Dear Parents,

For some time I've been very excited about the prospect of further engaging our families with pre-schoolers in our community. I am delighted to announce that I will be establishing a St. Matthew's playgroup!

The playgroup will be open to families with children at our school and to families with children commencing at our school. The playgroup will be held in our parish hall. We are looking at initially opening one day each week. There are lots of decisions to make and I welcome your input. I will be holding a gathering of interested parents in the hall at 9am on Wednesday 11th September.

We will there do some planning so that we can commence the playgroup in Term Four on a day yet to be determined. The playgroup is a great way to enable our families to build new friendships. I am very keen to provide a forum for information sharing about teaching and learning facilitated by myself and other teachers.

I have a vision that includes a collective toy library, gross motor training, social/learning outings, exercise classes, themed activities and lots of fun and development.

I am very grateful to Fr. Arthur for his immediate and positive response to my request for the use of the parish hall. Fr. Arthur is keen to explore new ways of reaching out to all members of our community.

I look forward to gathering with interested families on 11th September. This is an exciting new chapter for our school community and I welcome your input and support.

Stephen Dowd
Principal.
Greetings Everyone!

Peace Be With You!

On Sunday we will be celebrating Father's Day. We pray for all of our fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles and anyone else who is a father figure to us in our community we ask Jesus Christ to give these men the strength, wisdom and faith to be models of goodness to all their loved ones.

St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus is an inspiring model of faith and trust in our God.

We wish all our fathers a wonderful day on Sunday!

All fathers and grandfathers are invited to join our Father's Day breakfast liturgy and Mathematics activities this Friday.

Breakfast will be served at 7.30 am.

This week our Year 4 students finished their major works on “Reconciliation”. All students worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed creating powerpoints, artwork, scrapbooks, storybooks and sculpture.

Well done Year 4!

“...Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord our God will be with you wherever you go”

Joshua 1:9

God Bless!

Ann Climpson
RE Co-ordinator

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

This day will be a pupil free day.
**Student Supervision and COHSC**

Having COHSC on site means that supervision outside of school hours can be provided to families who need it. In the interest of and for the safety of the children, from August 19, those students brought to or left at school out of the supervision hours will be sent to COHSC. Playground duty begins at 8:30am and ceases at 3:45pm. Please note: Charges will apply. Parents are asked to make necessary adjustments.

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**Student of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Recognitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Camryn Brunker, Tyra Gray, Lucas Leydon, Dakota Charles</td>
<td>For her fantastic improvement and effort in reading groups. For her amazing improvement in reading. For his consistent effort and improvement in handwriting. For his enthusiastic approach to his learning in mathematics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Madelin Rose, Samuel Miller, Lachlan Kersten, Jack Ewart</td>
<td>For being a kind and caring class member. For his improved attitude in reading. For starting his work straight away. For his enthusiastic participation in maths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Willem Machin, Jon-Pierre Dagher, Jye McDonald, Dylan Sheehy</td>
<td>For being an enthusiastic and friendly class member. For always being an enthusiastic learner. For writing a well structured discussion in Literacy. Striving to improve with his Literacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Hughen Flint</td>
<td>For great research skills and for an excellent space project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Ton Gray, Nancey-Rose El-Hendy</td>
<td>For working consistently in Religion lessons. For displaying Christina values in class and in the playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Harrison Rose, Holly Higginson</td>
<td>For fantastic creation of a rainforest bird. Well done! For a fantastic sculpture of a rainforest toucan. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Mikayla Sharp, Andrew Sultana</td>
<td>Being a helpful and cooperative person. For a fantastic design and make task.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**MEALS NEEDED**

We currently have a few families that require assistance.

One way that we are able to help them, is by cooking a meal that can be left at the front office to be put in the freezer. Please label the meal as suggested below. Thank you for your assistance.

Name of meal:  
Number of serves:  
Ingredients:  
Date:  

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Crystal Murray and her family.

Crystal wants everyone to know she misses us all and will be back at school as soon as she can.
FATHER’S DAY

We would like to remind all Dads, Grandparents, caretakers to join us for these special Father’s Day celebrations
7.30 – 9.00 am BBQ Egg and Bacon Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00 am Open Classroom
10.00 am Father’s Day Liturgy
Please RSVP to the office ASAP or by registering your details at:
The event code is HB6ZA.

Come-Dressed-as-Your-Dad This Friday! In honour of welcoming our dads here on Friday morning for our Fathers’ Day celebration, all students are invited to come to school dressed up as their dads/ grand dads. This should add to the joyful nature of the day - giving thanks for all that our dads are to us!

ST. MATTHEW’S SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY SEPT 4</th>
<th>THURSDAY SEPT 5</th>
<th>FRIDAY SEPT 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Hardy</td>
<td>Myra McDonald</td>
<td>Dana Bobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate McMillan</td>
<td>Natalie Miskelly</td>
<td>Rachel Layt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY SEPT 11</th>
<th>THURSDAY SEPT 12</th>
<th>FRIDAY SEPT 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyn Howard</td>
<td>Carissa Finch</td>
<td>Belinda Hardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Howard - 1 pm</td>
<td>Cheryl Crozier</td>
<td>Laura Murphy (9.30 am start)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Turnbull 1-3 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joanne Moore (9-11.30 am)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY SEPT 18</th>
<th>THURSDAY SEPT 19</th>
<th>FRIDAY SEPT 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Hardy</td>
<td>Kylie Gaul</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivana Katinic</td>
<td>Alicia Ewart (9.15 start)</td>
<td>Melinda Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Bugeja 9-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uniform Shop

Hours
Friday 8.30 am – 12 noon

Uniform orders can be placed at the front office or the form can be downloaded from the website.

Any uniform sales or enquiries, Ruby will be able to assist you on Fridays between the hours of 8.30am & 12 noon.

Summer uniforms will need to be ordered by 4th September so you will have them by end of Term 3.

School fees are now overdue

If parents are experiencing difficulties (either of a temporary or continuing nature) in meeting their financial commitments with respect to school fees they must contact the office to make an appointment for an interview with the Principal, Stephen Dowd, so that a mutually acceptable arrangement can be agreed upon.

This matter will be treated with absolute confidentiality.

Summer Uniform

Due to the unusually warm weather, if children are too hot in their Winter uniform they may wear their summer uniform in the last couple of weeks of this term. Note Tuesday 3rd September, Captivate Performance children must be in full winter uniform.

All children are expected to be in Summer uniform Term 4.

SIGNING IN & OUT OF SCHOOL

Please be aware that all students who arrive late to school must be signed in at the office by their parent.

BELL TIMES
8.30 am Supervision commences
8.55 am Line up Bell
9.00 am Commencement Bell
11.00 am – 11.45 am LUNCH
11.45 am - 1.45 pm Classes
1.45 - 2.15 pm RECESS
2.15 pm – 3.10 pm Classes
3.10 pm Warning Bell to Pack up
3.15 pm Dismissal Bell

In addition any student who is required to leave school early, under any circumstances, must also be signed out of the office by their parent.

This includes those students who are required to leave early on a regular basis as well as students who have provided a note to their class teacher.

Your support with this process would be greatly appreciated.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2014

A reminder to parents, if you know anyone who would like to enrol their child in Kindergarten next year and has not completed an enrolment application, they should do this as soon as possible.

Applications may be collected from the school office.
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING IN SPORT

**Soccer**

St Matthew’s Stage 2 boys were entered into the Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day on Tuesday 30th July. The boys had trained hard and were ready to show their skill.

The boys came up against some tough competition. As the day had continued were kept building on our skill and were successful in scoring a goal.

The boys learned from every game and gave everything they had to build a great team effort. They showed an exemplary fair play attitude throughout the day. Thanks also to the parent helpers and their support, it was appreciated.

**School Athletics Carnival**

The St Matthew’s athletics carnival was another success this year due to the student participation in many events.

House spirit was fantastic as students celebrated and cheered the success of others throughout the carnival including the infants.

Such an event is does not run as smoothly as ours without the support and assistance of many people. I would like to thank the Little Athletics Club, who each year provide us with timing gear and equipment to ensure our carnival is as professional as possible. I would also like to acknowledge the support of parents and volunteers who helped with judging and running of events.

Red was the triumphant house, followed by Green with, Blue and Gold

**Zone Athletics**

27 children St Matthew's students participated in the Hills/ Hawkesbury Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Athletics Centre, recently. It was a beautiful day with a great atmosphere of teamwork and sportsmanship.

There was not time to relax, as events were started with much enthusiasm and excitement. Individual events were called and St Matthew's were ready to compete against some tough competition. The teachers and parents from St Matthew’s and other competing schools were really proud of the perseverance and sportsmanship displayed by all St Matthew’s students.

For many of our students, this was the first experience of competing at this level. A special mention must go to Chloe Tyrrell and Kyle Henson who made the final of the 100m.

Congratulations to Alicia Facchin who competed in 11 years shot put event and placed 3rd. This is Alicia’s second year running that she has qualified to represent St Matthew’s at the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Well Done Alicia!

Many thanks to the parents for their help and support throughout the day. A big thanks also goes to Mrs Digwood for organising the students and their events.

All our Students did us proud! Well done!

Mr Brian Hafstein, Sports Teacher.
HEAD LICE

It has come to the attention of staff and parents that there is an incidence of head lice in the school at the moment and we seek your co-operation to help break the cycle of infestation.

We ask that you examine your children's hair and scalp for signs of lice or their eggs (nits). If you find head lice or eggs in your child's hair, it will be necessary to treat. This can be obtained from your chemist, together with advice as to how to treat and prevent further infestation.

To assist parents with dealing with this problem we have provided information that can be found on the NSW Government Health website.

The effectiveness of any treatment relies on the participation of all parents in checking for head lice and treating their child.

Biology

Lice are a large family of insects, phthiraptera, that includes head lice, body lice and pubic lice. Head lice are small parasitic insects that only live on the human head. Head lice have been found on "mummies" in Egypt and South America.

Head lice are supremely adapted to living on the human head. The human head is the only place to find head lice. They do not live on any other part of the body nor on any other animal.

Head lice have six legs designed to grasp the hair shaft and to enable rapid movement backward and forward to escape detection.

Like many insects, head lice are sensitive to temperature and humidity. The human head makes a perfect humidicrib for these parasites, and depending on where they are on the head, the lice can control these factors by moving to different parts of the scalp.

Head lice cannot fly or jump. Looking through an electron microscope, it's easy to see why: each of their long legs has a claw at the end, which makes it difficult to jump or to walk on flat surfaces.

Head lice move between heads via a hair; they grasp a hair from another head by swinging between heads on a hair shaft. Their grasp is very strong which makes them hard to dislodge from the scalp and hair. Head lice do not burrow into the skin.

Head lice feed only on human blood, so they cannot survive for very long away from the head. They need to feed several times a day.

Eggs (nits) are laid by a female close to the scalp on the hair shaft, usually no more than 1.5 centimetres from the scalp. These eggs are attached to the hair with an incredibly strong glue. There is currently no product on the market that can effectively treat all eggs.

Unless manually removed, egg shells and unhatched eggs grow out with the hair. It is quite common to detect a badly infested head by the lines of eggs that have grown out with the hair.

Depending on the temperature and humidity of the head, eggs hatch after five to seven days. Small nymphs emerge, and providing they can feed, begin to grow into adult-sized lice after about seven or eight days.

It can be about 14 days after the eggs are laid that the mature louse can begin breeding.

Adults live for up to 14 days. The lifecycle of a head louse is only about one month.

This is important to remember. As no product has been shown to kill eggs, any chemical treatment must be reapplied after any eggs have hatched, i.e. five to seven days after the first treatment.

A female louse can lay about 100 eggs in a lifetime, laying around eight eggs at a time. Only those eggs laid by an inseminated female will hatch.
Do head lice cause illness or disease?

Head lice have not been shown to transmit any infectious agents and rarely cause any harm.

Adults more than children do suffer from considerable outrage at the presence of these parasites. This outrage usually outweighs any public health significance head lice may present.

The lice’s saliva and faeces may cause some irritation, though rarely. This irritation may, in turn, cause scratching and thereby increase the chance of a secondary infection. However this is rare.

The most likely harm caused by head lice is from inappropriate use of chemicals in an attempt to treat them.

The continued application of chemicals to the scalp can cause severe reactions on some heads.

Parents, in their frustration, can resort to applying products not tested for human use and not shown to have any effect on reducing head lice.

How do you catch head lice?

Head lice are caught from another human head. Head lice cannot survive off the human head for any length of time. Depending on the temperature and humidity levels, healthy adult lice can survive for only a few hours off the head. Like many insects, lice are sensitive to dry and/or cold conditions.

Spring cleaning your home, washing bedding and toys and rigorous vacuum cleaning do not affect the head lice population on a human head.

Head lice move from human hair to human hair. They do not crawl along furniture or hop between car seats. Focussing on the environment does not reduce head lice, merely takes up time that could be spent combing the head.

It is thought that increased human contact and changes in hair styles and behaviour of young children, particularly girls, may have contributed to an increase in head lice. While these changes in society have been undoubtedly for the better, they may have brought with them increased transmission opportunities for head lice.

Research in NSW and Queensland has shown that head lice incidence is greatest in primary school children and peaks in girls in middle years of primary school. Current data show approximately 23 per cent of primary school children screened through the Nitbusters Program in NSW public schools have head lice.

Treatment

Head lice are only found on the human head.

They are not found on any other part of the human body, although there are other types of lice that do infest other parts of the human body. Nor are they found on any other animal. Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment. Treating anything other than the human head does not eradicate head lice.

Before you choose a treatment for head lice, consider the following:

- Make sure that the heads you treat actually do have head lice and do not treat unless they do!
- Do not treat babies or a scalp that is irritated or inflamed.
- Do not let product into eyes.
- There is no preventative treatment available. While it is tempting to “do” the whole family, unless they actually have head lice you may be contributing to the problem of resistance.
- Any product applied to the head should be used with caution, particularly on young heads. READ THE LABEL.
- Use your common sense when selecting a head lice treatment. There is nothing natural about pouring a product on a head!
- Some essential oils, including tea tree oil, can trigger a reaction in some people. Tea tree oil is a proven antiseptic, however, its efficacy as a head lice treatment has not been demonstrated.
- Many products have a very strong smell. A strong smelling substance left on the hair for any length of time may trigger a reaction.
- Certainly try a commercial head lice preparation, but read the label first and apply strictly as directed. Again, in desperation it can be tempting to change the dose in an effort kill the lice. However, increasing the dosage does not enhance efficacy of treatment products.
- Apply product to every strand of hair and work through, leave for 20 minutes, and comb out with a good quality lice comb.
- If dead lice are found, the product has worked. But you must re-treat in seven days to catch nymphs that have emerged from unhatched eggs.
- If you find live lice, the treatment probably hasn’t worked. Either use another product with a different active ingredient (read the label) OR try the comb and conditioner method.
- Reduce transmission by tying hair back and braiding. We now it’s hard for young girls to consider this cool, but try it!
- Regularly check your children’s hair. Young girls growing up often become very independent about their hair care and it can become difficult to convince them that it’s important for you to continue checking their hair. Try to persist or show them how they can check their own hair when they wash it in the shower or bath.
- Keep a good quality head lice comb in the shower so that every time anyone washes their hair they use the comb. The more folk know about simple management methods the easier it will be to reduce the problem. But it takes time!

Do not use insecticides, methylated spirits or kerosene on your child’s head.
What’s the comb and conditioner method?

Head lice breathe through small openings along their abdomens called spiracles. By coating the hair and therefore the louse in something thick and slimy, these openings close over, shutting down the louse's breathing for about 20 minutes.

Head lice can move very fast across the scalp. Using a head lice comb on a dry scalp will often miss many lice as they are very clever at avoiding being caught. While unfortunately the louse doesn't die with this method, it does slow it down so that you can catch them.

Any thick and slimy substance applied to the hair will have the same effect. Some parents swear by mayonnaise or olive oil, though it does seem logical to use simple hair conditioner. It can be difficult to wash out oils easily and using mayonnaise does seem a waste! Nevertheless the principle is the same; the lice will be slowed down so that you can comb them out.

Applying

Nitbusting at home

Nitbusting can be a time-consuming task. If Nitbusting at home with your child, do the following:

Try sitting the child between your legs on a low stool and putting on a video for an hour while you work.
Wrap a towel or kitchen paper around the child's shoulders to catch conditioner spill.
Remove any scrunchies, ribbons clasps, etc. from the child's head and comb out plaits and braids.
Apply liberal amounts of conditioner to the scalp and massage it through all the hair shafts. You will use a lot of conditioner. Every hair has to be coated to ensure it reaches the lice.
Lice live close to the scalp, so make sure that you cover the hair shaft close to the scalp. You don't have to work the conditioner onto the whole length of the hair. Combing will spread it well enough. The idea of the application is to restrict the movement of the head lice long enough for you to catch them with a comb.

After you've applied the conditioner, use a large comb to part small sections of the hair starting from the nape and working upwards toward the crown. Eggs are often found behind the ears and toward the back of the head. By using this method, you are more likely to find the head lice on top of and toward the front of the head.
When the hair is detangled and manageable, use a fine lice comb to comb out each section several times.
After each comb out, wipe the conditioner on the paper towel. If the child has head lice, you will see them on the towel.
conditioner, or any other slimy product, will not kill nor remove eggs, although some good quality lice combs will remove them.
Keep combing each section of hair until no further lice, nymphs or eggs appear on the paper towel. Often you will see lots of old egg casings that may take awhile to remove.

Once you have combed and recombed each section of hair, either re-plait or tie it back. If it is very short, suggest to the child some interesting styling! Young boys often like their hair spiked up or Mohawk-like!

**Treating long hair**

Depending on the hair length and type, it is often easier to neatly section long and thick hair before applying conditioner to avoid getting the hair into a terrible tangle.

Part long hair once from forehead to scalp, and use hair clips to keep the part in place. Apply conditioner along the part line and massage in with the comb. This is to stop lice from crossing from one side of the head to the other.

Part the hair in a straight line from ear around scalp to centre part and clip or pin top section to crown of scalp.

Apply conditioner again to the part and massage in.

Apply more conditioner to loose hair down to nape of neck.

Use the head lice comb to comb out the conditioner. Start at the base of the hair shaft and comb down the length of the hair in one stroke.

Wipe the comb on a paper towel and check for lice. Lice are easily identified on the paper towel. Continue combing this section until you are certain you have covered the area several times.

Repeat the sectioning on the other side of the part towards the other ear.

After you've done these two sections, continue parting horizontally from the centre part sections of hair and apply conditioner and comb out as before.

**Other things you should know**

Head lice often congregate on the crown of the head, so that it is not until you reach these last sections of hair that you find adult lice.

However, heads that are severely infected will have adult lice everywhere.

A good head lice comb should also remove nymphs, the stage between egg and adult louse—teenagers really. These can be difficult to identify with the naked eye, but appear as small insects on the paper towel.
Dear Parents,

The Orientation Day for students only and the Orientation Evening for parents only will both be held on Wednesday 20 November. PLEASE MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY AS NO FURTHER REMINDER WILL BE SENT!

**ORIENTATION FOR STUDENTS 20 NOVEMBER**

All students who have been accepted must attend the Orientation Day at the College. The students should be at the school by 8:45am and will leave at 2:30pm. Parents are asked to arrange transport on this day and not depend on school buses.

The students should wear the school uniform of their current school and need to bring:
- a pencil or pen
- recess
A sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch.

**PARENTS MEETING 20 NOVEMBER**

This meeting will begin at 7:00pm in the Good Samaritan Hall. It will address expectations, clarify any problems and give all parents an indication of what Bede Polding College is all about. All parents are expected to attend.

The uniform shop will be open on this day from 8:00am until 3:30pm.

Looking forward to meeting all new and current families,

Yours sincerely

Mr Kevin Jones
Principal

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**f a ITH IN Ma RRi a GE CONFERENCE**

A Conference about Marriage for couples. The gifts and graces of marriage give us great hope and strength for ourselves and our society.

Sunday, 15th September, 2013 – 8.45am – 5.00pm.
Cost $25 single, $50 couple, includes light lunch.
Where: Our Lady of Mercy College Hall, Ross Street, Parramatta (free parking surrounding Streets only)
Guest Speakers: Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP; Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University; Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College and Robyn Moore.

See flyer in foyer for more details.
Book early to avoid disappointment:

By email marriage@ccss.org.au or telephone 9933 0222.
26 August 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Matthew’s Primary School: Pupil Free Day

As families are aware, Tuesday, 8th October 2013 is a Pupil Free Day at St Matthew’s Primary School. Catholic Out of School Hours Care at St Matthews is able to offer limited places for care on this day. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to families already enrolled at the service.

Opening Times: 7:00am to 6:30pm

Flat Fee: $45.00 per child for the day, prior to Child Care Benefit deductions. Families that already attend COSHC on Tuesdays will have their regular fee deducted from the $45.00 fee.

How to secure a position for Tuesday 8th October, 2013

Simply complete the tear off slip below and return to the school office or COSHC to secure your position. Families new to COSHC will be required to complete an enrolment form.

No further applications will be accepted after 1:00pm on Friday 20th September, 2013.

Please note: A minimum number of enrolments on 8th October, 2013 will be required for all day care to proceed – if this number is not reached, care will not be available.

Further enquiries are to be directed to the COSHC Supervisor on 0418 170 921 or COSHCStMatthewsWindsor@parra.catholic.edu.au

PUPIL FREE DAY REQUEST FORM – TUESDAY 8TH October, 2013

I will require all day care on the Pupil Free Day, Tuesday 8th October, 2013 at COSHC St Matthew’s. I accept that if I book care for my children and do not attend on the day, the all day fee will still apply.

Child’s Name: ____________________________ School Class: __________

Parent / Carer Name: ________________________________

Contact Phone: ________________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

☐ I am new to Catholic Out of School Hours Care. Please send me an enrolment form.
Catholic Education Office

Parent Representative Council - Parent Workshops
The Parent Representative Council (PRC) are holding Parent only workshops for ‘Restorative Practices: Building and maintain healthy relationships in and around your home’ for Primary and Secondary Students. Bookings are essential.

Bishops Office

Catholic Outlook September issue
* Federal Election Issue: Bishop Anthony’s Letter *The Marriage Election*, Catholic Bishops’ statement *Vote for the Common Good*, Key issues facing Catholic Education

* Coverage of Tradition Conference 2013 at University of Notre Dame

* Bishops’ Social Justice Statement: 2013-14: *Lazarus at our Gate – A critical moment in the fight against world poverty*

* Iftar dinner at St Patrick’s Cathedral

* Spirit burns bright at post-WYD pilgrim gathering

St Patrick’s Cathedral Food Fair: 7 September
The Cathedral’s annual Food Fair will be held on Saturday 7 September from 10am to 3pm. Choose from a wide variety of international food, including Lebanese, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Italian, and South American. There will be cakes, freshly brewed coffee from the Cafe and a good ol’ Aussie BBQ with sizzling sausages and kebabs. Grab a meal and enjoy a variety of cultural entertainments. A recital by the Cathedral’s talented organist will bring the day to a close at 3pm. Bring your family and friends and have a great day out supporting St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Marist Youth Care Star Foster Care Program
Have you thought of becoming a Foster Carer for children aged 8 or older in your own home? Star Foster Care receives referrals daily for children and young people who need a family to care for them. Star Foster Care needs dedicated people who want to become Foster Carers. You can help by becoming emergency/short term, permanent long term or respite foster carers. Allowances paid, 24-hour support provided. For more information contact Tammy tel (02) 9672 9214, tammyh@maristytc.com.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 6-8 September
A marriage enrichment experience – take time out of your busy schedules to invest in your most precious asset, your marriage! Venue: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Inquiries & bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel (02) 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au www.wwme.org.au

Ordination to the Priesthood of John Paul Escarlan: 13 September
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will ordain John Paul Escarlan a priest for the Diocese of Parramatta at 7.30pm in St Patrick’s Cathedral. Everyone is welcome – plenty of parking. For catering purposes, please RSVP by 7 September: tel (02) 9654 2260, johnpaul.escarlan@yahoo.com.au
Fr John Paul Escarlan’s First Mass: 14 September
Fr John Paul Escarlan will celebrate his First Mass for the Gift of the Priesthood at 11am at St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, 28 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst. Everyone is welcome. For catering purposes, please RSVP by 7 September: tel (02) 9654 2260, johnpaul.escarlan@yahoo.com.au

Faith in Marriage: 15 September
Registrations closing soon for this conference for couples hosted by CatholicCare Parramatta in conjunction with Australian Catholic University. Incorporating the annual Celebrating the Journey Mass in St Patrick’s Cathedral with Bishop Anthony Fisher OP at 11am. The gifts and graces of marriage give us great hope and strength for ourselves and our society. Guest speakers share their insights, observations and experiences for building and enriching marriages. Time: 8.45am-5pm. Venue: Our Lady of Mercy College, Ross St, Parramatta. Cost: $50 per couple or $25 for individuals (includes hot finger food lunch, morning and afternoon tea). Registrations: tel (02) 9933 0222, marriage@ccss.org.au

Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 15 September
Topic: ‘You just did your best, that’s all, and hoped for the best’. The Sisters of Mercy and Catholic education in far Western NSW. Speaker: Dr Megan Brock RSJ, Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar, consultant psychologist. Time: 2.30pm – all welcome. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks. Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Feast Day of Our Lady of Penafrancia: 21 September
St Nicholas of Myra Church, High St, Penrith. Program: 9.15am novena; 9.45am concelebrated Mass; noon-12.30pm fluvial procession at Nepean River; assembly at Tench Reserve, Jamieson Rd, Penrith; 12.45-4pm lunch and entertainment, Factory Rd side of Tench Reserve. Details: Doc Tito/Neria Soliman tel 0404 011 524.

Day trip to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens: 1 October
Join the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, for morning tea at Koshigaya Park, Campbelltown, in manicured gardens with cherry blossom trees. Travel to Mt Annan Botanic Gardens for a driving tour of the theme gardens including Bottlebrush Garden, Wattle Garden and Banksia Garden. Cost: $35 includes morning tea. Lunch at Campbelltown Catholic Club (own expense). Bus departs 8.45am at 20 Virgil St and 8.50am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Deposit of $20 required when booking with Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

DISCOVER Weekend for Young Women: 11-13 October
Young women aged 18-35 are invited to a self-knowledge weekend on identity, personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission. At the Mount Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Registration essential. For further information or to register contact Sr M Julie Brbar: juliebrbar@gmail.com

Prayer and Reflection Day: 13 October
Everyone is welcome to this lovely day of quiet, peaceful prayer and reflection in beautiful surroundings of the Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd, Castle Hill. Time: 10.30am-3pm. Donation: $10. Bookings: CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0205.

12th Annual Diocesan Shopping Trip: 16 November
This year we are raising funds for Project Ten 2003-2013, a program of major works in St Patrick’s Cathedral precinct. Departs from 2 points: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at Seven Hills and Penrith Leagues Club. Visit more than 15 factory outlets on a shopping extravaganza, includes bistro lunch. Cost: $50 adults, $40 concession, $20 children. For more information and to secure your seat contact: Virginia Knight at the Diocesan Office tel (02) 8838 3412,
Rollercoasters™
A Curriculum for Children of Change

FOR KIDS WHOSE FAMILIES ARE CHANGING

Group activities for children age 6-11 who are experiencing & struggling with
Family separation | Parents' divorce | Family changes

Six Tuesdays: Tue 15th Oct 2013 - 19th Nov 2013

Time: 4:00pm – 5:15 pm. After school
Venue: Ann D Clarke Building 2A Villiers St Parramatta
Bookings: Phone 99330222 to reserve a place
Cost: $10 per child per session (includes snack) Concessions may be available
Topics Covered:

Week 1: Everything is different
Week 2: Is it my fault?
Week 3: I wish everything was back to normal
Week 4: I am so mad!
Week 5: How can I manage?
Week 6: What have I learned?

Factory Outlet Shopping Trip

Sunday 20th October

- Heaps of outlet stores - fashion - shoes - bags - chocolate - home wares and loads more – great brands and great prices.
- Get some Christmas shopping done without the kids around.
- Spread the word - friends, family - everyone is welcome.
- $45 per adult (a limited number of older children are welcome to attend, they are free)
- Please contact Sandra on 0448 655 623 or Katrina on 0414 426 247 if you are interested in coming. All money raised goes directly to our M.A.D. For a Cure Relay Team fundraising for 2014.
BRIEFING PAPER

At its heart, Catholic schooling is an invitation by the church to parents, students and teachers to an ongoing encounter with Christ. Our moral purpose is located within the evangelizing mission of the church and its commitment to provide quality Catholic schooling.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta seek to deliver quality Catholic schooling through our system strategic intent by:

- Improving the learning outcomes for all students, and
- Promoting a professional and rewarding working life for teachers

Core to this intent are these underlying principles:

- Every child can and will learn
- Every child deserves a great teacher
- Diversity is the norm
- Teachers are learners too
- Teachers must be valued as professionals to make good pedagogical decisions
- Schools are best placed to respond to local learning and teaching needs

The newly passed Australian Education Act (2013) and the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA), which commences in 2014, largely reflects the underlying principles and intent of our system. However, the implementation of this agenda will be crucial in ensuring the authenticity, sustainability and growth of Catholic education in western Sydney in the future.

1. PROTECTING CHOICE

- Parents have a right to choose the type of schooling they want for their children. This choice is a fundamental right in guaranteeing religious freedom and expression

- Ensuring choice requires equitable government funding across all schools to allow those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to have the same access to, and choice of, schooling.

2. ENSURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ‘CATHOLIC’

- In order for Catholic schools to authentically maintain their identity and mission, the Catholic school sector must continue to be able to employ staff who are committed to the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, particularly for those staff who hold leadership positions, teach Religious Education or are responsible for the formation of students.

- Formation, through witness to the faith, is key to the evangelizing mission of Catholic schools. The growing pressure to remove anti-discrimination exemptions for faith-based schools would effectively legislate against the employment of staff who meet this essential criteria of teaching in a Catholic school.

3. MAINTAINING DIOCESAN (SYSTEM) AUTONOMY

- The National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) preserves unprecedented federal power over schooling, while exposing the need for local autonomy.

- The ultimate responsibility for the continuation, development and administration of Catholic systems rests with the bishop in each diocese as the pastoral leader of the church in the region.

- Maintaining local authority at the diocesan or system level is crucial, not only for the exercise of this responsibility, but also to ensure enterprise solutions and the flexibility to respond adequately to local system and school needs.

- This relies on the recognition by government of local church autonomy in delivering quality Catholic schooling and the continuation of “block funding” to the Catholic sector.

4. MEASURING REFORM

- The National Education Reform Agenda (NERA) seeks to devolve local autonomy to schools, while simultaneously setting strict performance accountabilities and reporting requirements.

- The practice of teaching cannot be reduced to the following of externally-set rules and the meeting of targets. Teachers must be allowed to exercise professional judgement about curriculum content and the means of instruction.

- Broad-based quality evidence must be used to inform, transform and form policy development and implementation, and policy success must not only be measured by things that are easy to measure (e.g. NAPLAN, OECD data, etc) but measured using sound research and comprehensive data over time.