**From the Principal**

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. This Sunday we will hear St. Luke’s gospel account of the Transfiguration. Imagine being on a high mountain with Jesus and some of his disciples. God’s voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One. The disciples are clearly told by God to ‘Listen to him!’ For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

**WYD Support**

Earlier this week you should have received a book of raffle tickets in support of World Youth Day. We are inviting you to support our young adults from the Parish Community of St Agatha’s and Mr Luke Spencer (our Year Three Teacher) as they attend World Youth Day in July-August 2016, by purchasing or selling tickets.

World Youth Day, begun by Pope St John Paul II, is a gathering of young people from around the world with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to celebrate their Catholic faith and experience the universal Church. It is a great opportunity for young people to better understand and experience their faith, and to become more involved in the life of the Church.

Raffle Tickets are $2 each ($20 book). The raffle will be drawn at 2pm on Palm Sunday, 20 March 2016 at the Edmund Rice Centre, St Edward’s Catholic College, East Gosford. There are some great prizes.

All tickets to be included in the raffle are to be returned to the school office by Friday 26th February.

I would encourage you to support our staff and the young members of our parish.

**Diocesan Staff Mass**

This evening staff from our forty four schools will gather at our annual Diocesan Staff Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Comensoli and the Priest of our diocese. We also celebrate those staff who have achieved significant milestones in Catholic Education and welcome new staff. Tonight, Mrs Whibley (Yr 1 Teacher) will be acknowledged for her twenty-five years of service to Catholic education. Miss Speter and Miss Woods will also be welcomed into the diocese.

**Staff Professional Development**

This Saturday, staff from St Agatha’s will join with nine other schools at The Light OF Christ Centre, Waitara to be part of the “Cultures Of Thinking” day. This professional development day is being presented by Ron Ritchhart a key researcher at Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education since 1994. His research focuses on understanding how to develop, nurture, and sustain thoughtful learning environments for both students and

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**Important Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Parent Prayer - 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Year 5 Class visits - Fr Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Year 6R Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion - Museum and Art Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Student Books go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>WYD - Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Class Parents Meeting - 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Year 2 Class visits - Fr Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Family Mass - 9:00am</td>
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teachers. His interest in “cultures of thinking” has lead him to conduct research in such areas as intellectual character, mindfulness, thinking dispositions, teaching for understanding, creativity in teaching, and the development of communities of practice. This is a great opportunity for our staff. If you would like to know more about what our teachers are learning about www.ronritchhart.com

Are you going the Right Way?
Just a reminder the Staff Carpark is for our staff, please do not park here.

Do not enter the Staff Carpark after 8:10 a.m. this is one way traffic coming downhill. If are exiting onto Trebor Road in the morning, both lanes are to be used – Right lane turns right, Left lane turns Left.

Swimming Carnival Update
A very special thank you to Mrs Vella, our staff and the band of helpers which made our carnival such a success on Tuesday.

1st Place Therry

Age champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Yrs</td>
<td>Liam W</td>
<td>Caitlin S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Yrs</td>
<td>Lachlan W</td>
<td>Caitlin G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Yrs</td>
<td>Jamie B</td>
<td>Sian M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Yrs</td>
<td>Joshua E</td>
<td>Jasmine W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Yrs</td>
<td>Luke M</td>
<td>Lara M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 6 Champions Luke M Lara M

Age Champions will receive their medals at our Monday morning assembly.

School App
Thank you for completing the various surveys about how we can improve our communication. The APP now has 459 users, I have taken on board a number of suggestions and we will implement these in our next upgrade of the APP. All forms will be located on our school website, so they can be downloaded.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. I believe that it is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

Kevin Bauer - Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
Our various gifts and talents are not merely for personal use and satisfaction, but for the glory of God and the service of others.” (1Cor 12:4-6)

As you are aware our three school rules at St Agatha’s are:

We are RESPECTFUL, We are RESPONSIBLE We are LEARNERS.

This week we will all be focusing on the rule “We are Learners”. Throughout the year your child might receive a bright blue “Mini Merit” for demonstrating the behaviours, qualities and skills of a good learner.

In the classroom being a learner can mean:
Choosing to listen to the teacher and listening to the instructions given. Choosing a good working partner or even a good working position – where and with whom will I work my best?
Choosing to complete my work to the best of my ability. Is this my best handwriting? Am I proud of this presentation? Could I add more detail to improve the quality of my work?

In this week’s newsletter I thought I’d draw parents attention to the Diocesan Parents Council (DPC) Seminar
being held next Thursday night at Prouille, Wahroonga- An Evening with Michael Grose “What Really Matters as a Parent! I’ve heard Michael Grose speak on a number of occasions and his insight, suggestions and advice for building confident, resilient kids as well as managing busy families are well worth hearing.

To register and for further details click on the link www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com/michael-grose.html

Parent Education Session - The New NSW History Syllabus
In 2016 a new syllabus for History is being taught across Kinder to Year 6. To give parents an insight into this new syllabus document and the content and skills it covers we will be holding a Parent Education session at 7pm before the P& F Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. The session will run for 20-30mins and will give parents an overview of the History syllabus in Australian Primary Schools. If you are interested in learning more about how History is taught in primary school please come and join us for this parent information session.

Naplan Dates 2016
In May 2016, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 10th to 14th May 2016.

Tuesday 10th May
Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)
Writing

Wednesday 11th May
Reading

Thursday 12th May
Numeracy

Friday 13th May - A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Our next Parish Family Mass will be held at the 9am mass on Sunday 28th February. The parish family mass is a wonderful opportunity for the children at St Agatha’s to participate in the mass by doing a Reading, Prayer of the Faithful or assisting with the Offertory Procession. If you would like your child to participate in one of the roles above please reply to the email with your child’s name and class, or click here to complete a return slip.

Fiona Bylsma - Assistant Principal

Flight from the REC

Please come to Parent Prayer this Friday at 9am(just come to the office for directions). You and your toddlers are most welcome.

Lent is a faith-strengthening time. Jesus spent forty days in the desert as a preparation for His Mission. In imitation, we spend the time of Lent in thoughtfulness, prayer and discipline. Parents have an added responsibility because they have their children’s faith to foster. During this season of Lent, talk to your children about ways they can become closer to God. Ask them about their Lenten promises and help them with strategies to keep their promises to God. Lead by your own example in prayer, helping others and donating to people who are in need of help. Children learn foremost from their parents, so what you do during this season of Lent impacts on them in ways that might not be obvious to you now, but will be evident in the future.

Last week, I sent home a Project Compassion box with the oldest child in the family. Please encourage your children to donate some of their pocket money to Caritas or to do jobs so that they can earn extra money for such a good cause.

Prayer
Lord, Help us to bring discipline into our lives so that other people may find You in us. Lord, Through Your prayer, we ask You to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lord, Direct my thoughts to Your life where I may learn of love, compassion and acceptance. Amen.

God bless

Vicki Ford - REC
Dear parents and families,

The 2016 school year has begun well. We gathered for a special Mass to begin the year and to celebrate our patron saint, Agatha. On behalf of the priests, the parish team and the parish community a special word of welcome to all new families whose children are beginning at St Agatha’s this year.

On 10th February we marked Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, during which we prepare for the great celebration of Easter on the weekend of 26-27 March. We remember especially the 147 boys and girls of the parish, many from St Agatha’s school, who are preparing for their First Reconciliation. Parish and School seek to be one St Agatha’s community, where we celebrate and live our lives in Christ every day.

Some special 9am Sunday Masses we have designated as “Family Masses” during 2016: 28th February; 29th May; 31th July; 26th August; 30th October; 27th November.

You are always welcome!

Fr Paul

From the P&F

Thanks to the Year 1 parents who cooked pancakes on shrove Tuesday; together we raised $667.50 for Project Compassion.

Thank you to the volunteers for class parents this year.

KB - Claire Sullivan                        3B - Natalie Peck
KG - Joanne Baynie, Kathryn Trethewey      3G - Grace Goh, Sarah Fernando
1B - Louise Treloar                        4G - Jane Maginnity
1G - Rhonda Zeaiter, Morena Connell        4R - Jenni Stewart, Sarah Wong
1R - Katie Booth                           5G - Kelly Francis, Melissa Troon
2G - Katrina Travers, Melissa Gilooly      5R - Natalie Symin
2R - Deb Shepherd, Rachael Anderson        6G - Danielle Kelso
6R - Simone Martin

Our first General P&F meeting for the year is on Wednesday 2 March in the Library 7:00 - 7:30pm is a Parent Education session on the History Syllabus, the general meeting will follow 7:30-9:30pm. We will be voting on the executive position of DPC representative.

If you have any items you would like to raise for discussion, please email Claire Sullivan - P&F Secretary - clairenmark@bigpond.com

I look forward to seeing you there.

The P&F would like to thank Harris Farm Pennant Hills for the generous donation of 10kg’s of Sausages for our Welcome Back BBQ.

Jocelyn Hordern-Smith - P&F President
0412 114 038
jhordernsmith@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to:

James G, Hayley B, Eden H,
Mae H, Edward Z, James E, Gianluca D,
Lucas K, Roan M, Bridget W

TROOSH  Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

Community News

Spiders Basketball - Congratulations to the 3 St Agatha’s boys who have been selected into the 1st Representative Team for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Spiders - William T, Gabe S and Ashton B  Click here to see our budding stars

The impact of Dads reading to kids
Art Express
Mercy College Chatswood Open Day