Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Helping your child with Homework:
Parents with a positive attitude towards homework, who feel competent in subjects, are more likely to positively reinforce children’s motivation to do homework. Many parents help their children with homework either to encourage their learning or because they themselves enjoy learning. Furthermore, parents who hold positive attitudes toward homework and feel competent in the subjects are more likely to support their children’s psychological needs and reinforce positive motivation for doing homework.
If parents feel they are capable of helping their children, they have a more positive attitude toward homework and believe that it has an intrinsic value beyond getting a higher grade. These attitudes provide a supportive framework that prompt the children to do their homework out of intrinsic motivation – for the learning value, or because they enjoyed it rather than just because it was assigned. Learning for intrinsic reasons has more positive emotional and cognitive benefits than learning out of a sense of duty, desire to please, or to avoid consequences. For further information regarding homework please speak to your child’s teacher.

Sunday’s Gospel- He drove them out of the Temple:
Last newsletter I unpacked the process of one of the strategies we will be using as part of our Religious Education Implementation plan. The Lectio Divina is the traditional Catholic practice of scriptural meditative prayer which leads to an increased knowledge of Christ. Use the four separate steps of reading, reflection, prayer and contemplation to understand Christ’s message in this Sunday’s Gospel:

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers, sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon sellers, “Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.” Then his disciples remembered the word of Scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, “What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?” Jesus answered, “Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.” John 2: 13-20

Community:
During 2011 the children in year four participated in the Parramatta Diocesan Religious Literacy Assessment. Children in our Diocese are also assessed in their Religious Literacy in Year 8 at the end of Stage Four. In all areas of the assessment task the current Year 5 children last year achieved above Diocesan Average in their knowledge and understanding of key concepts related to God, Jesus, The Church, The Sacraments, Prayer, Scripture and Christian Life.

Quality Catholic Schools Survey
In the coming week 60 of our parents, who have been randomly selected by the CEO Parramatta, will receive an invitation to participate in the 2012 Quality Catholic Schools Survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect valuable information on an annual basis about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community. All staff members and 50 students from Stage 3 will also participate in the survey. I encourage those parents who have been selected to complete the survey between the 12 to 25 March as your contribution is important to providing our school with valuable feedback. If you have any questions about the survey please contact either Mrs Allison Masina or myself at the school.

Thankyou
Sincere thanks and congratulations to the many children, teachers and parents involved in the following activities and meetings over the past two weeks. These include: Zone Swimming Carnival, 2012 Diocesan Swimming Carnival, The Captivate Choir, The Captivate Ensemble, Parent Reading Tutors Workshop, Parent & Friends AGM & the many Fete Committee meetings.

“Thought for the Week”
“The Cross appears lighter when carried with Jesus”
Mary MacKillop-1874

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
Principal
We have all been waiting for the torrential weather of recent weeks to dissipate and for the sun to come shining through once again. This ongoing period of dark skies and wet, soggy lawns makes a readily accessible metaphor for the season of Lent. We pray for our family, friends and fellow Australians in low-lying areas and river regions and pray that the rain eases.

Liturgical Life:
Tomorrow, Year Three will join together to celebrate a liturgy of the word. You are invited to join them at 9:15am in the library. I thank the Year Three teachers for preparing the students for this, our first grade liturgy of the year. Next week, Year One will celebrate a liturgy of the word, also at 9:15am in the library. Again, you are most welcome to join us at this time.

Project Compassion:
Many around the world wait with us in anticipation for light to enter their lives. Thank you for your support of the work of Caritas Australia through the Project Compassion appeal. We have raised $306.45 so far through the money boxes in each classroom. $300 could enable a ‘train the trainer’ initiative, enabling one more health promoter to work with marginalised communities in Peru.

Prayers:
If you know of anyone in our community in need of our support through prayer please let us know through the school office. This week, we ask that you please keep the Geyer and Wasson families in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless,
Scott Carroll
Religious Education Coordinator

Sport News

Diocesan Swimming Carnival:
Congratulations to all the students for your efforts at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival last week. Despite persistent rain, our children as always acquitted themselves very well. Special congratulations to Arianne (4L) and Elijah (5R) who have progressed through to represent the Parramatta Diocese at NSW Catholic Schools Carnival at Homebush on 26 March 2012.

Arianne (4L) (4th 50m Freestyle), Elijah (5R) (4th 50m Backstroke, 2nd 50m Breastroke)
Gemma (6R), Nathan (5M), Joshua (5M), Joshua (3M), David (5M), Monique (6R), Samuel (4W) Claudia (4W), Kestra (5M), Laura (4W), Puluno (4L), Ellis (6R) and Jake (5R)

Greg Alexander Shield Rugby League:
Thanks to the 23 Stage 3 boys who attended the trials for the Greg Alexander Shield Rugby League team last week. The following students have been selected to train each Tuesday afternoon from 3:00-4:00pm until the competition day on 29 March 2012.

Ellis (6R), Harrison (6R), Mavrik (6C), Dominic (6C), Ethan (6C), Jake (5R), Ben (6C), Ethan (5M), James (6R), Hayden (5M), Rory (5R), Joshua (5M)

Cross Country:
The school Cross Country carnival is fast approaching, Friday 23 March. At this stage the event will still go ahead as planned, however, as you would appreciate, given the recent rainfall and the conditions of the park opposite the school we may need to make changes to the way it is organised. These decisions will be made the week of the carnival and you will be informed of any changes in the lead up to the event.

Steve Cauchi
Sports Coordinator
**Coles - Sport for Schools Vouchers**

Thank you very much for your wonderful support with donating the Coles vouchers to our school last year. Here are some of the sports equipment we received this week – Netball Bibs, Netballs, Basketball, Soccer Balls, Volleyballs, Rugby League and AFL balls, Hopscotch Mats, Grip Ball and Scoop Ball Sets, Skipping Ropes and Bean Bags. Thank you very much to the P & F for organising this fundraising event.

**Captivate Ensemble and Choir**

Congratulations to members of the CAPTIVATE Choir for their great work last Wednesday at Our Lady of the Way and also to our CAPTIVATE Ensemble who met here at MMP last Friday and again at Marayong on Saturday. The two groups look forward to inviting you to performance opportunities throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs Meehan, Mrs Bray and Mr Russek for preparing the children.

*Scott Carroll*
*Creative Arts Coordinator*

**Technology News**

**Twitter:**
If you have visited our website recently you would have noticed our [Twitter feed](#) on the right hand side of the main page. It looks like this:

From time to time it will show pictures from events here at school and also updates and news items. To see all recent activity from our twitter feed click on “my twitter page” at the bottom of the feed.

*Scott Carroll*
*Learning Technology Support Teacher*

**Principal’s Awards**

The following children have received a Principal’s Award at Friday assemblies. Congratulations.


**2013 Kindergarten Enrolments**

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2013 are now open. Information and enrolment forms are available from the school office. When you return your completed application you will be offered a 30 minute interview time on either of the following days

- Tuesday 27 March, Wednesday 28 March and Monday 2 April
- Monday 23 April, Thursday 26 April (Term 2) and Friday 27 April (Term 2)

At this time staff will get to know your child as he/she joins 3 other children to complete some activities, while you will be invited to have a ‘cuppa’ and a 5 minute general discussion with Mr Siciliano about your child. At the conclusion of the interview families will visit the Kindergarten classrooms.

We will be conducting an Information Night for new families sharing information about the school’s history, procedures and the opportunities we offer our students. This will take place on **Monday 26 March 2011 at 7:00pm** in the Multi Purpose Centre. All 2013 Kindergarten new families are welcome to attend.
## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>9:15am 10:00am</td>
<td>Year 3 Grade Liturgy 2E Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>9:15am 11:30am</td>
<td>Year 1 Grade Liturgy 6R Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>School Cross Country K-Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>9:00am 7:00pm</td>
<td>School Photos - Full School Summer Uniform 2013 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening (Multi-Purpose Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>9:15am 11:30am</td>
<td>Year 2 Grade Liturgy 4W Assembly Stage 3 Touch Gala Day - St Marys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
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<td>Holy Thursday Term 1 Concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 April</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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### Fete News - Sunday 29 April 10:00am-4:00pm

#### Stall Holders:
Are you interested in having a stall at our school fete? Information packs are available at the school office. Please take a pack and return the money and forms to the school by Friday 16 March 2012. After this date we will be offering stalls to any other interested people.

#### Raffle:
Do you own a business or know someone who does and would be willing to donate a prize, please phone the office and leave your details. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

#### Book Stall:
We have place a box in the student foyer for any students to drop off books that they would like to donate for our Second Hand Book Stall at the fete.

#### Wrist Bands for Rides:
Don’t forget to pre-order your wrist band for the rides. Pre-sold unlimited ride wrist bands cost $20.00. Wrist bands will also be on sale on the day of the fete for $25.00

#### School Fees
School Fees for Term 1 have been sent out via the post. If you have not received your fees please contact the office.

**Fees are due by Friday 9 March 2012.**
If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment please contact the office to arrange a meeting with Mr Siciliano.

Payment can be cash, cheque, eftpos, BPay, AusBillPost and credit card facilities via the phone or through the office.
Payments can be made to the office from 8:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

#### Ice Blocks
Zooper Doopers are sold during the afternoon break at 1:30pm and cost 60c for a whole one or 30c for a half.
For the remainder of Term 1, iceblocks will be sold on the days that our volunteers are available which will be as follows:


Thankyou to all our volunteers for your assistance. If you require any further information, please call me, Jenny Inskip 0419 017715