Term 2  Week 1  2\textsuperscript{nd} May 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for Term 2. I hope that your time with your children during the holidays were a break from the routines of daily school life. I really enjoyed my break – having some time with the family in Port Stephens was outstanding.

Although the children only started school for the term, yesterday the teachers have been hard at work since Monday morning. On Monday we examined the new English Curriculum, which will come into effect in 2014. On Tuesday we spent time unpacking what a quality Numeracy Block includes – and this term we will be sharing some of what we do in Mathematics with the parents at our PRG meeting.

Term 2 promises to be quite busy – and as it is only 9 weeks long we need to start our work straight away! Next week we will celebrate Mothers Day, later in the term we will celebrate our Feast Day, we have NAPLAN tests for Year 3 and 5, our Athletics Carnival, a Trivia Night for parents, the Sacrament of Confirmation for some students will be celebrated as well as all the normal learning activities for each class.

During this term we will also be inviting parents and children to visit the school for the mid year “Three Way Interviews – 3WI’s” – where the Semester 1 report will be discussed in detail. This is a significant event this term. I regularly talk with the children about the need to work and learn as much as they can each day and never settling for anything less than their best. One of my favourite sayings is to ‘\textit{Raise the Bar}’ – in other words, once we achieve something we need to set a new goal that raises the bar just a little – improving each time we attempt something, challenge ourselves to do better and not to become complacent.

Do you challenge your children from time to time to extend themselves? Do you make your children feel a little uncomfortable because the demands on them are more than they are used to? Every child needs to be challenged if they are to learn the extent of their abilities. As parents we are protectors, supporters and teachers for our kids…but we also need to be challengers from time to time so they can see for themselves their real capabilities.

This term I challenge us all to raise the bar of our children’s learning so that the successes shared at the 3WI’s in June will be a celebration of some \textit{great} achievements.

Peace and Best Wishes.

\textbf{R. Blissenden}

Richard Blissenden
Principal
Dear Parents,

We have started our united prayer with the whole church. We have been called to prayer and in every school across the Diocese of Parramatta ‘The Angelus’ is being recited at midday. God calls us to prayer because he loves us and wants our unity with Him to grow stronger. We respond to His call to prayer because we love God. The Angelus is a simple but earnest practice of devotion that causes us to recall the gift of God’s Son. You may like to start this devotional prayer yourself at home or when you are up at the school and the bells ring at midday you will know that we are all praying :

‘The Angelus’

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary full of grace
the Lord is with thee
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmade of the Lord
Be it done unto me according to thy word

Hail Mary ……

And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us

Hail Mary ……

Pray for us O Holy Mother of God
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Pour forth we beseech you O Lord
Thy grace into our hearts that we to whom the Incarnation
of Christ thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel
May by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of
His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Religious News cont.:

Our Sacramental Programme will be commencing on Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm in the School Hall. This is a parent only meeting for those families wishing to present their children for the sacrament of Confirmation. Children who have made their First Communion are eligible for this which would generally be those children in Year 5. However there are some other children in Year 6 who for some reason have not made this sacrament and can re-join the programme if they wish this year. Please remember that Father George has been expressing his concerns that some parents have not been attending these meetings. He has made it very clear that this meeting is a requirement not an option. He would expect to see at least one parent in attendance at this meeting for your children to be able to register in the programme. Parents and children received a letter in the mail quite some time ago so this meeting should take precedence over anything else. For any enquiries please contact either Mrs Marie Cottee at the Parish Office on 47301249 or myself.

Mother’s Day Assembly Tuesday 7th May – Our focus at next week’s assembly will be Mothers. We would like to invite any significant women in the lives of the children to come along to celebrate with us at the assembly at 2.15pm.

Have a lovely week
Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator

TERM 2 SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

Term 2 school fee statements were sent to all families during the April school holidays. Term 2 fees are due Monday 3rd June 2013. Please phone the school office if you have not received your statement.

Note: Fees can be paid via EFTPOS, BPay, Postbillpay, cash, cheque or money order.
NAPLAN 2013

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

The dates and times for the tests are below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 14th May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language Conventions (40 mins) - Break Writing (40 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Wednesday 15th May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading (45 mins)</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Thursday 16th May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Numeracy (45 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 14th May</td>
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<td>Language Conventions (40 mins) - Break Writing (40 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Wednesday 15th May</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading (50 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Thursday 16th May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Numeracy (50 mins)</td>
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2013 ICAS (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS)

Entry forms for ICAS were sent home today. Please ensure that the office receives entries before the closing date by 9am. Unfortunately we are unable to process late entries. ****Please note that the Spelling Competition entries close on Friday 17th May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Closing Date for Entry</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Friday 17th May</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th June</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Friday 28th June</td>
<td>Wednesday 31st July</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Friday 12th July</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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MOTHERS DAY STALL – Thursday 9th May

Gifts for sale @ $4, $5, $8 and $10

There are plenty of gifts available so children are welcome to purchase gifts for Mum, Nan, and Step-Mum etc.

PLUS – Mother’s Day Raffle – $1 each OR 3 for $2

Tickets are available for students to purchase before school at the school gate. They will also be sold at the stall. Prizes will be drawn on the day of the Mother’s Day Stall.

1st Prize-KK Handbag
2nd Prize- Overnight Personal Bag
3rd Prize- Personal Beauty Bag & Products

Leftover gifts will be sold on Friday 10th May. Be early to avoid disappointment!

Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to assist on the stall. Please meet Georgette Apap and Keri-Anne Hayes (Stall Coordinators) at the stall outside the School Hall on the morning of Thursday 9th May after you have dropped off your children.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHESS 2013

The first match for our chess teams will be on Friday 10th May. More details will be sent home once the draw is finalised.
PEER SUPPORT: PROMOTING HARMONY
WEEK 1
Dear Parents, we are commencing our Peer Support lessons next week. The whole school will participate in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Year Six/Year Six and Year Five peer leaders will facilitate a small group of 9-10 students from Kindergarten to Year 5, who will work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their learning space. We will be working on a module called Promoting Harmony, which helps us to define individual and community values, build relationships and improve decision-making skills. The module will run each Monday afternoon during Term Two. Our first session will enable the children to get to know everyone in their group, agreeing on how they will work together and interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about what is a value and something they value in themselves. We recommend you talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to reinforce the concepts learned in each session.

Thank you,
Mrs Emilia Ahern, Mr Michael Manton, Mrs Rebecca Talbot and Mr Tony Weber.

ANZAC STUDENT SERVICE
On Tuesday 9th April, the SRC went to the ANZAC day memorial service in Penrith. There were about thirty different schools that attended the event. Each school had the opportunity to present and lay down a wreath. Every wreath had a banner, which said, ‘lest we forget’. The young soldiers marched in memory of our soldiers who had fallen. It was a great opportunity for all the SRC members to represent our school with pride and respect.

Ben and Sarah, on behalf of the SRC

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN.
Please start collecting your stickers as the program has commenced and will run till the 9th June 2013. Cards to place the stickers on have gone home today. Extras will be attached to future newsletters or from the school office.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS
Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2014. If you have a child who will turn 5 before the 31st July, 2014 you are welcome to apply for enrolment and collect an enrolment package from the School Office. If you know of families in the area looking for a quality Catholic Education for their child – please let them know that we are currently accepting enrolments. Please do not delay in contacting the office if you have a sibling starting school next year as we have had many enquiries regarding enrolment in 2014 and it would be a shame to miss out on a place – call today!!

CCSP/PRC PARENT CONFERENCE
There is still time to register for the iConnect Conference on the weekend of the 25th and 26th May co-hosted by the Parents Representative Council and the Council of Catholic School Parents. This is an opportunity too good to miss for parents, teachers and school staff to gather together at the Novotel, Parramatta to listen to a great line-up of speakers on topics like: How to Motivate your Child, Cybersafety, Shaping your Child’s Genius as well as a Q&A panel with a selection of speakers including Director of Schools Greg Whitby. Dinner speaker Paralympian Curtis Palmer is one of the most inspirational speakers of our time and there will be a special mass on Sunday where Bishop Anthony will connect with conference participants. Bring your smart technology, (iPhone, ipad, android, tablet) and learn how to connect to what your child is learning in school today and what education of the future promises. Follow the fun on Twitter at #iconnect13. For more info visit the website www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au or email linda.mcneil@ccsp.catholic.edu.au or phone on 0410 512 070. Places are filling fast so get your registration in before 10th May to guarantee your spot!

We will fund two parents to attend – contact Mr Blissenden or the school office urgently if you would like to attend.
**What’s on and When**

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<th>Term 2 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Student Banking resumes</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Parent Meeting – Confirmation 7.30pm</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<td>10th</td>
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<td>Chess – begins</td>
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<td>Remaining Mothers Day Gifts - will be available to purchase 8.30 – 8.55am</td>
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<td>Award Stamping 8.30- 8.55am</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>NAPLAN – Yrs 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Yr 6 - Mary Mackillop Excursion</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>NAPLAN – Yrs 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Award Stamping 8.30- 8.55am</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>PRG Meeting</td>
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<td>31st</td>
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<td>Year 2 - Zoo excursion</td>
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**OUR AWARDS SYSTEM**

Class – Co-ordinator – Assistant Principal – Principal Awards System has now been under way for a term with great success. A number of students have moved to the first level (Co-ordinator Award) having collected 3 Class Awards. All students will continue to work towards receiving a class award – although it may take some time to achieve the various levels of awards.

During Term 2 Children will be able to get their awards stamped on the following Fridays: (8.30am – 8.55am)

- Week 2 10th May
- Week 4 24th May
- Week 6 7th June
- Week 8 21st June

**INDIVIDUAL TEACHER AWARDS**

These continue will continue this term and are implemented by individual teachers or grades. They may change to suit the needs, ages and interests etc. of the cohort. Some grades use sticker charts, mini awards, raffles, class tokens, group rewards and so on. These are not related to the tiered awards (above).

**RED SHIELD APPEAL DOORKNOCK**

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May 2013

**UNIFORM SHOP**

- Wednesdays
- 8.30am – 9.30am
- 2.30pm – 3.30pm

**PRG TRIVIA NIGHT**

Friday 14th June
(7pm start - $10 p/p - more details to follow)

The PRG would be grateful for any prize donations. For contributions please phone:

Sharon 0418617270

**NOTES SENT HOME RECENTLY:**

- Year 2 – Zoo excursion
- Trivia Night – PRG
- ICAS – Yrs 3-6

**Week 2 - GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS**

- School Assembly - Tuesday 2.20pm (preview of Mothers Day gifts)
- Confirmation - Parent Meeting - Wednesday 7.30pm
- Mothers Day Stall - Thursday
- Award Stamping - Friday
- Chess begins - Friday