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St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

28th February 2013

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL FOCUS FOR WEEKS 5 & 6

"We do our best"

CALENDAR DATES TERM 1

Mar 5 Tue	Stage 2 Reconciliation
Mar 8 Fri	Assembly 9.00 am
Mar 11 Mon	Commencing Week 7 Catholic Schools Week
Mar 12 Tue	Parent info meeting First Communion 7.30pm at Chisholm
Mar 14 Thur	Parent info meeting First Communion 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church
Mar 15 Fri	National Day Against Bullying & Violence
Mar 17 Sun	St Patrick's Day
Mar 19 Tue	Stage 3 Reconciliation
Mar 20 Wed	Stage 3 Camp
Mar 21 Thur	Stage 3 Camp
Mar 22 Fri	Stage 3 Camp Assembly 9.00 am
Mar 24 Sun	Palm Sunday
Mar 29 Fri	Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Apr 1 Mon	Easter Monday
Apr 12 Fri	Term 1 2013 ends

Uniform Shop Hours
Friday 8.30 - 12 noon

If you require any uniform pieces an order form can be collected from the front office or downloaded from the website.

Dear Parents,

Our work at developing rich relationships is a critical element of being a Christian people.

Bullying destroys many potentially rich relationships. During this time of Lent, we are called to examine our consciences. Sadly, bullying exists at St. Matthew's. It is corrosive and divisive. We must be united to constantly work together towards stopping this behavior.

Individually, we should reflect on our own behavior and relationships. Collectively, we must identify bullying where it occurs and support each other's efforts to stop it.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, we are inviting our families to unite with us in the fight against bullying. Below is an excerpt from the BullyingNoWay website (<http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/index.html>) which I request families visit together in the lead-up to Friday 15 March, **National Day Of Action Against Bullying And Violence**. The site is a tremendous resource for us all. It makes the discernment between conflicts and bullying:

Dealing with conflicts or fights at school is quite different to dealing with bullying. With two children in conflict or a fight, the child who wants to have an advantage over the other child will often accuse that child of bullying in the hope that adults will intervene. The intention of that child is to claim innocence and to place total blame on the other. This is a fight and both children should be held account for their own actions.

"Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. These conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.

One in four Year 4 to 9 students reports being bullied every few weeks or more in Australia (Source: [Australian Covert Prevalence Bullying Study \(PDF, 214 KB\)](#) May 2009, Edith Cowan University).

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is **harmful** and involves the **misuse** of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. It can have long-term effects on those involved. It is intended to cause harm, distress and/or create fear.

Bullying might involve repeatedly:

- hanging up calls
- sending insulting or threatening text messages
- publishing someone's personal or embarrassing information online
- creating hate sites or starting social exclusion campaigns on social networking sites
- physically hurting someone
- leaving someone out
- saying mean or humiliating things
- using technology to send nasty messages or images

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

People may bully because they:

- are angry or sad and take it out on others
- may have been bullied themselves
- think it will make them popular
- they struggle with school work
- have problems at home
- don't respect people who are different
- think it is funny."

Jesus came that we may have life and have it to the full. People who bully tend to have empty lives and empty hearts. We need to hold them to account but we are also called to be models of Christian values. Please join with us in stopping bullying at our school. Use the website above to help you inform, discern and discuss with your children incidents of conflict or bullying, how they differ and what one should do about them.

With appreciation for your ongoing support,
Stephen Dowd
Principal



BULLYING. NO WAY!

Australia's safe and supportive school communities getting to the heart of the matter

Student of the Week



Kinder		No awards were handed out.
Year 1	<i>Ben Bugeja Liam Henson Chanel Refalo Madaleine McDonald</i>	for doing his best at every task. Well done! for always being a hard worker and cooperative member of class. Well done. For always being a hard worker and helping others. For always doing the 5'ls in class. Well done
Year 2	<i>Alyssa Kirk Richard Muscat Tatiarna Valente Alixandria Paget</i>	For using a range of reading strategies in Guided Reading. For striving to improve his understanding of 3 digit numbers in Mathematics. For always being a caring, co-operative and hardworking member of the class. For writing a well structured and edited recount in Literacy.
Year 3	<i>Kyle Henson Kaitlyn Touma Jacinta Palminha</i>	For settling well into St. Matthew's. For being a wonderful role model in Year 3. For being a good role model from Stage 2.
Year 4	<i>Madison Kirk Bradley Keddie</i>	For making a great start at St. Matthew's. For making a great start at St. Matthew's.
Year 5	<i>Bella Atkins Noah Moncreiff Isabella Ireland Lilli Power</i>	Great work in mathematics. Enthusiasm for blogging. Welcome to St Matthew's Welcome to St Matthew's
Year 6	<i>Matthew Galea Sarah Milad Eda Xia</i>	Participating in class discussions and activities. New to school. Helpful & organised.



Our school has registered to take part in the MOOV Defend your Class Schools program. This is a Head Lice awareness program which aims to educate and inform students, teachers and parents about Head Lice and promote more open discussion about how it affects kids both in the classroom and at home.

There are some great individual student prizes to be won and \$10,000 school grant up for grabs, so make sure your child completes the animated CDROM game they have been given to enter!

BOOK CLUB ISSUE 2
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED
THIS WEEK.

ORDERS NEED TO BE
RETURNED BY
MONDAY 11TH MARCH

Bede Polding College School Tours

During Catholic Schools Week school tours will be conducted on Wednesday, 13th March between 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Each tour starts with a brief ten minute presentation by the Principal, Mr Kevin Jones. The tours are led by students of the College.

Please call the school **a week before** the tours to express your interest. Any further enquiries, please phone the College on 4577 6455.

Applications for enrolment to Bede Polding College for Year 7 2014 are available now.
Applications close on Friday 31st May 2013.

What's happening in your class? Term 1 Weeks 5 & 6

Kinder

Kindergarten have been learning in class what strategies good readers use. We use these strategies all the time. So far we have learnt that good readers look at the pictures for clues, they get their mouth ready to say the first sound and they slide the sounds in the word. Kindy would love to practise these strategies at home too!

Kindergarten have used their inspirational visit to the local Art Gallery to begin their own portraits and "works of art". They may even encourage their family members to be available for a "portrait sitting" session.

Year 1

Year One have been working hard on their recount writing this fortnight. We took our class puppet on a walk and wrote some amazing recounts about our adventure. We are starting our unit on creepy crawlies in science and will be looking at all the living creatures in a school yard (apart from your children). Thank you to all our Mums who have been helping us in year 1, we really appreciate it! Just a reminder if you haven't completed the working with children check this needs to be done before you come into the classroom.

Year 2

Year Two are finishing up our recount writing by showing some finger puppets around our classroom. We are using a variety of language to make our written work more interesting. In HSIE we have transformed into Town Planners! We have started by planning, drawing and labelling our streets and are looking forward to creating and building our own co-operating community. Stay tuned for more of Year Two's amazing exploits!

Stage 2

Stage 2 are learning about communities. We are busy investigating and researching what makes a great community work. We will be using our findings to design our very own "co-operating community". Stay tuned!

Stage 3

Stage Three are really excited about our new blog. You can find it at www.stage3atstmatthews.edublogs.org. Each student has their own log in and is able to post and comment. Visitors to the site can comment too. Part of our learning in English/Writing is to learn about the ways we can present recounts of our learning to a worldwide audience. We have been learning about capturing attention, maintaining interest and this week have started to post photos. Make sure you visit to read all about our learning!!

In maths we had the challenge question "is a square the best shape for a handball court" over the next week we will post some of our designs on the blog too!

Mother's Day Stall

Parent helpers needed for Mother's Day gift wrapping.

When: Tuesday 2nd April
Time: 9.00 am
Where: Hall



Kindergarten Enrolments 2014

Enrolments have begun for those parents wishing to start their children in Kindergarten in 2014 at St Matthew's. Just a reminder, that applications should be submitted to the school by Friday, May 31, 2013. Enrolment packages are now available at the office

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27	THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28	FRIDAY MARCH 1
Jo Bourke	Kylie Gaul	Monica Gaffney
Natalie Miskelly	Cheryl Crozier	Rachel Layt
		Joanne Moore
WEDNESDAY MARCH 6	THURSDAY MARCH 7	FRIDAY MARCH 8
Ivana Katinic	Carissa Finch	Natalie Miskelly
Josephine Muscat	Ros Brassil	Lisa Bugeja
		Myra McDonald
WEDNESDAY MARCH 13	THURSDAY MARCH 14	FRIDAY MARCH 15
Sandra Mitchell	Kylie Gaul	Monica Gaffney
Katrina Williams	Alicia Ewart	Laura Murphy
		Joanne Moore

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

11am – 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.

SCHOOL FEES 2013

School fee accounts for Term 1 have now been posted and payment is due on the **8 March 2013.**

Families have the option to take up the Flexible Payment Plan offered and the information regarding this has been sent with the school fee account. Fees can also be paid by Cash, Cheque, Bpay and Eftpos.

For those families who had setup a payment arrangement in 2012 you will now need to renegotiate a new payment plan for 2013 school fees.

Please contact Stacey Roberts on 4577 3463 should you have any queries or need to setup a payment plan.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

An extremely hot and sticky Tuesday 26th February saw 22 of our students represent St Matthew's at the Hill Zone Swimming Carnival at Hawkesbury Oasis. Our congratulations to: Anwen Gregory, Charbel Andonian, Mikhael Andonian, Sienna Simpson, Zoe Bourke, Mikenzie Leydon, Madison Lewis, Kristen Bugeja, Maegan Burke, Taryn Finch, Kayla Finch, Alicia Facchin, Caitlin Millar, Andrew Muscat, Kyle Hilli, Raymond El Hendy, Martin Skryzpacz, Daniel Palmer, Harrison Rose, Lewis Calabro, Luke Zahra, Jayden Walbank . They gave 100% of themselves on the day, swimming against 14 other schools. Their behaviour on the day was a great example of team spirit and co-operation. Well done everyone!

Martin Skryzpacz (Year 5) will now represent Hills Zone at the Diocese Swimming Carnival on Friday 1st March at Homebush. He will swim in the 11yr 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly. We wish you all the best Martin.

As with all zone carnivals the teacher from the school (in this case me-Mrs Burke) as well as St Matthew's parents are required to assist in an official role at the carnival. Thank you to our fantastic parents that assisted me on the day: Mary Andonian as parent team manager with Jola Skryzpacz and Josephine Muscat. Melissa Simpson. Lisa Bugeja, Charles Hilli, Melissa Walbank, Carissa Finch who helped out with the timekeeping (and it was a very hot day to be out in the sun!) and looking after the team also. Also thank you to all parents and grandparents that assisted in providing transports to and from the pool. We can't do all of this without your valuable help.

Ann Burke

Catholic Education Office

4 March 2013 – PRC AGM.

The Parent Representative Council (PRC) invites parents and caregivers to attend a free presentation delivered by Clinical Psychologist Christina Ott on 'Tips for the teenage tightrope'. The presentation will be held on 4 Monday 4 March at 7.00pm at Aengus Kavanagh Centre, Railway Street Mt DrUITt. For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/b7hwchb>

12 March 2013 - Teach in East Timor

Seeking teachers interested in volunteering to train teachers and continue our work in East Timor. Information afternoon Tuesday 12 March 3.45 -5.30pm AKC Mt DrUITt. For further information visit staffnet or contact kowens@parra.catholic.edu.au

14 March 2103 - Faith at the Fiddler

Thursday 14 March from 5pm. Encourage staff to join Fr Rob Galea share his journey to faith through story and song. For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/a8t7enw>

2012 Catholic Schools Parent Conference

Join parents, educators and guest speakers for the 10th Catholic Schools Parent Conference on 25-26 May 2013 at the Novotel Hotel, Parramatta. The theme for the 2013 conference is *iConnect with Learning, in Partnership, in Faith* and focuses on technology as a communication, learning and social networking tool. To register visit <http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/>

Bishop's Office

Catholic Outlook – March issue

- * Bishop Anthony's Lenten Pastoral Message to the Faithful
- * Pope Benedict XVI renounces papacy: all eyes on Rome as Cardinals gather for conclave
- * Call for bipartisan approach to school funding
- * Why our Diocesan Pastoral Plan matters
- * Alpha a friendly, informal way to share the Christian message
- * Death of Dr Evelyn Billings, pioneer of natural fertility regulation

Turkey Pilgrimage Information Afternoon: 3 March

Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to 'St Paul's World' in Turkey from 21 Sept. to 6 Oct. You are invited to an information afternoon in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on **Sunday 3 March at 2.30pm**. Itinerary includes: Cruise on the Bosphorus and Mass at St Anthony's Church, Cappadocia including Goreme Valley and Whirling Dervishes, Limestone Terraces at Pamukkale, ancient Roman ruins at Hierapolis, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. Further details and booking forms from Fr Wim Hoekstra tel (02) 4739 8928, 0409 908 361, wim@stfinbars.org.au

Seniors Week Mass: 21 March

As part of Seniors Week celebrations, a special Mass will be celebrated at 11am in the Crypt under St Mary's Cathedral. The Mass is being organised by Life Ascending Australia (LAA) and everyone is welcome. The principal celebrant will be Fr Geoffrey Plant, LAA Spiritual Adviser. You are most welcome to join members for lunch at a couple of venues after Mass. For information about LAA contact Margaret Smith (02) 4753 1031, margaretcliffsmith@hotmail.com

Holy Hour for Vocations: 21 March

A special time of prayer where we join to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. **Time: 7pm-8pm.**

Stop funding cuts to education in NSW

School fees: Catholic schools operate at about 80% of the resource levels of public schools and depend on ongoing funding from state and federal governments. To meet the shortfall between the basic costs of running a school and the amount provided by governments, Catholic schools need to charge school fees, which we try to keep as low as possible. We will endeavour to minimise the impact of NSW Government's school funding cuts on families. **No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's inability to pay fees. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please arrange a confidential meeting with your principal.** Sign the petition to stop the cuts, write to the Premier or your state MP, share your comments and find more information about the school funding issue at: www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding

Second Chance Initiative could be your New Year's resolution: 9 March

The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese of Parramatta is calling for volunteers willing to make a difference to their community by sharing their time, knowledge and encouragement to people exiting prison. Volunteers will be thoroughly trained for their roles to operate in 'circles' of 4-6 people to support prisoners exiting the corrective environment. To learn how you can get involved, come along to an information morning at 10am on Saturday 9 March at the St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Office, Level 4, 73-75 Dunmore St, Wentworthville. To learn more and RSVP please call Vinnies (02) 9689 1900.

Pilgrimage to Ireland with Fr Ted Tyler: 23 Sept-8 Oct

Fr Ted Tyler, Parish Priest of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains, is leading a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle with an itinerary that includes: Dublin, Belfast, Enniscorthy, Kilkenny, Limerick, Galway City, St Brigid's Cathedral, Shrine to St Oliver Plunkett, Lough Derg and Holy Island, great shrine of Knock, Trinity College with a viewing of the Book of Kells, and the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Further details: Fr Ted Tyler frejtyler@live.com, John Voytas tel 0411 325 710, jvoytas@bigpond.net.au

Catholic Schools Parent Conference: 25-26 May

Join parents, educators and guest speakers for the 10th Catholic Schools Parent Conference at the Novotel Hotel, Parramatta. The theme for the 2013 conference is iConnect with Learning, in Partnership, in Faith and focuses on technology as a communication, learning and social networking tool. Daily rates available and early bird benefits. Full program and registration at <http://www.cbsp.catholic.edu.au/>

Reasons for Hope Retreat: 8-10 March

An annual retreat for young adults since 1996. This year's speakers are led by Archbishop Barry Hickey, Emeritus Archbishop of Perth, who will present the keynote address, celebrate Mass, lead the group in meditation, and be a part of the evangelisation panel. Other speakers include: Fr Anthony Bernard – Parish Priest at Camperdown, Sr Mary Julian Ekman RSM, Luke and Philipa Caulfield, and the Member for Castle Hill, Dominic Perrottet MP. Further details: Richard 0431 291 078, richard@reasonsforhope.net.au and Allison 0435 040 753, allison@reasonsforhope.net.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 14 March

Catholic priest and world renowned musician Fr Rob Galea will be the guest speaker and performer. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear a young, vibrant priest speak intimately about his faith through the beautiful contemporary Catholic music that he writes and performs world wide. Faith at the Fiddler is an forum 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. Time: 5pm-7pm. Where: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Linda Ducksbury – Catholic Education, Parramatta tel (02) 9840 5743, linda.ducksbury@parra.catholic.edu.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 15-17 March

For married couples – take time out of busy schedules to invest in your most precious asset, your marriage. Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Inquiries & bookings tel Ardell & Bill Sharpe (02) 4283 3435 or visit: www.wwme.org.au

Day of the Unborn Child: 17 March

The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child. It marks the day our Lord Jesus Christ became a tiny unborn child in His mother's womb. It is a day of celebration and remembrance of the dignity of the unborn. It is also a day to remember the millions of unborn children whose lives have been ended by abortion. Program: Mass at 10.30am in St Mary's Cathedral; Angelus at noon followed by prayerful procession led by Bishop Julian Porteous through the streets of Sydney; Benediction at 1.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral followed by afternoon tea with Bishop Julian in the Cathedral Hall. A project of Family Life International (02) 9519 9111, mail@fli.org.au www.fli.org.au

11's and Under, 13's and Under

Junior Indoor Cricket

An exciting new competition for junior cricketers at a location central to all

Games commence at 4.15pm and 5.30pm

Richmond Indoor Sports Centre
45784811

14 Lukis Ave,
Richmond

We've Never Played Outfit



YEAR 7 2014

ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE are holding an Information night on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30 pm.

They are also holding an Open Day for the College on Sunday 24th March from 10 am - 3 pm.

Any enquiries Brother Jeff
Phone 47 311933



**CANCER COUNCIL
RELAY FOR LIFE
SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

BUNNINGS McGRATHS HILL
Sunday 3rd March

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who represented St Matthews at Oasis last Tuesday to compete at the Zone swimming Carnival.

It was an early start and was a very long and hot day but fun was had by all.

The students were all feeling very nervous before their races but we kept assuring them that the day was all about trying their best, being proud that they had the opportunity to represent their school, but mostly to have Fun!

The races started and so did the St Matthews cheer squad! I asked some of the students after their race if they heard us cheering them on and the answer was always with a smile "Yes!"

Congratulations to Martin Skrzypacz (Stage 3) for coming 2nd in the 11 years 50m Butterfly with a time of 44.75 seconds and coming 4th in the 11 years 50m Freestyle with a time of 37.71seconds.

Martin will now compete at Diocesan this Friday. Good luck Martin!

St. Matthews were all very well behaved and proudly represented our school and had fun doing so. Well Done!!!

Written by Carissa Finch (Taryn Year 6)

YMCA Swimathon



It's time for the YMCA Swimathon!

Last year in 2012, YMCA Hawkesbury Oasis raised almost \$7,000 which assisted in the provision of Learn-To-Swim lessons for those with disability.

This year, YMCA Hawkesbury Oasis has raised it's target to \$10,000 to provide lessons and specialised equipment for students with disabilities.

Register for free at www.ymcaswimathon.org.au

Or sponsor a friend! For more information visit the website or YMCA Hawkesbury Oasis 4587 8900.

YMCA Hawkesbury Oasis
Sunday, March 3rd 10am-11am.



YMCA Hawkesbury Oasis
Cry Church and Drummond Sts,
South Windsor NSW 2756
P 4587 8800
ymcansw.org.au/oasis

