



Dear Parents,

There is a story about a nun who assisted with home visits to elderly people. Unfortunately, on one occasion, her car ran out of petrol. Fortunately, she had just passed a petrol station to which she could walk and get enough petrol to start the car and then drive it back to the station. Regrettably, the only container she could find in her car was a bedpan that she was taking to an elderly person. So, with bedpan in hand, she went to the station, got some petrol and returned to the car. As she was pouring the petrol into the tank, two men walked by. One of them turned to the other and said, "Now, that's what I call faith!"

Two other people who had quite amazing faith were Joseph and Mary. Joseph had entered into an agreement to marry Mary. He imagined their life together, made preparations as best as he could afford and waited in anticipation for his wedding day. Imagine his dismay when he found out that Mary was pregnant. Mary was at a loss as to how she was going to explain the visit of the angel and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon her. Had God placed life within her only to disgrace her before her future husband and expose her to a public stoning?

Joseph had a dream in which it was revealed to him that Mary had been chosen to be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah and that the child was to be named Jesus. Joseph had a choice and he chose to follow the instruction of the dream and take Mary to be his wife. There was no earthly reason for him to do so other than his trust in the message from God. Not only did Joseph have to trust that he was to take this "illegitimate" son as his own, he also had to believe that God would come to earth as an infant and that this child, under his care, would be the Saviour of the world! To Joseph this would have been unbelievable and beyond his ability to understand. In spite of this, Joseph dared to trust God.

Joseph was taking a "leap of faith". In place of rational thought, Joseph's faith was telling him, "I can believe in what I do not see, for it is not physical sight that gives reality to things, but heart and intuition". Love is like this, a subjective fact whose existence cannot be proven but whose reality, none the less, is very high.

Faith is not concerned with proof and this is because faith is of the heart as well as of the mind. Faith occurs not just because we think something is true but because our mind tells us that it may be true. When we have faith we believe in the invisible. If faith can be proved or verified with certainty, it ceases to be faith. The Wright Brothers, who invented a machine that would enable people to fly in the sky, had faith. Those who came after them had certainty, for what they were doing had been proved.

Sometimes like Joseph, we might stand with dream in hand on the edge of a decision as to whether or not we believe beyond certainty. Like Joseph, we might simply have to take a leap of faith, believing that we will be caught in the arms of God as Joseph was and as Mary was.

"God, our Father, help us to dare to trust you, as did Joseph and Mary, so that your Spirit within us will assist us to be people of faith and other people will come to know you through the faith in our lives. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

R. Blissenden

Richard Blissenden
Principal

Don't forget the Welcome Bush Dance TOMORROW NIGHT – Bring the whole family.



Dear Parents,

Faith Formation

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time : Year A

Family Connection

In our families we learn about caring. We learn to care for our own needs and the needs of others, and we learn to take responsibility for the needs of our household. Sometimes caring for these needs means that we are unable to do other things that we would enjoy more. At times, we can be tempted not to take responsibility for what we are given to care for.

Talk about the different ways your family cares for one another and the needs of your household. Remember times when you've been tempted to put your own needs ahead of others. Talk about the personal and familial consequences of making that choice.

Point out how God cares for us every day and will never forget us. Read aloud this **Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 6:24-34**. Talk about how God looks after the birds in the sky and the flowers in the field. Point out how Jesus reminds his disciples that they are worth much more than these things. Take turns sharing times in which you have experienced God's care for yourself and your family. Conclude this time together by offering one another a sign of peace.

Catholic Culture

We will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on the 17th March and St. Joseph's Day on the 19th March. We celebrated this last year and will celebrate again with a 'RED DAY' (Children come dressed in anything RED). St. Joseph's Day is a Roman Catholic feast day commemorating the life of St. Joseph, the step-father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day has strong ties with the Italian community who prayed to St. Joseph to save them from famine. Their prayers were answered and so on this day they celebrate with a table filled with food in honour of St. Joseph. St. Joseph's bread is a must. This bread is very similar to our donuts so we will have donuts on sale for \$1. The donuts will be pre-ordered and will be restricted to a maximum of 2 per student. Details will follow closer to the date.

All classes participate in sharing prayer with the rest of the school at assembly. Last year we used the Values we were learning about as our theme for each assembly. This year we will be doing the same and for weeks 4 & 5 our theme will be Doing your best.

Congratulations once again to all the children who presented themselves for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation last year. It has been noted that the number of children making their sacraments does not match with the number of students on the grade. For whatever reason your child has not participated in the programme it is important to note that through Baptism they already started on the journey. By participating in the programme they are continuing the journey that you as parents already chose for them. They are then able to fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church and the celebrations we have as a school. We nurture, plan and prepare our children for many things and their spiritual life should be part of this as well. Please watch for dates and times when these will be available again this year.

Confirmation Parent Meeting- 14th May, 2014.

7.30pm/school hall

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.

Social Justice

This year the theme for Project Compassion is 'Have life and have it to the full' Project Compassion will commence in Week 6 with our **Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast** and Ash Wednesday celebrations.

On the 4th & 5th March. This will start our fundraising efforts for Caritas/Project Compassion 2014. If there is anyone who would like to donate pancake mix we will be keeping in line with our Anaphylaxis Policy and will only be serving the "**Coles Brand**" **plain shake 'n' bake**.

Any donations can be sent straight to the office. Last year was such a great community event and we hope that many of you can join us this year. If you wish to know any other information the website is

www.caritas.org.au

Have a lovely week

God Bless

Sharon Shahoud

Religious Education Coordinator





CURRICULUM NEWS

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2014, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

As this is the third year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from past findings and included in our school planning.

From 17-28 March all staff, approximately 50 students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning.

If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Maree Tonnet.

2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

A letter went home today to all students in Years 3,4,5 & 6 with information about the 2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). If you wish your child/children to participate in any of the competitions please complete the entry form and return it in an envelope with the entry fee to the office before 9am on the closing date. Unfortunately late entries cannot be processed.

*Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal*

2014 TERM FEE STATEMENTS

Payment for Term 1 fees is due Friday 7th March, 2014. Contact the school office TODAY if you wish to know more about the FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLAN and other ARRANGEMENT OPTIONS.

ENROLMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL 2015

XAVIER COLLEGE

Open Night - Monday 10th March, 2014
5.00pm - 7.30pm
Information Session 7.00pm

Applications close Friday 11th April, 2014
www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au

CAROLINE CHISHOLM

Open Night – Monday 3rd March, 2014
6.00pm – 8.30pm
Includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours.

For further information : 4737 5506

ST DOMINICS COLLEGE

College Open Day – Sunday 30th March, 2014
10am – 3pm
Year 7 2015 Information Evening –
Wednesday 2nd April 7.30pm

For more information phone 47311933

PRG – STATIONERY PACK FUNDRAISER

A total of \$259.30 was raised from the PRG 2013 stationery pack fundraiser.
Thankyou to all the families who purchased a stationery pack. WELL DONE!

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

AFL AFTER SCHOOL CLINIC

Ph: Matt 0400881575

IN2CRICKET AFTER SCHOOL CLINIC

Ph: Jonathan 0418749185.

DANCEFEVER AFTER SCHOOL

Ph: Gabrielle 0424628119



SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 12th February we held our first (in a long time) twilight swimming carnival. This was a very successful evening for students and staff. The evening ran smoothly with some comical events and plenty of cheering and support for each other. The children will be receiving their ribbons for each of their heats by Friday. At our school assembly we will be presenting our Age Champions with their medals. Congratulations to the following children:

Junior Girls Age Champion: Hannah Fitzpatrick
Junior Boys Age Champion: Ryan Slaughter
11 Years Girls Age Champion: Megan Cooper
11 Years Boys Age Champion: Baley Borthwick
Senior Girls Age Champion: Gemma Pauling
Senior Boys Age Champion: Joshua Grima

CROSS COUNTRY

Our school Cross Country will be held on the Wednesday 12th March for Years 2-4 and Friday 14th March for Years 5-6. Please keep an eye out for a note that will be coming home later this week. We will be looking for parent helpers on both days that have completed the online course.

Thanking you for your support

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Tuesday 25th February a group of 17 children attended the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pools. These children performed to extremely high standards, achieving AMAZING results. I was so proud of the way they conducted themselves and they should be congratulated on all their efforts.

There were 11 New Records achieved on the day, with 5 of these coming from two of our students. Megan Cooper broke the 11 Years 50m Freestyle record, the 11 Years 50m Backstroke and the 11 Years 50m Butterfly records. Ryan Slaughter broke the 10 Years 50m Freestyle and the Junior 50m Butterfly record.

These weren't our only achievements on the day. We also had four children placed as Age Champions. Ryan Slaughter was Junior Boys Age Champion, Hannah Fitzpatrick was Junior Girls Age Champion, Megan Cooper was 11 Years Girls Age Champion and Baley Borthwick was 11 Years Boys Age Champion.

Congratulations to these children and the following children who will represent the Nepean Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday 28th February at Blacktown.

Ryan Slaughter, Kiani Slaughter, Baley Borthwick, Megan Cooper, Keira Field, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Noah Webb, Amber Shearley, Liam Looyshelder, Charlie Klemesrud, Gemma Pauling, Madeline Barglik and Sophia Biordi. We wish you all the best of luck!!

Mrs Ahern

TACKLE BULLYING

On Monday 24th February the children in Year 3-6 were part of a NRL Tackle Bullying presentation. The children were lucky enough to meet Jamie Soward and Adam Docker, two Penrith Panther players who were out spreading the word on ways to tackle bullying. They presented a hand with 5 strategies to tackle bullying:



1. Stand Strong
2. Stay Calm
3. Respond Confidently
4. Walk Away
5. Report



This 5- step process is a simple, yet effective way for children to express their dislike for a situation. Please talk this over with your child/children to empower them to stand up for themselves.

PRG UPDATE

At last week's PRG meeting our presenter shared some interesting information about the use of technology by primary school aged children

What is the extent of technology use in primary-aged children?

Primary-age children are connected, mobile and social. We see the evidence of this every day with our own eyes – children appear to be going online younger and younger, with the rapid uptake (and almost hypnotic appeal) of tablets and other touch screen devices. But anecdotal evidence is also supported by research findings. In 2013

- The vast majority (95 per cent) of eight to 11 year olds had accessed the internet 'in the last four weeks', with almost all having accessed the internet at some point in their lives.
- Children in this age group use multiple internet-enabled devices; up to three for a 10 to 11 year old. And these are all sorts of devices, not just computers and laptops but also handheld mobile devices such as iPads and iPods and game consoles (Nintendo DS, PlayStation Portables, PlayStations).
- Thirty-seven per cent of eight to nine year olds and 51 per cent of 10 to 11 year olds have – at some time – accessed the internet via a handheld mobile device.
- Mobile phone 'ownership' increases significantly with age. We found that 11 per cent of eight to nine year olds have their own mobile phone, increasing to 67 per cent of 12 to 13 year olds. (According to 2012 ABS data, 29 per cent of children aged five to 14 years of age have a mobile phone.)
- While the majority in this age group accesses the internet at home, increasing numbers are using technology at school and at a friends' house, away from direct parental supervision.

What do parents need to be aware of?

The clear message from research is that parents are active in keeping their kids safe online, and are always keen to learn more to help them in this important role. Parents of primary-age children also tend to have good grasp of what their children are doing online – the kinds of activities they're involved with and the way they're behaving.

Parents are still the main source of advice and support when children are experiencing problems online. However, we found that fewer younger children than teenagers had proactively discussed cybersafety issues with their parents.

This is significant, given the fact that some quite young children are active social media users, and that the research indicates that a proportion of these age groups are experiencing issues like cyberbullying or seeing or experiencing something online that bothered them.

The advice to parents was:

Talk to your child about staying safe as soon as they start becoming active in the online world, and keep the discussion open as they grow up to make the dialogue part of everyday parenting life. Monitor children's time online, particularly younger children set house rules – what's okay to do and what's not, how much time is 'online' time and what kind of personal information is okay to make public. Consider using filters or other technological tools to help limit exposure to potentially harmful or distressing material. Find out what children up to, create your own accounts and play with the services they are using so that you become familiar with the privacy settings and reporting mechanisms. Model the kind of positive online behaviour you would like them to use.

You can find more information at

www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents

PRG WELCOME BBQ AND BUSH DANCE - TOMORROW

Cost: Free

5.30pm arrival for 6pm start

BBQ 7 – 7.30pm (orders have closed but you can BYO picnic)

Drinks and Ice Blocks will be available to purchase
Prize for best dressed.

HAVE SOME FUN AND MEET OTHER CORPUS CHRISTI FAMILIES



What's on and When

February

Week 5 Fri 28th PRG Welcome BBQ and Bush Dance

March

Week 6 Fri 7th Award Stamping
2014 Kindergarten Parent – Coffee n Chat with Mr Blissenden

Week 7 Tues 11th Twilight Tour – new families interested in enrolling 2014/2015
Wed 12th School Cross Country – 8,9,10 yr olds (details to follow)
Yr 5 Incursion - Graffiti Ed
Thurs 13th Catholic Schools Week Mass 9.30am
Fri 14th School Cross Country – 11+ yr olds (details to follow)



“Setting an effective/
appropriate learning goal
for 2014”

Merit Awards

Mikaylah Elks	Tahj Cavallaro	Logan Buzzi
Callum Donald	Christopher Xiberras	Skye Daly
Richard Rodelas	Mikayla Morgan	Krystal Daly
Mia Colantonio	Harrison Dengate	Mathew Coleman
Hayley Muscat	Benjamin Attard	Adam O'Connor
Jacob Bullus	Matthew Davies	

PLAYGROUND AWARD

Sarah Turner 4G

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AWARD

Thomas Whittaker 1B, Cooper Humphreys 1E,
Jasmine Slack 1E, Lukas Looyshelder 2G, Jade
Papworth 4B, Meg Whittaker 4B, Giorgia Apap
5B, Stephanie Hayes 5B, Emily King 5B, Mitchell
Gavin 5E, Joshua Fleming 5G

UNIFORM SHOP

Wednesdays
8.30am – 9.30am
&
2.30pm – 3.30pm

* **Pre-paid orders** – for parents who are unable to attend or do not need to come to the uniform shop personally. These orders can be handed to the school office anytime but will be processed on Wednesdays.

* **Label all items** -To ensure all items are returned to their owners - PLEASE mark clearly 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****

Spare Clothing due to Accidents.

If any item of clothing is required due to an accident ONLY the older style uniform will be supplied.

NOTES SENT HOME RECENTLY:

- Letter to 3G
- ICAS competition
- PRG Bush Dance flyer



Term 1 Week 6 - Reminders

- Tuesday – Shrove Tuesday, Assembly 2.20pm
- Wednesday – Ash Wednesday, Uniform Shop
- Friday – School Banking, Kinder 2014 parent coffee & chat with Mr Blissenden, Award Stamping

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL – PRC

The PRC will be holding their Annual General Meeting Monday 3rd March – 7pm.

Diocesan Assembly Centre (DAC)

Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St Blacktown

What is the PRC

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta welcome parents as a key partner in their child's schooling. Catholic schools rely on the involvement of parents. Research shows that when parents are actively involved in their children's school, students will be more successful at school.

The Parents Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese (PRC) is the Diocesan parent body that represents and supports parents and guardians of students enrolled in all primary and secondary Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Catholic Education Office Parramatta, Priests and school leaders, in providing students support throughout their education.

The PRC works collaboratively with schools and parents, to provide additional opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's school community and learning journey. Parents and carers can gain access to information and educational opportunities via parent forums and guest speakers allowing parents to become active participants in their child's schooling.

Meetings are held once a term and provide parents and guardians with the opportunity to network with other parents. Meetings also encourage attendees to share ideas and information relating to supporting the needs of their children throughout their years of schooling.

Please find attached information for the upcoming PRC Annual General Meeting, for you as a PRC Rep, for your school and parents.

Agenda

Guest Speaker Flyer - Ms Monique Dalli on i.Pad Awareness (parents to bring their i.Pads)

PRC Nomination Forms - to be complete by your school principal for the 2014 rep

Executive Committee Nomination Forms for the upcoming Executive Elections - Nominations close 28th February 2014, if you wish to stand for the election. Only principal nominated representatives may stand for election to the executive committee

Roles and Responsibilities of each Executive position

Dates for 2014 events

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm! You are very likely to be supported and helped through the sharing of experiences on matters such as *"How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?"* Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry is commencing an eight session Bereavement Support Program in Blacktown for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or long term partner. They will be held on every second Tuesday commencing 4th March from 10.00am – 12.00pm at CCSS Centre 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. Each fortnight we will take a different aspect of grief and have some input, reflection, sharing and discussion about how grief is affecting you and how you are working through it. You do not have to commit to the whole 8 Sessions when you come; you may just prefer to come to Sessions that particularly seem fitted to your need. The first topic is *"The Physical Effects of Grief"*. Details and Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

SMARTLOVING WORKSHOP

Enhancing Marriage Relations - spouses can attend on their own or as a couple

Sunday 23rd March 2-5pm

Holy Family School Hall, 32 Willowdene Ave, Luddenham

Donation at the door – afternoon tea provided

Booking essential – Call Jess: 02 9319 6280 info@smartloving.org