



St Agnes Catholic High School

ph: 8882 0700 fax: 8882 0790

email: stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au

to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au

Follow us on FACEBOOK: [StAgnesRootyHill](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesRootyHill)

Diary Dates

4 March

Gold & Fold Fundraiser
for WYD

7- 11 March

Catholic Schools Week

7 March

Cross Country
(Competitors only event)

11 March

Yr 9 Brainstorm Incursion

14-16 March

Year 7 Camp

18 March

TAS Royal Easter Show
Excursion

21 March

Year 7 Vaccinations
Year 7/2017 Information
Evening

23 March

Art Express Excursion

25 March

Good Friday

28 March

Easter Monday

30 March

PASS (B line) Surf School

6 April

PASS (A line) Surf School

8 April

Term 1 Concludes

26 February 2016

Father Pat Mullens celebrated our Opening Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church, Horsley Park. It was a tremendous occasion that had built into it a number of significant events.

Fr Pat in his homily talked about Gods love and everlasting mercy for us. During the Mass we unveiled our 'Door of Mercy' that will be used throughout the year in our future liturgies and masses. When not being used the 'Door of Mercy' will be on display in the Library. The door, and the words inscribed on it: Faith, Charity, Forgiveness, Love, Healing, Justice and Compassion, will serve as a reminder for us throughout this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

At the conclusion of the Mass we held the presentation and induction of our new school leaders. We were indeed fortunate to have so many so many parents and family members of our leaders attend the Induction Ceremony.

The leaders and their mentors have begun work on their ministries and already many great ideas have materialised from their efforts. 2016 is shaping to be a year of great hope and promise here at St Agnes.

Phillip Stewart

Phillip Stewart
Acting Principal



**CHRIS
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
COMMUNITY
OF SCHOOL**

**St Agnes
Catholic High School**
Evans Road
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 8882 0700
Fax: 02 8882 0790

**St Clare's
Catholic High School**
175 Buckwell Drive
Hassall Grove
Ph: 02 9835 2466
Fax: 02 9835 2539

**Loyola Senior
High School**
91 North Parade
Mt Druitt
Ph: 02 9832 4455
Fax: 02 9832 1839

*a diverse
community
learning
together*



FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we are starting to get back into the swing of things for what hopes to be another great year at St Agnes, I want to take the opportunity to send out a reminder of some of our daily procedures and expectations.

Attendance: Any absence from school needs to be explained via a note to the Learning Advisor on your child's first day of returning to school. Any student missing excessive time off school will see collaborative work occurring between our Pastoral Coordinators and their family. Any anticipated absence needs to be requested, in writing, and approved by the Principal. Application for Leave forms are available from [our website](#).

Punctuality: Students need to be on school grounds ready to move off to Homeroom when the bell rings at 8.10pm. Habitual latecomers will be issued with an incentive to turn up on time each day by making up this time after school.

Wearing Of Uniform: We take great pride in the way our students present themselves in the St Agnes uniform. We ask that students wear the correct school uniform each and every day. If this is not possible, a letter from parents is required explaining the issue and when it will be rectified.

Sports uniform is only to be worn on your child's allocated Sport/PE day.

Blazers are to be worn during Terms 2 and 3.

Skirt length for girls is to be below the knee.

'Extremes' of hairstyle are not accepted. Please refer to pages iv & v of the Diary.

Use Of Diary: The Student Diary is a communication tool for students, parents and teachers. Please check your child's diary regularly and sign it once a week. Students will use this diary to organise their daily routines and to assist with upcoming homework, assessments, etc.

Caring for Our Environment: Generally our students are very conscious of and

caring for their school environment. We ask all students to show respect for both the Natural and Built Environments within which they work and play each day. Minor incidents at school may see students collect "A Bucket" of rubbish to help maintain our pristine grounds.

Drop Off/Parking: Can I please remind parents that you are unable to enter the Staff Car Park within half an hour each side of the morning and afternoon bell. Already this year we have had two minor accidents where parents have come into the car park and hit another car. Please be aware of parking restrictions near our school as Parking Officers and Police often parole the front of our school.

Playground Supervision: Teachers will be on duty supervising students both 30 minutes before and after school. Please understand that the school gates may be locked outside of these times and your child may be left waiting unattended for significant time, especially after school.

Communication During School Hours: Any communication needing to be made during school hours must go through the school office. (88820700). For WHS and logistical reasons please do not attempt to contact your child via their phone.

Overall, our students are excellent at meeting these expectations, but a gentle reminder now and then hopefully will help people with this range of requests.

Thanks again for the great start to 2016.

*John Cruickshank
Acting Assistant Principal*





FROM THE TEACHING & LEARNING COORDINATOR

Years 7-10 Assessment Handbooks are now available on the school website and can be accessed under the Teaching and Learning menu and have also been placed on the school Moodle. These handbooks are designed to give students information about formal assessment procedures and dates for all relevant assessments. Some assessment dates may be changed with sufficient notification of two weeks given to students due to changes in the school calendar.

Assessment is used to find out what a student needs to learn, how well a student is doing as a course progresses and how well a student has done at the end of a unit. Assessment can be formal or informal. An example of informal assessment would be a teacher's judgment of the work completed in class or participation in a particular activity. Formal assessment can include tasks such as assignments, exams, research projects, performances, portfolios and practical tests. Formal assessment tasks include information on the outcomes that are being assessed and an indication of what students have to do to achieve a given grade.

I have included an extract from the Assessment Handbooks regarding student responsibilities. It is important that all students familiarise themselves with them. These are as follows:

- Speak with the Teaching and Learning Coordinator or the Principal if you are in doubt about the requirements of the Assessment Policy.
- Cooperate with the process of Assessment.
- Inform the school if you are to be absent on the day of an assessment task.
- Do not plagiarise (i.e. copy) other peoples' work. Malpractice or dishonesty will lead to a zero mark.
- Ensure that any questions about marks, grades or comments awarded for an individual piece of work are resolved at the time the work is handed back.
- Demonstrate that thorough effort and achievement have been met for the requirements of that course.
- Complete all assigned work to the best of your ability.
- Complete the task on the set date that it is due. Penalties will apply for late submissions.

Students will have access to the Google school assessment calendar that outlines on a term basis all assessment dates. Students should familiarise themselves with these dates and make use of Homework club that takes place every Tuesday afternoon between 2:30-3:30pm in the library to receive assistance from teachers in the completion of their tasks.

Laurence De Martin

Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

FEES ACCOUNTS

The Catholic Education Office posted accounts out on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

The Catholic Education Office wishes to advise parents that because of the change in Australia Post's delivery times there may be a delay in some parents receiving their Term 1 statements.

Fees are payable by Monday 7 March 2016.

Please contact Kelly Pickett on 8882 0702, before the due date, if you are unable to finalise your account. Payment of fees can be paid by Eftpos, Bpay, Postbill, Cash and Cheque.

OPAL CARDS

Some students are yet to receive their OPAL cards for use on public transport to and from school.

We have been advised by Transport NSW that all students are eligible for FREE travel until 31 March 2016 provided they are in full school uniform.

If your child has not received their OPAL card or their card is not working (invalid), please contact Transport NSW on 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students. Unfortunately Transport NSW are not allowing the school to contact them on behalf of students. Transport NSW apologise for any inconvenience caused.



Opening School Mass

On Friday 19 February we officially opened our school year by celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church in Horsley Park. In keeping with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis called last year, the theme for all of our masses this year will be 'Mercy'.

During our Opening School Mass we created the St Agnes Holy Door or 'Door of Mercy'. This door is to highlight to all students the virtues we should all hold dear and use in action on a daily basis. Following I have included some of the gathering ritual from our Opening School Mass.

The theme for the Year of Mercy is "Be Merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). Mercy isn't just an idea. It is an action: It is a virtue. Mercy is an action that we are called to make especially in this Year of Mercy but also as we journey through this Lenten season.

These words that were placed in the 'Door of Mercy' is like the rebuilding of the Church after its destruction. Once these words were in position our Holy Door became evident; our call to witness the grace of God, and bear testament to his Good News in this, the Year of Mercy.

Compassion

Compassion is the sympathetic concern for the sufferings and misfortunes of others. As we launch Project Compassion, let us embrace those who are in need and offer them what we have to ensure that the cycle of misfortune does not continue.

Justice

Justice is to be 'just' in behaviour and or treatment of others. We are reminded of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop when she states "never see a need without doing something about it." We should never neglect those who are in need, those who may simply need a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen.

Healing

In this year of Mercy we are called to participate in the process of healing, the process of becoming not only healthy, but spiritually healthy, being open to the Word of God and resolving to become better people.

Love

Love is to be passionate for a cause, to feel great



pleasure in assisting those who are in greatest need. As we are entering our Christian Lenten period, let us show our love towards one another just as Jesus showed his unconditional love for us through his crucifixion.

Forgiveness

During this Lenten period, we are called to 'repent and preach the gospel.' It is during this time that we are to forgive those who have wronged us and those who we have wronged and progress further on the path of forgiveness.

Charity

Project Compassion is but one example of what charity exemplifies. It is the giving of not only monetary means but also of oneself to others. To listen, to show compassion, to help when help is needed. Let us, as a Franciscan community not only live our school motto To Truth Through Love, but also live as true Franciscans and see that even in the weakest and most vulnerable, we are but masterpieces in God's creation.

Faith

To have faith is to believe. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are called to find joy in rediscovering God's mercy. For we have all been created in the image and likeness of God and as Pope Francis says "We are called to give comfort to every man, woman and child."

We must remember that Mercy is meant to be lived, every day, by all who call Jesus Christ "the Son of God."

Our challenge during this Year of Mercy is to live and preach the gospels at all times and when necessary use words.

May we, as a Christian Community, consciously use these words of action throughout this Year of Mercy. May we all be 'an open door to God's love.'



DONATE TODAY!

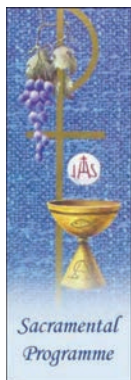


Project Compassion

As a way to show our faith in action we are once again supporting Caritas' Project Compassion.

Students are able to donate money to Project Compassion and as a class group they are able to fundraise by way of cake stalls, pizza stalls etc. All proceeds go directly to Caritas and it is a way for students to put Mercy into Action.

Project Compassion starts on Ash Wednesday and continues up to Easter.



Sacramental Program

A student wishing to participate in this years Sacramental Program please see Ms Atkins to complete the necessary permission note as soon as possible.

We will be starting the program shortly and numbers need to be finalised.

Julie Atkins

Religious Education Coordinator



More photos on our website



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

School Attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in schools. Every day of attendance contributes to improved student achievement and success at school.

St Agnes Catholic High School follows the guidelines set out by the Catholic Education Department Parramatta. The framework, titled Attendance Intervention, is based on a Response to Intervention (RTI) model. It details a three-tiered systematic and hierarchical decision-making process that assigns strategies and supports, based on student need.

Tier 1 interventions are directed toward all students and involve a core set of strategies to promote regular attendance and ensure regular screening to identify students with emerging absenteeism.

Tier 2 interventions are targeted toward at risk students who require additional support beyond the core set of universal intervention strategies.

Tier 3 interventions are directed toward students with complex absenteeism typically requiring an intensive approach and frequent progress monitoring.

To assist us with monitoring student absenteeism, we will re-introduce SMS notification. An SMS will be delivered to the parent/caregiver of a student on each day that a student is marked as absent from school. A reply to this SMS stating a reason for absence will be recorded and will act as a legal notification of absence. If no reply is given to the SMS, then a letter explaining the student's absence is required on their return to school.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this policy or any other aspect of your child's schooling please feel free to contact your child's Learning Advisor



Table 1: Framework to identify student absenteeism

Absenteeism	Attendance Rate	Educational Risk	Days absent per year	Long term absence (over 10 years)
Regular	90% or more	Low	20 days or less	1 year or less
Emerging	80%-89%	Medium	Between 20 and 40	1-2 years
Chronic	70%-79%	High	Between 40 and 60	2-3 years
Complex	69% or less	Severe	60 days or more	3 years plus

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

St Aidan's Primary
1-5 Adelaide Street
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 9625 3181
Fax: 02 9625 5612

Sacred Heart Primary
23 Nelson Street
Mt Druitt South
Ph: 02 9625 8733
Fax: 02 9832 2258

Holy Family Primary
Weber Crescent
Emerton
Ph: 02 9628 9232
Fax: 02 9628 9589

**St John Vianney's
Primary**
17 Cameron Street
Doonside
Ph: 02 9831 1817
Fax: 02 9831 6430

*a diverse
community
learning
together*

MANGAHIGH

We are excited to announce that St Agnes is currently using 'Mangahigh' as an online Mathematics program. Mangahigh helps children consolidate what has been learnt in class in a fun and rewarding online environment.

As students will have access to this program both at school and at home, we encourage parents to support their children by understanding how they can log in from home and where to find activities to complete. Instructions are below:

1. Go to www.mangahigh.com
2. Click on "Login"
3. Enter login details under the student tab as supplied by your classroom teacher.

Once logged in students will have a number of lists available to them on the left hand side of their account.

1. **Assigned** - Contains activities that have been set by your child's teacher that will need to be completed. It is important that students consider re-attempting each activity a number of times to ensure they have understood the concept well and improve their final score.
2. **Recommended** - Contains activities that the program recommends the student works on once all assigned activities are complete.
3. **Browse** - Contains all activities available through the Mangahigh program for students who wish to choose an activity for themselves once assigned activities have been completed.
4. **Games** - A number of challenging math games are available in this list.

Student's work will be assessed and will contribute towards the awarding of their grade at the end of each semester.

ROSE DAY – 12 February 2016

The annual Valentine's Day event, Rose Day was held on Friday 12 February 2016 and was a huge success for the St Agnes community. The Year Ten Events Portfolio Leaders, as well as other fellow Year Ten students, worked together to coordinate the event. They showed great organisation, cooperation and communication in the lead up to Rose Day. In preparation to the event the team advertised to sell the roses during their own recess and lunchtime. Once the roses arrived the students were met with the huge task of removing thorns and wrapping five hundred and eighty roses and packing over seven hundred Hersey's Kisses, which were then distributed amongst the school. Special thanks to all the teachers and students involved in the event. This is the first of many Year Ten fundraisers for 2016 and we look forward to future events yet to come.

Dana Mallouk.



OUR PARISHES

St Aidan's
9 Adelaide Street
Rooty Hill
Ph: 02 9625 8404

Sacred Heart
23 Nelson Street
Mt Druitt South
Ph: 02 9625 8847

Holy Family
254 Luxford Road
Emerton
Ph: 02 9628 7272

St John Vianney's
17 Cameron Street
Doonside
Ph: 02 9622 3426



FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator

Getting kids to school ON TIME!

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

"Come on Jack! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you're not even dressed yet!"

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school or pre school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time:

✓ **Establish a morning routine.**

Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning, and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven't fully prepared for the day.



✓ **Identify and remove distractions such as television.**

If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the TV off. It should only be turned on when children are completely ready for school.

✓ **Teach some of the basics of time management.**

The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Make sure you have realistic time estimates and stop packing so much into the time you allocate. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

✓ **Arrive at school ten minutes early.**

Plan to arrive at school early rather than be there on time. This idea works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

✓ **Model a good routine.**

It's pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!

Published by Michael Grose
Presentations. All rights reserved.
For more ideas, support and advice
for all your parenting challenges
visit: www.parentingideas.com.au



PO Box 167 Balnarring VIC 3926 P. 03 5983 1798 F. 03 5983 1722 E. office@parentingideas.com.au

www.parentingideas.com.au

© 2009 Michael Grose

SMILES Program 2016

For children 8-12 years old who have a family member with a mental illness living in Lithgow, Blue Mountains, Penrith, St Marys and Hawkesbury.

This **FREE**, three-day course, aims to assist children 8 - 12 years old, who have a parent or sibling experiencing a mental health problem.

Aims of the Program are to:

- increase understanding about mental illness
- build self-esteem
- enhance resiliency
- decrease feelings of isolation
- provide opportunities to develop support networks.

activities including games, craft and free play.

Morning Tea, Lunch, Provided

When: Monday April 11 2016 to Wednesday April 13 2016, 9.30am-3pm (Arrive at 9.20am)

Where: St Nicholas Church (the old school building behind the church), 326 High Street, Penrith.

To register please call: Sarah Bergan (COPMI Coordinator) on 47259800 or Family & Carer Team on 8842 8289 . Deadline for registration 1st April 2015.

