Dear Parents,

We are now well in the swing of the new term. Carol and I have been busy with enrolment interviews and it is always great to hear from our newest parents that they have heard good things about our school. I really enjoy being able to show the new parents that what they have heard is true. We always take a walk around the school together. This can be at any time of the school day and we never fail to see good learning taking place.

Here are just some of the things that I have seen with our 2014 Kindergarten students and their families:

- Students praying together.
- Children working in small groups with a parent helper, enjoying the outdoor learning environment.
- Teachers explicitly teaching reading skills targeted to a small group’s ability.
- Teachers working with individual students, hearing them read to assess what the next reading lesson will target.
- Students actively learning using Maths equipment.
- Students in the library focused on improving their reading comprehension using quality literature.
- Teachers collaborating together- 3 teachers all working in the same learning space.
- Students working with the Mrs Regan, the reading recovery teacher, and the EMU Maths specialists.
- Students enjoying a variety of extra curricular activities including Dance Fever and Music.
- Students using technology in a variety of ways, for example making movies, learning sounds through iPad apps.
- Students working independently from Kindergarten onwards.

It’s a pleasure to walk and see so many well-behaved, engaged and happy students.

You would have received a flyer about our parish Family Fun Day on Sunday, 26th May, rain hail or shine. It’s well named! There’s definitely a traditional Aussie flavor- a picnic with a sausage sizzle, ‘car’ races and a thong throwing competition. Please contact Grace on 0418466541 or the Parish Office on 96222920 who want to make sure that all who come have their “sausage sanger”.

Regards,

Lesley Studans
**GOLD AWARDS**

Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:
- Kindergarten: Bonnie
- Year 1: Jasmine
- Year 2: James
- Year 3: Jacob
- Year 4: Carl
- Stage 3C: Katie
- Stage 3M: Braithen
- Mrs Studans: Emma

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**2014 ENROLMENTS**

Please return enrolment forms as soon as possible as interviews have now commenced.

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**WINTER UNIFORM**

All children are expected to wear full winter uniform from next Monday 13\(^{th}\) May.

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**EXCURSION BAGS**

Just a reminder that we have excursion/library bags available from the uniform shop for just $5.00.

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**MOTHERS’ DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST**

Tomorrow, Friday, 10th May, we are holding our Mothers’ Day breakfast followed by our Mothers’ Day Mass. Breakfast will commence at 7:40am. Mothers, grandmothers and any other interested visitors are invited to visit the children in their classroom when the bell rings for class at 8:40am. We would like our visitors to bring a book with them to read with their children. This may be a favourite childhood book of your own or one of your child’s favourites. Mass will commence at 9:30am. Mothers and grandmothers are invited to sit with their children during this special Mass. We look forward to sharing this special day with all of our wonderful Mums.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Our school photo day is Tuesday 28\(^{th}\) May. Children are to wear their full winter uniform which includes ties for the boys and tabs for the girls.

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**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**

The Woolworths Earn and Learn program is well underway. We have already collected 4860 points. Thank you for your support.

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**MAD HATTER DAY**

To raise funds for the Term 3 school musical, students are invited to wear their craziest hat on Friday, 24\(^{th}\) May. Students are asked to bring in a gold coin donation. All students will wear their normal Friday uniform. Thank you for your support.

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**DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL**

On Tuesday, 7\(^{th}\) May, 41 children travelled to Eastern Creek to compete in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival. It was a very successful day with all children participating with exceptional sportsmanship and tackling the very challenging course with enthusiasm.

Our school representatives were:
- George Simun
- Luther William
- Braithen Joshua
- Johanna Anastasia
- Connor Josh
- Connor Ruben
- Ethan Sophie
- Renee Ruby
- Natalie Lual
- Bailey Daniel
- Andrew Liam
- Caleb Tayla
- Olivia Madison
- Jacqueline Jacinta
- Frank Finnian
- Jayden James
- Ben Daniel
- Amy Marielle
- Elizabeth Alexandria
- Lumencia Olivia
- Annabelle

We have some very talented athletes who finished in the top 8 of their races and will now represent our Diocese when competing against children from other Catholic schools across the state.

Congratulations:
- First: Lual
- Second: Simun
- Third: Johanna
- Fourth: Frank
- Fifth: Connor

Thanks to Mrs Vogels and Ms Critchlow for helping the children with training and on the day.
PARENT GROUP NEWS...

PARENT GROUP MEETING
The Parent Group meeting will be held at 7:00pm next Wednesday, 15th May in the school library. All parents are most welcome. If there are any items for the agenda can they please be forwarded to Lynley Webb, the Parent Group Secretary, by tomorrow, either via the school office or via email to lynleywebb74@live.com. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS...

MOVIE AND PIZZA NIGHT
Students in Year 4 and 5 are invited to a movie and pizza night in the parish hall at 6:30pm Friday, 24th May. Bring your own cushions or blankets. Please contact the parish office to confirm your place – 9622 2920.

COMMUNITY NEWS...

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS OUT?
Have you registered yet?
2013 Parent Conference
Saturday 25 May 2013 and
Sunday 26 May 2013
The Novotel Parramatta
All enquiries or to register:
prcparrasecretary@gmail.com

- Shaping your child’s genius! Mighty Knights – Dads and their daughters
- 21st Century classroom-are you equipped? How to motivate your child
- The Future of Catholic Education Schools and Families

Out and About at OLOL

This week as part of our professional learning meeting staff undertook training in relation to anaphylaxis. As parents would be aware we have a number of children who are anaphylactic to a variety of food substances and it is important for staff to be up to date with the latest research.

A representative from NSW Health briefed staff on the difference between allergies and anaphylaxis, what an allergic reaction looks like, what anaphylaxis looks like and the first aid response to both. One of the major points that the trainer raised was the responsibility of the parents in informing the school, keeping the adrenalin injector (epipen or anipen) up to date and ensuring that the action plan is current. Each year a child who has been diagnosed as anaphylactic is required to have a new action plan. This plan must be completed and signed by a doctor – initially a specialist but in subsequent years this may be the GP. At times we have had the experience of contacting parents and asking for an updated plan or medication and finding that parents do not see the necessity of the request. As is the case with all that we do we aim to work with parents. We want all the children in our care to be safe so it is important that if your child does suffer from a severe allergy, asthma or another serious medical condition that details are made clear to the school and that action plans are up to date.

Over the course of this term I will be reviewing action plans to ensure that they are current and will be contacting parents to ask them to update them as applicable. This is just another example of the partnership between home and school working together in the best interest of the child.

Carol Cividin - Assistant Principal
Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit the National Literacy and Numeracy Assessments, otherwise known as NAPLAN.

As the name suggests this is a national program so students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will sit the same tests on the same day.

Our students will undertake four tests.

The tests are as follows:
- Language Conventions: Tuesday 14th May
- Writing: Tuesday 14th May
- Reading: Wednesday 15th May
- Numeracy: Thursday 16th May

The data gained from these tests is used in a variety of ways both at a school level, the diocesan level, the state level and the national level. It is useful data but also must be viewed in context of all the other data we have in relation to students. It reflects a student’s performance on a given test on a given day and for any of us who have had the experience of sitting exams we know that a number of factors can influence the results.

Having said that our students are prepared and we are confident that their results will reflect this. Parents can support their children by reassuring them that they have the skills to complete the tests, by encouraging them to attempt all the questions even if they are not sure of the answer and by encouraging them to recheck their answers if they have time to spare.

The tests are undertaken following strict guidelines and the tests are kept securely until they are sent ACARA (the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) for marking. Later in the year individual reports for each child will be sent back to the school for distribution to parents. After individual reports have been received the school will receive data about the schools results which in turn will be analysed to inform future directions.

NAPLAN is just one tool among many we employ to determine the learning needs of our children. If you have any concerns in relation to NAPLAN please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher.