Term 3 Week 6 – 18th August 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Friday, our church celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. This feast is the most important Marian feast day as it reminds us of her death and bodily assumption into heaven. It signifies the passing of Mary from her existence on earth to everlasting life with God. It is believed to have been set as a feast day in the early 6th century and is currently a day of Holy Obligation where we celebrate the day by attending Mass.

We remember Mary’s faith in God and her total commitment to raising her son, Jesus, and supporting him through many difficult and trying times.

Let us pray that we follow Mary’s example of faith and service in our lives as we strive to be more like Jesus in our actions and deeds.

Yours in education,

Paul Devlin
Principal

Staff Development Day - Monday 08 09 14
Parents are reminded of the Staff Development Day that has been organised later this term on Monday September 8. During this day, the teachers will meet to discuss the literacy and numeracy focuses of the school and continue to plan for future development.

Children do not attend school on Staff Development Days.

CATHOLIC OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE
As families are aware, Monday 8 September 2014 is a Pupil Free Day at Mary Immaculate Primary School. Catholic Out of School Hours Care at Mary Immaculate is able to offer limited places for care on this day. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to families already enrolled at the service. Flat Fee: $50.00 per child for the day, prior to Child Care Benefit deductions.

For further enquiries or to collect a form for a position, please contact the COSHC Supervisor on 0417 203 333 or COSHCMaryImmaculate@parra.catholic.edu.au
SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS PROGRAM P.A.R.T.Y
Praying Accepting Reaching
Teaching Youth

On Friday the 8th August 2014, Mary Immaculate Youth Ministry (MIYM) launched its Youth and Young Adults program P.A.R.T.Y. Over Fifty participants from the schools located within our parish attended the program.

The PARTY program caters for youth and young adults from Year 4-12 giving participants an opportunity to learn, enhance and develop their relationship with our Lord in a safe environment. The program runs every second Friday of each month, commencing at 7pm with a Youth Mass and then proceeds with a number of social and spiritual activities before concluding at 10pm.

The P.A.R.T.Y program is put together in conjunction with the guidance of our parish priest Fr. Ruben, assistant priest Fr. Regie and education / formation coordinator Sr. Kate.

The theme of this month’s program was “Do Not be afraid…. It is I” based on the nineteenth Sunday gospel from Matthew 14:22-33. Students were led through the gospel break down and completed activities to better understand the gospel.

Our Next P.A.R.T.Y program will be on the 12th September. Starting at 7.00pm and finishing 10:00pm at Mary Immaculate Church Quakers Hill
Check it out! Bring A Friend! Plus a gold coin donation.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
This week many of our Year 5 students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament is the final sacrament of initiation and recalls the promises made at on our behalf at Baptism. As a community, we offer our prayerful support to these candidates as they receive the Holy Spirit in this special way, as maturing members of our Catholic Church. They will be acknowledged at all parish Masses this weekend, when they are presented with their certificates.

Junior Altar Servers
Young parishioners who have made their First Communion are invited to assist at weekend Masses as junior altar servers. There will be three training sessions:
  Saturdays, 3.30 - 4.30pm - Mary Immaculate Church
  30th August, 6th & 13th September
Committed and interested young parishioners wishing to become involved should express their interest, via their parents, either to Mr Carroll via the school or directly to the parish office on 9626 3326 or parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au
Book Week is Here!!

Thank you to staff and particularly our Year 6 students and teachers who have put in a lot of work in preparation for Bookweek. This week the following activities have been planned:

**Tuesday:** Moya Simons - the author of many children's books will be visiting and talking with our children.

**Wednesday:** Our teachers will be performing a Reader's Theatre for our children. Following this, book prizes will be presented for children in each grade who created the 'best' book jackets illustrating some of the specified Bookweek books.

**Thursday:** Our Book Parade will take place at 9am at the front concrete/assembly area. If the weather is inclement we will utilise the MPA and Kathleen Allabynre Space inside. Later that day our Year 6 students will get to lead a special 'reading to children' from other grades across the school.

Each grade has created an artistic response to one of the Bookweek books. They are displayed outside classrooms for all to view. Mrs Belcastro, Mrs Desira and Mrs Matulewicz have also worked hard to create displays for the library and other areas of our school.

Thank you to parents for preparing costumes for your children. Please refer to last week's Bookweek flyer about cost friendly ideas for Storybook character costumes. We look forward to seeing you at Thursday's Book Parade.

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**Working Bee**

Our next P&F Working Bee is this Saturday 23rd August 8am-12pm.

Thank you to all families who have already informed us that they are able to come along and help.

If you haven’t let us know but are able to help out could you please either ring the school or send an email to mimmac@parra.catholic.edu.au. If you decide on the day that you would like to come along and help out, that’s fine as well. Many hands make light work.

Thank you to all our families who continue to help out.

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**Parish Raffle**

All families received a letter explaining the Parish raffle. Any assistance in buying or selling the tickets would be greatly appreciated by the parish. Tickets are being sold from the school office or if you wish you may pick up a book of tickets to sell on behalf of the parish. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 28th September. Can we please request all books to be returned by Friday 12th September, sold or unsold. Thank you.
**Peer Support**

This week’s Peer Support session focuses on positive self talk. Children need to practice talking positively to themselves. Your child will also learn to persevere, which will encourage them to keep trying in challenging situations. During the week encourage your child to use positive self talk.

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**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

The Premier’s Reading Challenge will end on Friday, 22nd of August for students who were taking part in the 2014 challenge. Parents of Primary school children will need to have logged on and entered the children’s book list before this date. Most of the Infant classes have read books from the list in class time over the last few terms and these will be uploaded for them at school.

If you have any difficulty doing this, or have misplaced your child’s login information please see Mrs Vogt who will be able to assist you with this.

Thank you for your enthusiasm for reading and encouraging your child’s interest in books.

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**2014 SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**

Our annual school ‘Spelling Bee Championships’ is nearing its exciting conclusion. The top spellers from each grade will be determined by the end of this week and will compete in Week 7 in their grade ‘Spelling Bee Championship Final’ to be held in the MPA or KAS. The Finals schedule is:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th Aug</td>
<td>2:20pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th Aug</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:20pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th Aug</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:20pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th Aug</td>
<td>2:20pm</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Parents are welcome to attend.

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**Parents and Friends Association**

**Father’s Day Breakfast - Friday 5th September**

Open Classroom and Liturgy

For more details of upcoming events, please refer to P&F Newsletter, available from the school office.
**Canteen News**

Reminder: The canteen is open for over the counter snack and drink sales Monday and Tuesday. (No lunches are available)

**Term 3 Week 6**
- **Wednesday 20th August** Tania Peiris
- **Thursday 21st August** Rozanne Perera, jenni Walsh
- **Friday 22nd August** Leanne Corapi, Sam Zivic, Connie Smith

**Term 3 Week 7**
- **Wednesday 27th August** Sulee Somyaying, Cassandra Williams
- **Thursday 28th August** Philipa holtsbaum, Lisa Sartori
- **Friday 29th August** Melissa Wilding, Renee Cefai, Deanne Holmes

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**Car Park**

Our parish / school car park is a very busy place especially in the morning and afternoon. Co-operation is sought from all car park users to drive slowly through this area to help ensure the safety of children and adults alike. Respect for the safety of others is required by all.

**Kiss and Drop Guidelines**

The car park area immediately outside the school office (near the Grotto) is a Kiss and Drop area. This Kiss and Drop operates from 8.25am till 8.55am every school morning. The purpose of the Kiss and Drop is to provide an efficient way of dropping your children at school in a safe environment where they can easily access the playground. Parents are asked to assist in the functioning of the Kiss and Drop by doing two things:
- Do not park in the Kiss and Drop area between 8.25 and 8.55am
- Do not get out of your car to say goodbye to your children - do this while they are in the car

Ideally, your car should pull up in the Kiss and Drop and your children will get out of the left side of your car with their bag and they head off to school. (Parents do not get out of their car). If we all follow these guidelines we all help to move our children into school safely and efficiently without causing undue lengthy queues of cars waiting to drop off their children.

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**Uniform Price Rise**

Since the commencement of the new school uniform in 2011, we have not had any price rises. The school has attempted to maintain an affordable price level for families especially as the new uniform was introduced. It is necessary though, to now increase prices on a limited number of uniform items. Prices will increase on: the girls winter blouse, boys winter trousers and shirt, boys summer shirt and shorts and sports polo top.

All price rises have been kept to a minimum in the knowledge that family budgets are under constant pressure. These price rises will take effect on 1 September and a copy of the new price list has been sent home today. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the existing prices before the price rise on 1 September 2014.

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**School Fees**

School fees statements for Term 3 have been sent to all families and are due by tomorrow, Tuesday 19 August, 2014.

All school fees for 2014 are to be finalised by this date, (unless you are on a payment plan). Payment can be made by Bpay, cheque, or by credit card (Visa or Mastercard). If you have any queries or did not receive a statement, please contact the School Office on 9626.3999 or by email to mimmac@parra.catholic.edu.au.

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**RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the name of the process undertaken by non-Catholic adults who wish to convert to Catholicism. It is a journey rich in small group interaction, collective learning and increasing awareness.

The RCIA team in Mary Immaculate Parish invites anyone who is thinking about, or has decided, to become a Catholic, to an ENQUIRY EVENING on Tuesday August 26 - 7.30pm in the parish meeting room. You may know someone who may be interested in this – a friend, a family member, a neighbour. More information can be found by visiting the Parish office.

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**Happy Birthday**

Mary Immaculate who celebrated their birthday between 5th and 18th August

Father's Day Breakfast  
Friday 5th September

Celebrate Father's Day with a BBQ Breakfast and Raffle  
Breakfast will be served from 8:00am (Gold Coin donation).  
Raffle tickets will be sold at $2.00 each and drawn at the breakfast.

Enjoy Open Classrooms from 8:30am and Liturgy at 9:30am.  
All families are invited to attend and enjoy the morning!

Father's Day Stall will be held after Liturgy with gift selections at $5.00 each.

For catering purposes, please indicate if you will be attending by returning the completed slip below to the office by 29/08/14

Father's Day Breakfast  RSVP 29/08/14
We will be attending!

Family Name: ___________________________ Eldest child's class _________

Number of adults: _______ Number of children: _______

If you can volunteer on the day please add your details below
Name: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________

Hosted by MIPS P&F Association