



# St. Andrews Primary School

## Newsletter Term 1 - Issue 1

30th January 2014

### *From the Principal's Desk*

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all were able to spend some quality time with your families over the Christmas and New Year period. As I have said so many times before the children just grow up so fast that it is important to take every opportunity to enjoy quality time with your loved ones. We are just so busy when we are working paying the bills and raising the children and are constantly bombarded with all the bad news regarding the state of the world, we often forget about the most important part of our lives and how lucky we are to share in good family relationships and all the joy and fulfilment this brings to us. I hope we all can enjoy a happy, successful and safe year as we work together in the best interests of the children.

As always, the excitement of a new group of Kinders beginning their school journey is a source of great joy to us all! During the first week they seem to have all settled in well and seem happy to be here which is a great sign. We wish all these little ones and the new families that have begun the journey here at St Andrews all the best for a happy and fulfilling year.

**Parent Information Evenings will be held at 7pm on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb (Years 1/2), Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb (Years 3/4), Thurs, 12 Feb (year 5/6). Kindergarten Information night will be held on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm.** This is a great opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to find out how the class will be organized throughout the year. The teachers will also be asking for parent helpers for the classrooms on this night. The more support we can get from you the easier it will be for your children to reach their full potential.

Your child will learn best when they know that you are interested in what they are doing. One way you can show that interest is by your attendance at the parent information evenings. It is a chance for you and your children's new teacher to meet to discuss the year's activities and for you to learn about the class routines for the year.

As I always do at the beginning of each year I want to encourage you to take an active interest in your child's education and try to get up to the school to help. If you have any questions or concerns I encourage you to speak with your children's teachers, the Coordinators Stage 1 Miss Joanne Figuero, Stage 2- Mr Graham Paynter Stage 3-. Mr Adam

Fletcher. I am always available to speak with you to answer questions or clarify anything. Please don't hesitate as you will always be given an honest response. It is always good to hear from you and give another perspective.

**P/F Committee-** This year we thought we would have our first meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm. We are always looking for some people to help on this important committee. As with hospitals, schools rely on fundraising to purchase resources that we would otherwise not have. It is also a fun way to meet and enjoy each other's company. I would ask that you strongly consider attending and lending your support to this committee especially some of our new parents.

**Renovations-** We had some fantastic renovations done over the school holiday period in the Year 3/4 learning spaces. We are very excited about the opportunity this has given us to improve the learning facilities for our beautiful children. We are hoping to begin the process of further improvements to our facilities in the near future.

**Technology-** This year we are reducing the number of excursions and the length of some excursions. Year 5 will now longer go on an overnight excursion and we are reducing the Canberra excursion from two nights to one as we are reprioritizing our expenditure so that we can build up our resources in other areas one of these being technology. At present, it is very difficult to provide enough technology to meet all our needs at the school. Much of what we have is old so we have decided to reduce some costs for parents reducing excursion expenses so that we can introduce a technology levy of \$60 per child to enable us to update and improve these resources for your children. Most of the schools in the diocese have similar levies to enable them to continue to upgrade and enhance the technology resources which are an essential component of schools.

Technology in the classroom enables the use of more interactive educational tools, which allows for a dynamic learning experience that directly benefits students. Web 2.0 interaction involves not only sharing ideas and information with someone else but also receiving feedback. As classroom computer technology is being used for different types of communication (for presentation, for class

interaction, and for collaboration), students are required to be readers, writers, editors, and publishers and must be willing to collaborate and co-create closely with others -- all skills that are critical for students to learn as they grow and enter the workplace. To provide the best possible education for your children it is necessary to introduce this levy to enable us to continue to provide a relevant and stimulating learning environment for the children.

**Learning and Teaching and Attendance-** Many of you would be aware of recent articles in the papers about children's attendance at school and how important it is for them to be at school every day to ensure they are getting the maximum benefit from the instruction they receive. As you would be aware that last year we reorganized the school day to maximize the instruction time for your children by doing this we created an extra two weeks of instruction time. We have also reorganized our learning support structures which means that every available teacher is in the classroom from 9am each day instructing the children in reading. Reading groups commence next week which is a lot earlier than in previous years. I am saying this to let you know that our focus is your children's learning, building their confidence and enabling them to be successful. You can assist us in our efforts in maximizing instruction time by ensuring that your children are at school each day at 8:50am sharp ready to begin their day of learning. Children coming after 8:50 need to be accompanied to the office by an adult where a late to school form needs to be completed and signed by the parents **This will be recorded as a partial absence in the school role.** I know that you will support us with this renewed focus on the learning and ready to start the day at 8:50am sharp. Please refer to these new procedures on page 3 of this newsletter.

**Term calendar-** For anyone wishing to know what is coming up here at school please access the school calendar on the school website—:

[www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au)  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**After school pickup/parking.** It is always difficult at the beginning of each new school year with dismissal in the afternoons. I would ask all of you to remember the importance of safety. Your children are precious and it is important that everyone is able to leave the school grounds safely. It is also important that we look after the school's neighbours in the afternoon and not block their driveways as does happen. I understand the difficulties with the

pick up in the afternoons. Please do not enter the parish or staff car park for pick up in the afternoon

I hope that you enjoy the year. I look forward to all the great things that we have planned for your children. I trust that I will continue to see many parents involving themselves positively in the life of the school throughout the year as we continue to work together in the interests of the children.

Have a great 2015

Michael Tonnet

Principal

### 2015 School Captains and Student Council

#### School Captains

Angelo Marasigan

Isabella Dos Santos

#### Student Council

Henry Clemson

Geneva Valencia

Isaac Wasef

Francine Dequina

Jerome Sumagaysay

Maryssa Ghazaleh

#### Reserves

Eion Pascua

Maiah Lazaro

### Sports Days 2015

Kindergarten	Friday
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Friday
Year 6	Friday

## **Late to School Notes**

We have been advised by the Catholic Education Office that any child that arrives at school after the bell has gone is required to have a late note. Parents must accompany their child to the Office and fill out a "Late to School" form. There will be no more "late passes". Late School Forms will then be given to the class teacher and recorded in the Roll as a "Partial Absence". Please try and have your child to school on time as this can be disruptive to the class as well as your child missing valuable information at the beginning of the school day.

## **Leave from school during the school term**

**In the past parents wishing to take their children out of school for any period of time were asked to obtain and fill out an "Exemption from School" form that was handed in for the Principal for approval. These exemptions were not included with the students absences. Please note the following changes to the School Attendance Register Codes- commencing 27 Jan. 2015**

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015.

These changes will implement the **ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting**. ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

## **Holidays**

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be **included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.**

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel during school term is necessary the following considerations apply:

- Leave of ten (10) or more school days will require a formal application for leave in writing. This letter of request should be addressed to the Principal prior to commencing the leave period indicating the specific reason or purpose for the request of leave.
- If the principal **accepts** the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "**L**"
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence is unjustified and will be recorded as "**A**"
- If the period of absence is in excess of **50 days**, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education.

***\*For that period the student's enrolment transfers to the distance education school. Please Note: A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school concurrently (including Distance Education).***

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.

Need a great Valentines present? Surprise your spouse with a weekend away from the hustle of life by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You will rejuvenate your relationship to be better than ever. Give the gift of your time.

6-8 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW To apply contact 02 4283 3435

or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au) [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

### Birthdays

01/02/2015	Schoenel DeLaCruz, Bridget Adigue
02/02/2015	Vaughn Verayo, Hayden Honey
03/02/2015	Zahra Maudave
04/02/2015	Brandon Pollock, Olivia Shen, Isla Morrison, Kailey Morrison
05/02/2015	Marco Domingo, Mykaela Beattie
07/02/2015	Zephaniah Mahusay, Ashnoor Mand
09/02/2015	Kaelah Garcia
10/02/2015	Jasmine Cubillo, Zayne Bayrich
12/02/2015	Leigh Amores
13/02/2015	Kelsie Guerrero Lara Childs

### Allergies—Important Information

Dear Parents,

Schools cater for many differences that children present, academic, emotional, social and health issues.

Throughout our school, we have children with **life threatening** allergies. This is a serious matter, one that the school must address. Therefore, we appeal to all parents to assist us in caring for these children by considering the type of foods you pack for your own child's lunch.

Our aim is to minimize the amount of **peanut** and **nut** products brought into the school and avoid all foods that contain **nuts**. These foods are extremely dangerous to our children with allergies. Common foods that trigger an allergic reaction are listed below and we ask that they **not** be brought to school at **any time**.

- ⇒ Peanuts – including M & M peanuts
- ⇒ Cashews, hazelnuts, almonds, walnuts and all tree nuts
- ⇒ Peanut butter
- ⇒ Nutella
- ⇒ Sesame seeds – remember some bread rolls have sesame seeds on them including some McDonald's hamburger buns
- ⇒ Foods that contain satay e.g. Thai, Malaysian, Indonesian dishes
- ⇒ Chocolate – blocks, biscuits and lollies
- ⇒ Whole egg – boiled egg, curried egg

Our canteen does not sell any of the items above. In the case of a child bringing a nut product to school, teachers will bring the matter to the attention of parents.

If peanut or nuts are **not** on the ingredient list of a particular packaged food but the food has the statement:

**“MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUT.....”**  
this food may be brought to school and consumed only by **non-allergic children**.

Due to safety concerns, we discourage children from sharing food. We would also appreciate parents speaking with children regarding this matter.

We thank you for helping us to provide a safe environment for all of our children.



## Catholic Parish of St Andrew the Apostle Marayong

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Email: [saapm@bigpond.com.au](mailto:saapm@bigpond.com.au)

17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

### TO THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHILDREN THEY WISH TO BE PREPARED FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE (RECONCILIATION), FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION IN 2015

In 2011, the Diocese of Parramatta released a revised *Sacraments of Initiation Policy* for children preparing for the above mentioned sacraments. The process of preparation for these sacraments remains as a parish based, family centred program which creates particular opportunities for parents to continue sharing their faith with their child at the appropriate time. The sequence for the reception of these sacraments has returned to the order that you may remember as a child.

The *Sacraments of Initiation* are **Baptism, First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**. The Sacrament of **Penance**, sometimes called *Reconciliation* or *Confession*, is also an important part of the journey of faith for all of us. It is necessary to receive this Sacrament before you are able to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. As with all Sacramental Programs it is essential that parents and children are involved. While the students are supported by religious studies in the schools, the actual preparation takes place on a parish and home level. Parents and children are required to attend Sunday Mass and classes, and parents are helped by Facilitators who conduct the sessions.

Each year there are opportunities for your children to receive the Sacraments of **Reconciliation, First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**. This is based on the presumption that they have already received the **Sacrament of Baptism**, as this is the pre-requisite for all other Sacraments. Usually the **Sacrament of Penance** is received in Year Two. **First Holy Communion** may be received the year after the **Sacrament of Penance** is received. Preparation for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** may begin when your child has entered Year 5 or Year 6 and have already made their First Holy Communion.

Parents have an essential role in discerning when their children are ready to be prepared for the Sacraments. When they believe this is the case they should present the children for registration in the appropriate Sacramental Program.

There is a definite commitment required of families involved in Sacramental Programs. Parents will have to attend one or two *Parent Education Evenings* in regard to the Sacraments concerned. There will also be an *Enrolment Ceremony* conducted during Mass on a Sunday morning. **Attendance at the 8:45am Sunday masses and all classes during the Sacramental Preparation Program are compulsory.**

#### **Please Note: What does 'Parish-Based Preparation Programs mean?**

What this means in practice is that families need to present their children to their own parish community for preparation. In other words for people to be eligible to receive the sacrament in St. Andrew's Parish, Marayong, they need to fulfil one of the following criteria --

The family must live within the parish boundaries of the Parish *and / or*

The families need to have chosen this parish as their parish community and this is expressed by ...

- their registering as parishioners of this Parish and
- by their participation in the life of this parish community.

If you do not live within the parish boundaries of St Andrew's, or are not registered as a parishioner of the parish, you will need to explain why you are seeking the Sacraments here at St Andrew's. This should be done before the Registration Night. It will require an appointment with one of the Priests or the Sacramental Coordinator. Attendance at the schools in the parish does not automatically make one a parishioner of this parish. As all Sacramental Programs are parish based, it is normally the case that Sacraments are received in the parish where you live or the parish where you worship and are involved.

If your child was baptised at a Church other than St Andrew's Marayong, you will need to bring along a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate.

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### **What should you do now?**

The Program for 2015 is outlined below. Please note in your diaries the Registration Period for each Sacramental Preparation Program you wish to enroll your child for and register in person at the Parish Office during that period. **[Only PARENTS can collect a Registration form for their child / children.]**

#### **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

*[For children in Year 3 and above who have made their first Reconciliation.]*

Registration Period begins:	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015
Registration Evening:	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015
Classes (including Mass):	Sundays 1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015
Date of Sacrament:	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March, 2015 (6 pm) &
(Choose One)	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2015 [8.45am or 12.15pm]

**[ Please note – Allocation to the 6pm, 8:45 am or 12:15pm masses will be based on when Registration forms are collected from parish office.]**

#### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

*[For children in Year 5 and above who will have made their First Holy Communion before the Confirmation Ceremony.]*

Registration Period begins:	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April, 2015
Registration Evening:	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015
Classes (including Mass):	Sundays 17 <sup>th</sup> May, & 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015
Date of Sacrament:	9 <sup>th</sup> and/or 10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2015 [7.00pm]

#### **Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)**

*[For children in Year 2 and above who have been baptised.]*

Registration Period begins:	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015
Registration Evening:	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2015
Classes (including Mass):	Sundays 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2015
Date of Sacrament: <i>[Choose one]</i>	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August or Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August or Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015 [All 9.30am]

*Parish Sacramental Team  
Parish of St Andrew the Apostle, Marayong*

## TERM 1

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>1</b> Newsletter Week	<b>Jan 26</b> Public Holiday	27 Staff 1st Day of Term 1	<b>28</b> Year 1 to Year 6 1st day Term 1 1st group Kinder 9am-12pm	<b>29</b> 2nd group Kinder 9am-12pm	<b>30</b> 3rd group Kinder 9am-12pm
<b>2</b>	<b>Feb 2</b>	3	4	5	6
<b>3</b> Newsletter Week	<b>9</b> Parent Information Evening 7pm Year 1 and Year 2	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Parent Information Evening 7pm Year 3 and Year 4	<b>12</b> Parent Information Evening 7pm Year 5 and Year 6	<b>13</b> Opening School Mass—9:15am St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm-3:15pm
<b>4</b>	<b>16</b> Parent Information Evening 7pm Kindergarten	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday 9:15am	<b>19</b> Kinder BBQ	<b>20</b>
<b>5</b> Newsletter Week	<b>23</b> P&F Meeting 7pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>March 2</b> Meet and Greet the Teacher Week	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm—3:15pm
<b>7</b> Newsletter Week	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 3/4 Disco	<b>11</b> Infants Disco	<b>12</b> 5/6 Disco	<b>13</b> Catholic Schools Week Mass—9:15am
<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> St Andrews Assembly 2:15pm—3:15pm
<b>9</b> Newsletter Week	<b>23</b> Young Leaders Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Primary Athletics Carnival
<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>2</b> Holy Thursday Stations of the Cross Last Day of Term 1	<b>3</b> Good Friday