Dear Parents

As Lent progresses we go into the wilderness with Jesus. The autumn of his ministry on earth. It’s a little like that as the school year progresses. We start the year with a “bang” and with enthusiasm and quietly get a little weary as the term progresses. We acknowledge that we all need spiritual and physical renewal as Jesus acknowledged when he went into the desert. Next week is Wellbeing week at school. This means no homework which hopefully will give families more time to connect and refresh themselves. Spiritual refreshment can be gained through prayer, through mass attendance, through reading and connecting with family, friends and neighbours.

Connecting with our neighbours is one of the themes of Hugh McKay’s new book, The Art of Belonging. Hugh spoke at school on Wednesday evening to a large audience about his latest work. Through the work of the parish, book clubs have been formed and members will read and discuss the book over the next few weeks until Hugh returns on the 20th May.

Thank you to all who worked to put on an amazing Welcome Event last Saturday evening. It was a huge effort by many talented people. A very big thank you to Bridget and Margot for their gracious co-ordination of the event. Their thank you note appears later in the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

There will be a Parent Engagement Session on NAPLAN at 6.30pm on Tuesday the 10th of March in the library.

Prouille Open Morning will be held on 19th March 9.00am to 10.45am for new families wanting to attend our school. Please advise friends and family of this date if they are interested. More information is available on the website.

The Cross Country will be held on the 24th March. Due to the fact that there are no council ovals available we will hold the Cross Country event at St Leos College. This will be an application event only. Only children who are capable of running the distances and are in the age categories that would qualify them for the Cluster Cross Country on should apply. Notes for this event will be available next week.

The first instalment of school fees was due last week. Thank you to those who have attended to this matter promptly. We have written a six figure cheque to the Catholic Schools Office as our first instalment in anticipation of your first payment and so would appreciate fees in as soon as possible. Some families may not have received their statement via email as there has been a glitch in the system & they would have received a reminder via message folders. If you need your statement printed or you have difficulty meeting your payments please contact Mrs White in the office.

With the NSW election coming up funding for Catholic schools is always on the agenda. I have included information from some of the bodies lobbying for funding for Catholic schooling.

Regards

Julie Caldwell
UPCOMING DIARY DATES

07 Mar  Sacrament of Reconciliation Preparation Groups at Prouille (3.45pm) followed by Mass (5pm)
08-14 Mar  Catholic Schools Week/Wellbeing Week
08 Mar  Kindy & Year 6 Family Mass at Holy Name Church (9.15am)
10 Mar  Parent Engagement Session for NAPLAN in Library (6.30pm)
10 Mar  Broken Bay Swimming at Mingara (6.30 pm)
10 Mar  Year 4 Excursion – The Rocks
11 Mar  Yrs 5 & 6 Reconciliation (2pm)
12 Mar  Ripples (9.15-10.30am)
13 Mar  Year 4 Social Event
13 Mar  Year 3 Social Event
14 Mar  Sacrament of Reconciliation Preparation Groups at Prouille (3.45pm) followed by Mass (5pm)

Link to School Calendar on school website for further information and dates

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Project Compassion
The theme for Project Compassion 2015 is “Food for Life”.
Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how to afford or access their next meal. Here at Prouille we are supporting Caritas Australia by placing donations into class “Project Compassion Boxes”. Each week the Mission Leaders Friday’s assembly are presenting a small session on how this money is used here in Australia and throughout the world.
Thank you for your generous support.

Invitation to Kindergarten and Year 6 Family Mass – Sunday 8th March

On Sunday 8th March we have our first Family Mass for 2015. Year 6 and Kindergarten families are invited to attend the 9.15a.m. Mass at Holy Name Parish. We would like to invite all our Prouille families to join us on Sunday. We are asking anyone attending on Sunday to please bring a plate to share for morning tea following the Mass.

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

WELLBEING WEEK: Next week sees the commencement of our Wellbeing Week focus. It is incredible to realise that we are already in Week 7 of Term 1! Typically, this week includes a Wellbeing focus, as it is often a time when such factors like fatigue, exhaustion and stress start to creep in and overwhelm our state of mind.
Improving Wellbeing has a link, not only to feeling better, but also to functioning better. It helps with physical health, performance in work and study, and quality of life. Here at Prouille, we are mindfully providing opportunities throughout next week for our staff and students to reflect, rejuvenate and refocus on what is important within their lives and what makes each of them so special.

Each day, we have assigned an adjective to the day that helps to highlight the approach and focus that can be undertaken in class and within the school. For next week, these days will be known as:

- Mindfulness Monday
- Wonderful Wednesday
- Trumpeting Tuesday
- Thankful Thursday
- Fun Friday

We would encourage you to also consider ways that you can incorporate the above themes into your families this week, and to also find time to put the ‘busy-ness’ aside and find ways to celebrate all that life has to offer, and all that we are grateful for.

“Be happy in the moment, that’s enough.
Each moment is all we need, not more.”  Mother Teresa.

Vanessa Dillon
**Sacramental Program: Reconciliation First Week**
Lessons 3.45pm at Prouille School, followed by 5pm Mass at Holy Name Church. Passports available at the back of the Church for stamping.

**Family Mass:**
Sunday 8th March 9.15am
Kindergarten and Year 6 students to arrive by 9am.
Morning Tea plate: Kindy and Year 6 to bring a plate to share please.
Kindy and Year 6 parents to help with morning tea set up and clearing.
All children and families welcome at each Family Mass.
**Holy Name Passports** will be available at the back of the Church for stamping.
**Music Practice: 8.30am before the Family Mass for singers.** If you wish to sing or play music at future Masses, please contact Natalie Oong via Sally Oong.

**Upcoming Events**
**International Food Fair on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th from 10.30am at Holy Name Church. This is a Community-building event.**
All Prouille families and friends are invited to attend and also to contribute to a food stall, if possible.
The following stalls are proposed: Italian, Malaysian, Sri Lankan, Vegetarian, Greek, Noodles, BBQ, Cakes, among others.

For more details, please contact Sally Oong, Prouille P&F Parish Liaison/Sacramental Co-ordinator on 0433 817 114 or sacrament@holynamewahroonga.com.au (email only available during the week) or oongs@optusnet.com.au on weekends. Link to Holy Name Parish Bulletin

**OFFICE NEWS**
**Request to Administer Medication at School**
Reminder to parents to please return completed forms to the school office for children requiring prescription and/or over the counter medication to be administered at school.  **Link to form**

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING**
During Weeks 6 and 7 our PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) focus at school (and home) is: At Prouille we are learners when we always try our best. (Individuality)
Our sincere thanks to everyone who came along in support of the annual Prouille Welcome Event, last Saturday night. We were so delighted with the number of guests, not to mention the gusto with which you enjoyed the night.

We were merely two cogs in a very large wheel - and it wouldn't have turned so smoothly, had it not been for our fabulous team of helpers who turned up to our weekly meetings and gave their all. Namely (and in alphabetical order): Patricia Alvarez, Tess Denham-Fabry, Lorraine Fox, Robyn Gallagher, Skye Harper, Cathy Littleton, Rebecca Luca, Michelle McGrath and Fiona Wright.

Further thanks go to - in no particular order:

- Skye Harper - for the design of the beautiful, sparkly invitation, which really set the tone for the evening.
- Paul Littleton - for the wonderfully warm and engaging role you played as our MC on the night.
- The Jazz Band - sincere thanks to the following musicians who entertained us so wonderfully - Amanda O'Brien, Angus Bullough, Jason Oong, Stephen Johnston, Christian Sharpe, Elizabeth Moor, Frank Rugers, Emma Green, Dominic Meagher, Anthony Hajje and Andrea Hajje.
- Fr David Ranson and Mrs Julie Caldwell - for pulling out the winning raffle prize tickets and making our winners so happy. Also, for your lovely speeches, not to mention the beautiful blessing you gave Julie, Fr. David.
- To all of our wonderful bakers - thank you for your magnificent contributions to the groaning dessert table, it was a sight to behold!
- Robyn Gallagher - for providing the great music in between band sets on the night and managing the iPads it was played through.
- Gillian Gallagher - for also providing some of the great music played in between band sets on the night.
- Jamie Hill and Michelle McGrath - for being our wonderful co-official photographers.
- Michelle McGrath - for doing such a brilliant job of organising the decorating. The Meeting Place really looked beautiful.
- Sam Wright, Louise Fraser, Jenny Pepper, Cathy Littleton, Lorraine & Brian Fox, Fiona Wright, Skye Harper and Patricia Alvarez (who couldn't make it on the night) - for the wonderful job of helping us set-up. There is no way the space would have looked as beautiful as it did, had it not been for all of you.
- Michelle Whelan - for the wonderful job you did, decorating the dessert table. It looked stunning.
- Brooke Finucane - for the wonderful job you did of securing so many raffle prizes - and the way you labelled them and set-up the raffle prize table on the day. It looked fantastic.
- Rebecca Luca - for managing the baking and the wonderful job you also did, helping to set-up the raffle prize table, collecting and wrapping prizes etc etc.
- Fiona and Sean Wright - for buying the soft drink and picking up the alcohol (and returning any leftovers) - this was a big job and needed both of their cars!
- Sally Oong - for initially liaising with the Pennant Hills Hotel and Hollywood for Hire on our behalf, advising us on the standard float and other general advice.
- Karen Vaughn, Cathy Littleton, Cassandra and Scott Brading - for helping us move the black tub chairs into the hall on Friday afternoon.
- Carol White - for being so kind to us given how many times we interrupted your work throughout the course of most days in the lead-up to the event (you are always so warm and gracious), the picking of your brain, helping us with the name of a caterer - everything, really!
- Lisa Emerton - for the administrative assistance you provided so graciously and at a moment's notice.
- Kristen Severino and Skye Harper - for the beautiful name tags. They were just lovely and looked much more special than a sticky label ;-).
- Jenny Pepper and Kristen Severino - for the wonderful job you did, greeting people on the welcome table.
- Lorraine Fox, Louise Fraser, Katharina Nicholson, Wendy Maccioni, Gabrielle & Mike Drake and Mary & Anthony Weaver - for the wonderful job you did selling raffle tickets. Your efforts raised $1,600 - wow!
- Alan McGibbon, Greg Luca, Sam Wright, Lorraine & Brian Fox, Irene & Michael Dean-Jones, Matt Harper, Rebecca Luca, Julie Caldwell, Michelle McGrath, Fiona Wright, Wendy Maccioni, Jenny Pepper, Robyn Gallagher - we hope we have remembered all of the wonderful people who helped us clean-up on either/or both Saturday night/Sunday morning. Huge job and greatly appreciated :-).

Sincere thanks also go to our wonderful event providers - they delivered above and beyond and we strongly encourage you to support them when you can (even with Facebook 'likes'). Again, these are in no particular order:

- Hollywood for Hire - Irene & Michael Dean-Jones. Our sincere thanks for making the event look so wonderful with the items you provided on the night, gratis. The sofas, illuminated coffee tables, cocktail tables, candles, lighting for the band etc looked just wonderful. Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the school and for being so gracious about it.
- Pennant Hills Hotel - Alyssa & Roman Nalywajko. Our sincere thanks for providing us with all the alcohol, ice, tubs and glasses at a very decent price. Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the school and good luck for the impending arrival of baby number 3 :-).
- Gourmet Table Catering - thank you to lovely Helen and her waitstaff for the delicious food you served and at such a reasonable cost per head.
- Clifford Wallace Agency - thank you to our terrific waitstaff, Szilvia Major and Robert Page for looking after our guests so well, by keeping them 'watered' and keeping on top of the busy demand for clean glasses!
- Wahroonga Flower Shoppe - for the great pricing of our 'thank you/welcome' flowers.

Sincere thanks also go to our wonderful raffle prize donators - their generosity was incredible, so we strongly encourage you to support them when you can (even with Facebook 'likes'). Again, these are in no particular order:
- Polkadot Spot, Wahroonga - Jo Jenkins
- Allen and Sheppard Real Estate, Thornleigh - Stephanie and James Sheppard
- Andy Howden of McConnell Bourne Real Estate, Wahroonga
- Tammie Dooling - If you would like some truly beautiful gicleé prints designed for your children's bedrooms, home or for gifts, then please get in touch with Tammie as she is so talented!
- Alto Audi Artarmon - George Severino
- The Beauty Chef - www.thebeautychef.com
- Australian Ritual - www.australianritual.com
- Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre
- Asquith Leagues Club, Waitara
- EHB Hair, St Ives
- Lorena Beauty and Nails, St Ives
- BAS Health and Fitness
- Sony Australia
- Novella Fine Books, Wahroonga
- Captain Cook Cruises
- Hornsby Odeon Cinema
- Taronga Zoo, Mosman
- Featherdale Wildlife Park
- Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo
- Penrith White Water Rafting

Last but not least - warm congratulations to our lucky raffle prize winners! - They appear here in the order in which they were drawn:


As novices to our role, and throughout the organising of the welcome event, we have been blown away by the community spirit of both our wonderful school and parish and feel very proud to be a part of both.

Phew, are you still with us?! If you are, many thanks for taking the time to read our lengthy note and here's to a positive and fabulous 2015 at Prouille.

Warm wishes,

Brigid Wright and Margot McGibbon

K-2 Stage Co-Ordinators

SCHOOL BANKING

Wednesday is School Banking Day!

A reminder to all our regular school bankers that once you have individually collected 10 tokens please complete a Rewards Card and request one of the wonderful rewards on offer this term. Current rewards available include:

- Blue Wallet
- ET DVD
- Pencil/Handball
- ScentsedPencils (2014)
- Samsung Money Box (2013)
- Dollarmites Beach Ball
- Headphones (2013)
- Projection Cup (2014)
- Sea Streamers (2014)
- Skate Bag (2014)
- Dollarmites Snap Band Ruler
- Pat Money Box (2013)
- CPU Money Box (2013)
- Shark Key Ring (2014)

Remember to return your 10 tokens along with your request card.

Save and win a trip to Disneyland!

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition draw to win a family trip to California's Disneyland. The prize includes return airfares, five night's accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two children plus AUD$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Happy Banking,

Cathy Littleton
School Banking Co-ordinator
**MUSIC NEWS**

**LUNCHTIME RECITAL**  Our first Lunchtime recital of the year revealed some diligent students, who already had an item prepared for performance – well done to Hugo W, Olivia S, Isabella L, Greta A, Jaron P, Matthew F, Ines T.P, Tadhg M, Candela N, Isabelle A. All these great pianists did a wonderful job entertaining their friends and some parents. Well done!

We look forward to our next Recital on Thursday 2nd April – do come along and support our musicians.

Thanks very much
Janet

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**St Dominic’s Holy Name Playgroup**

Holy Name runs a playgroup Monday mornings for children from birth to school age and their parents/carers. Come along for a casual catch up with other adults while the children play with the extensive and ever changing toy collection in our beautiful surrounds.

This year’s Prouille Kindergarten group had a few friendships that were formed in the playgroup which has made it easier for kids and their parents to settle into school. We also have families from other areas of the community, everyone is welcome, there is always an interesting and diverse mix of people and we’d love to see you.

**Mondays** from 9am to 11am

We meet in the sunroom at Holy Name Church.

**Monte Senior Leaders invitation to Open Day**

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U2QC3w1ud0#t=25](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U2QC3w1ud0#t=25)
DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic school parents in NSW paid $943 million in school fees in 2012.
You also contributed $161.5 million in school building levies and other capital funding that year.
That’s more than $1.1 billion invested by Catholic school parents in our state’s education system in just one year!
Despite this extraordinary support, Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs each year.
This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

PLEASE UPDATE MY EMAIL RECORDS AS BELOW:-

NAME.................................................................

EMAIL ADDRESS ..................................................

(Please return to office for updating)