Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul’s,

In Sunday’s gospel reading, Matthew reminded us not to worry about tomorrow that tomorrow will take care of itself. We are encouraged to have faith that the Father will see that we are provided for as He knows our needs. This can be at times overwhelming but God asks us to trust in Him. I believe we are asked to be active participants, not passive. If we care for, protect and improve upon the present then the future will also be a better place. So my prayer for you all is to live in the present moment and be mindful of the now. As Matthew says:

*So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.*

*Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Last Friday morning we began our new Kiss ’n Drop procedures. I was very impressed with the smooth flowing of the morning – albeit very wet – I believe it went very well. After 90 cars, I stopped counting! Monday and Tuesday also went so well that the car park was quiet by about 9.05! Thank you to everyone who has used the Kiss ’n Drop and for the feedback to Jane and myself. While we will never meet the needs of all families, we believe that this is a much safer option for our children and just ask that you honour the following suggestions:

- Drive right to the end of the paved area
- Allow children to have their bags with them
- Drivers please remain in your cars
- Encourage children to alight on the passenger side
- Exit the area slowly to rejoin the traffic.

A special thank you to Trevor Tomei who sets up the zone each morning.

In the afternoon we still have some children who are waiting in the incorrect area of the school. If you are collecting your children from St Paul’s after school, we ask that you come into the car park, park the car and walk to the stage area for collection. It is unsafe to pick your children up on Buckley’s Road and I would appreciate your support. If you have any concerns about this, please feel free to contact me on mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

Yesterday afternoon, a concerned resident came into the office to tell me that she nearly ran over a child down near the traffic lights. I will be following this up but it might be a good time to remind your children of safe ways as a pedestrian.

I know you have received a note about our activities for Catholic Schools Week next week. It promises to be a great week of show casing our school and you are invited to the celebration. Just in case you have lost your note, there is a summary of the activities further in the newsletter. Hope to see you on one of the days.

On Thursday the staff will be attending the Education Mass at St Patrick’s Blacktown. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with all the teachers of the diocese and Bishop Anthony in prayer and worship. Please keep us in your prayers as we go about our important ministry.

See you all at the disco!

Marian Bell
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Ash Wednesday
Today we begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday signifies the start of the forty days preceding Easter. As Catholics we use the period of Lent to involve ourselves in sharing the resurrection that has already happened. The resurrection of our Lord.
During Lent we are encouraged to outwardly prepare for the Easter celebrations by participating in prayer, self-denial and helping others. Often, during this time the question on everyone’s lips is ‘What are you giving up for Lent?’
Over the last few days your children have been encouraged to think about how they will use the time of Lent to walk closer with our Lord. During class time, they were asked to reflect on the changes they could make to help them be more like Jesus. Although they are still young it is an important part of their Catholic life and a great way to reflect on the changes they can make in their lives. Maybe this year you can work together within your family unit, to make a change that will last longer than just the forty days of Lent. What a wonderful way to share and grow in your Catholic faith!
You may notice in our church other signs that signify the change in the liturgical season, such as: the priest will now be wearing purple vestments, the ‘Alleluia’ will be replaced with a Lenten Acclamation and floral arrangements will be kept simple. May this Lenten season be a time where you feel closer to our Lord and bear witness to continual change and renewal.
God Bless,
Mrs Leanda Standring, Religious Education Co-ordinator

READING AT ST PAUL’S – A CURRICULUM UPDATE FROM MRS MISEK
As a mum myself I know how easy it is to get caught up in comparing your child to others. I have been guilty of having many sleepless nights because my son may not be at the same level as his peers in some areas or may not seem to be moving through the same stages at the same rate as his friends.
In many of my conversations with parents over the last week we have talked about the levelled reading books that children bring home. As parents we seem to place so much emphasis on these reading levels and we often lose the real purpose and enjoyment of reading, in a bid to move our children though the levels. Fluency in reading develops when children have many opportunities to read. Books are levelled only to help teachers determine an instructional level for a child to meet their particular reading needs at a given time. Ideally we want children to be able to read the book they bring home easily so that their reading sounds fluent and interesting. Often over the holidays or if children have been absent from school their reading levels may slip back and children bring home easier books than you might expect. We want children to build up a range of strategies to assist in developing their fluency - this is best done on books that children are familiar with and comfortable reading. Fluent readers, those who don’t read word by word or stumble through every word on a page, gain more from their reading. They are more easily able to comprehend a text and transfer this skill to other genres. They build up a larger vocabulary of words which in turn supports their writing.
Children benefit far more from reading a book to you that is easy for them than one that they need to constantly appeal to you for help. Please encourage your child to focus not on the level of the book they bring home but rather on the quality of their reading. Rather than commenting on the level of the text, make comment on the way your child’s reading sounds and praise them for the fluency and expression in their reading. As teachers we want children to be comfortable and confident when reading aloud to you so we will send home books that they can read easily. If your child is stumbling over words or not enjoying reading aloud please let their teacher know and please try to resist the urge to push them through the levels or to compare them to their classmates.
PARENTS AND FRIENDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

Congratulations to the following parents who will form our Executive Committee for 2014

Chairperson: Danielle Bliss  Vice-Chairperson: Sean McIntosh
Secretary: Vanessa Cassin  Treasurer: Tim Hamilton
Publicity Officer: Julie Dilles  Social Co-ordinators: Jaye Harkin and Cheryl Long
Working Bee Co-ordinator: Brendan Byrne
Parents Representative Council Representative: Megan Prevett
General Executive: Tony Jasser

KINDERGARTEN 2015 ENROLMENTS

St Paul the Apostle School will commence accepting enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2015 on Monday 10 March. Please bring your child’s original Birth and Baptismal certificates when applying. If your child was baptised at St Paul’s a certificate is not required. Applications must be made in person, preferably between the hours of 9.00am-3.00pm. A non-refundable application fee of $30 is payable on return of the completed application.

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those families who have paid their fees. Unless you are paying by instalments, the fees are due this Friday, March 7. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please contact the school office and make an appointment to see Mrs Bell. If you are going to be a few days late please email Gail Caruana and advise the date the fees will be paid gcaruana@parra.catholic.edu.au. Your co-operation with this is appreciated. Thank you.

PUBLISHING TEAM

Don’t forget to check out this week’s Publishing Team report on the website.

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Club  Scholastic Book Club Order forms went home yesterday. This issue will be due back to school on Monday 10 March. A reminder that we will no longer be accepting cash as payment for these orders. Payments can be made by cheque or credit card. There is definitely NO OBLIGATION to buy any books.

Premiers Reading Challenge

All children are strongly encouraged to participate in this challenge. It is a great way to encourage the reading of great literature throughout the year. User Names and Passwords will be issued shortly to those students participating for the first time in the challenge. Students who have participated in previous years should still be able to log on using their previous User Names and Passwords. Please see Mrs Taylor or Mrs Nobili if you require any assistance.

SPORTS UPDATE

As in previous years St Paul’s will be entering the Stage 3 Parramatta Diocesan Girls Soccer Gala Day. Mrs Dunn will be conducting trials this week and further information will be sent home to those girls who make the team. Weather permitting our school cross country will be held on Wednesday 2 April in week 10. As the weather gets a little cooler Mrs Dunn will be doing some preparation in the children’s sport lessons for the cross country, however if your child is thinking of competing in this event it may be beneficial for them to do some running and fitness training outside school. Children are eligible to enter the cross country if they are turning 8 years old this year but will run with the 9 year olds as this is run as a combined age group for cross country. Juniors (8&9 yrs as well as 10 yrs) will run 2000m; Seniors (11yrs and 12yrs) will run 3000m. Fiona Lambert, Sport Coordinator

WINSTON HILLS HAWKS RUGBY LEAGUE

Come play Rugby League on Sundays within the Catholic Convents Competition. Come play in a safe, fun and friendly club. Our home ground is John Curtin Reserve where we train. Come be a Hawk where you can make new friends and exercise within our school community. Contact Donna Wakefield for details 0412 544 552
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

10 March - Monday
• Get up and Move – spontaneous breaks in the day where the children will get up and move, to help develop in the children a love for physical activity in a fun interactive way.

11 March – Tuesday
• Picture Book sharing time. Parents and teachers will share their favourite picture book. Starting at 2.45pm

12 March - Wednesday/13 March - Thursday
• Gymnastics lessons. Parents are invited to come and watch their child’s gymnastics lessons.

13 March – Thursday
• Musical performance presented by Kindy, One and Two at 2.30pm

14 March – Friday
• Whole School Mass 9.10am (parents invited) followed by Open Classrooms for parents to come and see the work their children have been doing. Following the open classrooms the parents will be able to enjoy a picnic Morning Tea with their children.

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Catholic Schools Week Performance
Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2

Present

‘THE GINGERBREAD MAN’
Thursday - 13 March - 2.45pm-3.00pm
School Playground

All Welcome!

L. Nash   Music Teacher

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REMINDER

The Sunset Disco
Family Picnic!

Friday 7 March
6.00pm in the school grounds

Don’t forget the Sunset Disco. It is a great night enjoyed by all. Bring your dancing feet and catch up with friends old and new.

This year we will have the following that you can purchase on the night:

Wood fire pizza, Drinks, Ice Blocks and Glow Sticks.

You are also most welcome to bring your own picnic food.

In order to cover the cost of the DJ, we ask that you please give a gold coin donation at the gate

In the event of wet weather the disco will need to be postponed – please pray for good weather!

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Bliss c/- Cameron 6J or ph. 0400 369 083