Catholic Schools Week
The annual Catholic Schools Week event will be celebrated this year across NSW and the ACT from 6th to 12th March.

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to celebrating and showcasing the achievements of students in our school.

This year’s theme is ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’

The 2016 CSW theme ties with the Church’s celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which recognises our Catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love.

Our school is proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms everyday, as well as the contribution our schools have made to Australian communities, in particular the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our wider community.

It is for this reason that I would like you to extend an invitation to your friends and relatives who may be considering sending their child/ren to our school in 2017 to come and join us at our Open Day next Wednesday 9th March at 9:30 a.m.

St Agatha’s Beliefs About Learning
Over the past twelve months in consultation with staff, students and parents, we have been developing our school Belief Statement. Next week we will launch our statement at our school assembly on Monday morning. The children and Mrs Ford have been creating a video that will be released and will be a main feature on our website. This statement will help us drive what learning looks like here at St Agatha’s.

Working Bee Next Saturday 8 – 10 a.m.
Next week is the first of four working bees that will be held at the school. If you are able to help please email Luke Palmer. luke.palmer@hyderconsulting.com

Supporting our Friends in Fiji By Passing the Hat Around
Catholic Mission is urging Australians to reach out to residents of Fiji following a category five cyclone that devastated the island at the weekend.

The call comes amid fears of a health crisis in the Pacific nation, after tropical cyclone Winston caused widespread destruction and left at least ten people dead.

Catholic Mission, with its partner Australian Marist Solidarity, is funding a shelter in the capital Suva for families

Important Diary Dates

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<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>4  Year 6 Cluster Mass - Sacred Heart 10:30am</td>
<td>9  Open Day 9:30am</td>
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<td>1G Assembly - 2:30am</td>
<td>11  Yr 6 class visit - Fr Paul 11:40am</td>
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<td>7  Catholic Schools Week - Prayer by Yr 2 8:50am</td>
<td>12 Working Bee</td>
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<td>8  6G Reconciliation 11:40am</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival - Mingara 6:30pm</td>
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affected by Cyclone Winston, reported to be one of the most powerful ever recorded in the southern hemisphere.

Next Tuesday 8th March students will be allowed to wear a different hat to school and give a gold coin donation.

If you would prefer to donate directly follow the link http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/brothers-in-fiji-update-on-impacts-of-cyclone-winston/

School Disco

Have you sent in your RSVP for the School Disco!!!

Session Times:
- Kindy - Year 2  5:15pm to 6:30pm
- Year 3 - Year 6  7:00pm to 8:30pm

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)

As you know the three school behavioural expectations are:

- We are RESPECTFUL,
- We are RESPONSIBLE
- We are LEARNERS

Our focus for this fortnight will be on the rule We are responsible with a particular emphasis on “Wear your hat”.

Here are some interactive sites to encourage your children to be sun smart.

For younger children
http://www.undercovercody.co.nz/page/9-fun-stuff

For children Years 5-7

For children in Year 6

Or you might want to find out more about the smart phone app as a reminder about the safer times of the day to be out in the sun

We would appreciate it if you could also reinforce the idea that a hat is an important part of the uniform as well as an important part of skin protection. Children have delicate skin and are easily prone to skin damage.

If your child can’t find a school hat, there is a uniform shop order form on the school website and if you place an order on Monday or Friday it will be returned to your child without you even visiting the uniform shop.

To encourage children to always wear their hat outside and reinforce this rule children who don’t have their hat have to play in the quiet undercover area outside the library. We appreciate your support with this focus.

Why is my Child’s Teacher out of class?

Like professionals in other fields, all teachers are required to keep up to date with current thinking on best practices and new developments in areas of education. Teachers are required to attend professional development opportunities to learn about changes to curriculum, new methods of teaching & learning and other ways of integrating technology. These sessions sometimes occur during the school day, after school or in the school holidays. Teachers may sometimes be off class completing one to one assessments with students (e.g
Observation Survey or MAIs). These allow teachers to gain a greater understanding of individual students and program to best meet their needs. Some teachers have extra release time for their responsibilities as members of the school leadership team. The teachers that have larger classes also have some extra time to assist them with marking, reporting and planning for a larger group of children.

Similar to most other professions, teachers also have entitlements such as long service leave, maternity leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, jury duty etc. Consequently there will be times when your child’s teacher is absent from the classroom for a whole day or part of the day. On these days the teacher’s program and daybook is followed. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partner to liaise with the casual teacher so that good teaching and learning continues and routines are kept. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Visit the class pages on our school website for some great iPad apps for developing number skills in kinder to year 2 - click here

Fiona Bylisma - Assistant Principal

From the REC

During this year of Mercy, it is important that we consider how we can show mercy to friends, family, our St Agatha’s family and broadly to those we meet in our day to day lives. Lent is also a perfect time to reflect on how we can reconnect with God and reach out to others. I heard an excellent quote last week that put the idea of mercy into context for me. ‘Mercy is like going into someone’s chaos.’ Of course chaos has many complexities and levels. A person’s chaos could be as simple as providing a listening ear, helping out if someone is sick or giving someone a break from their children during stressful times.

The Project Compassion boxes are in the classrooms. Please encourage your children to use their own money to donate. They could do extra jobs around the house to earn money. It’s important that your children learn a little self-denial and value the significance of giving their own money rather than just asking mum and dad for some.

Here are some practical ways you and your family can show mercy and reach out to others.

Sunday: Do I know someone who is really lonely? How can I help? How can I step into their chaos?
Monday: Write a love note to someone in your family.
Tuesday: Say I’m sorry to someone you’ve hurt.
Wednesday: Encourage your children to do extra jobs to earn money for Project compassion.
Thursday: Smile at everyone you see today. It could be the only bright time in their day.
Friday: Ring your grandparents and have a chat.
Saturday: Go out of your way to be kind to someone you don’t like.

Finally, please keep the children, who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in your prayers. They will receive the Sacrament in a couple of weeks.

God bless

Vicki Ford - REC

From the Parish

We are making our way through the season of Lent. Thanks to you and your children for your support of Caritas Australia through Project Compassion and for your support of World Youth Day pilgrims.

The priests of the parish regularly visit the classes to show our interest in the children and to hear their learnings and reflections from Religious Education. We wish all the boys and girls preparing for first Reconciliation well.

On Tuesday evening 15th March there is a Second Rite of reconciliation as part of our preparation for the great feast of Easter.

On Sunday afternoon 13th March there is a talk for young adults by Fr Daniel McCaughan on “Masculinity”. This is followed by an opportunity for prayer, reconciliation, Mass and a BBQ.

Fr Paul - Parish Priest
From the Sports Desk

Congratulations to the St Agatha’s Swimming Squad who performed extremely well at the carnival. All students displayed excellent sportsmanship and School Spirit.

Well done to the following students who have been selected to represent the north Shore Cluster at the Diocesan carnival.

Senior Boys Relay (Luke M, Patrick N, Joshua E and Patrick W)
Luke M 50m Freestyle
Joshua E 50m Butterfly

Kristen Vella - Sports Co-ordinator

From the P&F

It was great to see a good turnout for the first general P&F meeting last night. Kirrily Rooney has been representing St Agatha’s P&F on the Diocesan Parent Council (DPC) for the past 2 years, and last night resigned her position. I would like to thank Kirrily for her contribution to this role. Georgina Dunne was voted in as our new DPC representative.

Don't forget to rsvp for the disco, $10 child or $20 per family. The price includes a sausage sizzle, drink, snack and glow stick.

We are looking for a person to co-ordinate cookbook sales to the local community. We have approximately 570 books to sell which, at $30 per cookbook is $17,100 to spend on improving our play spaces. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact me.

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

World Youth Day

We have raised $2174 from the sale of raffle tickets and $570 from the mufti day so far. If you have not done so already could you please send back your raffle tickets even if you have not sold them.

Happy Birthday to:

TROOSH  Contact Greg on 0423 647 607

Community News

Chess
Loreto Open Day
Oakhill Art in the Hills
OLMC Parramatta Open Day