Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Mathematics Assessment Interviews – JANUARY 2013**

As you are aware, throughout this year staff have been focusing on the teaching of Numeracy through the Extending Mathematical Understanding Program (EMU). All staff have been trained in the use of a special assessment tool called the ‘Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)’. This is a one to one interview with a student, which takes approximately 40 minutes. The information gathered from this assessment is used to help teachers analyse the mathematical understanding of students in Number. This information provides teachers with detailed information about children’s number knowledge. Teachers are then able to provide more targeted learning opportunities to enhance student learning.

To assist staff in gathering this information, we will be inviting students to be available on one of the following days for approximately 40 minutes. Students would need to be dropped off and picked up by parents or a designated adult either side of their allocated time.

Our aim is to conduct this interview for as many students as possible in this time frame. This will not only provide staff with knowledge of individual students but data will then be analysed at the class, grade, school and diocesan level and assist in the promotion of student growth in mathematical understanding.

We have received permission from the Catholic Education Office to conduct the interviews on Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th} January and Tuesday 29\textsuperscript{th} January for students Years 1 to Year 6. We have also received permission to conduct interviews with Kindergarten students on January 24, 29, 30, 31\textsuperscript{st} and Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} February 2013.

Later this term families will receive a letter identifying an interview appointment time for their children for a Mathematical Assessment Interview. If there is more than one child in your family, we will organise to have siblings have their interviews at the same time. The children, who are not assessed during these days, will be assessed as quickly as possible in the first weeks of Term 1. The hope is that every student will be assessed in the first 2 -3 weeks of term 1.

If you do not receive a letter, it means that your child will be assessed when he/she returns to school.

Kind regards,

*Marina Hardy*  
Principal

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**Dates for Mathematical Assessment Interviews and Starting School – Term 1 2013**

- **Thursday Jan 24\textsuperscript{th}** - Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI) K – 6
- **Tuesday Jan 29\textsuperscript{th}** - MAI - K – 6
- **Wednesday Jan 30\textsuperscript{th}** - Students Years 1 – 6 commence school  
  MAI - Kindergarten
- **Thursday Jan 31\textsuperscript{st}** - MAI - Kindergarten
- **Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} February** - MAI - Kindergarten
- **Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} February** - Kindergarten commence school

Further details regarding times for Kindergarten, will be given at the Orientation Meeting on 27th November 2012.
Parish News

Our next DWF collection is next week. Please take an envelope from the back of the church and return next week.

Those wishing to join the PARISH COUNCIL are invited to come to a BBQ and meeting on Saturday 24th November after the Vigil mass in the Presbytery, 14 Leeds St, opposite the side gate of the church. You could join one of five groups: Liturgy, Community Building, Social Justice, Faith Development or Fundraising. Bring a plate to share and just turn up and introduce yourselves.

Thankyou to Sue, helpers and parents for preparing our children for the sacrament of Reconciliation. We need more people to help with cleaning the church. Please phone Tanya at the parish office. Thankyou to Jasone Crosdale for organising the Free Financial Seminar last Wednesday. This Saturday Night: Blessed John XXIII Prayer Group NOVEMBER - 17 "I Am A People Builder" - Priest Speaker for the night is Father Michael Gimenía . Thanks to Sue for her first go at writing the reflection on the front page of the bulletin. Well done! Please do not park in the middle of the side car park blocking access for any emergency vehicles. Let your elderly relatives out then please if there is not a space then either park on the street or try to come earlier. Go Aussies in the cricket; a great time of year!

Live Jesus in Our Hearts, Forever Father Dave

School RE News

Sacramental Program - Reconciliation and Advent

Please keep in your prayers all children from our school and parish who will be receiving Reconciliation for the first time next week.

Over the past two weeks, they have been preparing with their parents, attending sessions at the parish as well as completing work at home.

As Catholics, we are asked to seek Reconciliation at least once a year. As adults, we are often caught up in our workload and when we get to the end of our to-do lists, our down-time is often too precious to give up to other things. But just as investing time in exercise increases our energy and spending more time with our loved ones brings us joy, giving time to our relationship with God is life giving and helps us reconnect to the things that matter most.

The season of Advent, in particular, is a good time to reconnect with God in a Christmas season that can otherwise all-consume us. Father is available for Reconciliation every Saturday 4:30pm to 5:30pm, after any weekday mass or by appointment.

November - The Month of Holy Souls

November is a month, particularly devoted to praying for the dead. If you have a lost one who has passed away, please record their name in our prayer book in the school office foyer. The names that have been written down, are read during prayer and are also passed onto the parish to be remembered during mass.

Simon Stennett

Religious Education Co-ordinator

Notices from Bishop's Office

World Youth Day Rio Information Night: 14 November

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 an information night on Wednesday 14 November St Thomas Aquinas Parish, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood, at 7.30pm. For pilgrimage itineraries and all your WYD Rio news go to: www.parrawydi.org

Website to stop NSW funding cuts to education

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta has launched a new campaign website to respond to the NSW Government’s decision to cut $1.7 billion in school education funding and cap the level of funding to non-government schools over the next four years. The website provides resources including sample letters to MPs, slogans for school signs and newsletter items to raise awareness of this issue. Concerned parents, staff and parishioners can also sign an online petition to lobby the NSW Government to overturn the decision. To let your voice be heard visit: www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding

Bishop Anthony to talk on Catholic Bioethics: 19 November

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will give the second of two talks on Catholic Bioethics, exploring Catholic Church teaching on conscience, the culture of modernity and the area of ‘over and under treatment’ in medicine. From 7-9pm at the Institute for Mission in the downstairs area, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Places are filling fast so book early tel (02) 9631 4911, www.instituteformission.com.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 15 November

An opportunity to meet people from across the Diocese to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney’s most famous pub. Hear guest speaker Bishop Anthony Fisher OP speak intimately about his own journey of faith and chat to him over dinner. 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

Campon’s Café Conversations: 15 November

Participate in public discourse exploring Historical, Philosophical, Ethical and Theological issues involving students from Higher Educational institutes. This month’s topic: Moral Absolutes. Mars Hill Cafe - upstairs, 331 Church St, Parramatta. Seating at 7pm, talk at 7.30pm. No entry fee. Food and beverages sold at café. Details: www.campon.edu.au

Parish Car Boot Sale: 17 November

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Baulkham Hills South, is holding a car boot sale with sausage sizzle, pancakes, cold drinks, tea & coffee. Traders’ access parking 9am-10am; Public admission from 10am. Closes 2pm. $10 per parking bay to be paid to the Parish Office where you will be allocated a parking bay. Traders must take away all unsold goods. No entries in for prime spots – limited number of spaces. Trader bookings to Parish Office tel (02) 9639 8385. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish grounds, 1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills.

Christian Meditation & Renewal Day: 18 November

St Benedict’s Monastery is hosting a Christian Meditation & Renewal Day. All welcome – BYO picnic lunch, books and CDs for sale. Time: 10am for 10.30am start till 3pm at St Benedict’s Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. Details Ann Lomas: ailomas@bigpond.com

Ordination to the Diaconate of John Paul Escarlan: 23 November

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will be the principal celebrant for the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate of John Paul Escarlan on Friday 23 Nov. The ordination will take place at 7.30pm in St Michael’s Church, 58 Orwell St, Blacktown South. Light refreshments to follow in the Presentation Hall of Nagle College. RSVP for catering purposes to John Paul tel (02) 9622 9149, johnpaul@stpatriarchparish.org.au

Parish Craft Fair & Antique Valuations: 24 November

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, is holding its annual Craft Fair & Antique Valuations to raise funds for Parkinson NSW. Features 35 stalls selling quality Christmas decorations and gifts, baby wear, homemade décor, kitchen goods, edible treats, scarves and bags, jewellery, potted plants and much more. Have your photo taken with Santa. Antique Valuations start at 9am – bring your special treasures or family heirlooms and paintings to see how much they are worth. Hours: 8am-2pm, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Camilleri Hall, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Details:

Mass in Igbo language: 9 December

Mass to be celebrated in Igbo language (Nigerian) by Rev Fr Henry Ibe from the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Be part of this wonderful celebration and experience the liturgy in Igbo language. Come one, come all! Mass at 11.30am. St Oliver Plunkett’s Church, 35 Wigram St, Harris Park. Otito diri Jesu … Na ndu ebighi-ebi. Amen. Details: Austin Okereafor: 0421 928 116, Evaton On ton: 0469 627 218 or Stella Nwosu tel 0405 478 472, 8678 2118, stellanwosu@msn.com
Compulsory School Attendance
A new brochure has been published by the Catholic Education Office of Parramatta Diocese outlining the legislated requirements. Please contact the school office if you would like some further information or, alternatively, you can download the brochure from our school website under the heading “notes”.

World Youth Day raffle
Just a reminder that all sold and unsold raffle tickets and the money needs to be sent to the school office by this Thursday 15th November 2012 as our school needs to send the raffle tickets to the Bishop’s office in Parramatta. If you would like more raffle tickets to sell, please contact Vanessa in the school office.

Please be aware of our neighbours when parking
Recently our neighbours, requesting that parents do not park in their driveways have approached the school, as this has stopped them from leaving and returning to their homes. Please ensure that we park legally and not in their driveways.

Leaving Families
If you know that you will definitely not be returning next year would you please notify the office in writing as soon as possible.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Akuec Dent, Zachary Mason, Mikitah Prasad, Joshua Gobbo, Ruby Villiers, Matthew Gonzales, Nicole Fisher, Chloe Encarnacion, Kristian Oreskovic, Aaina Singh and Isabella Valenti

Dates for your diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th December</td>
<td>Whole School Christmas Celebration Multi-Purpose Learning Centre at 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass at 10.15 am</td>
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<td>13th December</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5</td>
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<td>13th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th December</td>
<td>Dance Fever Concert at Homebush</td>
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<td>19th December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term for students</td>
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School Fees
Thank you to all the families that have finalised their school fees this year. If you still have a balance outstanding and you have not set up an arrangement with the school, please contact Vanessa in the school office to make an appointment regarding your school account.

Once again, we welcomed our 2013 Kindergarten students to Holy Cross. The students certainly enjoyed their new experiences and an opportunity to meet some new friends.

Our parents participated in a numeracy workshop aimed at helping parents support their children with learning at home.

Mrs Carmen Salkeld and Mrs Lisa Clements ran the numeracy workshop for parents and emphasised the need for students to develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and numeracy skills. Mrs Melissa King, who is a Teacher Educator from the Catholic Education Office, joined the workshop to share her expertise and skills in Numeracy.

Mrs Sarah O’Rourke and Miss Marina Hardy joined the workshop to assist parents with the learning tasks and to explain how the tasks meet the learning needs for all students.

Mr Carmen Salkeld, Mrs Clements and Mrs King explained to the parents that we are moving away from repetition or rote learning towards a deeper understanding of numeracy. The role of teachers is to ensure that students are using the most efficient strategies and that they understand numbers on a deep level.

The parents were involved in a number of mathematical games aimed at demonstrating how teachers work with students to develop their numeracy skills. These games demonstrated how teachers reinforce deep thinking and the importance of using the most efficient strategies.

At the workshop, parents were given a maths home learning bag containing bead string, hundreds chart and other resources so they could use with their children at home.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Akuec Dent, Zachary Mason, Mikitah Prasad, Joshua Gobbo, Ruby Villiers, Matthew Gonzales, Nicole Fisher, Chloe Encarnacion, Kristian Oreskovic, Aaina Singh and Isabella Valenti
The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta School Funding website has been created in response to the NSW Liberal Government’s plan to cut $1.7 billion from school education funding in New South Wales.

It is vital that we continue to oppose the NSW Government’s decision to cut $1.7 billion from school education funding.

On this site, you will find resources including sample letters to MPs, slogans for school/parish talking signs and newsletter/bulletin items for inclusion in your local communication to raise awareness of this issue and lobby the NSW Government to overturn this decision.

This site is a collaborative space for our school and parish communities to work together in opposing the state government’s shortsighted education policy. You are encouraged to share your resources, thoughts and suggestions via this website.

1.7 billion ways to get it wrong in planning for Australia’s future

Welcome to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta School Funding website which has been created in response to the NSW Liberal Government’s plan to cut $1.7 billion from school education funding in New South Wales.

At a time when there is general agreement that we need to invest more into the education of our young people, it is mind boggling that the NSW Government plans to reduce funding to all schools in New South Wales by 3% and cap the level of funding to non-government schools over the next four years.

There is no more important investment in society than the one in education. Education is the cornerstone upon which the next generation of ideas and innovation will emerge. Schools are integral in shaping our future leaders, teachers, economists, inventors, scientists, doctors, nurses, carpenters, mechanics and for the many jobs that haven’t been created yet. We must deliver an experience of schooling that meets the learning needs of students in today’s world and prepares them to respond creatively to the opportunities and challenges we will face in the future.

To do this, all schools require the ongoing support of both the state and federal government through fair and equitable funding.

Here, you will find resources including sample letters to MPs, slogans for school/parish talking signs and newsletter/bulletin items for inclusion in your local communication to raise awareness of this issue and lobby the NSW Government to overturn this decision.

I encourage you to let your voice be heard on this critical matter and share your comments and ideas with colleagues via this website.