Dear Parents and caregivers,

**ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL 2013**

As you are aware Mrs Mary Anne Allen, Assistant Principal, has been on Maternity Leave during 2012. Mrs Allen will be taking a further 12 months leave to spend time with her family. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I announce and congratulate Mrs Sarah O’Rourke who will continue in her role as Acting Assistant Principal in 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs O’Rourke for her wonderful contributions to our school community and look forward to her continuing in this leadership role throughout 2013. I also wish Mrs Allen the very best as she spends this time with her family.

**SCHOOL UNIFORMS – NEW SUPPLIER**

As communicated over recent weeks, our uniform suppliers, PSW, will close their store at Castle Hill for trading with Holy Cross on Friday 26th October 2012. We are currently working with our new uniform supplier, who services many Catholic Schools in our diocese providing a quality product at a reasonable cost. The new supplier will ensure that we have all items of our school uniforms for the commencement of the school year and is also currently organising a suitable outlet to meet the needs of our school community.

In the interim, please contact the school office if you require any items of our uniform. There will undoubtedly be teething issues. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards providing the children with high quality uniforms at a reasonable cost.

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL UNIFORM STOCK SALE**

30% OFF

ALL HOLY CROSS STOCK FROM NOW UNTIL 26TH OCTOBER 2012

**LOST PROPERTY**

As the warmer weather approaches the students are taking their jackets off in the breaks. There is a lot of lost property at the moment as a result of this.

Please have a look at the items in lost property or have your child look for his/her jackets if they are missing.

Kind regards

Marina Hardy
Principal

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John XXIII Mass Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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Parish News

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 28th October at the 10.30am Mass Bishop Anthony Fisher will celebrate mass to commemorate the Catholic Parish of Blessed John 23rd - 10 year anniversary. After mass there will be a Gala Day in the grounds of St Mark’s College. Please come in national dress, bring food to share. There will be games for the kids and entertainment for the all.

The November Mass offering envelopes are on the tables down the back of the church. It is custom for any mass offering to be $10.00 per mass to be placed in the envelope with the name of the person printed on the envelope. However with the November Envelopes, names will be placed in our remembrance book that will be placed for the whole month of November at the foot of the altar where mass will be said for those people every day. Please limit the number of names to the envelope. Please, do not include 50 more names inside. Olive and Morie Ferino have donated a rosary statue. I thank them for their generous donation. The purpose of this statue is for a family to volunteer their home for one week and give permission to have their address printed in the bulletin. Rosary would be said at this address at 7.30pm from Wednesday night to Monday night of the following week. The family who have had the statue bring that statue to the Tuesday Night Rosary / Novena Mass and the family taking the statue for the following week are given a blessing at the end of mass to take the rosary statue to their home. All parishioners would be invited each week to the host home to pray the rosary for the needs of your family and fellow parishioners. If you would like to be a host family and be put on a roster then please email Bart Sarlabus at: (bart_sarlabus@bigpond.com)

Live Jesus In Our Hearts, Forever Father Dave

Parish Anniversary Celebrations

This weekend our parish turns double-figures! Bishop Anthony Fisher will be celebrating a special mass on Sunday morning. Milestones like this are very important in the history of a community. On Sunday, photos from the last ten years will be shared and no doubt, as the parish continues to grow and we reach further milestones, we will continue to look back and reflect on our past. Sunday will be such an event. Being apart of such occasions is important and we encourage everyone to come along and acknowledge this special date.

World Youth Day 2013 — Rio!

Next year, pilgrims from across the world will travel to Rio in July to gather for the next World Youth Day. Pilgrims from schools across the diocese and we are hoping from our own parish will make the journey as well. Such pilgrimages can be life changing and can help enrich the community through the sharing of inspirational stories, making global connections and by raising parish energy levels. As a school and as a parish we will be working to support our pilgrims leading up to July. If you would like further information on World Youth Day 2013 you can visit the website: www.rio2013.com

Sports News

Athletics

Last week Michael Osei-Adomako represented the MacKillop team at the NSWPSSA Championships at Homebush for the 100 m event. Michael will now represent NSW at the National Athletics Championship in to be held in Adelaide in November 2012. What an amazing achievement Michael. We are extremely proud of you!

School Swimming Carnival

Parents of children in Years 2 – 5 are reminded to return the Primary School Swimming Carnival note to class teachers by Friday 2nd November, 2012.

Please read this note very carefully before signing it as to ensure that we have accurate information about your child’s swimming ability. Parents are also invited to assist on the day so that the carnival can run safely and smoothly.

University of New South Wales Assessments

In terms 2 and 3 this year a number of children in years 3 – 6 chose to sit the UNSW Assessments and The Australian Mathematics Trust Competition. We congratulate all the children who took part and hope that it was a valuable learning experience for them.

We would like to acknowledge the following children for their outstanding results:

Science:
Jordan Lim – Distinction, Emily Dowd – Distinction

Mathematics:
Benjamin Reetov – High Distinction

Australian Mathematics Trust Competition:
Elizabeth Bell – Distinction, Benjamin Reetov – Distinction
Marco Tupaz – Distinction, Bradley Seib – Distinction
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week:

- Sara Davies
- Suwi Kapambwe
- Kritika Alur
- Julian Carney
- Tamara Seckold
- Jorja Darling
- Emily Dowd
- Joshua Whiteley
- Alyssa Bloodworth
- Georgia Corrigan
- Eliah Joaquin
- Sophie Baker
- Tyler Day
- Fernanda Dedic

During this time the staff will be facilitating the following Literacy and Numeracy workshops in the Multi-Purpose Learning Centre:

- Monday 5th November – Literacy Workshop
- Tuesday 6th November – Literacy Workshop
- Monday 12th November – Numeracy Workshop
- Tuesday 13th November – Numeracy Workshop

To assist with organising the resources for these workshops please inform the office as soon as possible if you have a child starting in Kindergarten in 2013 and wish to attend the workshop.

**Story Time**

It is wonderful to see so many pre-school children visit our Library each Thursday afternoon at 3pm. A reminder that pre-school children are welcome to join us.

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**Funding cuts put State’s future in jeopardy**

*Did you know...* Catholic schools in Parramatta educate 26% of the total school aged population and are one of the largest employers in western Sydney. We depend on the ongoing financial commitment of the state and federal governments to ensure we continue to provide high quality and high quality learning and teaching in our schools. Contact your state MP and Barry O’Farrell to oppose NSW funding cuts.

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**Exemption from School**

New guidelines regarding attendance at school have been put in place by the Department of Education. Normal procedures if a child is away still apply, eg. note upon their return. The new procedure is required if on the rare occasion you are seeking exemption from school, ie. Holidays. A form can be downloaded from our website or is available from the office which needs to be completed and handed to the office. An approval form if appropriate will then be forwarded to you.

Thank you for your co-operation in this new mandated procedure. The Catholic Education Office must approve exemption in excess of 50 days.

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**Date Claimer**

**End of Year Celebrations**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th December 2012</td>
<td>Whole School Christmas Celebration Multi-Purpose at Learning Centre at 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th December 2012</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass at 10.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th December 2012</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th December 2012</td>
<td>Dance Fever Concert at Homebush</td>
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**Earn & Learn Promotion**

Congratulations to all those students who collected stickers in the Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion. We collected 87,830 points - WOW!! What a huge effort and great collecting!! The staff shall now spend these points on necessary resources for the Learning Spaces through Modern Teaching Aids.

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St Andrews College Student Reunion Dinner

St Andrews College will be holding a Student Reunion Dinner at Blacktown Workers Club on Friday 30 November 2012. The night begins at 7:30pm and will feature a two-course meal, commemorative cake, tea, and coffee and bar facilities. Tickets are $45 and be purchased via www.standrewscollegemarayong.catholic.edu.au or p: 9626 1999.

Notices from Bishop's Office

World Youth Rio Information Nights

The Diocese of Parramatta is taking 3 groups of pilgrims to WYD Rio in 2013 via Lima in Peru, Iguazu and Mexico. Young people are invited to come along to these information nights.
- Wed 24 Oct: Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, at 7.30pm
- Wed 31 Oct: St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, at 7.30pm
- Wed 7 Nov: Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, at 7.30pm
- Thurs 8 Nov: St Patrick’s Parish, Blacktown, at 7.30pm
- Wed 14 Nov: St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood, at 7.30pm
For pilgrimage itineraries and all your WYD Rio news go to: www.parrawyd.org

Applications for WYD Rio Group leaders close 31 October

The closing date for applications for Group Leaders for our diocesan pilgrimages to World Youth Day Rio has been extended to 31 October. Because of the expectations of pre- and post-WYD work and leadership, Group Leaders will be fully funded (except for incidental expenses). Age range: 18+. For a full role description and Expression of Interest – Group Leader Form go to: www.parrawyd.org

11th Annual Diocesan Shopping Trip: 17 November

This year we are raising funds to help our World Youth Day pilgrims to ‘Build Houses and Hope’ in Lima, Peru, on their way to WYD Rio in 2013. The annual Shopping Trip includes a bistro lunch and departs from 3 points: Parramatta Stadium, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at Seven Hills and Penrith Panthers. Visit 15 or more warehouses in the Sydney metro area on a shopping extravaganza. Cost: $50 adults, $40 concession, $20 children. This year you can also shop and save online. For more information and to secure your seat contact: Virginia Knight – Catholic Outlook tel (02) 8838 3412, v.knight@parra.catholic.org.au

National Assoc. Catholic Families ‘Family Day’: 28 October

"The Future of Humanity passes by way of the Family" (Bl John Paul II). You are invited to a Family Day to gather with other Catholic families, to socialise, pray and listen. Speaker: Rev Martin Aye Ngwe on ‘How family prayer bears fruit.’ Activities for youth and children. Family rosary/act of consecration (chapel). Starts 1pm at Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Old Toongabbie. BYO finger food, afternoon tea & drinks (tea & coffee provided). All welcome. Inquiries: nacf.sydney@hotmail.com

Volunteers needed: 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 call Maria McNuff, Volunteer Co-ordinator tel (02) 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

Stepping Beyond: 30 October

A monthly gathering for men and women who are separated or divorced. An opportunity to work on issues arising on changed life circumstances centring on personal awareness and self-development. Where: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30-9.30pm. Cost: $5. CatholicCare Social Services, Parramatta. Bookings: (02) 9933 0205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au

St Gabriel’s School turns 90: 4 November

Please join us in the grounds of St Gabriel’s Schools at Castle Hill to celebrate 90 years of giving the gift of communication to generations of children, with a community fair in the fine tradition of school fetes on Sunday 4 November. Gates open from 11am-4pm at 190 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill. Details: Jo Biggs (02) 9634 2367 or visit www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au

St Philomena Association Holy Mass: 10 November

St John Vianney was very devoted to St Philomena. Pope Gregory XVI called her “the great wonder worker”. Everyone is welcome for Holy Mass at noon with Confession from 11.30am. Where: St John Vianney's Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside. RSVP for catering purposes by 7 November: Elizabeth tel 0423 15 44 63, epeoples9@gmail.com

Faith at the Fiddler: 15 November

An opportunity for young people to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney's most famous pub. Speaker: Bishop Anthony Fisher OP. Time: 5-7pm. Where: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Anthony Gordon – Catholic Education, Parramatta tel (02) 9840 5714, anthony.gordon@parra.catholic.edu.au