

St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

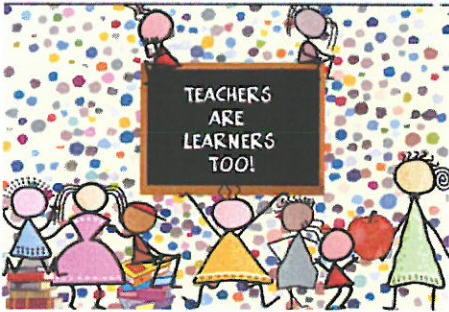
Term 1 Week 6

4th March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks. Year 6 launched Project Compassion last week at assembly. Each classroom has a Project Compassion box for families to donate money to this worthy appeal. Mr Aggar will collect the money donated each week and announce at Monday assembly how much the school has raised so far.

Executive staff from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta visited our school yesterday for an Instructional Walk. Congratulations to our staff and students who welcomed our visitors with grace and enthusiasm. They were very impressed by the students learning activities when they visited individual classrooms.



Our teachers have been busy learning too. Mrs Aggarwal has been on a 2 day EMU course and Mrs Berg will be attending an Emu course tomorrow, updating their knowledge on Extending Mathematical Understanding. Our New Scheme Teachers Miss Whitney, Miss Durrington and Miss Ebdelsayed attended an EYA Professional Learning day, extending their knowledge of the Early Years Assessment.

Catholic Schools Week starts this Sunday 8th March. All families are welcome to 10am Mass on Sunday followed by a sausage sizzle and iMovie display in the MPA. On Monday 9th March we will be holding CSW Liturgy and Assembly at 9am, followed by Morning Tea and Open Classrooms 9:30am – 10:30am.

May the grace of God bring us “out of ashes” in this season of Lent.

Fran Jackson
Principal

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday 8th March

10am Mass

**Followed by sausage sizzle and iMovie in
MPA**

Monday 9th March

9am Liturgy and Assembly

**9:30am – 10:30am Morning Tea and Open
Classrooms**

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and
solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a
prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the
well-being of body and soul and remind me of the
grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in
so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and
generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to
rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.



Learning without Limits

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Catholic Culture News

Catholic Schools Week

This year, we will join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from 8-14 March.

The theme for CSW 2015 is 'Educating for Today and Tomorrow'. The theme ties in with the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on Christian Education, 'Gravissimum Educationis.' The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

It is for this reason that I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to join us at March 8 to celebrate with our school and parish community Catholic Schools Week 2015.

Lenten Journey

At the assembly on Monday morning, the students were asked the question "how are you going with your Lenten promise?" Often this is when most Catholics get long faces as they focus on what they are 'giving up' during lent. Another way to look at this is to focus on the joy to come in the risen Jesus that we celebrate at Easter.

Project Compassion Appeal

Thank you so much to the families that have been able to donate money to this worthy appeal. It will make such a difference to the lives of many people. <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>



We would like to encourage any interested parents, children and families to attend Mass at our parish. Mass is held daily at 8am and all are welcome. The church is located directly behind the school.

Additional Mass times:

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil - 6pm
Sunday - 8.30am and 10.00am

Polish Mass - Saturday 4pm

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 8am
Saturday 8.30am

Upcoming dates!

Catholic Schools Week Sunday
Mass 8th March 10am

Assembly and Open Classrooms
9th March 9am

St Joseph's Feast Day 19th March

Lent and Project Compassion
Appeal
28th February – 28th March

Mark Aggar
Religious Education Coordinator

General News

Clothing Pool

The school clothing pool is run by Parent Association volunteers. It will be open every Monday this term from 8:30am until after assembly. Pre loved uniforms are priced from \$2 - \$10.

Consent Forms

Please send your child's Consent Form into school ASAP. **If we do not receive a Consent Form for your child they will be unable to attend any 2015 excursions/incursions.** This is the only permission note being sent out this year in regards to all excursions – excluding Individual Sports, Captivate Events, Swim School, Swimming Carnival and Stage 3 Camp.

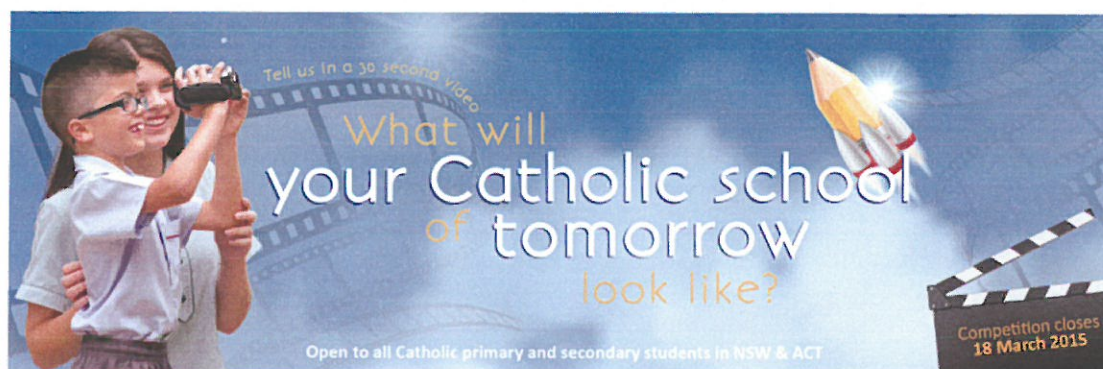
COMPETITION: What will your Catholic School of tomorrow look like?

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate the extraordinary opportunities Catholic schools provide. The theme for this year is 'Educating for today & tomorrow'. All students have the opportunity to enter an exclusive Catholic School's video

competition, which requires a submission of a 30 second video depicting what their catholic school of tomorrow will look like. Both individual and group entries are accepted. All students are highly encouraged to enter and use their imaginations to be in the running to win \$5000 worth of prizes.

Competition closing date: 18th March 2015

For more details and terms and conditions see: Events section of the School website and select 'Catholic Schools Week Competition.



Learning News

Captivate Band

Captivate Band attended their 1st rehearsal on Wednesday 25th February.



Poem by Brodie McLean - 5CM

Deep in the darkest of darkness,
Where nobody dares to go,
Little children go running and wondering,
Then come back with only one toe. Oh no!

Now the other toes haven't been eaten,
Grabbed, torn off or cut.
They've simply disappeared in the darkness
Just back at old Rocky Locks.

This poem may go on forever,
Just like the forest, it does.
But forest peeps don't really care and,
Sadly they always get lost.

Mysteriously when you come back from,
My greatest friend old Rocky Locks.
Somehow, you could still walk and,
You cannot stare at a box.

Now maybe his curse was claustrophobic,
And if you're wondering who he is.
Then I'll tell you his great big old full name,
Rocky Locks Andy Big Mr Tis.

Now don't tease him because he's a forest,
It's not like he doesn't wear socks.
So this is the end of the poem,
The poem of old Rocky Locks.



Bailey's Prayer - 4AA

Dear God,
Thank you for my friends and my family.
Please take care of family and friends who have gone to Heaven.
Please take care of my Grandma and also my Uncle who has cancer.
Amen

Community News



St Joseph's Catholic Church Kingswood—Mass Times

Cnr Joseph Street & Richmond Road, Kingswood Phone 4721 4080

Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am—1:30pm Friday

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 6pm
Sunday - 8.30am and 10.00am
Polish Mass - Saturday 4pm

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 8am
Saturday 8.30am



Sacrament Of Penance - Saturday after morning mass

Eucharistic Adoration - Before all masses

High School Information Night, Days and Times

St. Dominic's College

Open/Information Day at the College on Sunday 8th March
between 10am – 3.00pm.

Information Sessions: 10.00am and 1.00pm

Organised Tours commence: 10.30am and 1.30pm

Caroline Chisholm College

Open Night Monday 9th March from 6pm – 8:30pm,
includes information sessions, displays, performances and tours.

All considering enrolment for 2016 are invited to attend

For further information please contact the College on 4737 5506.

Xavier College Open Night

Tuesday 10th March

5pm-6.30pm for prospective families for 2016.

Catherine McAuley

Tuesday 17th March 4pm-6:30pm

2 Darcy Road Westmead

St Joseph's Netball Club

We are looking for 6 and 7 year old girls to play netball in 2015.

Please contact Ray Geraghty on 0412 061 335 for details.



March 2015

An Open Letter to all Catholic School Parents in Diocese of Parramatta

Dear Parents and Carers

On Friday last week, Rev Fr Peter Williams (Administrator of the Diocese of Parramatta), Rev Fr Chris De Souza (Priest Responsible for Education), Greg Whitby (Executive Director of Schools), and I met with MPs and candidates from both the Labor and Coalition parties. Our aim was to ensure that both sides of politics were aware of the key issues affecting Catholic schools and families particularly:

1. To ensure future legislation did not prevent our schools maintaining their Catholic identity and ethos
2. To ensure a commitment to ongoing funding of Catholic schools (the state government contributes about 25% of all government funding to Catholic schools)
3. To seek a commitment to a coherent educational policy (pre to post school)
4. To seek a commitment to an increase in capital works funding and a decrease in local council charges to support the growth of Catholic schooling in western Sydney.

Are you concerned that there is no guaranteed government funding to build new schools or expand and improve existing schools in western Sydney?

At present, neither the NSW Coalition or Labor parties has made a long term commitment to fund capital works programs for new and expanding Catholic schools in western Sydney.

The Facts

- Across NSW Catholic schools educate 21% of the state's students, yet receive just 2% of the capital funding currently provided by the NSW Government to schools for new projects. Expressed another way, Catholic schools receive \$30 per student in capital funding from the NSW Government while government schools receive \$524 per student.
- To keep up with demand, the Diocese of Parramatta will need at least \$19.3 million in 2015-17 to build new schools and learning spaces in the north west sector to respond to growth. The Diocese will need an additional \$7.1 million to upgrade schools in Holroyd and Blacktown.
- Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs.
- Over the past three years, the metropolitan-based dioceses paid \$18.5 million in levies and bonds - almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools.

The Facts (continued)

- Local council infrastructure charges for developments at Westmead have been quoted at \$464,000. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves e.g. the cost of nearly five teachers.

This issue goes beyond party lines - this is about equality and fairness and our rights as parents to be supported in our choice of Catholic schooling.

In the meeting, one MP noted he hadn't received any indication from any parent in his electorate that they needed a new Catholic school or that their school would require expansion

Catholic school parents were INSTRUMENTAL in major changes to proposed cuts to NSW state funding a couple of years ago.

DON'T LET YOUR VOICE AS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT GO UNHEARD.

What can you do?

Contact your school principal about inviting local MPs and Candidates to your school prior to the election.

Even if you think that your school requires no assistance at this time, it is the collective voice of Catholic school parents that can make the difference, so write or contact your local MP and candidates.

If you want to some assistance in what to say or write to your sitting MP or candidate or just want to stay in touch about proposed MP visits near you, please email: prcparrapresident@gmail.com.

The election is just a few weeks away on 28 March 2015. Don't let the opportunity slip past!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

*Selina Calleia
President, PRC
Parramatta Diocese*

*Website: www.prc.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PRCParra
Twitter: @PRCParra*

Support~Educate~Celebrate

THE FACTS

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN NSW

Sometimes, messages about Catholic schools can be confused and misunderstood in the media. Here are the facts about NSW Catholic schools and how they are funded.



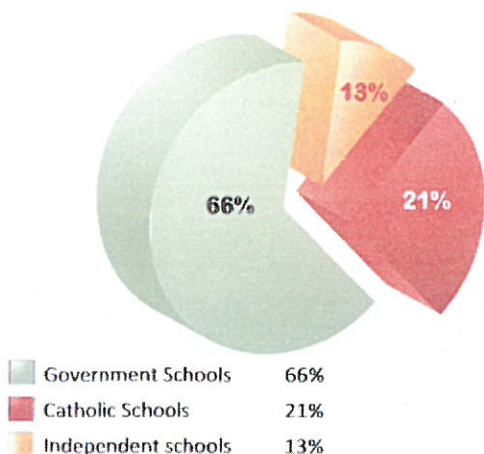
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- Catholic schools have provided quality education for Australian children since 1806
- There are 583 Catholic schools in NSW, educating more than 251,000 students (or one in five NSW school students)
- Catholic education is one of the largest non-government employers in NSW with more than 27,000 staff, including more than 19,000 teachers
- Catholic schools are open to all students – Catholic, non-Catholic, poor, wealthy, indigenous and those with a disability – and are therefore representative of the wider Australian society
- Enrolments of students with a disability and indigenous students have been the fastest growing components in NSW Catholic schools for the past 15 years

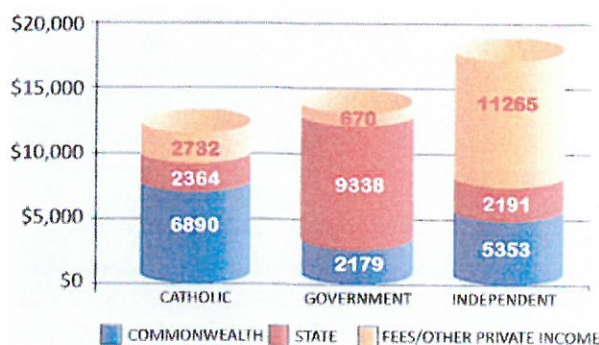
HOW THEY'RE FUNDED

- Catholic schools represent excellent value for money, educating at a lower cost per student than government schools and other non-government schools
- Catholic schools are funded by the Commonwealth (57.5%) and State Governments (19.7%), parental fees and other private fundraising (22.8%). Catholic schools therefore receive much less public funding than government schools
- NSW Catholic school parents paid more than \$1.1 billion in school fees and capital funding in 2012
- Catholic schools strive to keep fees low so that schools remain accessible. No child is ever denied a Catholic education because of their family's financial situation

ENROLMENT SHARE (2013)



NSW SCHOOL FUNDING SOURCES 2012



Source: ACARA, MySchool data 2012. All figures are 'per student'.

Leadership, Advocacy and Support

Council of Catholic School Parents

www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au | T: 9390 5338 | E: office@ccsp.catholic.edu.au



Dates for your Diary

Week 6

- Friday 6th March –** Ice block day – 50c
Sunday 8th March – 10am Catholic Schools Week Mass and Sausage Sizzle
Reconciliation meeting

Week 7

- Monday 9th March –** 9am Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, Assembly and Parent Morning Tea
9:30am – 10:30am Open Classrooms
Easter Raffle Tickets go home
Friday 13th March – Ice Block Day – 50c
Sunday 15th March – Reconciliation Meeting

Week 8

- Monday 16th March –** 9am Assembly
Tuesday 17th March – Mufti Day – Easter Egg donation
St Patrick's Day
Thursday 19th March – 9am St Joseph's Day Mass & Parent Morning Tea
11:30am Harmony Day Activities
2pm – Harmony Day Assembly in MPA
Friday 20th March - School Cross Country
National Day against Bullying
Ice Block Day – 50c
Sunday 22nd March - Reconciliation Meeting