

**23rd March 2018**



### 90 Seconds with the Principal

[Watch Video](#)

### Our school goals

This Heartlinks edition and our 90 seconds with the Principal/Numeracy Leaders this week is focussed on our numeracy goal for 2018 at Mother Teresa Primary. Our numeracy goal is based on developing all students ability, from Kindergarten to Year 6, to solve problems using multiplication and division. This 90 seconds with the Principal is a follow up to previous editions focussing on our school goals in Religious Education and literacy.

### Communicating our learning goals with parents

We feel it is very important for parents to know our learning goals as research proves parent engagement with student learning leads to improved learning outcomes. The issue of parent engagement in student learning is discussed later in the new parent links section of Heartlinks. In this section of the newsletter you may find ways you would like to connect and volunteer with our school community. We are aware that many parents are working and attending school functions is difficult so we are exploring ways to improve sharing the learning happening at school electronically. Attached to this newsletter is a step by step guide to connecting to our Skoolbag app and this will be the main means of communication and celebrating our learning at school.

### Harmony Day

**March 21st** was set aside to focus on Harmony. What does that call us to do in the light of the Gospel? We hear that we should concentrate on what we have in common rather than on our differences, but I wonder if we are missing the point. We are not called to live one melody, or in fact to sing in Canon round, following the lead of another. No, God, the great composer, calls us to live in harmony, where each unique song of the spirit blends to form God's beautiful symphony of life. Let's celebrate our differences.



Maria Boyd, REC

### Parent Links

Last week two parents from Mother Teresa Primary, Anna Nicolas (Year 4 parent) and Jodie Skinner (Year 2 & 5 parent) attended the Parents Representative Council (PRC) for the Parramatta Diocese. This representative group and the associated meetings are open to all parents. Below is some feedback from Anna and Jodie - I thank them for their time and know they would welcome other parents joining them for future meetings and workshops. Please see attached flyer for information regarding future meetings.

**The Parents Representative Council (PRC)** gives parents from Catholic Schools in the Parramatta Diocese a chance to come together and discuss issues impacting their children and families during the primary/secondary education years. At each meeting (once a term) a guest speaker presents thought provoking and relevant issues which help parents in today's fast changing world. All parents are welcome! The Term 1 meeting discussed parent engagement with their children, teachers and the school. Active participation and engagement is extremely powerful to both the students and the school community.

For further details please refer to <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/parents-representative-council-prc>

Many thanks, Anna Nicolas & Jodie Skinner



*"There is someone who suffers in every family and in every human situation."*

St Mother Teresa

### Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, 28th March**  
Holy Week Liturgy  
11:15am—All welcome
- **Wednesday, 4th April**
  - Easter Liturgy  
11:15am—All welcome
  - Celebration of Learning  
4:30pm—6:00pm which includes
  - Parent University  
5:30pm—6:00pm
- **Thursday, 3rd May**  
Cuppa with the Principal  
8:45am—9:45am
- **Friday, 18th May**  
School Photo Day—Full Winter Uniform
- **Friday, 8th June**  
Staff Development Day (no students on this day)

### Tuckshop-2-U

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Tuckshop2U, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

## Keeping our Community safe

All parents and visitors to our school site are advised that it is essential to follow all road rules and signage, including the speed limit in a school zone and where many young children are crossing the road. Please do not line up across the pedestrian crossing at the kiss and drop zone. Please remain within the designated visitor parking spaces if you wish to park your car to enter the school. The staff car park is for the staff of the Westmead Schools only. As the site is shared with Parramatta Marist High and Catherine McAuley High Schools it is essential for the safety of all of our students to comply with these directions.

## Kindergarten enrolments 2019

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a younger sibling wishing to attend Mother Teresa Primary Kindergarten in 2019, applications close on the 31st March. Thank you.

## Support for new families to Mother Teresa Primary

It has been great to meet so many new families at Mother Teresa. Sometimes it is helpful to have another parent contact at the school to share ideas and information. Of course if you have any concerns regarding learning please continue to contact the school to make an appointment to speak to your child's learning studio teacher. One of our Kindergarten parents, Jasmine Issa has kindly volunteered to be a parent contact for new families who are interested in 'making connections' with other parents at our school. Please feel free to contact Jasmine on 0405 399 537.

## Home school communication - Skoolbag

At Mother Teresa one of the main forms of communicating our community events and learning focus is through the Skoolbag app. Please consider using this app to keep up to date with the exciting things happening at school. This week we will again attach information on how to download this app and how to access the alerts and parent calendar.

## Parents helping at school

This week you would have received a note regarding parent volunteer and support at school. If you have time and skills you would like to offer the school in being a volunteer for a variety of events and activities we would love to work with you. We will keep all returned notes and contact you throughout the year as appropriate.

## Book Covering Working Bee

On [Friday, 6th April](#) Mrs. Rawlings is coordinating a working bee at school to cover the many, many new books we have purchased this year. Come along for a cuppa and a chat - all materials will be supplied. All welcome!

## Parent Reflection Day - Diocesan retreat for parents

As one of the Diocesan initiatives to provide faith formation in our school communities, the Mission Team are hosting a Parent Reflection Day early in Term 2.

This is a free event with morning tea and lunch provided.

**When:** 9.30am - 2.00pm, Thursday, 3 May

**Where:** Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville

**RSVP:** Tania Melki by email to [tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone 0429 375 226

Please see attached flyer.

## Diocesan Swimming Carnival and PDSSSC

Congratulations to Tobias, Samuel M, Christian M and Aaron K who represented Mother Teresa Primary and the Cumberland Zone at Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday 23rd February. All athletes performed their best on the day and we are proud of their achievements.

Another congratulations to Samuel M and Kynan for being chosen to represent Mother Teresa and the diocese for PDSSSC Rugby League for 2018.

## First Eucharist Sacrament

Baptised Catholics who have celebrated the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) are eligible to prepare for First Eucharist. Enrolment forms for First Eucharist can be collected from the Parish Church while attending Mass during the period 24 March – 6 May 2018. Enrolment forms are not available from the schools or the Parish Office.

This week Mini Vinnies explain how to use the Prayer bag. Click on this [link](#).

# Mini Vinnies



# Skoolbag



Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



## How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

### iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "Install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



### Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook!  Like

Find out more at [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students





A SPECIAL DAY FOR PARENTS  
ACROSS PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS

LAUGH  
PRAY  
REFLECT

TAKE TIME  
OUT FOR  
YOURSELF

# FREE DAY SPA FOR THE SOUL

*Bring a friend!*

**BOOK NOW!  
LIMITED SPACES  
AVAILABLE**

**Thursday 3rd May  
9:30am-2 pm**

**MORNING TEA AND  
LUNCH INCLUDED**

Enquire and register  
by 12 April with Tania  
Melki via email:  
[tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Ph:0429375226

The Franciscan Shrine of  
The Holy Innocents  
8 Greyfriar Place Kellyville

SPONSORED BY THE  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE PARRAMATTA (CEDP)

# Mother Teresa Primary School

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

**Friday 18 May**

**ORDER NOW** go to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code  
**XLN XJ6 XX2**

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by **advancedlife**. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for photography packages can be placed securely online at [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) using our school's unique **9 digit Online Order Code**. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to [enquiries@advancedlife.com.au](mailto:enquiries@advancedlife.com.au)



**Parents Representative Council**  
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



## 2018 Calendar of Events

ALL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

Term	Meeting Date & Time	Venue	Presentation Topic	Presenters
1	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 7:00pm Annual General Meeting	Patrician Brothers College Flushcombe Road Blacktown	#Parents Matter	Danielle Cronin Chief Governance & Strategy, CEDP
2	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 7:00pm	Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Marian Street & Flushcombe Road Blacktown	Preparing Your Child for Future Pathways i.e Vocational Education & Training, Trades and/or University High School Students Welcome to attend with parents/carers	Di Mills Expert in VET, & Educational Pathways
3	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018, 7:00pm	Corpus Christi Primary School, 90 Andromeda Drive Cranebrook	Raising Resilient Children 8 Steps to Resilience	Dr Justin Coulson Family Psychologist & Parenting Expert Keynote Speaker Event
4	Mon 19 Nov 2018 7:00pm	St Luke's Catholic College Lot 1104, Frontier Avenue & Northbourne Drive Marsden Park	Education for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Mr Greg Miller College Principal St Luke's Marsden Park
The PRC General Meetings are conducted prior to the keynote presentations. Doors Open at 6.30pm for 7:00pm start.				



## A message from Jesuit Refugee Service:



### At Easter, give hope. Empowerment follows.

Easter is traditionally a time of renewed hope. A new beginning in our lives. But for people seeking asylum in Australia this is not a time of hope, a time of building a better future.

It's a time, instead, to face the devastating news that the government is slashing its support program for people awaiting final determination of their refugee status.

On our website, [read about the cuts](#), and how they affect Fatima\* and the Rahimi\* and Nadesan\* families. And many, many more families. JRS can help strengthen their hopes and build their resilience – with your support. Please give a gift of hope:

- \$40 for a travel card (Opal, Myki, Go cards etc.) to travel to appointments
- \$70 for two hours of essential casework and advocacy support
- \$280 for emergency relief for an asylum applicant who is homeless and destitute
- \$600 for a family to cover basic living expenses - rent, food, transport, medical needs

\*Names changed

[Donate now](#)

[www.jrs.org.au](http://www.jrs.org.au) Ph: (02) 9356 3888 Email: [info@jrs.org.au](mailto:info@jrs.org.au)



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But for people seeking asylum in Australia this is not a time of hope, a time of building a better future.

It's a time, instead, to face the devastating news that the government is slashing its support program for people awaiting final determination of their refugee status. Now mothers with newborn babies and families with young children will find it almost impossible to access financial support. Now children will go hungry; now people will be destitute and homeless.

This is the time people are at their most vulnerable and despairing. And they are looking to JRS for help. We accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum.

We offer emergency assistance, temporary shelter, a foodbank, professional casework, community activities, employment support, school engagement, legal clinics, targeted advocacy, and projects to empower women seeking asylum. The generosity of the



**"A single individual is enough for hope to exist. And that individual can be you." Pope Francis**

community enabled us to assist around 3000 people last year - but now many, many more will need our support. With your help we can make it possible for more people to face the future with confidence and hope. **Please give a gift of hope:**

- \$40 for an Opal Card for transport costs to help asylum seekers travel to appointments with lawyers, doctors and potential employers.
- \$50 to provide a family with a supermarket voucher for essentials for the week.
- \$70 to provide 2 hours of essential casework and advocacy support
- \$150 fortnightly allowance for food, travel, and medical needs of asylum seekers living in JRS' Blakett Shelter.

- \$280 for emergency relief payment to an individual experiencing homelessness and destitution
- \$600 to help a family seeking asylum meet their basic living expenses including rent, food, travel and medical needs.
- \$4,200 will fund the hire of a caseworker for one month to offer professional support to vulnerable women, men and children, helping them build resilience.

• P: 02 9356 3888 • E: [info@jrs.org.au](mailto:info@jrs.org.au) • W: [www.jrs.org.au/donate-now](http://www.jrs.org.au/donate-now) [@JRS\\_Aus](#) [JRSAustralia](#)

## Please act now. For hope + empowerment.

Name

Address

Suburb  State  Postcode

Telephone ( )

Email

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Please return to:

Jesuit Refugee Service  
PO Box 522, Kings Cross NSW 1340

I wish to make a donation as follows:

☐ \$40 ☐ \$70 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$600 ☐ \$1000 Other \$

Donate online (single or recurrent donation):  
[www.jrs.org.au/donate-now/](http://www.jrs.org.au/donate-now/)

OR I enclose a cheque/money order  
payable to Jesuit Refugee Service for \$

OR please debit my credit card the amount of \$

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Expiry date  /

Cardholder's name

Signature