Dear Parents,

There has been a great deal written about building resilience in children and it is often spoken about on radio and TV. Resilience is like a rubber band – it is the ability to spring back when we are faced with a difficulty. This is a skill we definitely want to develop in our students and one that parents strive to develop in their children.

There have been many studies highlighting the damage that ‘over parenting’ can cause a child. I am not suggesting that we do not advocate for our children. It is important that we are always there to love and support our children. It is also important for us to help our children build resilience to life’s ups and downs. Life has its disappointments. We as adults understand that we will not always be the winner or the highest achiever. We may not always be the most popular. From my experience the students who are the happiest and most successful in their lives are those that were allowed to fail, held responsible for their wrong choices and who were challenged to be the best people they could be in the face of their mistakes.

Sometimes there may be no clear reason why we have been let down. It is important not to blame others for life’s events or the way things turn out. It is also important not to turn disappointment inwards stifling the desire to try again. We should strive to be free of any bitterness in our hearts so that disappointment can be a learning curve in how to build resilience to future disappointments. In the same way, it is wise to celebrate success with a humility that reaches out to others in their disappointment.

“Dear God,
Help us to be humble, kind and sincere each and every day.
Help us to strive to reach our goals in a way that brings us and those around us joy.
Help us to manage our disappointments with kindness, patience and forgiveness of ourselves and others.
Help us to celebrate our achievements with humility and grace.
Help us to celebrate the achievements of others with happiness.
Help us to be leaders in our world through peaceful means and with an open heart.
Help us to recognise the strengths of ourselves and others.
Help us to have the wisdom to know that we are all loved and valued for who we are. Amen.”

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
Principal
PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOUR CHILD AND HIS/HER LEARNING

The number of late arrivals and early departures is increasing. On some days we have as many as 25 students arriving late. While being punctual is an important life skill it is vitally important that students are here **BEFORE 8.55** as learning starts at “five to nine”. Students should not be taken home following whole school events (like a mass or open classrooms) or if you are helping in the canteen. Arriving late or leaving early affects your child’s learning and that of their class mates and should be avoided. Thank you for your attention to these very important matters.

OUR CAROLS EVENING

For 2014 this is a “low key” event focusing on traditional carols. Our evening will not be a highly polished performance but rather an opportunity for each grade to share a traditional carol or two, for our community to come together to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and for our students and families to have some fun. All families are invited to BYO a picnic and enjoy the grounds – gates open 5:00pm with carols commencing at 6:30pm.

2015 DATES WE KNOW - MARK THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DIARIES...

**January**
- Wednesday 21st  - Uniform Shop Open 9-3pm
- Tuesday 27th  - School Office Opens for 2015, Staff Development Day
- Wednesday 28th  - Staff Development Day, Uniform Shop Open 8.30-3.30pm
- Thursday 29th  - Students in Years 1-6 return

**February**
- Monday 2nd  - Kindergarten Students Commence
- Wednesday 11th  - Twilight Swimming Carnival (from 5pm)

**March**
- Monday 2nd  - Staff Development Day
- Monday 9th  - Catholic Schools Week Commences for 2015

**April**
- Thursday 2nd  - Holy Thursday, Last day of Term One

**July**
- Thursday 30th  - Canberra Excursion - Year 6
- Friday 31st  - Canberra Excursion - Year 6 (Return)

**November**
- Monday 30th  - Andrew Chinn Concert

PRG Minutes

Last Monday evening a number of parents joined Mr Blissenden and Mrs Tonnet for the final PRG Meeting for 2014. Mr Blissenden shared some reflections from his pilgrimage and summarised some of the successes of this year. He also outlined our plans for 2015. The parents present then discussed community building and fund raising options for next year. In 2015 we will again run a Welcome BBQ, Mothers and Fathers Day Stall, some ‘Spider’ days as well as a Trivia night for parents and a children’s disco. There are also plans for some form of Spring Market and Easter Raffle. Funds raised will be used to purchase literacy materials and technology resources. Income and expenses of the PRG were also shared – in summary in 2014 there was income of $26,766, expenses of $13,691 leaving a balance of $13,075. There was also a carry forward amount of $8,807 giving a final balance of $21,883. The parents present very generously donated $15,000 to the school to pay for some recently delivered technology and reading materials. A special thank you goes to Paul Hocking who has been a parent of the school for the past 22 years and for many of these was the signature to the parent accounts. Paul has also worked on almost every BBQ the school has ever run and as his youngest child, Rebecca, will complete Year 6 this year Paul will also finish his volunteering with us. Our sincere thanks go to Paul for giving so generously to our community. Sharon Hader was elected to replace Paul as a signature to the PRG accounts. Thank you to all the parents, who over the whole year, have contributed to the success of our school.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Faith Formation
The First Sunday of ADVENT
The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year B and features the gospel of Mark. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means ‘coming’. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas.

First Reading
Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8
May the Lord come when we are doing good.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

Second Reading
1 Cor 1:3-9
The Lord will strengthen us to the end.

Gospel
Mk 13:33-37
We know not the hour the Lord will come.

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:
What are some things you look forward to?
How do you get ready to prepare for them?
Today we begin Advent – What are we preparing for in Advent?
Jesus asks us to watch out and be ready as we make our preparations to celebrate Christmas.
How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?

Catholic Culture

Eucharistic Celebrations Corpus Christi Parish
After our wonderful celebrations recently please don’t forget to make coming along to mass each weekend a priority. We have three masses over the weekend: Saturday Vigil – 6.00pm Sunday - 7.30am & 9.30am.

Children’s Liturgy during 6.00pm Saturday Mass and 9.30am Sunday Mass most weeks for children aged 4 to 10 years.

Last night about 80 children from our school and parish celebrated their first reconciliation. We congratulate them at this very special time and remind them that the sacrament of Reconciliation is not just something done once but is a healing sacrament that can be celebrated often. Many family and friends took that opportunity last night. We were very lucky to have had the support of priests from the Nepean area who with Fr. George helped to celebrate at this very busy time of the year. The celebration was a time for us to reflect on our mission to be ‘United as God’s Family’. These children will now have the opportunity to continue their sacramental journey next year with their First Communion and then in Year 5 with their Confirmation. Congratulations to all the children, parents, teachers and facilitators for their wonderful preparation and support for one another.

Lord,
You made the universe for your glory,
and call all the people to love you.
May we continue to grow in your love
and may others come to know
You through the way we live our lives.
Amen
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS - Continued

End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation Mass
We are looking for a musician who may be able to play the organ at our Year 6 Graduation mass on Monday 15th December 7pm. If you are interested could you please contact me asap through the school office.

Social Justice

CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL
Once again we will be supporting our Parish and its branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society with the Corpus Christi Christmas Hamper appeal. Please remember to send in your donations of canned food, tins of ham and Christmas goodies to fill our class hampers. Classes are making hampers for families of differing sizes but we are thinking of focusing on a family of 4-6 These hampers will be presented to Fr. George and Vinnies after our end of year mass on Friday 28th November. Your contribution will make someone else’s life a little easier this Christmas.

Environmental Awareness
Last term we had a wonderful art exhibit focusing on ‘Endangered Animals’. All children who contributed artwork can collect their pieces from the library. This term we will start a new exhibit on ‘The Australian Landscape’. Any children or parents who would like to contribute to the exhibit please send in your artwork or take it directly to be displayed in the library.

Nude Food Day
Our next Nude Food Day will be on Thursday 4th December. Congratulations everyone for your participation in Nude Food Day last term. Another fruit platter will be ‘up for grabs’ on the day for the class who has the most students rubbish free. Remember keep making ‘Rubbish Free/Healthy Choices’. For more information and great ideas go to www.nudefoodday.com.au

Have a lovely week
Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM NEWS

IP REVIEW MEETING 2014
Next week the Learning Support Team and Class Teachers will continue to meet with parents to review 2014 Individual Learning Plans. Please notify the office upon your arrival. If you are unable to attend please notify Mrs Tonnet (in the office) or your child’s teacher.

END OF YEAR REPORTS 2014
If you have not returned your child’s TAT’s folder to your child's teacher would you please do so as soon as possible. Your child’s work samples for the second half of the year and their end of year report will come home in this folder.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2014

Congratulations to the 86 students that completed the PRC this year at Corpus Christi.

Two students, Lewis Looyschelder and Maegan O’Connor received Platinum Awards for completing their seventh successful year in the PRC. A wonderful achievement.

The following eleven students received their Gold Awards for their fourth successful year in the PRC. Great work.

Sophia Chicharro, Brandon Colantonio, Danijela Hader, Olivia Hayes, Zac Hotchkiss, April Monteleone, Taleisha Muscat, Joanne Simeon, Tara Tjahjadi, Leonardo Villetri and Charlie Whittaker.

Well done to all the students that enjoyed their reading and participated this year in the PRC.

Mrs Micallef and Mrs Pethybridge
Library

LIBRARY OVERDUES

This week is the last week that students will borrow from the library for this year.

At present there are 192 Library books borrowed by the students from February to October that are still overdue. Our Library staff have checked the shelves and none of these can be located. I ask that you please assist your children in trying to locate these so they can be returned before the end of the year. We do ask for a $10 contribution for lost or damaged books to put towards replacing these missing items. Overdue notes are currently being sent home. For Year 6 students it is especially important that all items are returned so that this does not follow them into high school and cause a problem next year.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Natalie Micallef
Librarian

CLASS AWARD STAMPING

Congratulations to all the students that have received class awards this year.

Just a reminder that tomorrow, 28/11/14 is the last time this year to have your 3 awards stamped to receive a Coordinator, Assistant Principal or Principal award. If you don’t have 3 awards just remember to hold onto the ones you have because, the award system continues next year. There is no need to start again.
PRINCIPALS AWARD
Special congratulations to our recent Gold Principal Award winners. Their hard work, persistence and efforts have been outstanding:

Lachlan Pryke - 1G  
Lachlan Colantonio - 3G  
Lachlan Grady - 4G  
Riley Gorioski - 5B

Brandon Colantonio - 6G  
Finlay Bellamy - 6G  
Deakin Rizzo - 6G

PLAYGROUND AWARD
Leni Harb - 1B

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS AWARDS
Sophia Biordi - 6E

MERIT AWARDS - IMPROVED READING COMPREHENSION

Rebecca Attard - KB  
Isabella Vassallo - KE  
Isabelle Dries - KG  
Leni Harb - 1B  
Angelina Barca-Boyle - 1E  
Chelsea Shanahan - 1G  
Ryan Yates - 2B  
Alicia Xiberras - 2E  
Brayden Hoath - 2G  
Charlie Klemesrud - 3B  
Leonardo Villetti - 3B  
Kyra Gallagher - 3E  
Bradley Bond - 3G  
Liam Welna - 4B  
Bailie Rosa - 4B (Mathematics)  
Alexander Sanchez - 4G  
Paris Zahra - 5B  
Stella Wyngaard - 5E  
Alexia Vidler - 5G  
Joshua Fleming - 5G  
Ashleigh Lyneham - 5G  
Kelsey Purser - 6B  
Bonnie Montgomery - 6E  
Cameron Harband - 6E
2015 INCURSION/EXCURSION
Schedule for 2015 for incursion/excursion costs will be available soon and will be sent home with the newsletter when it becomes available.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School Photos were handed to students Wednesday 26th (yesterday).

EVERY student should receive either an online instruction postcard* or a photo package with the online instruction postcard inside. Please see the class teacher if your child did not receive either of these.

All other enquiries must be made directly to Advancedlife 1300728972

*online instruction postcard contains your personal login details.

BISHOPS OFFICE
Archbishop Anthony installed as 9th Archbishop of Sydney
On Wednesday 12 November, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP was installed as the 9th Archbishop of Sydney in St Mary’s Cathedral. A video of the Liturgical Reception and Mass of Installation can be viewed on the Catholic social networking site www.xt3.com

An extended interview with Archbishop Anthony was broadcast on ABC Local Radio’s Sunday Nights program on Sunday 16 November. To download the podcast go to www.abc.net.au/sundaynights

DWF Appeal in November
The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal with the theme ‘Faith at Work’ is being held in parishes and Catholic schools during November. This appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family to support ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer. For example, it supports catechists who teach the faith in state schools, seminarians who are preparing for the priesthood, the All Saints of Africa Centre in Blacktown for recent refugees and migrants, and Catherine Villa supported accommodation for young mothers. Donations can be made through envelopes available from your parish or school or online at: www.faithatwork.org.au

Positions Vacant
Parish Youth Minister: Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, is seeking to employ a full-time Parish Youth Minister who is an energetic, committed Catholic. The successful candidate will need to be an active member of the parish team and build relationships across parish and schools. They should have a tertiary qualification or relevant demonstrated experience in youth ministry and provide a current CV and a covering letter. To obtain a job description, contact the parish secretary, Claudette Cheetham, on (02) 9622 1125 or admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Applications close Friday 28 November 2014.

An invitation from the Good Sams
Is there something More to life? The Sisters of the Good Samaritan – the Good Sams – extend an invitation to young women to join them for a weekend of prayer, reflection and conversation. Experience the Good Sam story and explore the More to life for you. Does God make a difference? YES for Good Samaritan Sisters.

Dates: - Friday 28 November 6pm to Sunday 30 November 5pm.
Venue: - Mount St Benedict Centre, Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills.
Further information: - www.goodsams.org.au
**BISHOPS OFFICE - Continued**

**menALIVE Afternoon Event for Fathers on 29 November**
This is a ‘must attend’ event for all fathers. Topic: ‘The critical importance of Fathering’. Speakers: Robert Falzon, founder of menALIVE and co-author of the book *The Father Factor*; and Ben Smith, Director of the Family & Life Office, Diocese of Parramatta. Program includes: discussion on the importance of the role of fathers and grandfathers + practical insights and information on intentional fathering. Concludes with the launch of *The Father Factor* by Peter O’Shea and Robert Falzon.

**Date:** - Saturday 29 November, from 1.30pm-4pm.
**Where:** - St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.
**For more information and RSVP:** - Ben Smith (02) 8838 3440, bsmith@parra.catholic.org.au

**Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts**
St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre in Parramatta publishes religious books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teenagers and children in the following areas: Bibles and biblical studies, liturgy and liturgical resources, parish bulletins, theology, spirituality, Australian Church, ecumenism, prayer, devotions, Vatican documents, educational resources for schools and parishes. Visit St Pauls for all your Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts.

**Where:** - St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre, 238 Church St, Parramatta.
**Mass:** - Mass from 1pm-1.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Mary MacKillop Chapel above the Centre.
**Contact:** - Tel (02) 9126 8912, bookcentreparra@stpauls.com.au Order online: www.stpauls.com.au

**Noël! Noël! Christmas concert**
The Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra will perform this annual concert in St Patrick’s Cathedral. *Noël! Noël!* features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as *Christmas Night, O Come All Ye Faithful, Once in Royal David’s City,* and *Stille Nacht.* With its timeless and ageless appeal *Noël! Noël!* is the perfect gift to share with family and friends.

**Date:** - Thursday 18 December, starts 7.30pm.
**Venue:** - St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.
**Tickets:** - Adults $72, Concession $52, Under 30 $45, Student $42, Child $25. Transaction fees apply.
**Bookings:** - www.brandenburg.com.au
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Read to win!

Read 10 or more books during the summer holidays to go into the draw to win one of FOUR iPAD MINIS.

Entries close Friday 6 February 2015

Enter online via www.parra.catholic.edu.au

The categories are:
Ages 5–8
Ages 9+

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Students must record all the books they read on the online application form and have them verified by a parent or guardian prior to submitting the form.
TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

Last week Mr Blissenden was fortunate to spend a day working with other Principals of the Diocese with the author of the book Forming Intentional Disciples – Sherry Wadell. This was an insightful day especially as we explored ways of evangelising our communities.

Miss Bonser continued her professional learning in Mathematics with a full day of learning and Mrs Ahern and Miss Jeffery attended a day about Project Based Learning.

MOVING SCHOOLS OR LEAVING
CORPUS CHRISTI AT THE END OF 2015

It is a legal requirement that you inform us of the school your child will be attending in 2015. If you are moving house or changing schools please advise the school office in writing of your new contact details, last day and date your child will be attending Corpus Christi and the name of the school your child will be attending.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this.

Before you leave, could you please:
- Ensure all Library Books are returned to the Library.
- Return all Reading Books to the class teacher.
- Ensure that all school fees have been paid in full – see the ladies in the office.
- Notify us in writing of the name of the school your child will be attending (a government requirement – except Year 6 leavers)
- Collect all of your child’s exercise books – these can be used at your child’s new school.
- If you will not need your child’s uniform or library bag you can donate them to the clothing pool.

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN HOURS
2014 - 2015

Wednesday
03/12/2014 - 8:30am-9:30am & 2:30pm-3:30pm
10/12/2014 - 8:30am-3:30pm
(Last Day for 2014)
21/01/2015 - 9:30am-3:30pm
28/01/2015 - 8:30am-3:30pm
05/02/2015 - 8:30am-9:30am & 2:30pm-3:30pm
(Normal Trading Hours)

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Save the Date

Our 2015 Corpus Christi Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 11th February at Ripples Swimming in St Marys. This event will be a twilight event starting with our first event at 5:30pm. A note will be sent home later this term but also next term (just in case). Due to the program that we use, without a returned note, either this year or next year, students will be unable to swim on the night.

Thank you
Mrs Emilia Ahern
Term 4 Week 9 Reminders

Monday

Tuesday Assembly 2:20pm

Wednesday Uniform Shop

Thursday

Friday

Student Banking
Kindergarten Gymnastics
Christmas Carols Kindergarten-Year 6 - Picnic Dinner 5:00-6:15pm / Carols 6:30-7:45pm

NOTES DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK
- Christmas Carols

UNIFORM SHOP - WEDNESDAY
8.30am – 9.30am & 2.30pm – 3.30pm

* Pre-paid orders – These orders can be handed in at the school office at any time but will be processed on Wednesdays ONLY.

* Label all items - To ensure all items are returned to their owners - PLEASE clearly mark all items with your child’s name.

* Exchanges/Refunds – All items must be in original condition with all packaging including tags attached. A Receipt is required for any faulty item or refund.

****PLEASE KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS*****