Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent so we are almost halfway through this season of the church. Perhaps we are at the point of looking for something worthwhile to do for the remaining weeks. We could look at how we participate as a member of our human family. Lent is often a time given over to “holy” words of repentance and promises of self-reform but: “However many words you speak, what good will they do if you do not act on them?” (Buddha).

Whatever our culture, religion or language, we want food, shelter and good health. We want to be able to get up in the morning, enthusiastically, and sleep safely at night. We want health, safety and happiness for our loved ones. We want to know that our lives are purposeful and sometimes gracious. We want to feel part of something greater than ourselves.

St Paul in his inspiring letter to the people of Philippi encouraged them to, “Show an agreeable attitude to everyone”. He suggested how they might be able to do this: “All that is true, all that is worthy of reverence, all that is holy and good, all that is lovely to look at and beautiful to hear, all that has virtue and all that deserves praise, let that be the content of your thinking.” (Phil. 4: 5,8,9).

Our spirituality is as personal as our breath or our fingerprint, but, as we move through the forty days of Lent, we might on occasion, surrender freely to the quiet within us, to rediscover the resources and strengths that are there. We might begin to see better and appreciate more, the value of our existence, to see ourselves with more gratitude and respect and to see others in a like manner.

Peace and Best Wishes

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
This week’s Gospel is the story of Jesus in the temple showing that out the money changers and the people selling animals. I am sure many of us have heard it before. But to gain understanding it needs to be read in the context of the life of the people at the time. There was only one temple, the temple in Jerusalem, but each village had a synagogue. The temple was the place of pilgrimage and of sacrifice and through their sacrificial offering the people hoped to gain salvation. The money changers and sellers belonged there as it was the practice to change Roman money into temple money. Roman coins could not be used in the temple because they had the face of Caesar on them. Animals were sold as sacrificial animals so it was normal for animals to be in the temple.

Jesus was trying to tell the people that He was the new temple of God and He was not asking for sacrificial offerings. He was the offering given back to His Father for our salvation.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2012**

**First Reconciliation**
- Enrolment form must be lodged at Parish Office by Wednesday 4 April, 2012.
- Parent Information Night: Tuesday, 1 May, 7:15 in Parish Centre
- Parent and child workshops: 3 weeks beginning Monday 7 May.
- Celebration of First Reconciliation: Monday 4 June OR Tuesday 5 June OR Wednesday 6 June.

**First Eucharist**
- Enrolment form must be lodged at Parish Office by Friday 29 June, 2012.
- Parent Information Night: Tuesday, 24 July
- Commitment Mass: At any one of the weekend masses on Saturday 28 or Sunday 29 July
- Parent and child workshops: 4 weeks beginning 30 July.
- First Eucharist celebrations: During the 10:30am mass on Sundays or the 6pm mass on Saturday evenings of the first four weekends in September (1st/2nd, 8th/9th, 15th/16th or 22nd/23rd of September).

**Noticeboard**

**SCHOOL FEES**
School fees are now due for payment. Payment can be made via BPay, on the Internet or at the school office with cash or eftpos. We do not accept American Express or Diners cards. Thank you to those families who have already paid their fees.

**STAGE 3 EXCURSION TO BATHURST GOLDFIELDS**
The Stage 3 Excursion to Bathurst has been rescheduled for Friday 16 March 2012. Children need to be at school by 6.00am and the bus will return to school from Bathurst at 6.00pm.

**Teaching and Learning**

**MERIT CERTIFICATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Saad, Jacob Balas, Faith Lee, Dylan Machado</td>
<td>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Azar, Naveena Navaratnam, Karl Karam, Rudhra Iyer, Hannah Wykes, Mary Lawlach, Sophia Incognito, Sarah D’Souza.</td>
<td>Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara O’Reilly, Anthony Mbonu, Raissa Ibarra, William Warwar, Michael Saba, Joshua Dib, Olivia Achmar, Raylene Raad,</td>
<td>Stage 2 (Years 3 &amp; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majak Majak, Annaliesa Cowan, Thea Djukic, Chloris Benier, Achol Mau, Ritchie Vonhag, Brianna Dasey, John Juan</td>
<td>Stage 3 (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ANAPHYLAXIS—LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIC REACTION**

Our school has students who have been assessed as being at risk of Anaphylaxis. This is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite). Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Common allergens are foods such as nuts, shellfish, milk or egg, insect bites, medications or latex. Children who are highly allergic to any of these allergens are at risk if exposed. As a community we need to have procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of all students. Your support is requested by not supplying your children with peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, whole nuts and nut pieces or nut products. As another precaution we need to inform you that we are unable to celebrate birthdays with cake or other food in the classrooms. However teachers will continue to acknowledge each child’s birthday in a special way.

**2012 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)**

The ICAS Competitions are available to children in Years 3 to 6 and will take place at our school on the following dates:

Science—Wednesday 6th June 2012
English—Tuesday 31st July 2012
Mathematics—Tuesday 14th August 2012

The Competitions provide opportunities for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. The information from the tests provides schools and teachers with comprehensive reporting of results and also gives parents helpful information regarding their child’s performance. Every student entering ICAS receives a certificate acknowledging their participation.

These competitions are not an appropriate form of assessment for every child. Your child’s teacher will be able to provide advice regarding readiness for undertaking this assessment.
We have been reading and talking about our family members. We have made paper family people and wrote about our own family’s roles and responsibilities.

I have 5 people in my family. My mum cooks dinner. My dad goes to work. My sister plays on her ipad. I do jobs but if I don’t do my jobs then my mum won’t pay me. Last but not least my brother sits on his bed.
By Amber

In my family there are four people. I have one brother and no sisters. I am the oldest child. My mum cooks, cleans, she picks me up from school and she sweeps the leaves. My dad goes to work and he cooks on the barbeque.
By Jayden

I have 5 people in my family. My mum washes the dishes and gives me pocket money. My dad goes to work. Maddy likes to dress up. Daniel likes to play with his toys and I play on my DS.
By Sophia

In my family I have 5 people. There is my mum, dad, sister, brother and I am the youngest. My brother does the lawn when it is long. My sister does the washing and I do the vacuuming. My mum picks me up from school and my dad goes to work.
By Adriana

I have 5 people in my family. My mum washes the dishes. My dad sleeps. My sister plays with the dog. My brother puts the toys on the shelf. I make my bed.
By Georgia

I have four people in my house. I have one brother and no sisters. I am the youngest child. My mum cleans the house, washes the clothes and cooks dinner. My dad goes to work and mows the grass. My brother plays piano and checks my chick. I play piano and collect the eggs from my chick’s cage.
By Fabian

I have 4 people in my family. My mum cooks the breakfast, lunch and dinner. My dad goes to his job. I play with my baby brother. The baby just cries all the time.
By Dhwanit

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project from 12-23 March 2012. QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

Fifty students randomly selected from Years 5 and 6, and 60 parents randomly selected by CEO will be asked to complete an online survey. Students will complete the survey online at school. The selected parents will be sent home a paper survey today but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Bernadette Nolan, Survey Facilitator.

Mrs Anne Marrins—Principal

The P&F is organising various events for our school over the course of the year. Dates and details will be confirmed as we get closer to each event. In the meantime, here’s what to look forward to:

**Term 1**
Easter raffle (April)

**Term two**
Mothers’ day stall and raffle (May)
Bingo night (June)

**Term three**
Our Lady of Mount Carmel feast day and Grandparents’ mass (July)
Fathers’ day stall and raffle (August)
Movie and picnic night (September)

**Term four**
After school disco (November)

If you have any enquiries or suggestions please contact the school office.

**Parents Representative Council (PRC) AGM**
Our Diocesan PRC Annual General Meeting will take place this Monday.
Date and time: 12 March at 7pm.
Venue: The Aengus Kavanagh Centre, Railway St, Mt Druitt.

Our PRC nominated representative Juliette Subramanian will be there for voting. Other interested parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to come along for support and to reacquaint themselves with the PRC. The PRC offers valuable opportunities for parents to be involved in our school and to work with the class teachers, school executive and the broader community.
Most teams will begin training next week, if you have not heard from your coach please let me know. If you are a past player and have a uniform you would like to sell, or possibly donate to the Club, please give me a ring on the number below. We are still taking registrations for the 2012 season. If your child is interested in playing netball please contact Margaret Nolan on 0405 509 253 or cmnolan2@optusnet.com.au

### PLAYGROUP
In a previous newsletter it was mentioned in error that the contact for Playgroup was Therese Touma. However the contact person for Playgroup which is held each Friday in the Parish Hall from 9am until 11.30am is Danielle Gardner who is also our P&F President. Danielle can be contacted on 0414 607 180.

### NOTES HOME
1. Stage 3 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day
2. Stage 2 Girls & Boys Soccer Gala Day
3. 2013 Catherine McAuley Enrolment Information Evening
4. 2012 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Yrs 3-6
5. Stage 3 Bathurst Excursion—change of date note

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### DIARY DATES 2012

#### TERM 1

**MARCH**

**Week 7**
- Monday 12
- Friday 16

**Week 8**
- Monday 19
- Friday 23

**Week 9**
- Monday 26

**APRIL**

**Week 10**
- Monday 2
- Tuesday 3
- Thursday 5
- Friday 6

**TERM 2**

**WEEK 1**
- Monday 23
- Wednesday 25

**WEEK 2**
- Monday 30
- Tuesday 1/5
- Thursday 3
- Friday 4

**WEEK 3**
- Monday 7
- Wednesday 9
- Friday

**LAST DAY TERM 1**
- Friday 6

**EASTER SUNDAY**
- Sunday 7

**GOOD FRIDAY**
- Friday 6

**SCHOOL RESUMES**
- Monday 23
- Thursday 3

**ANZAC DAY**
- Monday 23
- Wednesday 25

**April/May**
- Tuesday 1/5
- Thursday 3
- Friday 4

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**Winter Uniform**
- Monday 7
- Wednesday 9
- Friday

**9.00am Catholic Schools Week Liturgy & Assembly**

**Yr 6 Camp**

**Diocesan Cross Country**

**Yr 6 Camp**

**Mothers’ Day Stall**

**10.00am Mothers’ Day Mass**