



# St. Andrews Primary School

## *Newsletter Term 2 - Issue 8*

*22nd May 2015*

### ***From the Principal's Desk***

This week the children will be talking about the many people in the world that are less fortunate than ourselves. Next Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May we will be having a Mufti Day for the children and are asking them to bring in a donation to support the people of Nepal. The school leaders will then lead us in a prayer for the people of Nepal at our Friday afternoon assembly. It is the Holy Spirit who God sent to empower us to love one another and to be witnesses to our faith. The Spirit gives us many daily opportunities to express our love for those in need in our homes, our school, our places of work, our parishes and the world. Let us open our hearts more generously to the Spirit so that we can be a positive influence on the people around us.

In the last couple of weeks, I have interviewed a few new families for enrolment as we have begun the process of taking enrolments for 2016. One of the great things for me is sharing with the parents their hopes for their children as they begin at a new school. It is great to also hear the reasons the parents have chosen St Andrews as the place to educate their children. On Wednesday, we hosted some other Principals and staff from the Catholic Education office. They were here to observe the great work that our staff are doing with your children in the learning spaces. I was asked by our visitors would it be possible to film some of the staff in action so that their work could be shared with other teachers in other schools. This is a great acknowledgement to our staff who are working so hard to provide the best instruction they can for the benefit of your children. St Andrews is definitely a place where children will receive a quality education in a friendly environment where there is a strong sense of community. I would ask all those families seeking enrolment for next year to please return your enrolment forms as soon as possible so that we can organize interviews. This year we are conducting interviews for Kindergarten 2016 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

During this week as part of my role I have been checking on children's attendance for the year so far. I am required to ensure that all children are attending regularly and that explanations regarding the reason for the absence be provided by parents. If notes are not provided, I am required to write to parents reminding them that notes are required. I have printed information in this newsletter outlining the procedures required by legislation for your information. It is important that the children miss school on as few occasions as possible to ensure that they reach their full potential as learners. We need to support each other with your child's attendance to ensure that your children reach the benchmarks we have for them. Your continued cooperation and support with this is greatly appreciated.

Next Thursday, from 8:30am until about 9:30am tea and coffee will be provided for parents in the staff study. (Old computer room) We are doing this once a term to allow parents to gather and chat and also just a chance to have an informal chat with me to share your thoughts. This is a great way for us to build a relationship and for me to hear your thoughts. Please feel welcome to come along.

Kind Regards  
Michael Tonnet  
Principal

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**26th June 2015**

**No children at school**

**on this day.**

## **1-2-3 Magic - A Positive Parenting Course**

- This course will be conducted by Joyce Snedden who is the Manager of Counselling in the Parramatta Diocese.
- It is practical and would help all parents improve on their parenting skills especially of children 3-12 years old.
- The venue is **St Bernadette's Primary** - 18 Wheeler Street LALOR PARK
- Time 6.30 – 8.30 pm for 3 Thursdays beginning **May 21**
- To register phone St Bernadette's on 9622 3535

The cost is \$10 for the workbook

For more information contact your child's class teacher or John Penny, School Counsellor at St. Andrews Primary.

## **SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED**

*When your marriage relationship sadly and tragically breaks down, you can begin to think that your life has come to an end; dreams and hopes are shattered. This is true for so many. On the last Tues of each month, CCSS Solo Parents Services run a support group for such people, called "Stepping Beyond". We meet again on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at Allawah St, Blacktown. For further details call Eileen or Rita on 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)*

## **Happy Birthday**

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to all the children at St Andrews Primary who celebrate their birthday in the coming weeks.

## **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

The second hand uniform shop is open each Wednesday from 8:30am to 9:00am.

## **A message from the Uniform Shop**

All winter uniforms are now available for purchase. We will be trading every Monday and Wednesday 8.30-10.00 till the end of term. Ordering online or by phone is available for parents who cannot make it to the shop. For more information please contact Ellie 0421 216 414.

## **Mercy Music & Performance Academy May Workshops**

This month, OLMC Parramatta is launching the **Mercy Music and Performance Academy Parramatta**. Building on the strong musical tradition established by the Sisters of Mercy at OLMC, the Mercy Music and Performance Academy cultivates and nurtures the creative talents of young performers. The Academy offers instrumental lessons and workshops for both boys and girls. Students aged 9 – 14 are invited to attend the **Vocal Workshop** (9am – 12pm) and/or the **Woodwind Workshop** (1-4pm) on May 23 and May 30 (over 2 days). Cost: \$150 per workshop see [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy) for more information and to book.

## Reporting to Parents

This term children will bring home their half yearly reports. Information is published to assist parents with the reporting process.

Reports describe what your child can do and identifies areas where they may need help. Reports for Years 1 to 6 also provide a comparison of your child's achievement using the Common Grade Scale E to A. It is important that parents are aware that this E-A Scale differs from the one you may have experienced at school. Reports are only one way of gaining information about your child's learning. To gain the best information about your child's performance and how it can be improved is by attending Parent-Teacher interviews - Monday 15th June, Tuesday 16th June and Wednesday 17th June.

<b>E</b>	The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.
<b>D</b>	The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.
<b>C</b>	The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
<b>B</b>	The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills in most situations.
<b>A</b>	The student has extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.



# Student of the Week

<b>6Red</b>	Antonio Ma'u	Alyssa Callus
<b>6Blue</b>	Neeraj Naidu	Emele Smith
<b>6Green</b>	Kassandra Shrestha	Stephanie Morcos
<b>6Yellow</b>	Tohan Fadlalla	Shenelle Silva
<b>5Red</b>	Jamie Maher	Abigail Kinloch
<b>5Blue</b>	Name Withheld	Mark Cruz
<b>5Green</b>	Jayden Sultana	Name Withheld
<b>5Yellow</b>	Kaya Lisowski	Name Withheld
<b>4Red</b>	Name Withheld	Holly Brasier
<b>4Blue</b>	Mikaela Zapanta	Jordan Gutierrez
<b>4Green</b>	Aaryan Singh	Jaismeen Thind
<b>4Yellow</b>	Lauren Dela Cruz	Luke Carter
<b>3Red</b>	Aryan Rao	Helen Zammit
<b>3Blue</b>	Tyler Mates	Jade Lumayno
<b>3Green</b>	Eric Forcadilla	Name Withheld
<b>3Yellow</b>	Clare Manu	Bridget Adigue
<b>2Red</b>	Name Withheld	Name Withheld
<b>2Blue</b>	Mathew Sotto	Ariana Fatone
<b>2Green</b>	Oscar Sherchan	Elexis Stone
<b>2Yellow</b>	Jayda Amabile	Name Withheld
<b>1Red</b>	Samanta Cardona	James Ilagan
<b>1Blue</b>	Verity Rodrigues	Nicole Gasendo
<b>1Green</b>	Nicholas Bova	Jacob Parnis
<b>1Yellow</b>	Katelyn Wichman	Name Withheld
<b>KRed</b>	Andrew Orule	Nate Wylie-Fahey
<b>KBlue</b>	Ebonie Em	Lucas Wu
<b>KGreen</b>	Jaxson Pyda	Micha Mauricio
<b>KYellow</b>	Name Withheld	Matthew Barrington



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## **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. Students must complete Year 10 and after Year 10, until they turn 17 years of age, students must be:

- in school or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship)
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training

### **What if my child has to be away from school?**

If your child has to be absent from school, you **must** tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school

Your school will inform you of the required procedures for notifying them.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child has to:

- go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness

Children need to arrive on school and class on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school must be recorded as a partial absence. Your school will inform you of the required procedures for late arrivals and early departures from school.

### **Application for exemption**

If you consider that it is in your child's best interests to be exempted from the legal requirement to attend school for any length of time, you **must** apply to the principal for an exemption. The school will provide an *Application for Exemption from Attendance at School* form, and assist you to complete it, if necessary. The principal will consider your application and decide whether to grant a *Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School*.

### **Responsibilities of the school principal**

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. They **must** also keep accurate records of student attendance. Principals are able to question requests for a child to be absent from school and are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. Principals may request medical





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certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to identify the reasons for non-attendance and put in place strategies so the child can return to school. Principals may ask support staff or other agencies to assist.

### **What if my child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance?**

It is important to understand that the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC), on behalf of the State Minister for Education, may take further action in cases where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. The following actions may be taken in these cases:

#### **Attendance meetings**

Parents, and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend a meeting with school and Catholic Education Office personnel and in some cases, DEC regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family and remove barriers to non-attendance. Other agencies may also be invited, if parents agree.

#### **Compulsory attendance conferences**

If school attendance does not improve, parents and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend a compulsory attendance conference. The conference, which will be run by a trained conference convenor, aims to help the school, parents and other agencies to further identify the issue impacting on a child's attendance. The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are agreed in writing.

#### **Compulsory schooling order**

If previous attempts to resolve the issue of a child's attendance are not successful, legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues preventing satisfactory school attendance. This has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

#### **Prosecution**

If all attempts by schools, the Catholic Education Office and DEC regional support staff fail to improve a child's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court with the result of fines being imposed up to a maximum of \$11,000.



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**Further information:**

Further information is available from:

Catholic Education Commission policy and information

[www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au) - search 'student attendance'

or <http://bit.ly/zdLonM>

NSW Department of Education and Communities

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

**Do you need an interpreter?**

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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## FUNDRAISING APPEALS – NEPAL/DW

### MUFTI DAY NEXT FRIDAY – MAY 29.

As Christians we are called to reach out to others in need. The recent earthquakes in Nepal have resulted in massive losses, scenes of which we have witnessed in many news reports. **CARITAS** is currently raising funds to support the many clean-up and renewal programs already underway in this devastated area.

We also know that the **Diocesan Works Fund** provides support and runs programs to help those in need within our own diocese. The DWF runs fundraising appeals three times per year, the first of which took place in parishes last weekend.

To assist these organisations in their work we will be holding a

**MUFTI DAY NEXT FRIDAY – MAY 29.** Students are asked to bring donations of money, **gold coins or notes**, which will be placed on a focus in the amphitheatre throughout Friday morning. At the school assembly on Friday afternoon we will add our prayers for those affected by the Nepal earthquakes to our fundraising earlier in the day. Please be generous in your support of these appeals.

#### SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FOOD DONATION

Long-life milk teabags, coffee, hot chocolate

Rice, pasta, noodles

Tinned soup, packet soup mixes, cup-a-soups

Sauce, pasta sauce, Asian stir-fry sauces

Tinned fish/ meat, vegetables, baked beans, spaghetti

Cordial, fruit juice, poppers

Tins or jars of fruit

Biscuits (sweet or savoury)

and anything else, so long as it is NON-PERISHABLE.

Please avoid sending in items that contain nuts.

#### SACRED HEART MASS JUNE 12 (9:15am)

At this Mass each year we support the St. Vincent de Paul Society with donations of non-perishable food items for their Winter Appeal. If each child only brought in one item we would have over 700 articles that would then be distributed to those in need in our community. Teachers will collect these items in the classroom and then donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. New blankets, scarves, shawls, beanies and gloves are also always gratefully accepted for distribution to the homeless.

Thank you for your kind support as we teach our children about loving others.



## PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS



Thank you to all the helpers for the Mothers Day stall, your support made it successful. It was great to see the children so happy to buy gifts for their mums.

### Morning Tea

Thursday 28th from 8.30am to 10am

Come along and have acuppa and an informal chat with Mr Tonnet. All parents, guardians and grandparents are most welcome.

Mr Tonnet can be contacted by email on [mtonnet@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mtonnet@parra.catholic.edu.au)

The P&F Facebook page is no longer active as the school now has its own. For updates relating to the school we recommend you follow the school's page.

### **St Andrews Primary School on facebook.**

If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved please feel free to contact me on 0412663649. Pauline Sultana



## TERM 2

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 <b>Newsletter Week</b>	<b>April 20</b> Staff Development Day	21 First Day for Students Term 2	22	23	24 ANZAC Day Ceremony 2:15pm
2	27	28 Pre-Enrolment Meeting Year 7—2016 St Andrews College Junior Campus 6pm	29	30	<b>May 1</b>
3 <b>Newsletter Week</b>	4 P&F Meeting 7pm	5 Confirmation Registration 7pm Cross Country	6	7 Mothers Day Stall Soccer Stage 3 Girls	8 Mothers Day Stall St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm-3:00pm
4	11	12 NAPLAN—Language Conventions and Writing	13 NAPLAN—Reading	14 NAPLAN—Numeracy	15
5 <b>Newsletter Week</b>	18	19	20	21 Soccer Stage 3 Boys	22
6	25	26	27	28 Principal Morning Tea	29 St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm-3:00pm
7 <b>Newsletter Week</b>	<b>June 1</b>	2	3	4	5
8	8 <b>Long Weekend No school</b>	9	10 Sacrament of Confirmation	11	12 Sacrament of Confirmation Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass 9:15am Reports go home
9 <b>Newsletter Week</b>	15 Parent/Teacher Interviews	16 Parent/Teacher Interviews	17 Parent/Teacher Interviews	18	19 St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm-3:00pm
10	22	23 Disco 3/4	24 Disco Infants	25 Disco 5/6 Soccer Stage 2 Boys Last Day of Term 2 for children	26 <b>Staff Development Day</b>

## Wesley Family Centre, The Hills

Term 2 2015

### Family Support Work for families with children 0 - 17 yrs.

Family Workers and Parenting Coaches can assist you individually, as a couple, and as a family. Together we can explore the strengths and skills you have within your family and by identifying any changes or improvements you would like to make we can set goals and/or locate specialist services to achieve these outcomes.

Hours of services: Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

After Hours: Tuesdays & Thursday 9.00am - 7.00pm

### Community Development - Rouse Hill Families Connect

A Families New South Wales initiative providing families with children aged 0 to 8 years opportunities to meet their neighbours in around the local area. Dads, Mums and any significant carers of children are invited to actively engage in their children's early development and learning through our fun play based community activities.

### Multicultural Women's Support Group

in a relaxed friendly, fun environment, providing Multicultural women; who care for children aged from birth to 12 years opportunities to meet other local parents and develop relationships with other local women, participate in a engaging programs that can assist with your child's education and development and help you to learn more about other support services in your local community.

### Financial Counselling Services

providing free independent and confidential face-to-face counselling. Our professional financial counsellors can help you if you are in financial difficulty or would like to manage your money more effectively. They can provide short-term crisis management and long-term prevention strategies.

### Children's Expressive Therapies the Hills

offers mental wellbeing to children and young people aged between 5 -15 years old, who are seeking help for emotional support and growth in their lives. It is an individual and/or group therapeutic counselling program delivered by an experienced Art Therapy practitioner of 15 years. The service provides young people with the tools and support they need to gain the confidence to overcome crisis in their lives.

### Counselling

In Partnership with a local Child and Family Therapist - this service will provide counselling for children, youth, individuals, couples and families.

After Hours: Tuesdays & Thursday 5.00pm - 7.00pm.

**"It takes a village to raise a child"**



# newsletter

**Wesley Family Centre-the Hills**  
Unit 437-14 Lexington Drive  
Bella Vista NSW 2153

**PO Box 7106**  
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

**T: 8805 7288**  
**F: 8805 7298**  
**E: [thehills@wesleymission.org.au](mailto:thehills@wesleymission.org.au)**

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## EXCITING NEW MEDICAL CENTRE

# Now Open

**OPENING HOURS**  
Monday-Friday  
8.00am-6.00pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
9.00am-2.00pm.  
Public Holidays  
to be advised  
Patients will be seen on  
a walk-in basis – no  
appointment necessary



We extend a warm welcome to our new medical centre. Based on Christian values, Lourdes Medical Centre provides health services for the whole family and community.

- ✓ Male & Female GPs
- ✓ Dentist
- ✓ Family Medicine
- ✓ Registered Nurse
- ✓ Allied Health Professional
- ✓ Pathology

Bulk Billing Practice

*On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*  
— Mark 2:17



## MEDICAL CENTRE



81– 83 Richmond Rd, Blacktown, NSW | 9622 1998



★ Early Learning Centre ★

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