

St Agnes Catholic High School

ph: 8882 0700 fax: 8882 0790

email:stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au

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

Follow us on FACEBOOK: StAgnesRootyHill

to truth through love

Diary Dates

23 February

Chess Competition

24 February

School Photos

27 February

Swimming Carnival

9-13 March

Catholic Schools Week

9-11 March

Year 7 Camp

9 March

Year 7/2016 Information Night

10 March

Art Express excursion

1 April

Stations of the Cross

2 April

Term 1 Concludes

3 April

Good Friday

20 April

Term 2 Commences

May each of us be blessed with eyes that see, hands that safely hold, feet that gently tread and hearts that know that God surrounds us always.

Amen

20 February 2015

Dear Parents

The school year has commenced and we have has welcomed our new students and their families. Presently we have an intake of 750 students, which is the maximum we can accommodate.

I especially welcome our new families into the school and reassure you that your son or daughter will have a great experience here at St Agnes.

Each school in the diocese is requested to set learning goals for the year. These goals focus on the teaching and learning agenda as outlined by the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta. As a result of these school goals, teachers will set their personal goals that will align to the school goals.

At various stages throughout the year there will times that the staff will "check in" to assure we are all on track.

Alongside these goals will be our overarching school plan called the Implementation Plan. This plan, usually set for a year, is based on Literacy, Numeracy and Formation.

For 2015 our goals are:

- * to improve student Mathematical understanding and competence in the domains of multiplication and division.
- * to engage in reciprocal teaching of reading that will assist in sustaining reading levels of students.
- * to assist staff and students to understand our Franciscan charism through a prayerful focus.

These goals are important signposts for us and guide us throughout the year. As families in a catholic community what signposts or goals do you have as a group and as individuals? Goals help us to achieve and focus on things important to us.

Best wishes to everyone in achieving your goals as we work together in 2015.

Peter Brogan 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

From the Assistant Principal, Mr Peter Regan

In 2013, Year 8 Geography students embarked on a Challenge Based Learning Project where they were posed a problem and had to work together to find a solution to create and implement sustainable initiatives for our school.

Students researched how they could implement the sustainable initiatives, make contact with relevant companies that may help their cause and coordinate site meetings when needed.

Bailey Raymond and Jack Maddford were responsible for St Agnes receiving its first Water Refilling Station. Their aim was to raise awareness of water and the disposal of waste material in our school community. The project saw the installation of a water refilling station which allows students to fill their water bottles with fresh, filtered water.

This project resulted in the students being successful in a 'Go Greener' competition held by a company called Interface. They won a \$1000 grant for implementing this sustainable initiative in our school.

The Water Refilling Station Project proceeded into a voter competition in September 2014. As we were the winning school we won the opportunity to have 6 classrooms recarpeted in designs from the Interface Discovery Education Collection. Bailey and Jack were involved in choosing the designs with representatives from the company. It was a very rewarding and wonderful experience for these two students.

Over the Christmas holidays rooms were completed and have totally revitalized the learning spaces in the following rooms: GR13&14 have the sporting theme: Basketball court, GR16&17 have the Religious Education theme: Tau Cross, MO24&25 have a mathematics theme: Formula's/Symbols.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Bailey Raymond and Jack Maddford for the legacy that they have left St Agnes with. Also a very big thank you to Brendan Hogan and Kate Vale, from Interface, who have totally transformed these classrooms into engaging and modern looking spaces with their products.

Peter Regan

Assisatnt Principal





a diverse community learning together





HOMEWORK CLUB

Do you need a hand with homework?

Has an assessment or assignment got you stumped?

What about getting some handy study in!

Just need a quiet place to study!

Come along to Homework Club
in the library
Every Wednesday afternoon
2.30-3.30pm

Changes to the Free Bus Travel Entitlement Boundaries

We have been informed that the boundaries for free bus travel have changed. The result of these changes have indicted that a number of students now miss out on free bus travel which puts them in situations that are dangerous due to the crossing of major roads and highways.

As a school community Mr Brogan would be happy to address this issue with the Department of Transport and our local state member of parliament, Mr Richard Amery.

If the change of boundaries by Busways has affected your child and you wish Mr Brogan to act on your behalf please email ndeluca@parra.catholic.edu.au expressing your concern as well as contacting Richard Amery personally on 9625 6770 or at mount.druitt@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The more responses we get will enable us to present a strong case regarding this situation.

For more information regarding the eligibilty of School Student Transport Scheme visit the Busways website



From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator, Mr Laurence De Martin

Years 7-10 Assessment Handbooks can be accessed through the Teaching and Learning menu on our school website and on the school Moodle. These handbooks are designed to give students information about formal assessment procedures. Dates have been provided for all relevant assessments. Some assessment dates may change due to changes in the school calendar. Students will be given sufficient notification of two weeks of any changes.

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 did at the end of a unit. Assessment can be formal or informal. An example of informal assessment would be a teacher's judgement 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 when the work is handed back
- Demonstrate that thorough effort and achievement have been met 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



The Parramatta Diocese is providing a wonderful opportunity for vocalists and advanced instrumentalists (played for 2 years or more) to meet, make friends and combines their gifts and talents with "CAPTIVATE SHOWCASE" performances, which will be held in June at Nagle College. The program encompasses Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts.

Students work with critically acclaimed practising artists, who engage and mentor students by sharing their experience and providing insights into the art world beyond the classroom.

More information can be found on the Captivate website:

www.captivate.catholic.edu.au/home

Good and loving Father, open our hearts to hear your voice and to fulfil your holy will, as we strive to remain always united in communion with you. Grant us the daily grace, Lord, to live in your Triune life in the glory of the Resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





















From the Religious Education Coordinator, Ms Julie Atkins

Opening School Mass

On Friday February 6, we celebrated our Opening School Mass at Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park. The theme of the Mass was "Sharing in the Light of Jesus."

As a student body we would like to celebrate "Sharing the Light of Jesus" throughout the rest of our school year. We all know how important it is to live our faith and follow Jesus' examples and teachings. Each of us can share the light of Jesus every day! Whether you are a Year 7 student or a Year 10 student, whether you are a teacher or a parent, each of us can make a difference by how we treat each other. When we are kind to each other, using kind actions and words, the light of Jesus within us shines for others to see. No matter who we are, we can all work together to share the light of Jesus!

This is the challenge that the St Agnes community faces this year - how will you approach this?

At the Opening School Mass we commissioned our new teachers and had our Year 7 students blessed, along with their Bibles. Fr Pat Mullins of Holy Family celebrated Mass with his usual enthusiasm that all at St Agnes continue to appreciate. It was a fabulous celebration in which we all gathered to celebrate the Eucharist.

Lent - Into the Desert

Lent is a time when we prepare, as a faith community, to meet the risen Christ at Easter. It is a time for us to turn away from what keeps us from living the Gospel.

The next 40 days provide an opportunity for our desert time. In the stillness and quiet of the desert, it is easier to become aware of the presence of God, as Psalm 42 suggests - "Be still and know that I am God."

When we take time out of our day and turn away from the distractions of modern life - our phones, technology and media - we can experience something of 'desert' stillness.

Lifted out of our preoccupations, we look out on the world with fresh eyes. When we start to listen, we come to know the heart of Jesus and his longing to bring every person to the fullness of life.

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word next week will invite us all to 'nourish ourselves' with spiritual food for the journey during these 40 desert days.

Lord, I ask that you accompany me on my Lenten journey.

Open my heart to your will for me.

Grant me a change of heart that I might turn away from things that stop me following in Jesus' footprints.

I ask that you fill me with a hunger for justice and peace.

By your grace, may my life be enriched by prayer, unselfish ways and a willingness to share.

I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Julie Atkins Religious Education Coordinator

School Photos

School photos will be held on the 24th February 2015.

Students have been provided with an order envelope and need to bring it back to school on the PHOTO DAY with the correct money.

This money/envelope is \underline{NOT} to be return to the school office. It is to be handed directly to the photographers ON THE DAY.

There is an option to order your child's photos online; the instructions are on the envelope.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Ms Valleri on 8882 0700.

Opening School Mass

It was wonderful to celebrate our Mass with Fr Alan Layt to bless the 2015 academic year. We look forward to our new year and the many ways our young men and women can be involved in parish life and continue to grow in their faith.





INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF STUDENTS AT RISK OF ANAPHYLAXIS

It is the responsibility of the parent or carer to notify the school if their child has an allergy and is at risk of Anaphylaxis. This notification should occur either at the time of enrolment, or if the student is already enrolled, as soon after diagnosis as possible.

Students diagnosed as at risk of Anaphylaxis need to supply the school office with the student's most recent copy of their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed, signed and dated by their doctor.

We ask parent/carers to supply the school office with an Auto-Injector (EpiPen), checking the expiry date is up to date. A new Auto-Injector and action plan needs to be supplied to the School office prior to expiration.

Please contact the school office if you would like to discuss the schools procedures for students at risk of Anaphylaxis or if you have any questions.



School Fees

The school fee statements for Term 1, 2015 were mailed out on Wednesday 11th February. The due date for payment is on or before Friday 6th March 2015. If you have not received your statement please contact the finance office on 8882 0706 to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

The Flexible Payment Plan is offered as an option for the payment of 2015 fees. The necessary information required to take up this convenient payment alternative is provided with your Term 1 fee statement. Please note that if you wish to be included in the Flexible Payment Plan option, all paperwork needs to be returned to Catholic Education Office, Parramatta no later than 27th February 2015.

The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with our Business Manager to discuss payment options. Your situation will be treated with care and and appropriate confidentiality an arrangement will be made for you. Please note that as part of this process you may be required to complete a Statement of Financial Position so that the school is aware of your current financial situation. Please be assured of complete confidentiality with regards to any information you are asked to provide.

N.B. If you were on a payment arrangement for 2014 (except Flexible Payment Plan) it is important that you contact the finance office when you receive your Term 1 statement so that we are aware of your intentions for 2015.

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued". Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office for actioning.

If you need to discuss any issues regarding the school fees, please contact Lorraine Bailey by phone on 8882 0706.

School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, EFTPOS, credit card or cheque.

Tax File Number Programme

We have been informed that as of 1st January, 2015 the Australian Taxation Office has decommissioned the Secondary School Students Tax File Number Applications Program. This means that students can no longer apply for a Tax File Number through the school.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office, in partnership with Australia Post, is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form <u>'Tax File Number - Application or Enquiry for Individuals' form (NAT 1432)</u> online

More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'.

If you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8.00 am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

School Website

Are you aware that on the schools web site you can find:

- Student Attendance in the Parents section click on "Student Attendance"
- Assessment Calendars in the Parents/Notes & Forms section click on individual year groups
- Bell Times- in the Parents/General Information section click on "Bell Times"
- All School Notes/Forms in the Parents section
- Canteen Price List in the Parents/Canteen section
- Information regarding the school curriculum under the Teaching & Learning'section
- · School History- in the 'School' section

The St Agnes MOODLE Community

Our Modern Online Digital Learning Environment (Moodle) Community allows our students to continue their learning journey outside of normal class time.

Throughout the year students and parents will be able to view our newsletters, information notes, subject assessment tasks and resources via our Moodle Community website.

Below is a series of steps that students and parents can follow to access our Moodle Community.

Step 1: Our Moodle Community website address is http://bit.ly/stagnes

Once you type the above address into your web browser the following page will be loaded.

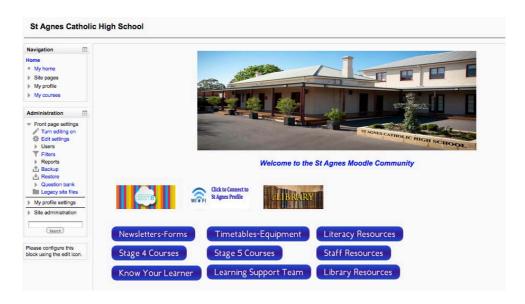


Step 2:

Every student at St Agnes has been issued with a unique username and password. You can use your child's username and password to login to our Moodle Community.

Step 3:

Once you have logged on correctly our Moodle Community homepage will be displayed. Listed on this page are the courses available to any member of the St Agnes community.



Stage 4 contains Year 7 and Year 8 courses. Stage 5 contains Year 9 and Year 10 courses. When you click on a course for the first time you will be able to self enroll into that course. Located within each course are the specific activities, resources and assessment tasks.

Damien McGuire

Emerging Technologies Coordinator

From the Classroom – Work Samples



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

From the Catholic Education Office

This month's DWF Appeal

The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal with the theme 'Faith at Work' is being held in parishes and Catholic schools in February. This appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a diocesan family to support ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer. For example, it supports catechists who teach the faith in state schools, seminarians who are preparing for the priesthood, young adults working in youth ministry, university and hospital chaplaincy, Pre-marriage Education through CatholicCare. Visit the website to see how your donation can make a difference: www.faithatwork.org.au

Called by Name - Discernment Weekend Retreat

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. This retreat is a one-to-one encounter. It includes prayer times, talks and accompaniment. It is a great opportunity to have a lived experience with the sisters. "Is God calling me to religious life?" If this is a real question for you, this retreat is for you.

Date: last weekend of every month. RVSP a week before the retreat. Cost: donation. Venue: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong.

Details: Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, margaretcsfn@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel 02 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au

World Day of Prayer on 6 March

The theme for the World Day of Prayer is 'Jesus said to them "Do You Know What I Have Done to You?" (John 13:1-17). This year's worship celebration was prepared by the women of the Bahamas. For more information visit:

http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Lent Retreat Day on 14 March

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer retreat opportunities for women aged 18-35 who are seeking to deepen their spiritual life. Join the sisters for a day of Lenten reflections and prayers followed by a social gathering. Lunch/dinner will be provided.

Date: Saturday 14 March, from 9.30am - 5pm. No charge but RSVP essential by 11 March.

Venue: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong

Details: Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, margaretcsfn@gmail.com www.csfn.org.au



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

Student Competitions





The Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) 2015

The ABBC is Australia's only neuroscience competition for high school students. It is a competition that teaches students about the brain and how it functions and dispels misconceptions about neurological and mental illness. It tests the neuroscience knowledge of students on topics such as intelligence, memory, emotions, movement, stress, ageing, sleep, addiction, Alzheimer's and stroke. The competition is open to Yr 10 students and will be held to coincide with Brain Awareness week from March 16-20. More information can be found at http://www.abbc.edu.au





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www.fivestarshuttles.com

