. As infants, they use their entire set of senses to study the physical properties of the world. They grab things, squeeze things, push things, spill things, dip their hands into things, put things into their mouths, rip things apart, and bang things into one another. All of this means a very messy laboratory.

Once children have collected sufficient pilot data, they begin to carry out experiments. "What happens if I pull on Mommy's necklace?" "Will it snap or stretch?" Over time, their experimental designs become increasingly sophisticated. "If I throw Mommy's glasses up in the air, how high will they go? If I throw them with more force, will they go higher? Will they go faster?"

Soon children form hypotheses about the world and design experiments to test their hypotheses. "When I turned my bowl upside down my oatmeal splattered all over the table. I hypothesize the same thing will happen when I flip over my juice." When the data don't turn out as expected, they tweak their methodology and use the new evidence to self-correct their conclusions. "Rubbing the blue crayon on my arm did not color my arm blue. It might work better on kitchen cabinets."

Children extend their studies to the social world; that is, to people. "If I yell loud in the grocery store, will I get Daddy's attention?" Like any good scientist, they study different populations to see if their results generalize. "Will yelling loud get Mommy's attention, too?" And they replicate their experiments to ensure their findings are stable, "I'm going to yell in the grocery store one more time, just to make sure that my last results were not a fluke." Through their studies, children learn about the world, themselves, and others.

I tell you all this to let you know that what often seems like calculated attempts to annoy or oppose you are merely part of the program of research that your children kicked off at birth. But also because a recent study has revealed that many of the qualities we see in young children in their attempts to figure out the world are the very same ones common to adults who are considered innovators and visionaries in their field. For instance, innovators get a kick out of asking "what if" "why" and "why not" questions that challenge the status quo and shake things up. They also have the ability to associate creatively—to connect facts in new ways. Finally, they have an unquenchable drive to experiment and tinker with things and new ideas. Sounds a lot like your three-year-old, right?

Hal Gregersen, one of the authors of this study on innovators said, "You can summarize all of the skills we've noted in one word: 'inquisitiveness'...It's the same kind of inquisitiveness you see in small children...If you look at four-year-olds, they are constantly asking questions and wondering how things work...We also believe that the most innovative entrepreneurs were very lucky to have been raised in an atmosphere where inquisitiveness was encouraged. We were stuck by the stories they told about being sustained by people who cared about experimentation and exploration."

Other research suggests that young children and adult innovators also share a facility for fantasy. You already know that most children have a rich fantasy life. Some believe that child-eating five-headed monsters live in their closets, that they share the dinner table with a talking purple hippopotamus that only they can see, and that a flying fairy takes their baby teeth in exchange for a small prize. But an adult could never get away with such fancy, right?

The very best innovators—those who change the world with their ideas—also think about the nonexistent and dream up imaginary worlds. The difference between children and adults, however, is that adult innovators make their fantasies come true.

Almost everything in the room you're sitting in now—from your contact lenses to your smartphone to your coffee maker—would have seemed as fantastic to your great-great-great-great-great grandparents as Middle Earth does to you. Think about it. A twisted bulb of glass that produces light? Swallowed capsules that cure a festering infection?

A handheld machine that allows you to throw your preschooler a goodnight kiss from a taxi three hundred miles away, map the miles you jogged that morning even though you have no idea where you are, set the DVR in the family room to record tonight's big game, and broadcast a homemade video of your pugs dressed up on Halloween as Yoda and Princess Leah? All of these things surely seemed utterly fantastic before they were conceived and built. Their eventual invention depended on a healthy dose of the fantastic. Unimaginative scientists don't produce radically new ideas. Likewise, children invent new ideas when they're given the room to create, consider, and immerse themselves in worlds that don't exist.

So there you go. This discussion gives you two very powerful but simple things you can do to boost your children's success. First, encourage their natural inquisitiveness and their consequent desire to explore and experiment. Second, give your children, even the older ones, the space and the freedom to fantasize. Growing older shouldn't mean the end of one's fantasy life. In fact, it is the knowledge that we gain as we grow older that gives imagination its power. It is exactly how one very innovative engineer, for instance, took Isaac Newton's theories on centrifugal force and gravity, imagined a roller coaster with an inclined diving loop and a wraparound corkscrew, and then built it.

4. Lobby for More Recess

In many schools, children are spending less and less time in recess and more and more time doing school work. This trend is largely attributable to the desires of school administrators to make more time for teaching skills in hopes of improving their students' academic performance. Some schools take away recess privileges for bad behavior or believe that recess is an outmoded practice that simply makes children rowdy. And many schools have banned the games of our childhood, like tag and chase, and hand out playground balls like they're controlled substances.

Turns out that none of these trends are supported by a lick of research. Children's academic performance was better in the years before the schools starting taking away recess. Studies show that East Asian elementary-schoolers, who outperform American children on standardized tests, are given more recess breaks than American children. Experimental work shows that children's attention to tasks is better, not worse, following recess. They fidget less and focus more after free play. Playful, non-structured breaks are especially important in maximizing children's performance. It is the unstructured nature of playful breaks that serves to reduce the cognitive interference built up from earlier sustained periods of structured classroom work. This is especially the case for younger children whose developing nervous systems makes classroom tasks cognitively taxing.

A second lesson learned from research on recess is that recess IS learning. Consider the social and cognitive demands that come along with unstructured play with peers. It is a demanding and motivating context like no other. To keep the play going—which children are very motivated to do—they must understand the perspectives of others, figure out what behaviors are expected, and keep their emotions in check. Consequently, they'll learn how to cooperate with others, regulate their emotions, communicate effectively, and pay close attention. Importantly, these are the very social-cognitive skills that not only help on the playground, but also in the classroom.

These findings suggest that we have taken something as simple and beneficial as recess and wrongly labeled it as worthless, dangerous, and old-fashioned. Children need playful breaks so that they can pay better attention to their academic work and learn the skills demanded by their curricula. A teacher wouldn't punish her students by taking away math or reading because these subjects develop important skills. The very same is true of recess.

5. Push for Less Homework

Homework is a good thing, right? It reinforces the skills learned in the classroom and it fosters good study habits. Or is it busy work and getting it done can cause a whole lot of family stress?

There's growing evidence that the latter is the case in many families. There is no solid empirical evidence that homework actually improves young children's learning. In fact, when children are asked to do too much homework, it has the opposite effect. Homework only has minimal benefits for achievement in middle school. It's not until high school that there are clear academic benefits to homework, but again, they start to decline if children are too overloaded.

Now I realize that many elementary-schoolers are spending more time daily with Sponge Bob than doing homework. But I find it striking that we have no evidence that there is any academic benefit to elementary school homework, yet educators feel compelled to assign it and parents continue to think it helps students. Homework is going to be a hard habit to break, but considering that it is not linked with academic achievement until at least middle school and then only marginally, why assign it? Can't teachers squeeze all the learning children need into the seven or eight hours a day they already have them at school? It seems to me that all of the other pastimes outside of school that are good for children are a much more wise and fun way for them to spend their afterschool time.

But what if you're one of those parents who just cannot do nothing? My suggestion? Cook a family dinner. In a large study, University of Michigan's Sandra Hofferth found that the single strongest predictor of better achievement scores and fewer behavioral problems among three- to twelve-year-olds was more family meal time together. Family meals beat out all the usual suspects, like time at school, attending church, playing organized sports, engaging in art activities, and doing homework.

Keep in mind, too, that no homework doesn't necessarily mean no learning after school. As alluded to above, there is

overwhelming evidence that the simplest of activities, like children's free play with peers, boosts important social and cognitive skills.

So now you have your second back to school list. Certainly all of these things are free. Some of them may be more difficult to pull off than getting a new protractor and pencil box. But all of them are more important.

Source: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/your-brain-childhood/201208/the-developmental-psychologists-back-school-shopping-list>

Ken Wolffe

From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

HSC minimum standard update for Year 10 parents

The NSW Government is committed to requiring students to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC from 2020, because these skills are needed for success in life after school.

There will be multiple opportunities for your child to show they meet the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills. These tests can be taken this year, in Year 11 or 12 or after the HSC.

From this year, **Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be an early way for students to demonstrate the standard.** This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focused on its original diagnostic purpose and reduce unnecessary stress on young people. Please be assured that **if your child achieved Band 8's or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy tests, they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.**

There are three separate 45-minute online tests: reading, writing and numeracy. Students don't have to pass all three tests at once and can attempt each test up to twice a year. The reading and numeracy tests each contain a maximum of 45 multiple choice questions, while the writing test contains one question based on a visual or text prompt requiring up to a 500 word-response.

Students can try some sample questions at <https://hsliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

The first opportunity for Year 10 students to demonstrate the standard will be in **Week 7, between Tuesday 13th - Thursday 15th March.** A further opportunity, if required will be provided in Term 4. Students will be completing the online tests in the San Damiano Centre and are required to bring their iPad to the exam, room fully charged.

Stage 5 Elective Changes Closed

During Week 3 of this term, quite a lot of Year 9 and 10 students approach me to make changes to the their electives. As in most schools, any period of changes must be restricted as the early work completed in classrooms during the term is vital for the first assessment task and if students were to change at too late a stage, they would not be able to attempt the first task.

Year 9 and 10 students have been reminded repeatedly of the deadline. Thank you to a great many students who consulted carefully and made the appropriate changes within the required timeframe. Any further changes are now no longer possible.

Laurence De Martin

LEAVING STUDENT POLICY

The Catholic Education Department of Parramatta School Fee Policy states the following -

Please note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

If you have any queries please contact the Finance Office on 8882 0702.

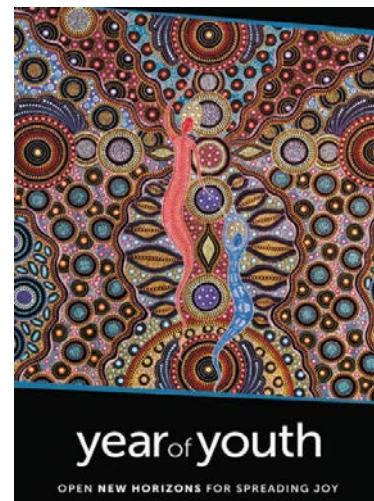
From the Religious Education Coordinator

Year of Youth 2018

As we journey through the season of Lent, we also begin our journey through the Year of Youth. A good starting point for us to understand what this is all about is for us to look at the Year of Youth icon. The Year of Youth image is titled *Christ our Joy* and was painted by artist, Amunda Gorey in Alice Springs.

(Taken from the Year of Youth web site <http://youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth>)
Christ our Joy is rich in symbolism, tradition and meaning. It depicts the diversity of young people through the use of varied colour, shaped and sized dots. Some are gathered in communities, others more isolated. Some are closer to God or the cross, others further away. The central figures are Jesus and Mary against a cross. They point to the Resurrection as the source of our Joy. Jesus extends a hand toward his mother Mary, and with her to the Church; with his other hand, he points them all to his Father-God.

"Everyone will see, feel and sense the painting differently. Each is valued as our stories and experiences are different," - (Amunda Gorey)



This year we will endeavour to bring out the rich values and messages embedded in the Year of Youth image not only in our Religious Education lessons, but also in the spirit of our school community. The message that I particularly want to highlight is Jesus pointing to the Resurrection as the source of our Joy. Through our liturgical celebrations this year, the sacraments (visible signs of God's presence and grace) is an area that invites all of us to deepen our sense of God amongst us and to bring our personal experiences to this reality.

Take some time to look at this image. What might this image be saying to you?

Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) - Lifted Live with Fr Rob Galea

On Thursday evening, 22nd February, St Agnes was well represented, with 28 students along with myself, Mr Sadsad, Ms Raad and Ms Brogan for the CYP Lifted Live event with one of our favourite singers and songwriters from ACYF...Fr Rob Galea!

He took us on a faith journey into his own life and revealed to us how God worked deeply in his life despite the countless times he failed to acknowledge it. Fr Rob invited us into praise and worship, using his own life as a testimony for the lyrics to all of his songs. He reminded us that although we may see ourselves as ordinary people, we were created for extraordinary things. This means we have the gift of the kingdom of heaven and we can do what we think is impossible possible if we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

Ruth Nool (9.5) shares, "Fr Rob Galea was truly inspiring and it helped strengthen my relationship with God. This event made such a huge impact on who I am today and my perspective of God". Sometimes it takes a courageous 'Yes' to God, as Kyra Barcelon (8.1) affirms us, "I was contemplating whether or not I should go but decided to stay and that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. My experience in Lifted Live was something unforgettable. The praise and worship the teachings all somehow related to my life. This event truly changed my perspective of life and my attitude towards others. It taught me to treat others with respect and to stay true to my faith."

We extend a big thank you to CYP and Fr Rob Galea for enriching our faith through music and prayer. St Agnes will continue to work in building up the capacity of all of our students in their faith formation.



St Agnes had an amazing night with Fr Rob Galea!



All smiles of joy from Mrs Reyes, Ms Raad, Ms Brogan and Mr Sadsad with Fr Rob Galea!

To our parents and guardians, thank you for support in allowing our young people to attend and experience the wonderful faith-filled events organised by the CYP. All these events are supervised by a St Agnes staff member.

Please note the upcoming events for your calendar:

Palm Sunday! 25 MARCH

Meeting Point: Parramatta Town Hall from 5:15pm

Join us for a stroll down Church Street, Parramatta with flags and palms in hand as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. Mass is always extra special with Bishop Vincent and the LIFTED Band before we gather in the Cathedral Cloister for our annual local WYD celebration!



Good Friday! 30 MARCH

Meeting Point: St Patrick's Church Blacktown from 10pm

Join us for a tradition that grows in popularity and meaning each and every year as thousands of young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains walk through the night to remember Jesus' final hours. There's nothing like this on the Diocesan calendar.



Commissioning Mass for Catechists - St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill

Last Sunday, 4th March, St Agnes Catechists Micah Fernandez (10.3), Selenna Fuimaono (10.3), Kiera Everingham (10.2), Chanel Saliba (10.7) and Anella Saco (10.6) attended the Commissioning Mass for Catechists at St Aidan's Parish Rooty Hill.

Venus Sta Ana, the SRE Parish Coordinator was delighted to share this celebration with our student catechists as she said, *"they have added flavour to the Mass"*. Fr Alan Layt was very happy to see our students step out of their comfort zone and to say 'Yes' to this ministry.

(Our Catechist representatives - Selenna, Kiera, Chanel and Anella)



The St Agnes Catechists will begin observing their classes at Eastern Creek Public School next week and are committed every Tuesday morning until the end of Term 3. The enthusiasm of these students to meet the children in their classes is wonderful to witness the joy of sharing Jesus' story in our community. We wish the students every success for a fulfilling experience.

Project Compassion Challenge: Is Your House the GOATest?

As a school community, we are doing our part in bringing awareness of the wonderful work of Caritas Australia through the GOAT Challenge. This week our students were invited to name their House Goats which has drawn in much enthusiasm for the most creative name.

Each House (Chisholm, Francis, MacKillop and Xavier) is represented as a village, whose aim is to buy as many goats as they can. Goats can provide a constant supply of income and nutritious food for a family through their quality milk, cheese and meat. One goat costs \$50, so for every \$50 earned by each House more goats will be raised for the House village. As promised, an update of our Goat Challenge tally will be shared with you in the newsletter. The tally as of Week 2 is:

- Francis: \$294.90 (5 goats)
 - MacKillop: \$223.65 (4 goats)
 - Xavier: \$210.80 (4 goats)
 - Chisholm: \$197.15 (3 goats)
- SCHOOL TOTAL = \$926.50**



Let us continue to support the wonderful work of Caritas so that in our giving, we may also witness the work of God transform us.

*Pace e bene,
Mary Reyes*



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR A JUST FUTURE

Congratulations Eva

My name is Eva Norton and I'm a Year 7 student of St Agnes.

I'm proud to say that this is my second year on the NSW State Archery Team and my first year on the Australian Team. I've been participating in archery for a year and five months and, already own three state records.

I have claimed state champion for indoor and field archery events last year, and have won over 25 medals. In April I'm off to Morewell, Victoria competing in the Youth Nationals followed up by the Trans Tasmin competition. Our opponents for Trans Tasmin will be New Zealand and Singapore.



My goal is to compete in the 2024 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Important 'Safe People, Safe Places' messages for young people

Walking Home

- ALWAYS identify safe places on the way home from school.
- DO NOT stop and talk to people you don't know. Go straight home or to your intended destination.
- ALWAYS find a safe place if you feel frightened. These include schools, shops, churches or police/fire/ambulance stations and tell them that you are frightened.
- NEVER get into a car with someone you don't know.

On Public Transport

- NEVER travel in isolated areas. Find crowded carriages, guard's compartment (marked with a blue light) or at the front of the bus.
- ALWAYS try to travel in groups of friends if possible.

When in Public Spaces

- ALWAYS carry a contact number for your parents.
- DO NOT walk away from family or friends without telling them where you are going, when you'll be back and who you are with.
- ALWAYS walk away from fights or arguments, unpleasant or aggressive behaviour and take your friends with you.
- REMEMBER, always tell your parents, carer or teacher if something has happened.

NSW Police's Safe People, Safe

Place https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/safe_and_secure/resources_-_fact_sheets_and_videos/safe_people_safe_places



Year 7/2019
Information
Night

Position Vacant - PRC Representative

The Parents Representative Council (PRC) is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC proudly served the Diocese of Parramatta continuously for more than 25 years. We work closely in collaboration with Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, the Executive Director of schools Mr Greg Whitby and the CEDP Executive Team, Parish Priests, Principals and School Parent Bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey with in the Catholic Education System.

St Agnes Catholic High School asks for any parent who is willing to represent us at Term meetings to contact the Principals Secretary on 8882 0703. Below is an outline of the position role

The Parents Representative Council (PRC) is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Executive Director of schools, Parish Priests and Catholic School Principals and School Parent Bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey with in the Catholic Education System.

Every Primary and Secondary Catholic School in the Diocese of Parramatta can have one PRC

Parent Rep and an Alternate Parent represented. These Representatives speak on behalf of their School's Parent Body and community representing their Parents within the PRC. This provides the important two-way communication between local school parent communities, their local school and the greater Diocesan Parent body of the PRC.

The PRC School Representative are encouraged to:

- > Attend the PRC General Meetings held once a Term. PRC meetings are mostly held in each Term on Monday Week 6 of the School Term. These meetings consist of Executive Committee Members reports by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Council of Catholic School Representative. Guest speakers with relevant up to date educational issues are provided. These speakers will range from a keynote presentation of a Professional Academic, Educational Leader, Psychologist and/or an Educational Leader within the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.
- > Liaise with their school community about the work of the PRC - report back to their parent bodies on the Term meetings, content, speakers and issues that were raised
- > Liaise with their Cluster leader and attend Cluster Meetings. Cluster meetings/gatherings are held within the PRC Term Meeting. These meetings are led by a Parent Cluster Leader. School Reps have the opportunity to network with other parent reps within the geographical area of their own school. Hear about the work of other parent bodies and parents in your area.
- > Disseminate information to their school about upcoming meetings, speakers etc. and encourage other parents to attend with them. Information should be disseminated through their school's parent meetings, newsletter, website and social media site etc.
- > Provide feedback to the PRC on type of presenters, topics and relevant educational and parenting issues that they or their school may want to hear about.

Nominate yourself to become further involved in parent leadership and collaboration by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the PRC by calling 8882 0703.

Meeting will be held on

- Term 2 - Mon 4 June 7pm at Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Marian Street & Flushcombe Road Blacktown
Presentation Topic - Preparing Your Child for Future Pathways i.e Vocational Education & Training, Trades and/or University High School Students Welcome to attend with parents/carers
Presenter - Di Mills Expert in VET, & Educational Pathways
- Term 3- Mon 27th Aug 2018, 7:00pm at Corpus Christi Primary School, 90 Andromeda Drive Cranebrook
Presentation Topic - Raising Resilient Children 8 Steps to Resilience
Presenter - Dr Justin Coulson Family Psychologist & Parenting Expert Keynote Speaker Event
- Term 4 - Mon 19 Nov 2018 7:00pm at St Luke's Catholic College Lot 1104, Frontier Avenue & Northbourne Drive Marsden Park
Presentation Topic - Education for the 21st Century
Presenter - Mr Greg Miller College Principal St Luke's Marsden Park



Communication from Busways

Does your child catch a school bus? Help them keep it!

As the bus operator that providing your child's school bus services, we're asking for your help getting your child to use their Opal card on every bus trip.

Since the introduction of the School Opal card in 2016, school bus patronage data has significantly dropped. This is not reflected in the number of students actually travelling on our buses for various reasons a large number of students are consistently not using their Opal cards as they should be.

Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used by transport planners and service schedulers to design the bus network that best serves the community utilising the resources available.

If students don't tap on and off then school bus services will appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

Please help us reinforce the message that tapping on and off every bus journey with an Opal card is essential to travel on the bus. This will ensure school services continue to be planned for the students that use it, providing the journey to school your children depend on.

To help us achieve this, please talk with your child:

- Ask them if they tap on and off the bus with their Opal card.
- If they do, congratulate them for doing the right thing and talk about why it's important.
- If they sometimes don't or never do, ask them why.
- Are they confused about why they have to? Talk about why it's important, and that every tap tells the bus planners that the bus is needed.
- Do they forget? Help them find a way to remember, such as getting into the habit of getting their Opal card out as soon as they arrive at the bus stop or bus line.
- Is their Opal card at the bottom of their bag? Help find a handier place to keep it.
- Are they influenced by friends or peers that don't tap? Talk about how they like to travel on the bus with their friends and how tapping is what keeps the service running.
- Have they lost their Opal card? To order a new Opal card visit www.opal.com.au.
- If there's another reason that you'd like to discuss with Busways, please contact us at infoline@busways.com.au or call our customer service team on 9497 1878 to talk to us. We are happy to listen and do what we can to help your child feel comfortable using their Opal card.

Thank you for helping us to best serve your school community.

Rose Day

On 14 February St Agnes held one of the many major events in the school calendar. St Agnes celebrated Rose Day, along with the beginning of Lent.

The events team, peer support and digital media team spent the entire Tuesday preparing. During that day, we had de-thorn the rose, punched and attached the tags and carefully wrapped the tags. However some of us, stayed back to completely finish the task.

Our hands ached and our hands were sore. As one of the members from the events team, this experience was surprisingly fun, but also very tiring.

I'd like to thank the following teachers; Miss. Juarez for taking care of us throughout the day, Mr Chavez, Miss Raad and Mr Jadrijevic for stay back after school and helping us finalise the roses. And last but not least to the peer support team, digital media team and event team for being cupid's helper and spreading love in the St Agnes community.

Althea Farjardo
Events Leader



From the Catholic Education Office

The Permanent Diaconate

The discernment program for those who are interested in finding out more about this Vocation will be held at St John 23rd Parish, 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768. Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members. We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate. The meetings will commence at 3.00pm until 6.00pm followed by the Parish Mass and Fellowship.

The 2018 dates on Sundays: 11 March, 6 May, 8 July, 9 September, 4 November.

For further information visit www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate or please contact any of the following deacons: Deacon James - 0425 213 832, Deacon Tan - 0407 270 782, Deacon George - 0408 440 769

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Lecture Series

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of Mark. Venue: IFM, Marion St, Blacktown. Time: 10 am - 2pm. Dates: Fridays March 9, 16, 23, April 6, 13. All are welcome. BYO lunch. RSVPs to Maree 02 9890 4731

Oakhill College Open Day: 11 March

We warmly welcome prospective students and families to the Oakhill College Open Day on Sunday, 11 March 2018 from 11.00am - 3.00pm, providing a great opportunity to meet our Principal, Brother Steve Hogan, staff and current students. Tours are guided by students showcasing subject displays, co-curricular activities and performances by one of the many College musical ensembles. Principal's Address at 11.30am and 1.30pm. Visit our website to register your interest -www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au

Mount St Benedict: 15 March

Writing your own spiritual story - facilitated by Dr Peter Mudge. This day combines time for participants to reflect on writings from the desert monastics to Augustine, Benedict and Pope Francis, children's stories and poetry as inspiration for writing down stories from their own spiritual journey. No previous writing experience is necessary. Starts 9am on 15 March. Cost is \$30. Contact 02 8752 5390 or mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au for more information.

Sisterhood Catholic Women's Conference: 16-18 March

Do you want to go deeper in your relationship with Jesus, do you want to grow as a Catholic woman and develop friendships with other women of faith? Join women of all ages for a weekend of prayer, keynote talks, the sacraments, adoration and quality sisterhood time. Keynote speakers include; Darlene Darlene Zschech, Laura Roland, Sr Mary Rachel OP, Jonathan and Karen Doyle, Jo Hayes, Justine Cumbo, Francine Pirola and more. to register visit www.sisterhood.org.au

Individual Discernment Weekend: 17 March

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are hosting an individual discernment weekend retreat on 17 March 2018 from 4:00pm for women (aged 18-35) who want to discern their vocation to religious life. This retreat is will be a one-to-one encounter. It includes prayer times, talks, accompaniment and the opportunity to have a live-in experience with the Sisters. Address: Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP: Sr Paula on email vocationscsfn@gmail.com or mobile 0449 656 406.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Lecture: 18 March

Br Dr Kelvin Canavan fms -The bureaucratisation of Catholic schooling and the emergence of the Catholic Education Office. Meet at 2.00pm in the Crypt Hall of St Patrick's, Church Hill (Grosvenor Street). Admission is free and open to all. Visit the ACHS website www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au for more information.

Lenten Concert Reflection: 18 March

'Ashes to Easter' with Peter Kearney on Sunday 18 March, 3.00-4.15pm in the Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic singer-songwriter and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. To register, email concerts@peterkearneysongs.com.au specifying 'Parramatta' and number of seats needed. Suggested donation \$10 at door.

Redfield College Open Day: 21 March

Redfield College Term 1 Open Day will be held on Wednesday, 21 March 2018 from 12:00 to 2:30pm. You are most welcome to attend a tour followed by the Headmaster's Talk at 1:00pm. Contact Angie Celis on 02 9651 0381 or angie.celis@redfield.nsw.edu.au for more information. Enrolments are open for Years 2 to 12.

**CHRIST
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
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*a diverse
community
learning
together*

WRITERS WANTED

\$1000 cash & your choice of...

Fitbit Ionic OR **Xbox One X** OR **PlayStation 4** OR **Apple iPad 32GB**

The Competition

Entry is NOW OPEN in the 2018 Schools Writing Competition! Students all over Australia are invited to enter their Poems or Short stories, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer. **There is no theme!** Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12. Enter online at www.write4fun.net OR email to enter@write4fun.net OR fax to (07) 5574 3644 OR post with entry form details to Write4fun P.O. Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211. **Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by Saturday, 31st March 2018.**

The Prizes

Poetry Prize

1st \$1000 CASH (\$500 to YOU & \$500 to YOUR SCHOOL!) And YOUR CHOICE of an: Xbox One X or a PlayStation 4 or a Fitbit Ionic or Apple iPad (32GB)
2nd \$250 CASH + Write4fun Stationary Gift Pack
3rd \$150 CASH + Write4fun Stationary Gift Pack
15 x Finalists Write4fun Gift Pack

Short Story Prize

1st \$1000 CASH (\$500 to YOU & \$500 to YOUR SCHOOL!) And YOUR CHOICE of an: Xbox One X or a PlayStation 4 or a Fitbit Ionic or Apple iPad (32GB)
2nd \$250 CASH + Write4fun Stationary Gift Pack
3rd \$150 CASH + Write4fun Stationary Gift Pack
15 x Finalists Write4fun Gift Pack

The Book

Poems and short stories entered into the competition will be considered for inclusion into our 2018 Write4fun anthology! Those selected will have the opportunity to purchase the edition at a discounted rate. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners will receive a complimentary copy of the book. "We are very excited to be sponsoring this competition," stated Julia Woods, Managing Editor for Write4Fun. "Reading and writing seem to be taking a back seat these days to computer games and evolving technology! Our hope is that competitions such as these inspire the students to be creative with words once more and have fun doing it!"

The Rules

- Only one entry per student - either a Poem OR Short Story.
- Entries to be typed or neatly handwritten.
- Poems must not exceed 16 lines and Short Stories must not exceed 500 words.
- Entries must be in by Saturday 31st March 2018.
- Entries must be the original work of the author.
- Co-written entries will be disqualified.
- Entry form details must accompany each entry.

For the full list of rules, and competition information, head to www.write4fun.net

Enter Online: www.write4fun.net or Email To: enter@write4fun.net
Mail To: Write4Fun P.O. Box 2734 Nerang DC, QLD 4211
Phone: (07) 5574 3622 • FAX: (07) 5574 3644 • www.facebook.com/Write4Fun

write4fun net

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

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



Make your own
TV show

From March 2018
Mount Druitt Hub (Dawson Mall)



WE WANT YOU

Project partners

Museum of
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Art Australia

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Arts

CBWast supporters

Funding for this project has been provided by the NSW Government

C3west

St Vincent & Paul Society

Project partners

Blacktown
Arts

CBWast supporters

Funding for this project has been provided by the NSW Government

Have you ever wanted to be on *Home and Away*? Are you interested in making your own TV show?

Artist Dean Cross is looking for the next generation of future stars and TV makers to form a crew to make some magic happen. Together we will create our own version of the iconic *Home and Away* and have a whole lot of fun while we do it! We are looking for people aged 15-20 who like acting, writing, filming & editing, story telling, being famous, and having fun.

If any of these are you then we want to get to know you! Our crew will meet regularly starting from March to create our masterpiece at the Mount Druitt Hub. You don't have to have any previous experience, just be willing to give anything a go!

For more information contact:
Anna Alexander: annaalexander@parishschools.org.au
www.parishschools.org.au
www.wentworth.org.au

EASTERN CREEK PIONEERS NETBALL CLUB INC.

*How long
has it been girls?*



PLAYER REGISTRATION DAYS
PLAYERS REQUIRED
UNDER 6'S TO SENIORS



DATE 10TH & 17TH OF FEBRUARY 2018

TIME 4PM- 6PM

LOCATION AT OUR NETBALL COURTS
MORREAU RESERVE CHURCH RD ROOTY HILL

PLEASE CONTACT

ROBERT FITZGERALD PRESIDENT
0403 677 519

SONIA MCWHIRTER REGISTRAR
0425213080

DON'T FORGET THE ACTIVE KID PROGRAM