Dear Parents and Carers,

Catholic Education News
Mrs Moira Najdecki, Director of Education in Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has advised the community that she will retire in January 2017. Mrs Najdecki has been a wonderful Director for Catholic Education during her 10 years in the position and we look forward to formally farewelling her later in the year. Moira has been a great supporter for Catholic schools and she has had many visits to St Anthony’s in her time and has shown great interest in our initiatives and student learning. Congratulations to Moira for the way in which she has undertaken her role as Director in such a passionate and professional manner.

We now await the outcome of the process to appoint a new Director who will lead our schools into the future. Please see Archbishop Christopher Prowse’s letter attached.

Local Government Funding for Catholic Schools
As the federal election looms in July, let’s not forget that there is also an ACT election later this year as well. Last week both major political parties made announcements in relation to the ACT Budget. As you can see from each of the Catholic Education media releases, each party is offering vastly different levels of funding and support to students in Catholic schools with learning needs and complex needs. Please read this information carefully in relation to other election promises and consider the future of your child’s education and equitable funding for students regardless of which sector they are educated.

St Anthony’s Feast Day Celebration
A big thank you to everyone for celebrating St Anthony of Padua Feast Day last Friday. We had a wonderful school Mass celebrated by Father Lachlan Coll with our students, staff and visitors present. The children were very reverent during Mass and participated well during the ceremony. The students then participated in various year level activities and mixed year level activities for the remainder of the day. There were many great games and activities for them to enjoy! Thank you to Mrs Orla Rutledge for organising the event and for the staff and parents for being involved.
Sacrament of Confirmation this Weekend
This Saturday evening 18 June is the time for Year 6 candidates, predominantly from our parish, to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I wish the candidates good luck as they are confirmed in their faith and complete the final sacrament of initiation in the Catholic Church. As young adult Christians they are confirming the baptismal promises made by their parents on their behalf. I hope that the Holy Spirit will provide guidance, courage and wisdom as they embark on adventures and challenges in their lives. The candidates will also participate in a Confirmation Retreat Day this Thursday 16 June at the parish church and also here at school. I wish them good luck as they finalise their preparations for Saturday evening.

St Anthony’s First Winter Disco for 2017
This Friday evening 17 June is the first of our winter school discos for the year. This is a combined disco which means students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are all invited to the session beginning at 5.00pm in the school hall. Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association for the organisation of the disco and for providing the volunteers that will make this evening possible. Please come along and support this disco which also supports the school. The theme for this disco is COLOUR! So let’s brighten up a cold winter’s night for the disco!

Year 5 Market Day this Friday
Year students will undertake a Market Day this Friday, 17 June. The purpose of the Market Day is for them to experience the process of planning, organising and the undertaking a business type stall. Their aim is to calculate their expenditure and income and hopefully make a profit for a donation to a charity selected by the students. The Market Day is always very popular with students and of great interest and a lot of fun for the whole school. Therefore, if you are able to provide your children with a little bit of extra money to spend on Market Day that is appreciated.

New Lining Up and Assembly Trial
From this week school staff and students will trial a new format for lining up after recess and lunch which will include lining up near each classroom rather than on the asphalt area. This change is proposed to save crucial learning time and also shorten the time required to line up as a whole school. At times you may have noticed some classes leaving early at morning assembly to begin literacy block. Morning assembly will still take place at 8.55am each morning but with shorter messages. Where possible, any extra school awards and other announcements will be moved to the Friday morning assembly. Current school day and upcoming events can also be made at recess eating time. The changes will be trialled for 3 weeks to see if they meet the desired outcomes.

2017 Kindergarten Interviews
During the past 2 weeks I have been interviewing families and their children for places in Kindergarten at St Anthony’s for 2017. It was a pleasure to meet with each family and to provide the opportunity for each child to visit and share some time with me at the school in preparation for next year.

2017 Early Learning Centre Interviews
This week I begin meeting with families and their children for places at the new St Anthony’s Early Learning Centre/Preschool. I am pleased to mention that there has been strong interest for students to enrol at the centre which includes the options of long day care arrangements for students. This process will also be rewarding as these students will be in the inaugural year for the ELC. Some students attending the ELC will be interviewed by David Thiele, Principal at St Thomas the Apostle Kambah, as they reside in the area for this school and will commence Kindergarten there in 2018.

Students Leaving St Anthony’s School
If your child is leaving St Anthony’s to attend another school in 2017 e.g. Marist College or St Edmund’s College (Year 6 excepted), please complete the form in the newsletter. This information helps us also plan for class sizes and structures for 2017 and it also helps us update or data for students transferring schools. Many thanks for your support with this process.
I wish everyone a wonderful Week 8. God Bless.

Greg Walker
Principal
St Anthony’s Feast Day - Monday 13th June, 2016

Catholic Feast days are days set aside to remember important people who lived extraordinary lives. Feast days were celebrated through the course of our faith from the time of Mary’s birth all the way through to today honouring the saints. Most saints and holy people have specially designated feast days. On those days we remember these holy men and women in a special way. Saint Anthony of Padua died on June 13th, 1231, which is his feast day.

On the Feast of this most wonderful of Saints, your priest might bless lilies for you to keep (this isn’t a universal practice). The blessing of lilies, which remind us of St. Anthony’s purity and have always been a symbol for him, stems from a miracle which took place in Revolutionary France: many priests and religious were murdered, so many churches and convents destroyed, but the faithful still showed up at a surviving church on the Feast of St. Anthony. Months later, it was discovered that lilies that had adorned the church at that feast were still fresh. Let the lilies beautify your house, or carry them with you, or press them in a book, etc. If your priest doesn’t bless lilies, you can still use them non-sacramentally to remind you of one of the greatest Saints ever.

Another custom on this day is known as "St. Anthony’s Bread"

This custom goes back to A.D. 1263 when a child drowned near the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua as it was still being built. The mother besought St. Anthony and promised that if her child were restored to life, she would give to the poor an amount of wheat equal to the weight of her child. Of course her son was saved, and her promise was kept. "St. Anthony's Bread," then, is the promise of giving alms in return for a favour asked of God through St. Anthony’s intercession (the custom also takes place throughout the year when parents give alms after placing their baby under the patronage of St. Anthony). In some places, the custom has a literal parallel in that loaves of bread might be blessed and given away at church or, generally, to the poor.

Because of St. Anthony’s history of being invoked by single women in search of a husband, today is a good day for single people who have a vocation to marriage to make a visit to a church or shrine dedicated to St. Anthony!

In Lisbon, his birthplace, it is a traditional day for getting married (women who get married on this day are called “brides of St. Anthony”). So popular are weddings on this day in Lisbon, that the city hall hosts them for free if the couple are poor. St. Anthony altars are built and decorated, parades are held, bonfires lit, grilled sardines and sangria are enjoyed.
It is also customary to decorate with pots of sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and to give some away to friends with prayers invoking our Saint (tea made from basil is good for headaches, fevers, stomach aches, and indigestion -- but it should not be drunk by pregnant women).

Finally, because he is also especially cherished by the Italian people, parishes with large Italian populations might host great festivals on this day, rather like the Italian festivals held in honour of St. Joseph on 19 March, so keep an eye out for one in your area.

Note: Because St. Anthony was buried on a **Tuesday** and many miracles accompanied his funeral, Tuesdays are special days of honouring him throughout the year. It is customary to pray a Novena to him on thirteen consecutive Tuesdays.

**Thank you to the staff, students, parents and community members for celebrating St Anthony’s Feast Day with us last Friday 10th June, 2016.**

**Confirmation**

A Prayer for Confirmation Candidates and their families.

May you have the strength
of the SPIRIT, the power of
PRAYER and the force of
FAITH. ...

To live in SERVICE, to
LOVE, with all your heart
and to let God lead you, always.

Amen.

* Please ensure all Retreat Day Permission Notes and Sponsor Notes have been returned no later than Wednesday 15th June, 2016.

**Community Prayer**

Please join us for Community Prayer straight after the bell on Thursday 16th June.

4 Padua will be leading Community Prayer in Block 1.
5 Padua will be leading Community Prayer in Block 2.

“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)

Orla Rutledge
Religious Education Coordinator
School Fees

Term 2 school fees are NOW OVERDUE!
Payments may be made by cash, cheque, credit card, BPAY, EFTPOS or Direct Debit. There is a formal process to apply for fee concessions if you are experiencing financial difficulties. Please contact me for more details. Parents who do not wish to pay the building fund due to financial difficulties need put this in writing addressed to Mr Greg Walker, this is a yearly requirement. Thank You. Judy Mead

Piano by Sharon – Student Concert

Students who are taught piano by Sharon Robinson have a concert at the school hall on the 16th of June starting at 4pm. Everyone welcome.

Happy Birthday to:

Have a wonderful day!

Student of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded this week’s Student of the Week:


Certificates will be presented during Friday morning Assembly.

OOSCA – Vacation Care

Vacation Care places are now fully booked. Confirmation notes were sent home last Friday. Parents have expressed their disappointment with missing out on places and we understand that. Vacation Care is very popular and unfortunately we have limited places. OOSCA would love to be able to accommodate all bookings however this is not possible and unfortunately people are going to be disappointed.

It is very important that parents cancel any bookings that they have confirmed if they no longer require them.

Wakakirri – Costumes needed

The Wakakirri team are looking for the following costumes – if you have any of these that we would be able to borrow – we would LOVE to hear from you.
Wizard of Oz: Dorothy, Fairy Godmother, Wicked Witch

Kangaroo and Koala onesie. They will all need to be a size appropriate for year 6 students.

James Hird Cup

After a week of torrential rain and much uncertainty, the football Gods smiled down on the Mighty ‘St Anthony’s – All Girl AFL Squad’, as they prepared to take on all-comers in the inaugural ‘Girls Only 5-6 James Hird Cup Competition’.

14 enthusiastic girls from years 4-6 combined to form a formidable combination. What they lacked in skill and experience they certainly made up for in enthusiasm.

As the girls progressed through the competition their skills certainly improved as they snapped goals and tackled with ferocity and vigour. At one stage a great tackle was made by Charlotte and 13 other girls all chorused as one ‘BALL!!!!!!!!’ It was almost enough to bring a tear to their proud coach’s eye.

A core group of supportive parents and one grandparent stayed and cheered on our girls as they came up against schools such as Radford, Trinity Christian School, Harrison, before finally taking on Bonython PS in our final. A fabulous day of fun and football was had by all.
St Anthony’s Canteen
Open Tuesday – Friday
6231 4022 - Manager: Mrs Maree Alchin

Roster of our Volunteer Helpers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helper</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 June</td>
<td>Rodielyn Brown</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peta Crowder</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 16 June</td>
<td>Carol Coulton</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17 June</td>
<td>Selina Walker</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vicky Schmidt</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jodi Stewart</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21 June</td>
<td>Lea Huber</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 June</td>
<td>Sue Duckett</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anne-Marie Cooper</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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DISCO – 17th June 2016
(Orders via flexischools close 15th June)
MORE HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Flexischools online ordering: flexischools.com.au

St Anthony’s Feast Day Celebrations

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST ANTHONY’S IN 2017
(EXCLUDING CURRENT YEAR 6 STUDENTS)

- My child/children have an enrolment application pending at another school.

- My child/children will not be returning to St Anthony’s in 2017.

Child’s Name:___________________________________________  Class:____________________________

Destination School:_________________________________________________________________________

Parents Signature:_________________________________________________________________________
Moira Najdecki to retire in January 2017

In recent days, I have received written advice from Ms Moira Najdecki that she will not be renewing her contract as Director of Catholic Education with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, beyond 19th January 2017. I have therefore accepted Moira’s resignation.

Moira has given outstanding leadership as Archdiocesan Director of Catholic Education since 2007. Prior to this, Moira worked for 30 years in Catholic secondary schools in the ACT as teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. We are grateful for her Catholic leadership among us.

There will be an opportunity towards the end of the year, where we can acknowledge her many achievements and dedicated leadership.

Meanwhile, in the months ahead, the process of seeking a suitable replacement for the Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese will commence.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Wednesday, 8th June 2016
MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACT BUDGET IGNORES MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki, will seek an urgent meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr to express her extreme dissatisfaction and that of the Catholic Education Commission with the lack of investment in Catholic Schools in the ACT Budget.

The Government’s Budget briefing yesterday included no new initiatives for Catholic Schools in the ACT. The Budget delivered $21.5 million in funding for public schools to respond to recommendations of the “Schools for All” report whilst not providing a single dollar to enable Catholic Schools to meet the same outcomes for their students. Catholic Schools and the parents of students in our schools are committed to achieving the recommendations of the Shaddick Review; the budget expresses disdain for the needs of students in Catholic Schools and their parents.

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said ‘Governments have a core responsibility to meet the needs of all students in the Territory, especially those with particular and complex needs regardless of the choices of their parents about the type of education that meet their family requirements. Since over 25 per cent of all students in the ACT attend Catholic schools, Government spending should reflect this distribution of students. In this Budget the Government is showing that education funding for ACT Catholic schools is a low priority.’

Mr Paul Compton, Chair of Catholic School Parents for the Archdiocese said, ‘Parents who have a child with a disability or complex need should not be disadvantaged because they choose a Catholic education for their child. These families must be supported.’

The latest ACARA Financial data on the MYSCHOOL website shows that for each dollar of Territory funding going to a student in an ACT government school a student in a Catholic school receives less than 17 cents. This is the lowest amount provided by any State or Territory Government in the country. The ACT Government is demonstrating a continuing lack of respect of for the choices of ACT families, ACT teachers and the requirements of over 17000 ACT students most particularly those with complex needs.

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

8 June 2016
Catholic Education Commission
Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WELCOMES FUNDING COMMITMENT BY CANBERRA LIBERALS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

The Catholic Education Commission welcomes the announcement from the Leader of the Canberra Liberals, Mr Jeremy Hanson, that if elected to form government in the ACT in October, they will provide $17.5 million to support students with special needs in nongovernment schools. This funding will assist in the implementation of recommendations from the ‘Schools For All’ report.

“This announcement provides a guaranteed funding stream for students in Catholic schools with a disability or complex need’, said Mrs Moira Najdecki Director of Catholic Education.

“The funding ensures that these students in a Catholic school will continue to be educated to an excellent standard and will be able to attend the school of their choice,” said Mrs Najdecki.

Associate Professor Patrick Mc Ardle, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission said, “The announcement by Mr Hanson is a clear commitment to serve the needs of all students in the ACT. Our interest is to secure optimal outcomes for all students irrespective of parental choice of education systems. With over 17,000 students in ACT Catholic schools, we will continue to work with the current and future ACT Governments to secure a bipartisan commitment in this area to ensure greater fairness and equity for the sector regardless of the election outcome.”

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

10 June 2016

Authorised by Associate Professor Patrick Mc Ardle, Chair,
Catholic Education Commission, Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I am organising the canteen roster for Term 3, 2016. 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

CANTEEN ROSTER

All Day 9-11.30 11.30-2.00

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Please indicate: Weekly/fortnightly/monthly

Name:

Phone:

Email: