Dear Parents
We welcome back Sr. Lucy and Miss Marjorie Buedo from their time in the Philippines and World Youth Day in Poland. It will be great to hear about their journey and experiences.

Tomorrow is the last day of the Infants Swimming Program. The children have been outstanding with getting ready quickly then participating with enthusiasm in their lessons. It is vital that all children in Australia have confidence in swimming and being Water Safe. I encourage you to keep up the swimming and develop the skills you have learnt over the warmer months. Thank you to the wonderful Infants teachers and Teacher Aides and especially Mrs Jenny Chatten who organised the program. A big thank you to the parents for your great support of this very important program. Please give the school any feed back about the program.

Yours sincerely
Philip Mahony

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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AN IMPORANT MEDICAL NOTICE
A child in Kindergarten has been diagnosed with G6PD deficiency. It is a condition concerning an enzyme (chemical) found in the red blood cells. Most people with G6PD deficiency have a completely normal life as long as they around certain foods and drugs. There are 2 main things the child can not have contact with; Moth Balls and Fava Beans (broad beans). To assist with this child’s health at school please do not wear any clothing which has been in contact with Moth Balls and do not send any beans in your child’s lunch.

WEEKLY VALUE
Seeing a need and doing something about it.
Hello from Karaków, Poland. Our pilgrimage has brought us to our final destination. Last Thursday, we finished our mission work in our school in the Philippines. It was rewarding to see the finality of our work and spend some more time with the students before we left. We thought things couldn't get any better after the welcome they gave us, but we were wrong! The closing ceremony saw performances galore. Each class performed a dance to a different song. The teachers even joined in and sang and danced us farewell. It was such an honour to spend that time making new friends with the Antequeara community.

On our final night in the Philippines, we were hosted by the town mayor for a farewell feast and celebration of culture. Prior to dinner, we were lucky enough to celebrate mass in St Augustines Cathedral. We were blessed to have the choir of Holy Name University share their vocal talents in the mass. We can safely say we have never been to mass with voices like that before.

Before we knew it, Friday had arrived which meant the end of the first part of our pilgrimage. Ahead of us was a 36 hour trip that included a total of 4 flights and a 7 hour bus trip. We nearly missed two of our flights, but luckily God was there to make sure we arrived on time. The highlight was spending a brief amount of time in Zurich, Switzerland.

We arrived in Warsaw, Poland high in spirits and anticipation of the week ahead. On Sunday, we travelled in our diocesan group to Auschwitz. Here we heard more about the story of Saint Maxilian Kolbe's courageous life giving gesture, as well as other stories. It was a very sombre and surreal experience. This excursion gave us a real opportunity to reflect on the need to look back on such a horrible event in our history. Later that afternoon, we were fortunate enough to celebrate mass at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, one of Poland's most famous shrines. It was the scene of many of Pope John Paul II's pilgrimages as a child and young adult. It was a wonderful way to end the day and start our week.

Miss Buedo and Sister Lucy
We were privileged to participate in the journey of the Mercy Cross and Relics this Tuesday. Students and Parents had an opportunity to pause and think about what “The Year of Mercy” is all about by thinking of the life of Jesus, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Mother Teresa. The word of God through the Beatitudes provided everyone with goals to aspire towards and listening to the testimonials of Parish Priests from our diocese also portrayed the many ways mercy shown. “We are called to show mercy because mercy has first has been shown to us.”

There is a regional celebration of the Journey of the Mercy Cross and Relics at St Margaret Mary’s which combines the Parishes of Guildford, Granville, East Granville and Harris Park on the 13 & 14th August. Check Parish Bulletin for details. All Parishioners are invited to attend.

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on the 15th of August. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Assumption is important to many Catholics as the Virgin Mary's heavenly birthday (the day that Mary was received into Heaven). Her acceptance into the glory of Heaven is seen as the symbol of the promise made by Jesus to all enduring Christians that they too will be received into paradise.

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**MASSES**

Parents and Friends are welcome to attend Mass with the Parish and school in term 3:

**Week 4**

Monday 15th August
9am Whole School Mass
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)

**Week 5**

Wednesday 24th August
9am Year 1 Mass
St Bartholomew

**FEAST DAYS**

15th August - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)
16th August - St Stephen of Hungry
19th August - St John Eudes
20th August - St Bernard
22nd August - The Queenship of Mary
23rd August - St Rose of Lima
24th August - St Bartholomew
25th August - St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Please keep in your prayers the children who will be receiving the body and blood of Jesus first time this weekend.

“*The Eucharist does not end with the partaking of the bread and blood of the Lord. It leads us to solidarity with others. The communion with the Lord is necessarily a communion with our fellow brothers and sisters. And therefore the one who is fed and nourished by the very body and blood of Christ cannot remain unaffected when he sees his brothers suffering want and hunger. Those nourished by the Eucharist are called to bring the joy of the gospel to those who have not received it. Strengthened by the living Bread, we are called to bring hope to those who live in darkness and in despair.*” — Pope Francis.

Yours in Christ
Wardeh Khoury
Canberra started bright and early, well not so bright more like pitch black. At 6am we arrived at school and after our names were marked off, we loaded our luggage onto the bus. The 3-4 hour drive was filled with laughter, games, fun and a few selfies and a lot of are we there yet. After everyone had had enough of the coach, we finally arrived in Canberra.

On the first day the groups split up and we both visited the Electoral Education Centre and the National Art Gallery of Australia. We had a quick break and met up with the other group when we arrived at New Parliament House, that you all may have heard of, is where Malcolm Turnbull our Prime Minister does all his work and makes laws.

Then, our grade were together in our groups and we went into the room of the House of Representatives. Our tour guide talked to us about historical moments in the room and the significant things around the room. Then we went to the Senate and also talked about other historical moments in the Senate. After that, we went into a replica of the house of Representatives, which looked exactly like the real room. We all participated in a roll play and I was privileged to be The Speaker. The Speaker's role is to address the room, maintain order when people talk and to announce the results of the law. A few other year 6 students joined in the play and so did Miss Issa. Justin was Miss Issa’s boss and she was unable to speak without his permission, everyone loved that!

On the way to the Sundown Motel we all found out who we were going to be sharing our rooms with, we were all very excited! When we arrived, we all unpacked, had our showers and went to dinner. After dinner we went back to our cabins and were given the decision to go to the motel hall and watch a movie or to stay in our rooms. It was a lot of fun being with our friends in cabins and we made great memories. It was lights out at 10:30 and we had to go to bed, although most of us laid awake for hours after that.

The next morning, we were woken up at 6am to get ready for breakfast. It was -0.7 degrees and we were all freezing! We walked to the bistro and ate our breakfast, although, some of us came late because it was so warm in our rooms, so we didn't have a lot of time to eat. After breakfast we went back to our cabins to pack everything in our luggage and to clean our rooms. We loaded our luggage and went back onto the bus. We were surprised when the driver took us up Mount Elmsley and we got to take heaps of photos. It was a beautiful view. We all got back onto the bus to defrost on our way to Questacon. Questacon was a lot of fun especially this slide called ‘vertical drop’. Many teachers and students went on the free fall but it was really scary!

After Questacon, we had recess and went to the War Memorial. It was a place of remembrance and a time to reflect on all the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. We had a tour around the War Memorial and talked about stories of people who had gone to war and never returned. Then we all left and went to have lunch at a park and we ate pizza YAY! But sadly after it was time to go home. Goodbye Canberra. The bus ride home was just as enjoyable as the bus ride there, but this time there was a lot of people who had fallen asleep! Canberra was one of the best experiences of Year 6 and we will all never forget the amazing journey!

Monique Bechara

The Australian government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government has contributed funding towards each student under the Parliament Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.
BOOK WEEK CELEBRATIONS
A note was distributed to the eldest child in each family this week, outlining the important dates for our Book Week celebrations. Competitions, Book Character Parade, Book Fair, voting and Primary Classes Book Trivia dates were included in this sheet. Please take a note of all the information so your child does not miss out on the great things that are happening in the Library.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE ENDS FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST. (Next Week)
Make sure that the books are recorded onto each child’s reading log on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website before this date. There will be no late entries and all logins are closed
ZONE ATHLETICS

On Tuesday 9th August, St Patrick’s sent 36 students to participate in the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown International Sports Ground. After an Early start at 7:30am the team was full of excitement and energy for a day of running and throwing.

Congratulations to all students that represented St Patrick’s on the day in each event. It is a wonderful achievement to make it to the next level and represent your school at a Zone level.

The following students made it to the Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Latu Fainu (Shot Put), Ashlee Samaan (100m), Talia Virzi (100m, 200m), Jae Min Williams (100m) and the senior girls relay, Christen Baltasar, Natalie Awad, Anastasia Chalfe and Talia Virzi. They now compete on the 26th August at Blacktown International Sports Park, Rooty Hill. These students need to bring their notes in for Mr Mahony to sign and it will be returned to take on the day for the Team Manager. Transportation is the parent’s responsibility on the day. Please see Mrs Chatten if you need a copy of the note.