Dear Parents and caregivers

As you are aware the Prime Minister, Mrs Julia Gillard, recently announced a Royal Commission into Child Abuse. Included in this newsletter is a response from Bishop Anthony Fisher and Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools. I encourage you to read these letters and contact either Marina Hardy or the Catholic Education Office (02) 9860 5600 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Last Monday, the school gathered in prayer to commemorate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is the day, which commemorates the end of World War I. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Armistice to stop fighting was signed. We remember and honour all Australians who fought, died and suffered fighting in World War I and in subsequent wars and conflicts.

Commemoration ceremonies such as this give us a link to the past. They also give us the opportunity to think about those who served and died in wars and ask what can be learnt from past conflicts. We pray for the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

2013 School Fees – Technology Fee

The 2013 Diocesan School fees were sent home recently outlining the tuition and building levy fees for all students Kindergarten to Year 6. In 2013 we will be including a Technology Fee. The Technology Fee will be charged per child each year. This fee $20 for terms 1, 2, and 3 ($60 per child) covers the ongoing upgrading of the technology of the school, including computers: ipads, laptops and desktops, digital cameras and licenses.

Dates for your diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th December</td>
<td>Whole School Christmas Celebration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Learning Centre at 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass at 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th December</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5</td>
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<tr>
<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 Years 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term for students</td>
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Regards,
Marina Hardy
Principal
Air Conditioning: In relation to the cost of our proposed air conditioning I have had discussions with the Parish Finance Team and I have consulted Kuttner Collins & Partners who are consulting engineers. The information that I have been given to date is as follows: Potential Project Cost: $365,130. Running cost per year based on running the plant two days per week would be $21,093. Loss on interest income $8,000 based on contributing $200,000 from existing investments into the project @ 4%. Separate electricity meter for the Church $25,000. After a robust discussion with the Parish Finance Team, I decided not to spend any of the Parish’s savings on Air Conditioning. We need that money to run the parish and to address our $4.7 million debt. The Cinque Cento club was formed to raise this money but never had 500 members. We have raised a wonderful $170,000. I am looking at cheaper alternatives to install a system that will make us a little more comfortable in summer, that won’t blow our budget and that is financially responsible to run and maintain. I apologise and take full responsibility for the delay. But I need to put in a system that will work and that will be cost effective. But as you can appreciate, you would not want me to mismanage the parish finances leaving the next Parish Priest and Parish Community to be saddled with a poor and reckless decision. It is my opinion that if we can get the Cinque Club up again next year that this money should be raised to address our debt. I thank Neville Zammit for his drive and initiative. I thank Anthony Zec and Tim Gilmore for their work this year in overseeing the project. I am in debt to Mila Lamas our Accounts Secretary for her diligence in dealing with the day to day problems in serving the members of the CCC. Neville and myself are still engaging with Air Conditioning Companies to come up with an acceptable, cost effective project. If you have any comments, suggestions please email me and I will personally respond. In the meantime, turn on those fans!

Live Jesus In Our Hearts, Forever
Father Dave

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass –Please Come Along
Just once a year the school travels by bus to celebrate Mass at our parish church together. This year’s Thanksgiving Mass will be on Monday 10th of December, beginning at 10:15am. Students from across the school will lead the celebration as we give thanks for the year that we have shared together. There is no charge for students though a permission note will be coming home this week. Please make note of the date and time to come along and join us for this important occasion.

Christmas Celebration
Make sure you mark Thursday 6th December on your calendar for our Holy Cross Christmas Celebration. Classes and grades across the school will lead various Christmas songs and carols for what we hope will be a very enjoyable and relaxed night. The evening will commence at 6:30pm.

The Influence of a Child
Last Friday, Fr. Joy joined Year 1 for mass. They had been learning about Mission and how Jesus encourages us to share. During Father’s homily, he made a point that I think is worth considering, particularly over these next busy weeks leading up to Christmas. Fr. Joy spoke about the story of Christ’s birth, the nativity, as well as the gospel of the mass, the feeding of the 5000. He made the point that, in each story, incredible change came about through the actions of a child. How, amidst many adults, the grace of God became present through children. In Matthew’s Gospel, (speaking of children), Jesus said “for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” We can easily get lost in our workload and lists of things to do. As the year becomes progressively busier, it may be wise to consider what is truly important, try to live a little more simply and to see the world from the eyes of a child.

Mr. Stennett
Religious Education Coordinator

School Uniform
Thank you for ensuring that our students have returned to school in full summer uniform. A reminder that it is extremely important that we maintain a high standard of presentation with all students wearing their correct uniform at all times. This includes:

♦ Black school shoes – not joggers or slip on shoes as they are not an appropriate or safe school shoe for either sport or everyday wear.
♦ Short white sock with a one-cuff roll down.
♦ No jewellery
Thank you for your attention to this detail.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Suhani Sidhu, Lori Hadjetian, Jake Arakelian, Hannah Bloodworth, Mathew Clements, Natasha Sullivan, Ysabella Nieves, Emily Huynh, Thomas Webster, Adrian Aye, Chloe Christie and Adam Mrazek

Well done Madeleine!

Parish News

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 as soon as possible. Our school is required to send the raffle tickets to the Bishop’s office in Parramatta.

HEALTH NEWS SLAPPED CHEEK
It is very important for you to seek medical advice if your child presents with any of the symptoms of this illness - runny nose, fever, aches and pains, a rash and red cheeks.

Dates for Starting School and Mathematical Assessment Interviews
Term 1 2013

Thurs Jan 24th  Mathematical Assessment Interviews
Thurs Jan 31st Mathematical Assessment Interviews
Mon Feb 4th  Kindergarten commence school

Students arriving late and leaving early
A reminder that it essential that the students are on time each day for school and that they do not leave early unless necessary. If your child needs to leave early please ensure that a note is sent it to school.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Madeleine O’Rourke on receiving 1st Place in the 8 Year Old National Championships for Australian Physie and Dance Association (APDA).

Well done Madeleine!
19 November 2012

Dear families

Message to families from the Executive Director of Schools on the announcement of a Royal Commission

Our Bishop, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, has made a clear statement regarding the Diocese of Parramatta’s response to the recent announcement of a Royal Commission into child abuse. I would like to assure you that our Catholic school communities and the Catholic Education Office will be working cooperatively and fully with the Inquiry.

We are deeply saddened by the incidence of child abuse within the Catholic community and encourage anyone who has information or who has been a victim of abuse to contact the police immediately.

We have strict protocols and procedures in place and will work closely with the NSW Police, the NSW Ombudsman and other authorities to deal with child protection matters quickly and appropriately. The care and wellbeing of our students is our first concern.

I ask you to keep those who have been the victims of abuse and their families in your prayers and the whole Catholic community as we work through this inquiry.

If you have any questions regarding our child protection protocols, please contact your school principal or the Catholic Education Office on 9840 5600.

I thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Catholic education.

Yours sincerely

Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta
STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA
ON THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD ABUSE

My Dear People

This week the Prime Minister announced a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in institutions including the Church. She did so with the support of the Catholic Bishops of Australia. The Church has undertaken to cooperate fully with the Inquiry.

I know I speak for our entire Catholic community when I say that our hearts go out to the victims of child sexual abuse, the 'little ones' whom Christ most loves, and to their families. Sexual abuse is to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. We are ashamed of past failures and determined to do better.

I want to assure you, as I did in my pastoral letter of two months ago, that we now have in place a rigorous process for dealing with complaints of abuse and that we work closely with Police and other authorities. We put victims first. With the help of this Royal Commission and other independent inquiries we hope to learn new ways of ensuring that every child is safe in the future and that victims of past offences are assisted.

I encourage all victims of abuse to contact the police. Other support is available to victims and their families via CatholicCare counselling at 9933 0233.

Recent scrutiny has included some fair complaints, as well as some very unfair slurs on all Catholic leaders, clergy and religious. As you are probably also aware, charges have been brought against two persons involved in education in our diocese. I know this has been upsetting for many of you, it certainly has been for me. This is truly a time in 'the valley of tears' for the Church in Australia.

Some of our clergy and religious may well be feeling demoralized at this time. I therefore ask you, dear people, to encourage and support them in their vocations. They share your faith and life, they want to make a difference with you for the Lord, and they stand with you against all that harms young people. Pray that they may be ever more closely united with Christ, the Good Shepherd, feeding His sheep and lambs.

Please also be assured that every Confession remains inviolable. If someone is abusing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a priest may refuse to hear their confession or refuse them absolution; he may also rebuke those whose sins are grave and bid criminals turn themselves in. But no priest will break the sacred Seal of Confession between God and the penitent.

I commend you all to the loving protection of Our Lady whom we hail as “our life, our sweetness and our hope to whom we cry in this valley of tears”.

With my prayers and friendship in Christ

Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP
BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA

17-18 November 2012