Dear Parents and Carer

It is hard to believe but the 2013 school year is just days from completion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in my first year as principal at St Anthony’s. It has been a year full of many highlights and achievements and from all measures I believe the school is in a great position going forward. Next year the school will have one more class and enrolments enquiries are strong. This is a credit to your support of the school and the recommendations you make about the school to others. ‘Word of Mouth’ is the best form of advertising! Throughout the year, formally and informally, you have provided me with feedback on what you value and appreciate about St Anthony’s and also ways in which you feel the school could be further improved. I appreciate your thoughts and I look forward with great anticipation to the 2014 school year.

I would like to thank our School Board Chair, Maria O’Donnell, and our Parents and Friends’ President, Chris Smith, for their efforts in supporting the governance of the school and working with members of the school community.

I thank the staff of St Anthony’s for their dedication to their roles and commitment to supporting the students and families of the school in 2013. We are privileged to have such caring and professional staff working at St Anthony’s.

**Staffing News**

In recent weeks I have written to you about staff changes including the retirement of Mrs Christine Moore, Mrs Ana Olsen taking up a position at Marist. These teachers both had farewells in recent weeks.

I mentioned earlier in the term that Mrs Chantal Warnes had been successful in obtaining the Library position at St Bede’s Red Hill. This week it is time to farewell Mrs Warnes and wish her good luck at her new school. Mrs Warnes has been our Teacher Librarian for a number of years and she has generously given her time to the students and the community in many other capacities. Mrs Warnes has had a good rapport with all students and the Library has been a place to develop a love for reading, enriching learning, exploring technology or playing a game. All the best Mrs Warnes.

Mrs Danielle Richardson has been appointed as the new Teacher Librarian. Mrs Richardson has worked in the Library two days per week this year and I know she is excited about her new full-time role.

Miss Emma Rutter is taking 12 months approved leave to travel overseas and teach in the United Kingdom. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Miss Rutter to share her teaching skills in another country and also bring back new ideas to St Anthony’s. I wish Miss Rutter all the best for her travels and experiences.
Mrs Trina Twyford has been appointed as the acting Learning Support Teacher for 2014. Mrs Twyford will not have a class teaching role but will actively be supporting students, teachers and families with teaching and learning.

Mrs Kelly Mara will take on the teaching of the funded Numeracy Intervention Program (NIP) with students in 2014. This is a part-time teaching role with small groups of students.

A number of St Anthony’s staff are at the stage of their lives when they are starting or adding to their family! We have four staff about to begin maternity leave. This is an exciting stage of their lives and I wish them well.

Mrs Janice Spackman will be on Maternity Leave for 2014. Her first baby is due in mid-February and we look forward to her exciting news in Term One.

Mrs Sarah Maldon is on Maternity Leave now (and for 2014) and her second baby is due in the New Year so we await this exciting news in the holidays.

Mrs Leah Malpas is due to have her first baby at the start of Term 2, therefore she will only work in term One. Mrs Malpas will be teaching the languages/cultural studies lessons in Term One and also have some time in other classes until her leave.

I would like to wish our OOSCA Director Mrs Nikki Napier all the best for the upcoming birth of her fourth child and her maternity leave. Nikki is due in early February and is planning to work some of the January holiday program at OOSCA.

Miss Orla Duggan has been appointed as our acting Religious Education Coordinator for 2014. Miss Duggan has been teaching at St Clare of Assisi Conder and I know she is looking forward to starting this important role with the school. Miss Duggan will be a member of our school executive staff and also have a teaching role.

I am pleased to announce that some wonderful new staff have been appointed for 2014 included teachers; Mr Wayne Young, Miss Emily O’Rourke, Miss Stephanie Edlinger, Miss Nicole Ptycia and Mrs Donna Gordon. Mrs Annette Smith will also join our front office staff in a part-time capacity. I look forward to introducing all of our new staff and staff in new capacities to you in 2014.

School Board News
I would like to thank our outgoing School Board Chair Mrs Maria O’Donnell for her tremendous contributions to the school. Maria and her family end their formal association with St Anthony’s at the end of the year as her youngest child Sophie graduates from Year 6 this year.

Following the recent period of nominations for parent positions on the School Board for 2014 I am pleased to announce that Kylie Downes and James Fletcher have been successful in gaining the vacant positions. They will begin their initial two year term early next year. I am also pleased to announce that after consultation with the School Board Chair and the Catholic Education Office Jason Egan will also continue on as member on our School Board. In line with criteria 8.1 of the School Board Constitution, Jason has been seconded to continue on the Board due to his experience and expertise in this area. I look forward to working with all members of the Board and Father Lachlan Coll again in 2014.
**Teacher Quality Award**

Last week I had the privilege to attend the 2014 Teacher Quality Institute Award Ceremony where Mr Michael Bradley received an award. Mr Bradley received an award certifying his qualification as a National Assessor Trainer for the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in Australia.

Congratulations to Mr Bradley on his award and expertise and I wish him well for his ongoing contributions in working with developing the quality of our teachers.

**Thanksgiving Mass and Morning Tea**

You are warmly invited to our end of year Thanksgiving Mass this Wednesday 18 December at 10.30am in the school hall. This mass will be followed by a parent morning tea to say thank you for helping the staff and students in 2014. Your contributions and volunteer work is greatly appreciated.

**Year 6 to Year 5 Leadership and Candle Handover Ceremony**

This Friday 20 December our Year 6 student leaders will hand over their leadership responsibility to our Year 5 students through a symbolic candle ceremony. The ceremony is at 12.30pm in the school hall. Following this ceremony I will farewell staff leaving and also students leaving St Anthony’s. You are most welcome to join us for these events.

**Holiday Security**

As we head into essentially a seven week break between school terms I encourage parents and carers to keep an eye on the school and report any damage or suspicious behaviour. Thank you to those families who have volunteered with the security over the holidays you will be emailed a roster this week. If you do notice anything untoward please contact the police 131444 or call an executive member on 0431 479 476.

**2014 School Dates**

Year 1 – 6 students return to school on Monday 3 February 2014.
Kindergarten students return to school on Tuesday 4 February 2014.
Other school dates will be uploaded to the school calendar on the website. A hard copy school calendar will be available for families on their return to school.

**School Yearbook**

This week all families will receive a copy of the St Anthony’s 2013 School Yearbook. This Yearbook is a larger edition than previous years and it is a great record of the many exciting events and programs offered in the school this year. I would like to thank all of the staff who contributed to the edition. I would also like to thank Mr Angas Quantrill who gave up a lot of his own time to coordinate the collation of the pages, edit the stories and formatted the Yearbook. I hope that the Yearbook makes good holiday reading and is a treasure to keep for years to come.

**2014 School Fees**

The School Board has set the 2014 school fees at a 3% increase on the current fees. A breakdown of these fees will be published in the newsletter during Term 1.

May the blessings of the Christmas Season be with you and your family. I wish you all a Holy, Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the start of the 2014 school year.

Greg Walker
Principal
Year 6 Graduation

Last Thursday night Year 6 celebrated their graduation mass and dinner. It was a fantastic night. Several children received awards for their contributions to St Anthony’s:

- **Prime Ministers**
  - Kyrene Carter and Zoe Evans

- **Deputy Prime Ministers**
  - Charles Dino and Lisa Noja

- **Sports Person of the Year**
  - Abigail Adera

- **Christian Leadership Award**
  - Charles Dino

- **Encouragement Award**
  - Kyle Giannis

- **Citizenship Awards**
  - Kathryn Liston
  - Natasha Achilles
  - Jeremy Benavidez
  - Katie Harkin

All children received a graduation certificate at Mass. Thank you Father Lachlan for a lovely mass. The dinner/dance was at the Hellenic club. We would like to thank Liza Marando for the amazing cake!

It was a wonderful night and one the children will remember for a long time.

Alisa Spackman and Greg Rick

Wishing you a holy and happy Christmas,

**Sarah Maldon**
Religious Education Coordinator

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**Community Prayer:**
There will be no Community Prayer this week. Thank you for joining us throughout the year!

**Date to remember:**
- Thanksgiving Mass – Wednesday December 18th at 10:30am at school.
- Candle Ceremony – Friday December 20th at 12:30pm
School Fees
If your child is leaving St Anthony’s at the end of this school year, fees will need to paid in full. If this is not possible please contact myself of Greg Walker otherwise debt collecting proceeding will be put in place. Judy Mead

Congratulations to the following students who are this week’s Students of the week:
Xavier C KP, Layla H KL, Tadhg M 1A, Thomas K 4P, Casey F 4L, Lam N 5L,

Happy Birthday to the following students:

Enjoy your day!

Clothing Pool
This Wednesday will be the last open for the clothing pool for 2013, pop in and grab all your summer essentials.

We will be open this Wednesday from 8.30am – 9am.

If you can’t make it then we will re-open on Friday 31st January from 10-11am (this is the week before school begins)
And then again on Wednesday 05 February from 3-4pm

Please note; we do not have credit card facilities so please bring along cash and we will see you on Wednesday.

On behalf of the P & F and clothing pool we would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel Paton for all her hard work and dedication to the school community. Rachel has managed the clothing pool (on and off) and sometimes single handily for the past 18 years. Her commitment and willingness to help the school raise funds is greatly appreciated. I’m sure you will all join us in saying a massive thank you.

End of Year Picnic
All families are invited to an end of year picnic at Pine Island next Wednesday 18th of December at 5pm. Please bring a picnic. Directions: drive into Pine Island – Turn left and drive as far as you can go. You will see a St Anthony’s sign. Look forward to seeing you all there.

2014 Fete – Craft Stall
Donations of the following items for the Fete Craft stall can be dropped off at the school front office any time before the end of the year. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Ribbon - any kind (big lengths are preferred)
Lace - any kind (big lengths are preferred)
Felt sheets – any colours (A4 size)
Hair ties - any colour
Material scraps (children’s patterns preferred)
Shoe lace style elastic (the round kind)
Glitter

Kerrie Fradgley, Craft stall coordinator

Canteen News

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<th>Wed 18th Dec</th>
<th>Tracy Gilchrist 9-11:30am</th>
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<td>Peta Crowder 9-11:30am</td>
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<td>Thurs 19th Dec</td>
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<td>Marie Williams 9-11am</td>
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<td>Friday 20th Dec</td>
<td>Vicky Scmidt 9am-2pm</td>
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<td>Shelley Mills 9-11:30am</td>
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<td>Rebecca Callaway 11am-2pm</td>
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<td>Jodie Nichols 9am-11:30am</td>
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<td>Tues 17th Dec</td>
<td>Kylie Shenton 9am-11:30am</td>
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Flexischools On-Line Ordering now available
Go to www.flexischools.com.au
• Click register
• Enter your email address
• You will be emailed a link to an online form
• Choose and username and password and complete the form
• Add each student and their class

Slushies will not be available in the last week of term.

As from next year lunch orders will only be available through flexischools (on-line ordering system)
**Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon**

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is the biggest kids triathlon in the world and continues to grow with over 35,000 kids in Australia and New Zealand taking part this year.

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon inspires children aged 7 -15 years to get moving in a friendly and supportive environment where the emphasis is on enjoying an active lifestyle. Kids of all abilities cross the finish line a champion and everyone who participates takes home a medal.

St Anthony’s encourages students to take part in the event at AIS on Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} February 2014. By having at least 15 of our students registered to participate, kids will not only share in the fun and excitement of the event but will give our school a chance to **WIN** a $5,000 cash prize to go towards sports equipment or one of 12 trampolines from Springfree Trampoline valued at over $1,200.

Parents can register their children online at [http://try.weetbix.com.au/](http://try.weetbix.com.au/) Entry is just $42.60 (further discounts may apply) however places are limited so get in early! Entries will close when field limits are reached.

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**Taekwondo Classes**

ITFA South Canberra will be holding Taekwondo classes in the St Anthony’s School hall for students aged 8 and over and Adults on Monday nights from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Junior Classes for students aged 5 to 8 are held on Saturday Mornings from 9-10am at the Sea Scout Hall in Greenway. Learn self defence while having fun in a family orientated environment. Great for fitness, confidence and making new friends. The first class is FREE so come along and have a go.

Please call me for further information. Mr Shane Goddard, ITFA Instructor South Canberra. www.itfa.com.au
www.facebook.com/ITFATaekwondo - 0427 619 991

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![A delightful gift they’ll enjoy for months to come!](funkylephant.com.au)
Dear Parents/Carers

A Sibling discount of 20% will apply next year to the CEO Tuition Fee for the eldest child attending an ACT system primary school where they have an elder sibling in a system secondary school.

The four CEO systemic secondary schools are St Francis Xavier, Merici, St Clare’s and St Mary MacKillop College. (St Edmunds, Marist and Daramalan are not systemic schools.)

With the introduction of a sibling discount it is important that the following information be completed showing where all school age children will be attending in 2014 and returned to the front office as soon as possible.

Failure to do so may mean families missing out on the discount.

This information will also be used to determine where the building fund contribution will be billed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
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Discounts that will apply for the CEO Tuition Fee in 2014 are:

20% for the 1st child with an elder sibling attending an Archdiocesan Secondary School
70% for the 2nd child attending an Archdiocesan Primary School
80% for the 3rd child attending an Archdiocesan Primary School
No charge for a 4th or subsequent child/children attending an Archdiocesan Primary or Secondary School

To enable us to pass on these fee discounts it is a requirement to complete the following information and return it to the school by Friday 06/12/2013.

Yours Sincerely
Greg Walker
I am organising the canteen roster for Term 1, 2014. I would love for you to come and help in the canteen, no doubt your children will get a kick out of seeing you as well.

Duties include preparing food, serving, cleaning up and that all important cuppa.

Parents/carers/grandparents and siblings are very welcome. We have a playroom for the littlies to enjoy.

You can volunteer for the whole day 9 – 2 or for half the day, all help appreciated.

If you have any queries or would like to volunteer please return the form below to school or call in and visit.

Maree 6231 4022
maree_alchin@hotmail.com

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<tr>
<th>CANTEEN ROSTER</th>
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Please indicate: Weekly / fortnightly / monthly

Name:

Phone:

Email: