Religious Education Matters

Scripture Reflection

In this week’s Gospel from Mark Jesus sees the vast group that had followed him and he ‘took pity on them because they were as sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.’

Our current shepherd Pope Francis (the 266th Pope in the succession from St Peter), has also set about teaching us at some length, in his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ (Praise be to you), on care for our common home. Laudato Si’ provides a detailed and comprehensive view on the impact of climate change and the role of humanity, and extreme consumerism on the natural ecological environment. He finishes with a prayer that you may wish to say with your family:

A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Grandparents Mass

You invited to

on Friday 24th July at 9:10am for Mass in the Church. This will be followed by morning tea and a visit to classrooms.
This term we will begin our Parent learning walks. Currently teachers, the leadership team and Catholic Education Office personnel undertake this strategy for the purpose of ensuring that our school goals and action plans are visible in the classroom. This enables us as leaders to explicitly plan Professional Learning and strategic planning for our school to ensure we are always working to improve the learning outcomes for our students.

This term we are inviting parents to join us in this endeavour. The general experience will begin with a briefing relating to what parents may see happening in the classroom and the protocols for parents when walking through the learning spaces. Following the walks, parents will undergo a debriefing session to talk about what they saw and have an opportunity to ask questions and clarify their understanding. Please look out for these days as it will be a great opportunity to see learning in action.

Dates were sent to parents via the term calendar.

**Principal Pilgrimage**

Next week I will be renewing my own formation and faith by attending a 10 day pilgrimage with my Principal colleagues. Mr Anthony Hughes will be Principal at Holy Family in my absence. Mr Hughes is currently Principal at St Mary’s Rydalmere. If you have any concerns during this period please see Mr Hughes or Mr Munday. I will return to school on the 6th of August.

**Lost Property – Urgent attention required**

I have advertised on many occasions the lost property explosion that has occurred during Term 2. Even advertising lost property at morning assembly has not reduced the amount of lost property. This will be the last week for children and parents to claim their property from the lost property basket. Our biggest frustration is that all the garments have no names. The items that did have names on them were returned last term. I urge parents to clearly label all items of clothing and lunch boxes this week. These items cost you money and having to replace them is another expense.

**After this week, all items will be sent to the second hand clothing shop.**

**Year 5 Parent Interviews**

Next week Mrs Bratby will finalise her parent teacher interviews. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

**Parent Representative Group Term 2 meeting**

It was wonderful to see so many parents join us for our first Parent Representative meeting for Term 2. We were blessed to have an opportunity to hear from Constable Elie regarding the importance of knowing what our children are doing when they are online or visiting the many applications that are so appealing to children today. Following this we were able to share with parents our school goals and plans for Holy Family and the feedback from our Quality Catholic Schools survey. During open discussion time several issues were raised and discussed. The following is a brief summary of several issues that were raised.

- **Canteen**
  - Canteen staff influencing students during purchasing (ethical issues)
  - Wrong change given
  - Canteen staff making purchasing decisions for children
  - At least one week’s notice given for special meal deals
  - Menu selection – more nutritious food selection required

- **Behaviour Management issues**

- **Parent Education forums to inform parents of the changing educational climate**

- **HFSTV- update**

- **Skool Bag app-** some parents are having trouble connecting to the application on Android devices

- **School Events-** more notice needs to be given before events
Positive comments:
- Children enjoy coming to Holy Family
- Parents have trust in the decision made by the school to improve student learning

**Changes to our teaching teams**
This Term we will be introducing our creative pedagogy in Year 3. Things will look very different at Holy Family with Mr Munday joining the Year 3 teaching team as a leader of innovative pedagogy. At present we have embedded this form of learning in Year 6 under the outstanding leadership of leader of innovative pedagogy, Mrs Coleman. This term Year 3 students will also live this pedagogy.

Kindergarten will also see some great changes as Miss D’Mello will be the new Kindergarten teacher. There will now be three full-time teachers in both Year 3 and Kindergarten to ensure all learning needs are met.

**Mr Bawden on Leave**
This week Mr Bawden will be on leave. He will return back to school next Monday.

**INVITATION TO ALL TO ATTEND OUR GRANDPARENTS MASS**
You are invited to attend our Grandparents Day Mass on Friday the 24th of July at 9am.

**Date for your diary**
Parent Learning walk- 5th of August at 9am- look out for a note to parents next Monday.

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**Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal**

I was pleased to receive a number of entries for the Dorothea McKellar Poetry competition last term. As you know I always enjoy reading students’ writing.

This term we have the opportunity to submit entries for the WriteOn competition. Students in Years 1-6 can write an imaginative piece, up to 500 words, inspired by the photo in the poster.

All entries should be submitted to me. I’m looking forward to reading them!

Benjamin Munday
Assistant Principal
**Calendar**

**July**

| Friday 24th July | Grandparents Day Mass – Feast of St Anne and Joachim |

**Birthday Wishes!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Joanne Malkounian, Morgan Chen, Jerry Chen and Joshua Mailangi.

**Premier Reading Challenge**

The close off date for the Premier Reading Challenge for 2015, is 21st August. All online students reading records have to be complete by this date.

Yours in reading
Mrs Lyn Gordon/ Library Assistant

**Diocesan and Community News**

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you

If you or someone close to you has suffered ANY abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options.

You can contact us on:

Phono: (02) 9933 0233
Web: www.parra.catholic.org.au/safeguarding
Email: safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au
Mail: PO BOX 3066 North Parramatta, NSW, 1750

For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police on 1800 333 000

**In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.**