



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

13th February 2014

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL FOCUS FOR WEEKS 3

"Hands off keeps us safe"

CALENDAR DATES TERM 1

Feb 13 Thur	Reflection Afternoon 2 pm in the Hall Everyone welcome
Feb 14 Fri	Arthur's Parish Birthday Party 6.30 pm
Feb 18 Tues	Mufti-day Bring a \$2 coin
Feb 21 Fri	Assembly 9.00 am Presented by Stage 3 Bush Dance 6.30 pm– 8.30 pm All welcome
Feb 25 Tues	Zone Swimming Carnival Hawkesbury Oasis Windsor Holy Communion meeting 7.30 pm St Matthew's Church
Feb 26 Wed	Holy Communion meeting 7.30 pm Chisholm School
Mar 5 Wed	Ash Wednesday Parish Mass 9.15 am
Mar 7 Fri	Assembly 9.00 am Presented by Year 2

Dear Parents,

Meet the Teachers Evening

Overwhelming - is the exuberant word that comes to mind with how Tuesday night went. Scores of parents were able to join us on the night, making use of the child-minding provided. The teachers are delighted that they were able to meet with so many of you. Feedback from the parents present about the teachers was tremendous - "They're just so excited about our children and working with them. It's infectious - it makes me so excited I want to go back to school" said one of our dads!

Parents also report their enthusiasm about the Skoolbag app, the Facebook site, the playgroup site and the school website as fantastic methods of communication and involvement tools.

Shade Structure Update

Following the meeting last evening, a large group of parents met with me to go over some initial thinking and planning around our much-needed shade structure. We will be meeting again on Tuesday 18 March at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall to develop a plan for how we move ahead on this project. All parents are of course invited to attend and be part of the discussion - especially if you have ideas and contacts who would be able to help us construct an exciting and imaginative structure for our students. We will be sending you an alert on Skoolbag so please include that meeting in your calendars.

Website News

We will soon be updating the presentation of our website to reflect our new student population and uniforms. We hope you will like it. Thanks to Mrs. Roberts for her skillful work in photography and web design.

Bush Dance

We look forward to our community coming together for our annual Bush Dance. Thank you to all those who are assisting with the preparations. Remember to invite all those prospective parents and children from the preschools that your children attend. There are raffle tickets being sent home as a fundraiser organized by our parent helpers, which we also ask you to support.

School Security

I have been meeting with Windsor police, our security and installation companies regarding plans I have to increase our security. We were of course broken into twice at the end of last year. This is quite distressing for our community and it impairs our students' access to appropriate resources. There will be a range of measures taken around prevention and apprehension. Installations will be taking place - some of which will be visible and some of which will not. Current technologies enable surveillance and response to be of a very high level. These changes will be extremely necessary for our school community.

Teaching and Learning

Involving parents in the school life of their children is showing globally to be a significant factor in improving student learning outcomes. Especially, as well if the involvement is not only communal but educational. The 'Paws for Reading Challenge' announced this week is a further opportunity to be involved in your child's learning. Do you read with your child each day - for enjoyment?

Our start to the year has been fabulous - thanks to our students, families and teachers!

With my deep appreciation of your ongoing support,

Stephen Dowd

Greetings everyone!
Peace with you!

It has been a great start to the year with Prayer Bags going home and Religion units are in full swing. We hope Fr. Arthur has a very enjoyable Birthday party on Friday night with the Parish and a wonderful day on the 18th of next week.

We are having a Mufti day next Tuesday, the 18th of February to celebrate Father's Birthday and thank him for everything he does for St. Matthew's School. We ask you kindly for a \$2 coin donation to contribute to Fr. Arthur's gift. It will be a gift from the students. Thank you for your generosity.

This afternoon at 2.15 pm and then on a fortnightly basis (Thursdays), we are having a Reflection and discussion get together. All are invited. Come along and enjoy a very relaxed gathering in faith.

We pray for all in our community who are in need of our prayers. We ask our Mother Mary for her love and protection.

Reminders

* Ash Wednesday Parish Mass on the 5th of March at 9.15 am.

* Infants will have a Liturgy in the Hall at 10.00 am.

All are welcome to join us in prayer.

* Holy Communion Parent Information Meetings on Tuesday, 25th of February at 7.30 pm in the Church.

* At Chisholm Primary School, Wednesday, the 26th of February, at 7.30 pm.

This Sunday, the 16th of February, is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Matthew 5: 17-20.

Jesus points out the continuity of God's work and action. We are blessed to have the traditions and teachings that we draw on to continue our journey of faith.

We thank God for all the people in our lives that have taught us pray and helped us to understand God's ways.

When you receive the Gospel for Sunday to share with your family, reflect on what these Gospel words are saying to your life, here and now.



Student of the Week

Kinder	Allison Rose Ashton Vista Hannah Kent Andrew Xia	For consistently showing the 5Ls in class. For great estimating and counting in maths. For her constant enthusiasm and participation in class discussions. For showing kindness to his peers and displaying confidence in his learning.
Year 1	Sean Miskelly Brianna Mahlis Gabriel Birdsey Holly McKay	Brilliant punctuation in Journal Writing. Settling well into her new school. Being a STAR student. A great start to Year 1.
Year 2	Stephanie Dimech Amy Galea Liam Henson Joel Seget	Listening attentively in class. For her beautifully reverent behaviour in church. For excellent work with his whole number. Settling into Year 2 well.
YEAR 3	No student of the week this fortnight. They will be announced at assembly on 21st February.	
Year 4	Kyle Henson Bronagh Miskelly Phu Sansahachok Kaitlyn Touma	Excellent work in the classroom and writing an excellent Exposition. Working diligently in class and helping other people. Speaking confidently and clearly in class. Producing excellent work in class and working hard on her personal learning goal.
YEAR 5	Bradley Keddie Chloe Tyrrell	For an excellent start to the year. For her enthusiasm for their team at the swimming carnival.
Year 6	Jacob El Hendy Caitlyn Millar	A positive and enthusiastic start to 2014 A fabulous effort in all Key Learning Areas - especially in her mathematics bookwork.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 14th February	Monday 17th February	Wednesday 19th February
Josephine Muscat	Marina Caldwell	Laraine Selmes
Laraine Selmes	Samantha Naylor	Lyn Howard
Friday 21st February	Monday 24th February	Wednesday 26th February
Lisa Bugeja	Carissa Finch	Myra McDonald
Laraine Selmes	Natalie Wells	Sandra Mitchell
Melissa Keddie		
Friday 28th February	Monday 3rd March	Wednesday 5th March
Alicia Edwart	Holly Crowe	Louise Law
Carissa Finch	Josephine Muscat	Yvonne Barnes
Laraine Selmes		

To access the web portal go to www.carebookings.com.au/book, using the event code:WNJK5. If you would like to volunteer for canteen please login and add your name to the date as per the calendar.

Please remember that the responsibility is now on the volunteers to swap with another volunteer if you are unable to attend.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The St Matthew's swimming carnival was another success this year due to the outstanding student participation in many of the swimming events. House spirit was high as students celebrated and cheered the success of others throughout the day.



This year's carnival would not have run smoothly without the support and assistance of teachers especially Mrs Burke & Mr Hafsteins, parents, volunteers and the students. Thank you to the teachers for their high spirit and management of the students during the carnival. Thank you also to the parents and volunteers for their support in helping with judging, marshalling and timing the swimming events as it helps make our carnival run smoothly.

This year **Green** was the triumphant house, followed closely by Red, Gold and Blue. Well done to all students who competed and participated in the swimming carnival.

The Hills Zone Swimming Carnival is on the 25th February at Hawkesbury Oasis pool. Students will be notified on Friday as to who will be attending.

Volunteers don't just do the work ~ **they make it work.**

Uniform Shop Hours



Friday 8.30 am - 12 noon

Uniform orders can be placed at the front office or the form can be downloaded from the website.

Any uniform sales or enquiries, Ruby will be able to assist you on Fridays only between the hours of 8.30 am & 12 noon.

ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

12 Tebbutt Street, Windsor



MASS TIMES

Monday - Saturday: 9.00am

(Thursday Hospital): 10.45am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am & 5.00pm

SUNDAY CHISHOLM PRIMARY MASS: 9.30am

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9.30-10.30am

Telephone: 4577 3073

Office Hrs: 9.30am-4.00pm ~ stmcc@tpg.com.au

TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAY DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Kindy	Nicholas Lupi	Abby Caldwell	
Year 1	Gabriel Birdsey	Jasmin Crinnion	Rylan Sheridan
	Darcy Buckingham		
Year 2	Madison Rowley		
Year 3	Olivia Ryman	Alyssa Kirk	Jordan Sharp
Year 4	Kaitlyn Touma	Jacinta Palminha	Phu Sansahachok
Year 5	No birthdays		
Year 6	Harrison Rose		

Mufti Day Tuesday 18th February

to celebrate Father's Birthday and thank him for everything he does for St. Matthew's School.

We ask you kindly for a \$2 coin donation to contribute to Fr. Arthur's gift.

It will be a gift from the students.
Thank you for your generosity.

SCHOOL FEES 2014

School fee accounts for Term 1 have now been posted and payment is due on the **7 March 2014**.

Families have the option to take up the Flexible Payment Plan offered and the information regarding this has been sent with the school fee account. Fees can also be paid by Cash, Cheque, Bpay and Eftpos.

For those families who had setup a payment arrangement in 2013 you will now need to renegotiate a new payment plan for 2014 school fees.

Please contact Stacey Roberts on 4577 3463 should you have any queries or need to setup a payment plan.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW FAMILIES BUSH DANCE Friday 21st February



6.30 pm-8.30 pm

Bring a blanket & chairs
Fancy Dress

Prizes for Best Dressed Boy & Girl

Lucky dip & Lucky door prize

Sausage on a roll, drinks, slushies & mini donuts for sale

Raffle tickets for sale on the night



Don't forget that **Monday is School Banking day** and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmite token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

To kick the year off we are running a 'STAY COOL AT SCHOOL' promotion in Term 1 which is exclusive to Penrith Area schools. Our school has the chance of winning a 3m x 3m marquee.

There are also (2) \$50 prizes for 2 lucky bankers to be deposited into their Youthsaver account. To be part of this competition you must make 3 deposits into your Youthsaver account through School Banking between 28/01/2014 and 11/4/2014 and you will be automatically entered into the draw.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Matthews.

BOOK CLUB ISSUE 1
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THIS
WEEK.

ORDERS NEED TO BE
RETURNED BY
THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Register of enrolments

When a student under 17 years of age leaves school with an unknown destination the school has a responsibility to inform the local DET School Education Area of the name and last known contact details for the student concerned.

MEALS NEEDED

We currently have a family that requires assistance.

One way that we are able to help them, is by cooking a meal that can be left at the front office to be put in the freezer. Please label the meal as suggested below. Thank you for your assistance.

Name of meal:
Number of serves:
Ingredients:
Date:



Catholic Education Office

Bishops Office

Diocesan Positions

Administration Assistant: Holy Spirit Seminary. Closes 9 February.

Parish Secretary: St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. Closes 9 February.

CCD Regional Coordinator: Holroyd/Parramatta Region. Closes 14 February.

Youth Minister: St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill. Closes 28 February at 5pm.

Full details of these roles and position descriptions are available in the **Employment** section of the Diocese of Parramatta's website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

Fr Wim Hoekstra Pilgrimages Information Afternoon: 9 February

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest of St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is organising two pilgrimages in 2014: 7-23 July taking in France and Italy (Paris, Lisieux, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence) and 19 September – 4 October (September school holidays) for Israel and Jordan. Information afternoon on Sunday 9 February at St Finbar's Parish Hall, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook: 2.15-3.30pm for the France & Italy pilgrimage; 3.45-5pm for the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Limited places available. For flyers and booking forms, click on **News and Events** at www.stfinbars.org.au or contact Fr Wim tel (02) 4739 8928, wim@stfinbars.org.au

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel (02) 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel

The inspiring insights in this publication put forward by 12 prominent Australian Catholics follow the release of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. Published by Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia, *The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel* is available free online and in book form.

Contributors to the *The Francis Effect* include: Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Head of Mission Studies at the Columban Mission Institute; Fr Tim Norton SDV, Australian Provincial of the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries; Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services; and Joe Moloney, Research Officer with the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office.

To read *The Francis Effect – Living the Joy of the Gospel* free online visit www.catholicmission.org.au/thefranciseffect

To order a print copy call 1800 257 296 or visit www.catholicmission.org.au

Holy Spirit Mission: 14-16 February

'Have Faith in God' (*Mk* 11:22) presented by Br Lalith Perera, international speaker and founder of the Community of the Risen Lord. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Parramatta is hosting a program that includes Br Lalith speaking on: Receiving powerful faith is a gift from God (Fri); Sickness and problems can be overcome by truths revealed by faith (Sat); Faith and the Holy Spirit bring the Kingdom of God into the here and now (Sun). There will be Sunday Mass, Reconciliation, Prayer Ministry, Children's Ministry. Times: Fri. 7.30-9.30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm; Sun. 11am-5pm. Free entry, donation appreciated, coffee & tea provided, BYO lunch, package meals for purchase. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. Details: Gerard 0404 093 118, Anselma 0400 280 886, Charles 0425 840 362.

Christian Meditation: 16 February

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery at Arcadia. Program includes presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Arrive 10am for 10.30am. Concludes about 3pm. BYO picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Books & CDs for sale. Monastery is at 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, tel (02) 9653 1159. Self-catering accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Br Terry 0438 282 318. Inquiries: Ann Bergman (02) 9498 2625, anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas (02) 9456 4775, atlomas@bigpond.com

Beliefs and Practices of Australian Catholics – what we know and why it matters: 19-22 February

This conference is an initiative of the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It will be an outstanding learning opportunity for clergy, diocesan personnel, parish leaders, parish staff and others in the Catholic community. Presenters include: His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia; Dr Mary Gautier, senior research associate at the Centre for Applied Research in the Apostolate in the US; Dr Bob Dixon, Director of the ACBC Pastoral Research Office. Bob has a PhD in sociology from Monash University as well as degrees in science, theology and education. Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. Program and registration: <http://www.pro.catholic.org.au/node/56> For more information: tel (03) 9953 3457, office@pro.catholic.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 February

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

LENT 4 REAL: Join the Journey! 28 Feb-2 March

Inviting young men and women (18-35) to a Lenten retreat at Mount Schoenstatt. This weekend aims to help young adults make the most of their Lent. Begins 7pm Friday 28 February; concludes 4pm Sunday 2 March. Venue: Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For further details or to register, contact Sr M Julie Brcar 0408 738 334, juliebrcar@gmail.com

Tour of Elizabeth Bay House: 4 March

Enjoy a day out with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Built for the Colonial Secretary, Elizabeth Bay House is a superb example of colonial architecture and is elegantly furnished with the interiors representing 19th Century life. Cost: \$35 includes entry and morning tea. Lunch at Doyle's at Watsons Bay (own expense). Bus departs 8.45am at 20 Virgil St and 8.50am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of \$20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Sisterhood Conference: 7-9 March

Sisterhood is a national Catholic women's movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. Sisterhood operates under the banner of the St Benedict's Eucharist Centre in Canberra and Fr Ken Barker MGL is the spiritual director. The conference draws together women of all ages for a weekend of prayer, reflection, formation and fellowship. The program includes keynote speakers, workshops, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, adoration and prayer.

Speakers: Sr Mary Rachel OP, Katie Kobler, Anna Krohn, Patrick Langrell, Karen Doyle, Fr Steve Fletcher MGL, Francine Pirola, Trish McCarthy. Venue: The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops. Cost: \$225 includes meals & accommodation. BYO sheets, towels, toiletries, etc. Further information and registrations: Felicity Pollard tel 0420 541 772, info@sisterhood.org.au

Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 March

God in the Lodge: The religious beliefs of Australia's Prime Ministers. Speaker: Roy Williams, lawyer and author of the international best-seller *God, Actually*. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks.

Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Central Coast tour with pelican feeding: 1 April

Enjoy a day out on the Central Coast with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Cost: \$30 includes morning tea and pelican feeding. Lunch at Digger's at The Entrance (own expense). Bus departs 8.30am at 20 Virgil St and 8.35am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of \$20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Batemans Bay Tour: 4-6 April

Enjoy this three-day tour to Batemans Bay with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Travel via Wollongong and Ulladulla, visit Mogo Zoo and Mogo Goldrush Village, St Bernard's Church for Sunday Mass, enjoy a three-hour scenic cruise.

Inclusions:

- * Two nights' accommodation at the Bay Waters Holiday Resort;
- * Dinner on Friday and Saturday night;
- * Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning;
- * Morning tea on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and
- * All entry fees and cruise fees.

Cost: \$395 per person twin share (+\$80 single supplement). **Deposit: \$100 payable by 4 March.** For more information contact Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au