Dear Parents

Parenting can be a tough and thankless job. Often, we say that we need to be aware of everything that’s going on in our children’s lives but sometimes our lack of awareness can be costly to our children. And sometime possibly being too cautious with our children’s lives can lead to children who are not resilient or risk takers.

To be “aware” parents and maintain harmony within our family, we need to have a proper set of family rules, understandings or expectations that are based on our family values. For example, if one of our expectations is for our children to maintain good results at school, we need to have what could be called preventative rules such as completing daily homework, reading every night, limits on television and Internet access time, balance of sporting, cultural and social activities with study time. We need to support them to read every night and develop a real ‘love’ and appreciation of literature.

If we set rules and create a structure that assists children along the way, it maximises their chances for success. For us, it allows us to be involved so that we can be aware of problems early and resolve them before they become overwhelming. Of course, the hardest yet most important thing for parents to do is to be consistent. If our rules or understandings are not enforced, it’s the same as not having them at all and can undermine the effectiveness and structure of our family. Our children need to know that they can count on us to be consistent and dependable. They need to know that we are still not sitting on the fence. Letting things slide until they become big things, will create confusion and resentment in our children. We need to consistently follow through on what we have said, for only then will our rules and understandings be consistently followed.

Often we fail to give our children, particularly if they are in their teens, guidelines and boundaries because we are afraid of confrontation or want to be their friends. However, we cannot afford to shirk our responsibilities, be fence sitters, simply for the sake of keeping the peace. Our children can be lost to us and deprived of their future if we are afraid to move out of our comfort zone and be proactive parents. Setting clear and consistent expectations in a supportive but not constrictive environment is one of the balancing acts we do as parents.

“God, our Father,
help us to have the courage of Your Son, Jesus,
when we are confronted by the difficult aspects of parenting.
As with Your Son, we know that the reward will be great
if we accept the responsibilities that are ours alone.
Please be with us all the way. “ Amen

All the best for the week ahead.
**FINAL FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Taste testing session this Saturday at 3pm. If you haven’t had a chance to attend a session, yet, please consider coming to this one in the Parish Centre. Practice will be held on the Thursday before your child’s first Holy Communion - Thursday 10 and 17 September at 3:30pm and 7pm. Please attend one practice as it really does help the children to focus on the celebration. *All are welcome* to come and celebrate the children’s first sacrament of Holy Communion on Saturday 12 September at 6pm, Sunday the 13 and 20 September at 10:30 am.

**FATHERS’ DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST**

We will be celebrating the gift of our fathers, grandfathers and father figures with breakfast supplied by the Parents and Friends on Friday 4 September followed by Mass at 9.15am. All fathers, grandfathers and father figures are invited to join us.

**DATE CLAIMER**

Friday 23 October 2015 we will be celebrating Grandparents Day with Mass, morning tea and grandparents sharing a story book with their grandchildren. Keep the date free.

**SPOTLIGHT ON RE**

The last two weeks have seen children in Year 4 and Year 6 completing the Religious Literacy Assessment on line. Year 4 are preparing for the completion of Part B of this assessment later this week, this involves interpreting in media the message of the Gospel of the Forgiving Father. Some primary classes have been on a tour of the Church, using the correct language for parts of the church, the vessels and vestments. Stage 1 classes will be attending the Parish Mass this Friday at 9.15am. Staff are continuing to plan units of work for next term using art work to deepen students understanding of the Scripture passage being focussed on during the unit.

**SCHOOL FEES STATEMENTS**

Term 3 school fees reminder statements have been sent directly to parents from the Catholic Education Office in Parramatta. Due to staff changes in our school office some payments made by Direct Debit, Bpay or Centrelink have not been credited to students’ accounts. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused and expect all accounts to be up to date by the end of this week. Should you have any queries regarding your account please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Maree Murphy in the school office. Thankyou for your understanding with this matter.

**MACKILLOP ATHLETICS TRIALS**

Congratulations to Anthony on placing 3rd in Long Jump at the Parramatta Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Anthony will now compete at the Mackillop Athletics Trials to take place on 14 August. We wish Anthony good luck.

**SICK CHILDREN**

Currently we have a number of children attending school who are sick. Please be considerate of the wellbeing of others in our community as infections spread rapidly to other children and their teachers. Please keep your children at home until they are fully recovered. Both children and staff are continuing to be reinfected by children attending school when they are sick.

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**MERIT CERTIFICATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marten, Kruti</td>
<td>KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aryan, Gabriella</td>
<td>KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus, Lila</td>
<td>1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gokul .., Natalia</td>
<td>1G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadell, Chloe</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary, Michael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ephrem, Dylan</td>
<td>3B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyler, Christopher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan, Maya</td>
<td>4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachelle, Elyce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedhalia, Joseph</td>
<td>5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie, Louise</td>
<td>5G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasey, Dominic</td>
<td>6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade, Mitali</td>
<td>6G</td>
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</tbody>
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**Congratulations**

**Gold Award**

The following children have worked really hard towards receiving 75 Star Cards


**Congratulations**

**Coal Award**

The following children have worked really hard towards receiving 90 Star Cards


**Congratulations**

**Platinum Award**

The following children have worked really hard towards receiving 120 Star Cards

Alannah 3G, Jemma 3G, Xavier KB, Alessandra KB, Emma KB, Saxon KB, Anne 3G, Rebecca 3B, Sacha 3B, Caitlyn KG, Charli KG, Antoine KG, Isabella KG
OLMC NETBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Versus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 1 (12s)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 2 (11s)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>OLMC 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC 3 (10s)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>OLMC 2</td>
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Congratulations to OLMC 2 and OLMC 3 for making it through to the Preliminary Finals. Please mark on your calendar our OLMC Presentation Lunch which will be held on Sunday 18 October. Further details will be emailed out to all families in the upcoming weeks. For enquiries please phone Paula Epenian 0406 515 782 or Alycia Koulouris 0414 513 448.

BEFORE SCHOOL—SCHOOL HOURS

Supervision on the playground commences at 8.30am each morning. At the minute there are a number of children at school prior to 8am. We would request that parents please do not drop their children off prior to 8:30am, including Friday mornings, except for those children participating in Band Practice. Thank you for your anticipated support of this request.

BAND LESSONS

Lessons and early morning band will still be on this Friday. Please make sure that children bring their instruments and music as we are preparing for our showcase night, which will be held in week 9. More information coming soon.

Thank you Margaret Ciccarelli

ST ANTHONY’S SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

The Spring Fair offers a wide variety of activities and attractions for the entire family! All day ride tickets can be bought on the following website: www.olympic.com.au. If purchased before 3pm on 4th September, tickets are $2.50 each. If purchased at the fair, it will be $3.00 each.

The profits from the Spring Fair help provide St Anthony’s School with funding to improve Infrastructure, Programs and Technology.

Shop for Your School

It’s back!!! Woolworths Shop For Your School has started!! For every $10 you spend in Woolworths supermarkets you are entitled to one sticker. Place the stickers onto the Woolworths sticker sheets and place them in the box in the school office, so that we can redeem them for resources to help our students learn. In the past we have been able to get some amazing maths resources and this year we hope to be able to do something similar.

You can download sticker sheets from woolworths.com.au/emandlearn or ask for them in store. There are a limited number available in the school office. Please ensure that you write down My School is: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wentworthville.

Thanks once again for your support.

PRC GUEST SPEAKER

SAVE THE DATE! An afternoon with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg 17th Oct 2015 at 2:00pm at St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong.

The PRC is proud to have been able to secure Dr Michael Carr-Gregg for the benefit of our Diocesan parents and educators in 2015!

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia’s Highest Profile psychologists who specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health. Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will be doing his presentation on his latest book: Strictly Parenting: Everything you should know about raising a school-aged child. Book early for this NOT TO BE MISSED free event at prcparraevents@hotmail.comContact: PRC President Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Second Hand uniform shop

As the school will be beginning the new uniform transition process next year, the second hand uniform shop is calling for any uniform donations, especially the larger sizes. This will help parents to cover any shortage in uniforms and enable more families to wait until the new uniforms are launched at the end of the year.

If you have any uniforms you no longer use, please send them to the second hand uniform shop via the office.

Fathers’ Day Stall

Fathers’ Day stall will be held on Wednesday 2 September from 9am till 2pm. Start saving some pocket money children, so you can buy some great value gifts for dad and grandad.

Fathers’ Day breakfast

All Fathers, Grandfathers, Parents and Caregivers are invited to celebrate the gift of Fathers at our annual Fathers’ Day breakfast. Breakfast will take place at 8:00am at the Parish Hall at the rear of the school grounds on Friday 4 September. This will be followed by the celebration of Mass at 9:15am in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Wentworthville. We look forward is seeing you all there.

Fathers’ Day raffle

Raffle tickets for Fathers’ Day have been sent home with the eldest child in each family. Tickets are still 50c each or $5 for book of 10. Raffle tickets can also be purchased on the day of the stall. The prizes will be drawn during the Fathers’ Day breakfast on Friday 4th September. We have some fabulous prizes! Thank you to everyone who has donated to our raffle.

Gift wrapping for Father’s Day stall

Thank you to everyone who came along to wrap gifts for the Fathers’ Day stall today. We appreciate your time and effort.

Movie Night

The P&F movie night has been rescheduled to Friday 11 September. Gates will open at 5pm for a 6pm screening of Smurfs 2 (rated G). Sausage sandwich meals deals will be available to pre-purchase closer to the date. Please save the date! Information will come home next week.

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Thanks once again for your support.
Last week, Mrs Kathryn Hurley, presented our school community with two hand made rugs, gifts from the Vanuatu families, who we helped last term by donating books, blankets, toys, clothes, shoes and home wares.

Mrs Hurley, along with other relatives of Mrs Caz Learmonth (Luke, Year 6) delivered our donations to remote island communities in Vanuatu to help them in their recovery from Cyclone Pam.

The cyclone, which hit earlier this year, tore through the islands packing winds of up to 270 kilometres per hour. The UN described it as one of the worst national disasters in the history of the Pacific. The cyclone left the people of Vanuatu devastated; destroying over 90 per cent of the crops the population relies on for food.

As Vanuatu’s population is scattered throughout dozens of islands, providing help is very hard and often delayed.

Despite the difficulties faced by the communities, the families we helped wanted to give our school a gift of thanks in return. This is a wonderful and moving gesture given the poverty experienced by their community following the cyclone, and a testimony to their welcoming and generous culture and traditions.