



Term 4

Week 10

11th December, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Fri 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Disco/ Funday Last day Student Banking
Sun 14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Sunday Advent
Mon 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7:00pm
Wed 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TERM 4 CONCLUDES - Last Day of School for Students
Thu 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Development Day
Fri 19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Development Day

JANUARY

Tue 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAI Testing - Years 1-6 Students
Wed 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAI Testing - Years K-6 Students
Thu 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Resumes - Years 1-6 MAI Testing - Kindergarten Students
Fri 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAI Testing - Kindergarten Students

FEBRUARY

Mon 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten Commence
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Dear Parents,

Advent

We are now enjoying the weeks of Advent which remind us to set aside some of the hectic business of the holiday season, and to quietly reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. The term "Advent" derives from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". Purple is historically the main colour used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent.

In many homes, classrooms and churches, you will see the Advent wreath, an increasingly popular symbol of the beginning of the Church year. It is a circular evergreen wreath (real or artificial) with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the centre. Since the wreath is symbolic and a vehicle to tell the Christmas story, there are various ways to understand the symbolism. The exact meaning given to the various aspects of the wreath is not as important as the story to which it invites us to listen, and participate.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation or Hope. The remaining three candles of Advent are associated with different aspects of the Advent story. The centre candle is white and is called the Christ Candle.

Some of our classes have even been making their own Advent Wreaths - but regardless it is appropriate to take some time and reflect on the old statement "Jesus is the reason for the season". It is why the centre candle is for the Christ.

Best wishes to all our families as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
Principal



END OF THE YEAR INFORMATION

Last Day For Students

Please be aware that school for the children concludes next Wednesday 17th December and all children are expected to be at school up to and including the last day of school. On the 18th and 19th our staff will be involved in a series of professional learning opportunities as we continue our preparations for next year.

Change Over Afternoon

Next Monday afternoon students in kindergarten to year 6 will spend some time with their teacher for 2015. This afternoon is designed as a meet and greet time and in doing so helps to reduce the anxieties of students as they begin thinking about school in 2015.

Year 6 Graduation

We are looking forward to the year 6 mass and graduation next Monday evening as we celebrate 7 years of schooling for these students. Please keep them in your prayers.

Final School Assembly 2014

Parents are invited to attend our final school assembly next Tuesday afternoon. We will be starting this assembly as soon as possible after 2pm. We will present some awards for attendance and achievements as well as reflect on the year on screen! We hope to see you there.

Canteen And Uniform Shop

Have now both closed for the year.

School Fees

If you have any outstanding school fees please ensure these are finalised as soon as possible and before the end of the school year. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Year 6 Rewards Day - Friday 12/12/2014—9:00am till 2:30pm

- Students need to be at school at usual time.
- **Need to wear old clothing and sports shoes that can get dirty/wet/painted.**
- Need to bring spare change of clothing to change into (at conclusion of Rewards Day for travelling home).
- Must wear/supply sunscreen and wear a hat.
- Need to bring recess and drinks (including a water bottle).
- Lunch and a drink will be supplied - sausage sizzle.

Year 6 Farewell Disco - Friday 12/12/2014—6:00pm till 9:30pm

- Dress code - casual/smart (no high heels please).
- Students are to be escorted to the disco by a parent/guardian.
- Students are to have their name marked off on the roll at the door.
- A light dinner will be provided - pizza and drink - cordial will also be supplied throughout the night.
- Students are to be picked up by a parent/guardian at 9:30pm - under no circumstances will a student be able to leave the hall without an adult. If you are organising for someone else to collect your child please write a note and give it to one of the staff whilst your child is being dropped off.

Final newsletter for 2014 - will be sent home next Wednesday as this is the last day!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Faith Formation

First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

The priests and Levites question John's identity.

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah.



A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

If someone asked you 'Who are you?' What would be your answer?

Was one of your answers 'I'm a follower or disciple or friend of Jesus?'

What are some of the ways we normally get ready for a birthday?

How is the celebration of Jesus' birthday different from a normal birthday?

What are some things we all can do to get ready for the celebration of the day Jesus was born?

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Christmas reflection

Jesus

He came not to a throne,
but to a manger.

He lived not as a king,
but as a servant.

He chose not a kingdom,
but a cross.

He gave not just a little,
but everything.

-Holley Gerth



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS - Continued

Catholic Culture

After some pretty fierce weather on Friday afternoon we were able to celebrate Christmas together with a wonderful audience of over 400 friends and family. The children sang some beautiful traditional Christmas Carols and our Year 6 children even sang 'Joy to the world' A cappella. We had dancing and actions to many Christmas songs old and new. The 'Macarena' will never be the same! As we "Jingle Bell Rock" our way to the end of the year we hope that Year 2 get their wish of 'Two front Teeth'. Finally as you wave to Santa on the fire truck in your area and cheer as we start the school holidays please remember to take some time to pray for peace in our world.



This year we not only had the Year 4 children completing the Religious Literacy Assessment but the Year 6 children also participated in the online testing. The children are encouraged to reflect on all their learning and faith formation in every grade so that they are able to live their faith confidently.

Part of my role here at Corpus Christi is to work very closely with the Parish and I would like to thank Fr. George O'Mara, Mrs Marie Cottee, Mrs Sue Weekes and Mrs Joanne Hocking for all of their support throughout the year. We have had some great celebrations thanks to our wonderful team.

Social Justice

Thank you all so much for your support this year. Over the past twelve months our Social Justice support has been with Project Compassion, Caritas, Catholic Mission, Canteen, Penrith Kitchen and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Our Corpus Christi Community Christmas Appeal of food hampers and gifts was once again a great success. The Parish and its branch of the St. Vincent de Paul society sends a big THANKYOU for your support this year. Those in the community will benefit a great deal from your support at what is sometimes a very stressful time of the year. We wish all the volunteers and the families a very happy and holy Christmas as the donations are delivered over this coming weekend.

The student leaders on the Liturgy Team this year have worked extremely hard and have been very dedicated to their social justice work. I would like to congratulate Maegan O'Connor, Maddie Barglik, Finlay Bellamy, Hayley Crane, Maddison Glasheen, Joel Bosel, Preston Matia, Ella Muscat, Callum Mayo, Jake Horne and Gryphen Vickers-Evans on their commitment and wish them every success in the future.

During this year I was given the opportunity to step up into the Acting Assistant Principal role which was a very enriching experience. During this time Mrs Monique Boyer stepped into my role and I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for all the work she did during this time.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your homes and your lives.
Have a wonderful holiday break ready for a safe return in 2015.
Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM NEWS

Christmas is close-Advent

Dear Parents,

Yes, it is scary but true. In only a matter of days we will commence our school holidays knowing that Christmas is 'just around the corner'. We are constantly reminded that Christmas, to many people in our society, is dominated by the commercialism of the event where values are measured by what we buy each other and how much we spend.

During Advent we are called to focus on the true meaning of this special time. Christmas is about the gift of giving and this is centred around LOVE. We know this because at the first Christmas, God gave his only son, Jesus, to show us how to live our lives and love each other.

Christmas is actually very simple. It is a time when we are called to show our love for others. During Advent let us pray that we are open to a simple Christmas this year and not be pulled into the complexities and expectations of a commercial Christmas.



Last Friday at our 'Christmas Carols' our children led us in song and dance as they presented both traditional and modern Christmas Carols. Through their performances the students shared with us the true meaning of Christmas. It was a wonderful community celebration of Christmas. Thank you to Mrs Shalhoud for her coordination of the event and to all of the staff and students for giving to us the gift of 'Christmas'. At our end of year mass last week we presented St Vincent De Paul with many baskets of goodies for their Christmas Hampers. The generous response from our school community was overwhelming. Through our giving we are showing others in our community that we love them and care for them-the true message of Christmas.

May the blessings of the season be with you and your family this Advent,

Mrs Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal

Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) -Tuesday 27th January and Wednesday 28th January 2015

Next year we will start Term 1 with two Staff Development Days. Your child's 2015 teacher will assess your child using MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interview) on either Tuesday 27th January OR Wednesday 28th January 2015. This assessment will take place in your child's 2015 Learning Space. You are requested to bring your child/children to school for the assessment and wait for them while it is being done. EVERY CHILD K-6 WILL NEED TO BE ASSESSED. You will need to book a session/s for your child/children to be assessed using PTO. This is an online internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will enable you to choose time slots that suit you and your family's commitments. If you have more than one child you can book them all in at the same time, as long as the timeslot is still available. More information will come home to you in a letter on Monday 15th December. Please keep one of these dates free to bring your child/children to school for the assessment.

MULTILIT AWARDS 2014

Congratulations to the following students who received MULTILIT awards at assembly this week:

Blake Thompson
Jakob Mazurek
Natalie Shaylor
Kiarnah Klukow-Leavey
Madison Fifita
Basel Hazeem
Katie Rose
Nathan Pauling
Daniel Panitz
Curtis Hodges
Isabella Booth
Zena Hanna
Britney Ginn
Sophie Fernandes
Nicholas Killey
Lachlan Grady
Branden Johnson
Brody Grech

Shania-Rose Moran, Georgia Thomas, Kyle Wahlstrom and Lachlan McKay received MULTILIT certificates earlier this year.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION 2014

Congratulations to the following students who were the winners in our Short Film Competition. Mrs Petersen presented their awards at assembly this week.

K-2

Summer Chahoud- A Day In The Life.

3-4

Samara Hurst- Newscast HAC Productions

5-6

Audrey and Ryan Campbell- Hardcore



Thank you to everyone who entered and to those who viewed the short films and voted.

PLAYGROUND AWARD

Chelsea Shanahan 1G

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Isaac Carroll - KE
 Olivia Kosorukow - KE
 Lindsay Chong - 1B
 Ellie Amituanai - 1B
 Aleisha Grant - 1B
 Ava Markas - 2E
 Tahlia Grant - 2G
 Charlie Klemesrud - 3B
 Tahlia Fawcett - 3E
 Lily Xuereb - 3E
 Amaliyah Tuinacau Howe - 3G
 Liam Brincat - 3G
 Olivia Olarra - 4E

Joanna Simeon - 4E
 Lawrence Galea - 4G
 Olivia Dixon - 4G
 Dylan Brincat - 5B
 Jackson Uru - 5B
 Joshua Fleming - 5G
 Noah Kelly - 5G
 Aaron Melrose - 6B
 Anna Pallister - 6B
 Trent Whitbread - 6B
 Alicia Pianta 6E
 Alexandra Dickson - 6G
 Hayden Adams - 6G



MERIT AWARDS - TEACHER'S CHOICE



Leah Buhagiar - KB
 Tristan Uru - KE
 Sari Rivera - KG
 Alexander Clements - 1B
 Dominic Wakeling - 1E
 Skye Daly - 1G
 Daniel Edwards - 2B
 Emma Wheeler - 2B
 Kiara Peachey - 2E
 Krystal Daly - 2G
 Grace Clarke - 3B
 3E
 Noah Webb - 3G

Isabella Booth - 4B
 Nicholas Killey - 4E
 Lachlan Grady - 4G
 Adam O'Connor - 4G
 Racheal Peek - 5B
 Maddison Sullivan - 5B
 Tahlia Panetta - 5E
 Lucy O'Connor - 5E
 Brianna Grosso - 5G
 Lleyton Sullivan - 5G
 Paris Voutt - 6B
 Harry Bain - 6E
 Callum Mayo - 6G

LOLLIPOP LADY

We are at the end of another year. I just want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To all the children going into High School I wish them all the best and to the children starting Kindergarten next year I will see you all in 2015.

From Sue (Lollipop Lady)



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation
(2nd Rite with a number of visiting priests)
WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
AT 7PM

Extra One-to-One Reconciliation Times

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is warmly encouraged in the lead up to Christmas. Special times are available in the Chapel as follows:

à Saturday 20th December from 4pm—5.30pm

à Tuesday 23rd December from 4pm—5pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES

Wednesday 24th December

6.00pm— a popular time for young families. Be early for a seat and young children are most welcome to dress as angels and shepherds etc at this special Christmas vigil.

8.30pm—come early to get a seat and capture a friendly and upbeat spirit of Christmas Eve.

Midnight—capture the real magic of Christmas in the still of the night... you won't forget it!!!

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Thursday 25th December

9.30am—capture the 'here it is' as many gather in the peace of Christmas Morning.

BISHOPS OFFICE

Inside Catholic Outlook's combined Dec/Jan issue (distributed Friday 12 Dec)

- Readership survey – tell us what you think about Catholic Outlook
- People with disability fear 'fatal consequences' of euthanasia bill
- Sisters of Mercy Parramatta's legacy at Mamre lives on
- Sherry Weddell calls on all Catholics to share their faith
- Archbishop Anthony installed as Archbishop of Sydney
- Barbara Weir from Utopia the artist in resident at Indigenous Art Show
- 2014 facts, stats and highlights from our Catholic schools

Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral

The real spirit of Christmas will be celebrated in a spectacular free light and sound display at St Mary's Cathedral during December, closing on Christmas Night. Bring your family and friends to the digital imagery and animation based on the theme of 'service' at 8.30pm in Cathedral Square following a series of live performances.

Prepare for Christmas this year using Caritas Australia's 2014 Advent Calendar.

This year Caritas Australia's Advent Calendar features stories which highlight our 50 year journey of working with vulnerable communities around the world. It uses the symbol of the Advent wreath to help you *Learn, Pray* and *Act* daily with and for Caritas Australia's partners around the world.

Caritas Australia's 2014 Advent Calendar is available as an iPhone and Android app. It is also available as an online web calendar and as an interactive PowerPoint for primary school students and families with young children.

Join us as we use the Advent Wreath to learn, pray and act for a more just and fair world – a world full of hope, peace, joy, love and Light – this Christmas.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/advent to view and download the calendar today!

Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation 2015 – A Great Summer Retreat!

What are your plans for this summer? The Summer School of Evangelisation will run their week-long retreat for young people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian challenge with others in Bathurst from January 11-18. The theme will be "Let Your Light Shine" 1 Peter 3:18. The week will consist of lectures and seminars, prayer, music, loads of fun and meeting new friends. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years, for ages 16-35. For more information see www.summerschool.org.au or contact Joshua Wick-er Bathurst@summerschool.org.au

BISHOPS OFFICE - Continued

2014 Advent Calendar and App Now Available

The Archdiocese of Sydney social network Xt3.com has released its 2014 Advent Calendar. The online calendar, also available as a free App for iPhone, iPad & Android devices, features daily reflections and multimedia resources to help you make the most of the season of Advent. View the Calendar online at www.xt3.com/advent or search "xt3 Advent" in the Google Play or App Store.

Positions Vacant

The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking applications for the position of **Chief of Operations and Finance**. For a confidential discussion and a copy of the Information Pack please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources on 0402 210 055 or anthony@reachhr.com.au. Applications close 19 December 2014.

Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts

St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre in Parramatta publishes religious books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teenagers and children in the following areas: Bibles and biblical studies, liturgy and liturgical resources, parish bulletins, theology, spirituality, Australian Church, ecumenism, prayer, devotions, Vatican documents, educational resources for schools and parishes. Visit St Pauls for all your Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts.

Where: St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre, 238 Church St, Parramatta.

Mass: Mass from 1pm-1.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Mary MacKillop Chapel above the Centre.

Contact: Ph: 02 9126 8912, bookcentreparr@stpauls.com.au Order online: www.stpauls.com.au

Noë! Noë! Christmas concert

The Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra will perform this annual concert in St Patrick's Cathedral. *Noë! Noë!* features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as *Christmas Night*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Once in Royal David's City*, and *Stille Nacht*. With its timeless and ageless appeal *Noë! Noë!* is the perfect gift to share with family and friends.

Date: Thursday 18 December, starts 7.30pm.

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

Tickets: Adults \$72, Concession \$52, Under 30 \$45, Student \$42, Child \$25. Transaction fees apply.

Bookings: www.brandenburg.com.au

World Day of the Sick Celebration

St John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick celebrations on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Diocese will celebrate World Day of the Sick with a Healing Mass in Blacktown on 11 February. The priests of the Diocese have been invited to help with the anointing and it is expected that many sick and frail-aged will be present, supported by relatives and nursing staff. It is expected that many people from the healing professions will be present, doctors, nurses, ancillary and administrative staff from our major hospitals and nursing homes will attend.

Date: Wednesday 11 February 2015, commencing at 7pm.

Where: St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

Contact: Monsignor John Boyle, the priest co-ordinator for diocesan health matters, ph: 02 9634 2622

St John of God Institute of Counselling – Course starting February 2015

The St John of God Institute of Counselling offers a two-year course which provides an opportunity to develop skills in counselling, personal growth and communication techniques studied within a Christian ethos. The course aims to enhance personal skills across a wide variety of vocations including pastoral care, parenting, teaching, staff management, workplace negotiations and community care work. It also encourages people to deal with their everyday challenges and concerns through a sense of personal empowerment.

The course will be held on each Tuesday evening from 7.30pm – 9.45pm during the school term commencing on the first Tuesday in February.

Contact: Carol Harding, ph: 0408 705 848

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is happening again!

Students are encouraged to read a minimum of 10 books over the school holidays, upload their details online at parra.catholic.edu.au and they'll go into the draw to WIN one of four iPad minis!

Entries close on Friday 6 February and the winners will be announced on the Catholic Education website on Monday 16 February.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER reading challenge

Read to win!

Read 10 or more books during the summer holidays to go into the draw to **win one** of

FOUR iPad MINIS

Entries close Friday 6 February 2015

Enter online via www.parra.catholic.edu.au

The categories are:
Ages 5-8
Ages 9+

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta

Students must report all the books they read on the online application form and have them verified by a parent or guardian prior to submitting the form.



 @CatholicEd Parra or
  catholicedparra
  catholicedparra





UWS Observatory Penrith Campus

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

Astronomy Night 2014

December

Saturday 20

8pm – 10 pm

Cost: \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession and \$40 family.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS PROGRAMS 2015

January

Thursday 22

10 am – 12 noon

School Holiday Hands-on Science Program

ROCKET WORKSHOP

Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and watch water rockets being launched. The program will also include a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and **SAFE** and detailed viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting). **Special cost \$15 per person**

Saturday 24

8 pm – 10 pm

School Holiday Family Astronomy Night

COSMIC COLLISIONS

In space there is usually enough room for everyone to move around but every so often a collision occurs from space rocks hitting to giant galaxies crashing into one another. Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family

In addition to the multimedia presentation all programs will include a 3D astronomy movie and either safe viewing of the sun (day program) or viewing of the night sky through the University's telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What's On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS

2014 - 2015

Wednesday

21/01/2015 - 9:30am-3:30pm

28/01/2015 - 8:30am-3:30pm

05/02/2015 - 8:30am-9:30am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

(Normal Trading Hours)





NOTES DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK

- 2B - Mrs. Anderiesz Maternity Leave
- 2015 Swimming Carnival

UNIFORM SHOP - WEDNESDAY

8.30am – 9.30am & 2.30pm – 3.30pm

- * **Pre-paid orders** – These orders can be handed in at the school office at any time but will be processed on Wednesdays ONLY.
- * **Label all items** -To ensure all items are returned to their owners - PLEASE clearly mark all items with your child's name.
- * **Exchanges/Refunds** – All items must be in original condition with all packaging including tags attached. A Receipt is required for any faulty item or refund.

****PLEASE KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS****

Term 4 Week 11 Reminders

Monday	Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7:00pm Change-Over Afternoon - 2:00pm-3:pm
Tuesday	Final Assembly 2:20pm
Wednesday	Term 4 Concludes - Last Day of School for Students
Thursday	School Closed - Staff Development Day
Friday	School Closed - Staff Development Day

