

Term 2

Week 3

15th May 2014

Dear Parents,

According to the Child and adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health, 14% of young people aged 4-17 were reported to have a mental health problem. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Depression is one of the most common health problems in children, while adolescents with mental health problems report a high rate of suicidal thoughts and other health-risk behaviours including drug use.

Supporting our children's mental health is not something to which parents give a lot of consideration nor plan for. However, when we make our children feel connected to and welcome in our family, we are supporting their positive adjustment, their self-identification, their sense of trust in others and themselves, all of which are important in promoting mental health.

When we support our children to achieve reasonable levels of academic success and help them to develop their talents and interests, we are helping them to feel competent and more able to deal with any stress they may have. Helping them to be socially competent, having friends and staying connected to them, can enhance mental wellness.

Our children need to know that they can make a positive contribution to the lives of other people and, if we promote positive behaviours such as respect, responsibility and kindness towards others, it will give them a lead into the wider community and broaden their social adjustment. When we encourage good physical health, we support good mental health. Healthy eating habits, regular exercise and participation in sporting activities with peers, together with adequate sleep, protect our children against anxiety, anger, stress and depression.

Besides promoting participation in activities that encourage good attitude and healthy participation, there are activities in which parents might discourage too much engagement. These areas might include television, movie and video game activities, all of which should be out of bedrooms and in a common family area. Parental control of these technologies, as well as the Internet, is vital if parents are to be the leading influence in the development of their children.

If, through our disinterest or self- preoccupation, we leave a vacuum of influence, it's for sure the promoters of electronic materials will step in and assume the role of principal influence. This could lead our children to acquire value systems that fall short of our expectation and, in addition, acquire anti-social attitudes. Most parents have a high expectation of how their family should be and how each member should develop. Most parents would realise that there are no perfect children and no perfect parents. All children misbehave sometime and all parents make mistakes. Our children need to be accepted for who they are, loved and encouraged to grow up at their own pace so they will develop good self-esteem and confidence.

Family relationships are built up over time with loving care and concern for each member. Doing things together, being appreciative of one another, complimenting each other, finding solutions to problems together, all help to develop positive attitudes and a positive and hopeful outlook on life, and all help to ensure good mental health.

Best Wishes.

R. Blissenden

Richard Blissenden
Principal

[DON'T FORGET – PRG Meeting Monday Night – iPad Parent Information Session 7pm](#)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Faith Formation

5th Sunday of Easter : Year A

First Reading Acts 6:1-7
Stephen is chosen as the first deacon.

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9
Jesus, a living cornerstone.

Gospel Jn 14:1-12
Jesus the way, truth, and life.

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

- What are some really precious things you have?*
- What makes them precious?*
- Jesus says that we are precious in his eyes.*
- How are we precious in God's sight? (God lives in us)*
- We can do good works because Jesus lives in us.*
- What good works can we do this week?*

Catholic Culture

Our **Sacramental Programme** commenced last night. This meeting was well attended and packages were collected. The family groups will start during the week commencing on the 17th May. For any enquiries please contact either Mrs Marie Cottee at the Parish House on 47301249 or myself.

WISDOM

A person with wisdom senses when it is right and when it is not right to act. This person considers consequences "What will happen if?" A wise person is always a good listener.

***Spirit of WISDOM
Whom the world can never grasp,
Touch our hearts with the
Gentle strength of your ways.
Fill us with desire
For your disturbing peace
And fire us with longing
To speak your uncontainable word
Through Jesus Christ, the Word
Who lives and reigns with you
Forever and ever.
Amen***

Now is the time to start investigating some of the saints. What is your Confirmation name? Why did you choose it? If it is a tradition in the family have you looked into who that saint was and why they would be significant for your family?

Saint	Patron of.....
St. Matthew	Accountants/banker
St. Francis	Animals
St. Regina	Poor people
St. Rose	Florist/gardeners
St. Oliver	Italy
St. Luke	Artist

Final Preparation for Confirmation- Friday 13th June 3.30-5pm

First Eucharist Parent Meeting –
30th July 2014 7.30pm/school hall
First Reconciliation Parent Meeting –
22nd October 2014 7.30pm/school hall
Looking forward to sharing this special time with you all.

RE NEWS cont:

Social Justice

DWF Appeal during May

Faith at Work is the theme of the Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) Appeal being held in parishes and Catholic schools during the month of May. This appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family to support ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer. For example, it supports catechists who teach the faith in state schools, seminarians who are preparing for the priesthood, young adults working in youth ministry, and the All Saints of Africa Centre in Blacktown for recent refugees and migrants. Visit the website to watch a video message from Bishop Anthony and to find out more about how you can make a difference: www.faithatwork.org.au

Today we have sent home collection envelopes with a letter to parents about the Appeal. Bishop Anthony Fisher has written his letter on the back of the Giving Envelope to you and other members of the Catholic community across Western Sydney to ask for everyone's support. The *faith@work* appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer.

Grace went to a primary public school in the Blue Mountains and looked forward each week to the religion class on Tuesday morning. When she went on to a Catholic High School and in Year 11 Grace was invited to be a catechist in the local public school once a fortnight. Grace remembered her early years and volunteered to be trained as a Special Religious Educator. Grace deepened her faith through the sacraments, study, fellowship and leadership development and found that this assisted her in her teaching. Grace went on to University to train as a school teacher and reflected on the

valuable experience as a catechist. She now has the confidence and skills to live out her faith, and is excited about what people her age can do to help make the world a better place.

Your gift to the Diocesan Works Fund will make a big difference to other young people like Grace and older SRE teachers working in public schools as part of Catholic Catechists (CCD).

Have a lovely week

Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator



CURRICULUM NEWS

2014 ICAS (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS)

Please ensure that the office receives entries before the closing date by 9am. **Unfortunately we are unable to process late entries.**

Subject	Closing Date for Entry	Sitting Date	Cost
Spelling	Friday 16 th May	Tuesday 17 th June	\$11.00
English	Friday 27 th June	Tuesday 29 th July	\$8.00
Mathematics	Friday 11 th July	Tuesday 12 th August	\$8.00

****Please note that the Spelling Competition entries close tomorrow at 9am.**

2014 CORPUS CHRISTI CHESS

Congratulations to all of our chess players who participated in Round 1 of the Junior Chess Competition last Friday. The results are as follows:

Montgrove College A **4** Corpus Christi A **0**

Montgrove College B **2** Corpus Christi B **2**

Games will be played at home this week. Players will meet Mrs Tonnet at the library after school. Parents will need to collect their child from the library after chess. Good luck to all players! For more information go to www.nswjcl.org.au

MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE

The winners in the Mother's Day Raffle were:

1st Prize Gaia Fahed 5B

2nd Prize Harry Bain 6E

3rd Prize Brendan Kearns



Minor Prize Winners: Sean 5B, Natalie 2E, Ella 6B, Mrs Sammut, Meg 4B, Jake 6E, Brock 2E, Jessica 6G, Dylan 4B, Jasmine 5B, Gabriella 5G, Dean 3G, Candice 4B, Amber 2E, Tahlia 5E, Sete KE and Mrs Paton

Curriculum News cont.:

The total raised from the stall and the raffle will be published once costings have been finalised. Thank you again to all involved in coordinating and assisting on the stall. A BIG THANK YOU also to the parent/s who knitted all of the scarves for the stall.

NAPLAN WEEK

This is NAPLAN week - there are often concerns reported about NAPLAN causing anxiety in children and parents. At Corpus Christi, we use information gained from the NAPLAN tests as a diagnostic tool, taking data from the one week of tests to add to the profile of information we have about our students and how they are learning. We prefer to maintain a constructive perspective to NAPLAN and ensure that we are providing a safe and affirmative environment for learning to occur.

Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2015 –

The process of gathering enrolment forms and meeting with families wishing to enrol in Kindergarten in 2015 has commenced. If you know of families looking to start school next year (or who may be thinking of moving schools this year) please pass on our contact details so that they don't miss out on a place. Current families with siblings starting school next year should contact the school office **immediately** for an enrolment pack.

SCHOOL FEE PAYMENTS

Term 2 fees are due Wednesday 4th June 2014.

PRG MEETING – 19TH MAY

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to hear Dr Highfield from 7pm on Monday 19th May. It is only 4 DAYS AWAY...make sure it is in the diary – call a friend from school and bring them too. See you at 7pm Monday.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

The staff will be engaged in professional learning on Monday 26th May and therefore there will not be any school for students on that day.

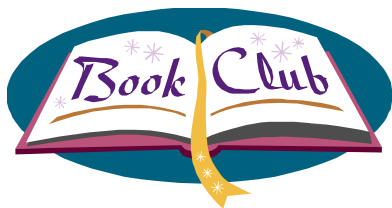
TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

This week our teachers joined with two schools – St Nicholas of Myra and Our Lady of the Way as they continued their Professional Learning Community meetings after school. The focus was on Mathematics. 7 Members of the teaching staff also began a four week course with MANSW (Mathematical Association of NSW) – an in depth look at the new Maths Curriculum. We are very fortunate here to have staff dedicated to ongoing professional learning. Today Mr Blissenden continued his Mentor/Coaching training, spending a day with Professor David Eddy from The University of Auckland Centre for Educational Leadership.

MORNING DROP OFF

In order to allow for a faster Kiss and Drop to operate in the mornings parents are requested to allow their children to alight from the vehicle at any point in the Kiss and Drop line and then to walk into school - **please do not wait until you reach the front of the queue.**

Our staff are attempting to move the traffic through the car park but have noticed that it is often slow because parents want to drop their child/ren at the front of the line. Thank you for your co-operation in the Kiss and Drop line.



Bookclub orders are due **today** -Thursday 15th May

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY GUITAR

Learn to play like a star fast with an easy colour coded method.

More details www.kaleidoscopetuition.com or call Rohan 0428335874.

SCHOOL FETE

Sunday 1st June 2014 - 10am – 4pm
OUR LADY OF THE WAY
Cnr Troy & Forbes Street
EMU PLAINS

EXTRA CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

FAST FOOTBALL

FAST football commences today 15th may from 3.30-4.30. It is expected that parents of children participating in this extra curricular event collect their child/children as they normally would, take them to get changed and walk them to the grass area. We must ensure that all students are where they should be and are safe. All students should not be supervised while waiting for Fast Football to start.

We have been advised by FAST football that they are full and unfortunately unable to accept any more students.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.
Mrs Emilia Ahern

The DanceFever after school program continues on Fridays during Term 2.
The contact is Gabrielle 0424628119.

PEER SUPPORT: Week 3

Peer Support: Relationships: Keeping Friends

Next week in the Peer Support sessions, children will be focusing on the importance of support networks and the role that friends play in each others lives. Children will construct a visual representation of this during the session.

Thank you,
Mrs Emilia Ahern, Miss Alexis Hiser, Mr Michael Manton and Mrs Rebecca Talbot

Stepping off the Bus Going Back in Time to Bathurst Goldfields

On Friday the 21st of March, Year 5 went on an excursion back in time to the 1850's, when gold was discovered. When we were all on the bus ready to leave, everyone was talking about how excited they were to be able to go to Bathurst.

When we were travelling to Bathurst it was a beautiful journey, but it took us 2 and a half hours to get there. We got to do 1 stop, we stopped at Katoomba Lookout for a toilet break. It was nice to stretch our legs. Then we continued travelling.

Everyone was excited when we got to Bathurst. Our 2 guides were Barry and Pam. As soon as we put our bags down, we went down to the quartz crushing museum. Barry was showing us how some of the machines used to work in the 1850's, we also got to look around a bit, and have a closer look at some of the other old things.

After that we went to see what gold looks like in the museum. When you saw flattened gold, it looked a bit like foil. We saw a nugget of fools gold too. At the museum we also saw bits of gold stuck in the quartz, and we learnt that gold is used in a computer chip.

Next we went outside and had a look at the stamper, we saw how the gold gets separated from gravel/sand. As well as the stamper we got to see other machines, like the Chilean Mill.

A while later we went out to the blacksmith shop. Four students Stella, John, Thomas and Lilly were chosen to be apprentice blacksmiths. They had to continually push down a lever to make the fire blaze. Barry was making something for Corpus Christi. It was called a fire poker but the teachers called it a child correctioner.

We got to have lunch after that, it was a nice big break. After that Pam and Barry came and told us a story about what it was like in the 1850's. they showed us some of the games that they played back in those days.

At the activities we split into 3 groups and rotated to the different activities. First my group did the damper. We got to cook it on the fire and after that we got to eat it. Secondly my group made the mud bricks, one half of the group was shovelling and the other half was putting the mud bricks together. It's a messy job. Lastly my group played the games. The first game I played was horse shoe throwing, I didn't score any. Then I played skittles or you could call it bowling I scored one, it was fun.

Next we competed in a tent building challenge, girls vs boys. The girls' tent was really good it had a stone path, a flower garden, blankets inside the tent and a camp fire behind it. The boys' tent was very similar to ours; the judges Pam and Mrs Bosworth, both decided that the boys' tent was better. It was a fun contest.

The last thing we did was panning. First Barry showed us how to find the gold that would be in the pan after you have finished swirling the water out. Then we had a go. There were 5 pools to pan in, most people found lots of gold specks, but I found nothing.

That was the end of our day and we boarded our bus for our trip back to school
It was a great day!

By Georgia Apap

The Day We Went Into The Unknown Time-Machine

On Friday the 21st of March, year 5 went to Bathurst. We arrived at school at 6:15 and we left school at 6:30 (really early!!!!). It took us two and half hours to get to Bathurst. Including one toilet stop halfway. While we were travelling, we watched CAMP ROCK 2.

When we arrived back in the 1850's we got introduced to a well-known miner called Barry who said he would be delighted to be our guide.

He showed us the **ancient museum** where he explained different ways that miners used to collect underground rocks. He said that gold was usually in rocks called **quartz**.

Then we went outside to see a how miners crush **quartz** with the **stamper**. It made a lot of noise! Barry showed and explained how the water gets mixed with sand.

Then he said that in the 1850's house wives' put this mixture on their face because it is believed that it takes all your freckles away!! Mrs Bosworth told me it was an **old wives' tale** men used to play on their wives.

After our wonderful experience with the **stamper** we went to go see the **Chinese Garden's**. Their cemetery had only two graves! (They were Fake). Barry said that the Chinese weren't treated the way that other miners were (poor them).

Then we went to the **Blacksmith**. Four really lucky people: Stella, John, Thomas and Lilly got to help Barry with heating up the fire. Barry showed us how to melt metal and he made a fire poker for Mrs Bosworth (she calls it a child correctioner).

Then we had lunch on the lovely green grass. Another school sat next to us.

We visited Barry's wife to have some **possum soup** and hear about Pam and Barry's life story.

Pam and Barry showed us what games their kids played in the 1850's. There was **skittles, horseshoes and tug of war**. We split up into three groups and started our activities!

Barry took a group to show them how to make **mud bricks** while Pam took another group to make **damper**. Mrs Bosworth took the last group to play the games.

Barry congratulated us by giving us a competition: tent making. It was boys VS girls. Like always, it was a tie.

Next we experienced panning. Barry showed us how to pan and we tried it.

Most people found some gold but most people didn't.

We went back to Corpus Christi on the bus.

We had the best day ever!

Gaia Fahed

What's on and When

May

Week 3

Week 4	Mon	19 th	PRG 7pm - ALL WELCOME
	Fri	23 rd	Yr 5 Museum Excursion, Walk Safely to School, Award Stamping
Week 5	Mon	26 th	Staff Dev. Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

June

Week 6	Fri	6 th	Kindergarten Farm excursion, Award Stamping
Week 7	Fri	13 th	Confirmation preparation Children only 3.30pm – 5pm, PRG Trivia,
Week 8	Tues	17 th	ICAS Spelling
	Wed	18 th	Confirmation 5 & 7.30pm
Week 9			3 Way interviews Monday - Thursday
	Tues	24 th	Uniform Shop 3.30pm – 6pm LAST DAY for Term 3.
	Wed	25 th	Uniform Shop CLOSED
	Friday	27 th	Award Stamping, LAST DAY OF TERM 2

July

Week 1	Mon	14 th	First Day of TERM 3
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“ Outstanding Writing ” Merit Awards

Jordan Hepburn	Caitlin Northam
Ethan Brischetto	Mieka Batten
Harley Davidson	Shiloh Dpenha
Lucas Galea	Brock Gavin
Adrian Salazar	Lauhlan Prince
Tristan Churchill	Olivia Dickson
Monique Granada	Victoria Olarra
Emma Gosbell	Brandon Colantonio
John Galea	Courtney Heywood
Cody Simmons	Brandon Micallef

PLAYGROUND AWARDS

Week 2 -Monique Dries 6G
Week 3- Tahlia Cremen 2B

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS AWARDS

Harley Davidson 1E, Joshua King 1B, Abbe May 2G,
Emma Wheeler 2B, Kiara Peachey 2E, Bradley Bond
3G, Nicholas Papapavlou 3G, Lauchlan Prince
3B, Taleah Rosa 3E, Joshua Woodward 4E, Gabriella
Galluzzo 5G, Christine Muscat 5G, Braedyn Urban
5G, Neelima Menakath 6G

UNIFORM SHOP - Wednesday

8.30am – 9.30am
&
2.30pm – 3.30pm

*Last days for Term 2

Wednesday 18th June 8.30am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 24th June 3.30pm – 6pm

* **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****

NOTES SENT HOME RECENTLY:

- PRG Trivia Night



- Monday – PRG 7pm
- Tuesday – Assembly 2.20pm
- Wednesday – Uniform Shop
- Friday – School Banking; Gymnastics, Yr 5 Museum visit, Award Stamping, Walk Safely to school

PRINCIPALS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding achievement of a Principals Gold Award. Mieka Batten Yr 1, Nicholas Galea Yr 2, Daniel Richardson Yr 3, Lachlan Grady Yr 4, Victoria Olarra Yr 4, Meg Whittaker Yr 4, Olivia Camilleri Yr 5, Joshua Fleming yr5, Jasmine Galea Yr 5, Anna Godsmark Yr 5, Avalon Macphail Yr 5, and Noah Kelly Yr5.

In response to the Federal Budget handed down this week, please see a summary of the key issues, below. Please be assured that the Diocese and our school is committed to providing an affordable quality Catholic education for our families.

1. In bringing down the Federal Budget 2014–15 the Federal government has given clear messages on spending cuts across many policy areas to reduce the government deficit and education is not immune.
2. Despite the impact of Federal government budget announcements, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing affordable quality Catholic education.
3. Federal government has stated their clear intention of devolving responsibility for education to States following the National Commission of Audit recommendation.
4. Introducing indexed school funding meaning no **new** funding for schools beyond 2017 - only indexed increases in line with enrolments.
5. Funding of the **Better Schools Plan for School Improvement – (Gonski Review)** is not going ahead beyond 2017.
6. Federal funding for Catholic schools will now be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which over the last 10 years has risen about 3% annually while education expenditure has risen by 5.5% in the same period.
7. Capital spending funding for capital works and new buildings remains unclear. Expected school population projections suggest 350 new Catholic schools needed over next 10 years across Australia
8. New Trade Training Centres will not be funded after June 2016, which limits pathways for employment and training for year 11 and 12 students. Parramatta Diocese has two Trade Training Centres in Mt Druitt and Emu Plains.
9. Significant cuts to the National teacher standards body (AITSL) who are responsible for determining the benchmarks for high quality teaching. Cuts to the national curriculum body (ACARA) who are responsible for developing a national curriculum, assessment and reporting e.g NAPLAN.