A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

As a school community, over the past two weeks, staff and students working together have raised over $3000 for the Catholic Care Bushfire Appeal. This money will be used to assist families impacted in the recent fires in the Blue Mountains.

Our Year 12 students completed their final HSC examinations last week and we are now looking forward to the next stage of their educational journey.

Parents are reminded that classes for Years 7, 8 and 9 finish on Wednesday December 18th 2013. Students in Years 10 and 11 finish class on Friday December 13th, but some students will have leadership workshops and HSC assessments from Monday 16th to Wednesday 19th December. Any student leaving for holidays before these dates will need to forward a request for leave to the College Office.

Parents are invited to the College Creative and Performing Arts showcase on Monday 25th November. The Showcase timetable can be found in this newsletter.

As a community this week, we keep in our prayers the people of the Philippines who have been so devastated by Typhoon Haiyan -

Lord, there is so much that I don’t know, and I ask you to inspire me with a thirst for knowledge. I pray, too, for wisdom that I may use my knowledge well. I give thanks for many people I have never met whose knowledge and understanding have been passed on to me. I ask that I may benefit from their work and experience and may contribute, in turn, to the well-being of others. Amen

God Bless

Mrs Patricia Baker
Principal
This week was a busy week for many of our gifted and talented students. Over thirty students from Year 7 and 8 participated in the University of Sydney Gifted and Talented Discovery Program qualifying exam, while selected students in Years 10 and 11 participated in the UNSW Science Workshop Day. It is encouraging to see students making the best of the opportunities offered to them, taking on a challenge and for many of them enjoying some well deserved success.

2013 'Sculptures by the Sea' Student Photography Competition
To celebrate their partnership with ‘Sculptures by the Sea’, the organisation What Degree? Which University? invited students to submit photos depicting their experiences of the exhibition. As well as cash prizes, the winning student would have the opportunity to become a photography intern for the 2014 Sculptures by the Sea. Congratulations to the Year 10 students who despite having only a week to photograph, made the effort to travel to Bondi and compile some outstanding entries. We wish Julie Vo and Emma Andrews best of luck for the competition.

The UNSW Women in Engineering Camp
This camp is a fantastic opportunity for young women interested in learning more about engineering. Entry to this camp is very competitive and attracts entries right across the state. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Nicole El Turk and Nivaz Sehmbhi on securing a place in such a prestigious program.

CSIRO Holiday Science
Looking for something to do over the holidays? This summer, CSIRO is offering the largest selection of holiday science events ever. For all information and details please visit www.csiro.au/nswholidays

The Somerset Celebration of Literature Writing Competitions
If you enjoy writing and dream of producing the next bestseller, these competitions are for YOU! As part of the Somerset Celebration of Literature, students are invited to participate in 2014 Novella Writing Competition and/or the 2014 Somerset National Poetry prize. The novella competition requires students to write a novel between 6000-10000 words, on any theme. As well as winning over $2500 worth of prizes, winners will receive personalised advice on their work from members of the Penguin Group (Australia) Publishing Company. The National Poetry Prize students can submit any unpublished piece of work which is no more than 50 lines on any subject. Winners in each category will receive a $300 plus flights to attend the Somerset Celebration of Literature festival in Queensland. Further information is available from Mrs Agius or by visiting www.somerset.qld.edu.au/celebration

Sonya Agius
Enrichment Co-ordinator

Year 7 Melbourne Cup Day
Hat Making
To get into the Melbourne Cup spirit, each of the Year 7 homerooms created a hat or fascinator for their homeroom teachers. On Melbourne Cup Day we had a fashion parade during morning homeroom and Mrs Parker came to judge the best one. 7E9’s creation for Mr Lovadino won most creative and 7E10’s creation for Ms Perras won best design.

Enrichment @ Cerdon
Year 10 and 11 Italian frequented the 2014 Italian Film Festival at the Verona Palace Cinema in Paddington. We were joined by All Saints Casula and Patrician Brothers Fairfield. We watched IL Ros e il Blu, starring Ricardo Scarmaccio. The movie taught us an important lesson about life - “that not all life’s lessons are taught within the classroom”.
After the movie we had lunch together with the other schools and enjoyed some delicious Italian cuisine. We ate arancini, bruschetta, pizzette e crostili. It was a lovely day and a great way to be immersed in Italian culture.
Ciao e ci vediamo al Film Festival/2014
Da Year 10 Italian

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Ciao e ci vediamo al Film Festival/2014
Da Year 10 Italian

FREE fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier & happier
Go4Fun Tip: Go4 a healthy breakfast and beat the brain drain!
Call now for more information or to find a program near you!
Go4Fun
Do you have a child 7 to 13 years old?
Are you worried about their weight?
Go4Fun can help. Now on weekdays & weekends.
1800 780 900
www.go4fun.com.au
NSW Health Western Sydney Local Health District
PDHPE and Sport Report

Rescheduled PDSSSC Softball Gala Day and cancelled PDSSSC Cricket Gala Day

After the postponement of the Softball Gala Day on October 22 due to the smoke and fire risk in the Penrith and lower mountains areas, the date has been rescheduled to Monday November 25. This date became available after the PDSSSC Cricket Gala Day was cancelled due to the lack of teams entered. We had players eager to attend the Cricket Gala Day and I share their disappointment in not being able to participate. We hope that the Cricket Gala Day will proceed next year with ample teams involved. Best of luck to our Softball squads for the upcoming Gala Day!

Upcoming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 November 2013</td>
<td>PDSSSC Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 January 2014</td>
<td>School Swimming Carnival</td>
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SHOWCASE 2013

Cerdon College Mentoring Creativity, the Spark of Ingenuity

Cerdon College: Chavoin Hall
Monday 25th November 5-9pm
Exhibition opens @ 5pm
Performances begin @ 7pm
Food available to purchase between 5-7pm
BBQ, Mobile Cafe & Dessert

(all funds raised are to support the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal)

A limited number of tickets will be available from 19/11/13 @ $10

POST SCHOOL OPTIONS TEAM...SEEKING MENTORS

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta’s Post School Options Team provides one on one mentoring for secondary students. We are seeking new mentors who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program.

The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week (May to September excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are offered free TAFE mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment ‘Mentoring in the Community’.

Mentors can be from any industry, an individual in any trade area – clerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty or a large company setting e.g Bunnings.

Please consider this call for assistance so that the program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities.

Cerdon College has participated in this worthwhile program offering our students a unique opportunity to obtain work experience under the guidance of a mentor. I am appealing to the Cerdon College community to become involved in this worthwhile program. You may not be mentoring a Cerdon College student, but you will be providing a fantastic opportunity to a young person from our area.

If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact:

Leoni Jeavons-Fellows, Coordinator Post School Options - 0424 750 583.

Mrs Loretta Parker
Assistant Principal, Mission and Administration

Co-ordinator’s Awards

Alicia Allan 9I31, Sally Al-Saffar 9I31, Emma Cleary 11F16, Gemma Curtis 9I31
Samantha Deeb 9I33, Martina Gambacorta 9I31, Erika Gavoto 11F17, Jessica Hasbany 11F12
Niamh Hughes 9J28, Evanna Kamal 11F14, Ysabella Mani 8G24, Aida Mesanovic 8KL6
Jazmin Moorhead-Perry 7G23, Bussisiwe Mpofu 9I31, Maureen Oraha 10F20
Katarina Planinic 8KL6, Amy Saleam 11F11, Antonela Scarpignato 7E7, Christine Skaf 9I31
Ivana Singh 7E10, Emily Stoove 8G26, Emma Younan 9I31, Amelia Walsh 7E10
Catholic Education Office News

An invitation from the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, to participate in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s survey for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family 2014.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You may have heard that Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Synod (meeting of Bishops) to consider the Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation. This Synod will be held in Rome in October 2014.

On behalf of the Pope, the Vatican has asked every Bishop around the world to consult within his Diocese and ensure input to this Synod is received from as many members of the Church as possible.

I ask you, therefore, prayerfully and purposefully to consider the questions prepared by the Vatican. It is important that we respond to these questions after a suitable time in prayer so that our responses may be guided by the Holy Spirit and will properly inform me, the Holy See, the Synod and, ultimately, His Holiness. Complete the survey by 6 December - visit http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/latest-news/latest-news.aspx/family-synod-2014-survey--an-invitation-from-bishop-anthony.aspx

Bishop’s Office News

Catholic Outlook’s November issue
- Bishop Anthony visits Springwood in aftermath of bushfires
- News from our Catholic schools
- Plenary indulgence at Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
- Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking
- Education offers hope to young lives at School of St Jude in Tanzania
- ‘Go Make Disciples’ Generation: Diocesan Youth Festival

Diocese of Parramatta Bushfire Appeal

The Diocese has launched an emergency appeal to assist people who have been affected by the NSW bushfires. St Thomas Aquinas Parish at Springwood is one of the areas that has been hardest hit. This appeal is for cash donations only. Donations can be made through CatholicCare Social Services Parramatta. A video appeal by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP is on CatholicCare’s website where you can make an online donation: www.ccss.org.au

If making a donation by cheque, please make your cheque payable to CatholicCare Social Services – Bushfire Appeal and post to: Bushfire Appeal, PO Box 2023, North Parramatta, NSW, 1750.

Receive updates on the Bushfire Appeal via Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta

Prayer and the Dark Night: 21 November

An opportunity to reflect on the teachings of the Church’s great teachers on prayer, with Fr John McCall OSA. In our growth in prayer we move through various stages. These transitional stages can be disturbing if we do not understand them. Time: 9.45am. The Augustinian Centre for Spirituality, 2 Hewitt Ave, Greystanes. Bookings: (02) 9896 6794, paulmail@bigpond.com.au

AN INVITATION TO FAREWELL MRS CARMEL AGIUS PRINCIPAL ST MARGARET MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO YOU TO SAY YOUR FAREWELLS TO MRS AGIUS.

WHEN: FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2013 9.00AM MASS IN THE PARISH CHURCH FOLLOWED BY OUR FAREWELL MORNING TEA IN ST MARGARET MARY’S SCHOOL HALL

WE WILL BE PRESENTING MRS AGIUS WITH OUR GIFT FROM THE P&F COMMUNITY AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD LOVE FOR AS MANY PARENTS AS POSSIBLE TO COME TO MAKE THIS A GREAT SEND OFF. (No school children, however, toddlers and babies are welcome).

PLEASE RSVP BY SENDING IN THE FORM BELOW TO ST MARGARET MARY’S SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER THAN 22ND NOVEMBER (FOR CATERING NUMBERS.)

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS SLIP TO ST MARGARET MARY’S SCHOOL OFFICE

Mrs Agius Farewell Morning Tea

I would like to join the Parents and Friends Association of St Margaret Mary’s for Mrs Agius’ farewell morning tea on Friday 13th December

Number of adults attending: ____________________