



# St Angela's Primary School

Castle Hill

# SHINE

Newsletter  
Vol. 1 No. 14

Sending Home Information and News about Education  
Ministry of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville

21st May 2020  
Term 2, Week 4

Dear Parents,

Young people today have many wonderful opportunities, but they need time to explore things in depth. When they are involved in too many different things, they sacrifice breadth for depth. One of the frequent reflections that we have been hearing about and related to our recent isolation due to COVID-19, has been the new found opportunities that families have discovered to simply "be" with each other. Time to discover the joy in the simple things - family walks, bike rides, camping out in the backyard, and playing board games just to name some of these.

Creativity is making something out of nothing and it takes time for that to happen. Most child experts would agree that after-class activities can be a positive force in young people's lives, but they would also argue that too many activities can put children at risk. Balance is the key. As parents, we might be tempted or pressured to believe that we are not being "good" parents if our children aren't involved in all kinds of activities. I wonder how many of us have actually discovered the richness in the amount of time that we have been forced to spend with each other. Without the pandemic, how many of us would have actually "opted out" of the pace of life that we have become used to?

Children need time to read, write, think, dream, draw, fantasise and explore special interests. They need time to "hang-out" with friends, ride their bikes, have water balloon fights and build cubby houses out of cardboard boxes and other bits and pieces. Such activities promote self-awareness by helping children clarify who they are and what they are truly interested in. Children who are involved in too many programmed activities may have too little time for these experiments of self discovery.

How easy has it become for us to fall into the trap of believing that our children will grow up and remember all the wonderful after school activities they were involved in; whereas, it's probable that children will think how exhausted they were trying to cope with multiple activities and how their parents were constantly yelling at them to hurry up and get ready for the next activity.

We certainly have had it demonstrated to us as we are living through COVID 19 that, what children need most are relationships not activities. Building meaningful relationships with our children allows us to "enjoy the landscape together" and not simply to be chauffeurs.

*"Together we can do so much"*

Leanne Nettleton  
PRINCIPAL

## Changing Going Home Arrangements

A reminder to parents that our official school day is from 8:30am until 2:50pm and that your child is required to be present between these times. Children should not be taken out of school early unless it is for an important reason (ie. Appointment for specialists etc.) Likewise, any changes of going home arrangements should only be made in cases of emergencies. As you can appreciate, contacting classes for children to come to the office for early departures or to advise going home changes is disruptive to the learning, in particular to the whole school if the class is not in their room and an announcement needs to be made. We ask that all early departures and changes to going home arrangements are advised in writing to [stangelas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stangelas@parra.catholic.edu.au) before 2.30pm **on the day the change is taking place. Please do not email going home changes days in advance. This assists with our process of notifying the class teacher via their office bag.**

## Full Time Return to School Monday 25th May 2020

As you are aware from Greg Whitby's letter to families this week, in response to the Premier's announcement, all our St Angela's students will return to school on Monday 25th May 2020, for full time face to face learning. The teachers are really looking forward to having the children back with them at school on Monday.

As with last week, tomorrow Friday 22nd May 2020, children of essential workers are welcome to attend school for supervision of their online learning. **If you are able to keep your children at home as per the Gradual Return to School Plan for this week, you are requested to do so.** This will enable the teachers to be engaged in essential planning for the fulltime return of all students on Monday. I am sure that you appreciate that the Premier's announcement necessitates a significant change for the teachers who had already planned remote learning timetables for their classes and that an already demanding week for teachers has been further complicated. I know that you will join me in thanking the teachers for their ongoing adaptability and professionalism in preparing for the return of the students.



## Religious Education

Sunday, 24 May 2020: The Ascension  
- Year A



### Gospel

[Mt 28:16-20](#)

**Jesus sends forth the apostles with the promise to be with them always.**

### Gospel Reflection

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

### Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

**Jocelyn Williams**  
**Religious Education Coordinator**

## Semester One School Reports

An adjusted school report is being prepared by the teachers to reflect the learning of the students for Semester One. Guidelines for these reports have been provided by the Department of Education and the Catholic Education Office. Reports will refer to a limited number of key outcomes and include statements about what each child is able to do and encouraged to work towards in Religious Education, English and Maths and a general comment from the teacher. Students will also complete a self evaluation and parents will be invited to provide feedback to their child about their "at home learning." Reports will be sent out in Week 10.

## Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to members of our St Angela's community who will celebrate their birthday this coming week:

<b>May</b> <b>Tue 26th</b> Annabelle Reisin Selena Bianca	<b>Fri 29th</b> Jessica Guirrerri
<b>Wed 27th</b> Jack Clarke	<b>Sat 30th</b> Ariana White Chiara Jensen-Luppino
<b>Thurs 28th</b> Olivia Johnston	<b>Sun 31st</b> Laila Henderson

## Throwback Thursday

You may have noticed that we have started celebrating our 20 Years of History at St Angela's by using the Throwback Thursday trend on our school facebook page to post nostalgic pictures and clips of St Angela's past. Including today's post, we have already shared a slide show of "Turning the Soil in the Early Years", an imovie of Sr Patty Andrew and Sr Venera Nicolosi in which they recount their dreams and vision for the St Angela's community and a slideshow "Faith through Art" which captures the beautiful artworks and sculptures that have been collected over the years within the school grounds and buildings. Keep your eye on our facebook page each Thursday for the next instalment. You never know who might pop up in a photo or video clip.

## Parent Calendar for Term 2

At the present time there are no set dates for activities or events. As a result, we will not be publishing the Term 2 calendar.

### My child is absent from school. How do I notify school?

Listed below is a brief outline of how to notify St Angela's staff of your child's absence from school.

If your child is absent:

- Parents will receive an SMS with a portal link in it
- Click on the portal link
- Your child's name will appear at the top of the app
- Reason: Use the drop down arrow to select a category eg Medical Illness
- Details / Comments: **Always** add further details eg. Susie is unwell with a fever
- Start Date: Select the start date
- End Date: Select the end date
- Add Attendance Note: **Always** select Add Attendance Note

Details / Comments: **Always** add further information to Details / Comments.

Select the Reason

- Medical Illness
- Medical Appointment
- Holiday
- Other Explained Absence
- Natural Disaster

Enter the Details

The Date will default to today

Select: **Always** select Add Attendance Note, this submits your information to the portal.

All families also have direct access to the Parent Portal. This can be accessed at any time. Details regarding your username and login have been sent to you via an email from the Catholic Education Department of Parramatta (CEDP), which also includes the parent portal link.

Additionally, school requires an [Application for Extended Leave - Travel \(5 or more days\)](#) if your family has no alternative but to [travel throughout the school term](#).

If a student is [absent from school for an extended or regular period](#) of time an [Application for Exemption from Attendance at School](#) is required. Some examples of this include if your child participates in; elite arts/sporting events (eg National or State level), is employed in the entertainment industry or is absent for exceptional circumstances (eg medical condition that requires ongoing treatment). If you need further clarification please email or phone the office.

Both applications need to be submitted to the Principal well in advance of their starting date. Applications are reviewed by the Principal and if granted, a Certificate of Exemption or a Certificate of Extended Leave Travel – 5 or more days will be issued.

Please ensure you complete all the details mentioned above, monitoring student absence is a mandatory requirement for all schools and allows us to support the St Angela's Community.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any difficulty regarding updating student attendance, please do not hesitate to email [stangelas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stangelas@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone on 9407 6400.

### Sent Home This Week:

**Emailed:** Gradual Return to School Week 4, Gradual Return to School Letter from the Executive Director, Year 6 Confirmation  
**Hard Copy:** N/A