**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

This week’s gospel is really part of a Trilogy that needs to be read as one to fully understand the message. The preceding reading is about the lost sheep and then immediately following this reading is the story of the unforgiving servant. Together the three readings talk about mercy, compassion and reconciliation. Matthew is speaking to a Jewish community about confronting those that have hurt you and then if they don’t listen and you can’t be reconciled to bring in the community as mediators. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through such a process; the person is given every chance to make the situation better. It is about unifying the people concerned back to each other and being accepted by the community.

So what has this reading to do with us? How many times have we been hurt or offended by others? Usually we confront them, sometimes not really effective for reconciliation! Or we keep quiet and hold our anger which can make the situation and our relationship with that person even worse than it already is. Neither works towards reconciliation. This week’s Gospel reminds us for the need to challenge our friends when we are hurt to be able to have clear, open and honest communication with them that will hopefully lead to reconciliation and a strong and lasting relationship.

**CREATIVE ARTS EXPO**

Tickets are now available for purchase at $10.00 each. Each EXPO family is entitled to purchase two tickets in the first round (even if more than one child in the Expo). Please complete the form and return it to school for the need to challenge our friends when we are hurt to be able to have clear, open and honest communication with them that will hopefully lead to reconciliation and a strong and lasting relationship.

Parents and students not involved in the performance, who wish to support this school event and attend the performance, may purchase tickets in the second round. It is going to be a wonderful night of entertainment by the students of our school and our cluster schools, St Michael’s, Blacktown South; Trinity, Kemps Creek; and Christ the King, North Rocks.

**PARENT WORKSHOPS**

On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning (repeat session) a great groups of parents attended each of our Problem Solving Workshops.

Problem Solving is the primary focus and goal of mathematics in the real world as it:
- helps students become more confident in their ability to do mathematics
- allows students to use the knowledge they bring to school
- helps students develop mathematical understanding and gives meaning to skills and concepts in all strands of Mathematics

The Parent Problem Solving workshops were held to acknowledge Literacy/Numeracy Week at Mount Carmel. As an Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Project school it is important that parents have opportunities to be informed about the teaching and learning in Mathematics.

**MERIT CERTIFICATES**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel successfully coordinated the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival care of Mrs Stefanie Chehade, twenty-one students qualified in their events to represent the Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival and we have two Zone champions. Congratulations to:

11yrs Girls Age Champion - Julia Achmar
Senior Girls Runner-Up - Madieyn Nolan

Congratulations are extended to Madieyn Nolan & Jessie Finch who have qualified through to the next level, MacKillop Athletics Carnival on 15th September.
This year our community acknowledged the gift of fatherhood in a significant way. This morning over 150 fathers and grandfathers joined their children for a bacon and egg sandwich breakfast on the playground. Then they walked together as a group to Mt Carmel church to attend the Parish Mass. Father Paul blessed our fathers, father-figures and grandfathers and prayed for those fathers who were not able to attend or have died. Thank you parents and grandparents for your attendance.

We are indebted to our wonderful teachers and staff who arrived from 7:00 am and worked as a well-coordinated team to ensure the breakfast was prepared, cooked, served in time and the children were supervised. Then of course the clearing up took place quickly and efficiently. A special thanks to Mrs Danielle Gardner for her assistance in organising the bacon, eggs and bread and to Peter Clark, our Groundsman, whose job description now includes chief barbeque chef. Thank you to a fantastic Mt Carmel community.

**CANTEEN FUN DAY—ASIAN DAY**

We are having our next Canteen Fun Day on Wednesday 14 September it is going to be an Asian day. A note is being sent out early next week. If you do not get one please come and see us at the canteen. Please make sure your order is in before the cut off day to avoid disappointment. As always if you are available to help on this day please let me know as we would love to have your help. You can call me on 0410 493 305 even if it is just for serving times (recess 11-11:30 or lunch 12:30 – 1:30).