FUNDING CUTS WITHOUT CONSULTATION IS POOR POLICY

This week I depart from the usual format of my Principal's Message to focus on the unprecedented withdrawal of significant State Government funding to Catholic schools over the next four years. Catholic schools have a long history and rich tradition of providing high quality education for the children in their care. While all in Catholic education have a strong commitment to keep this a reality into the future, it is important for our State Government to invest more rather than less in education across the board so that all our young people are to have the best educational opportunity. Thank you to all those, who have communicated their concern about this matter to our local members and to Mr O’Farrell and to Mr Piccoli. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to do so when you can. Please find below some additional information for your reference.

Catholic schools and funding – the facts

1. Choice of schooling is a fundamental right for parents in a democratic and pluralistic society
   Catholic schools in western Sydney educate over 46,000 students from 30,000 families, which represents over a quarter of all school aged children in this region.

2. Catholic schools provide value for tax payer’s dollar
   This is evidenced by the outstanding results achieved by our students and our successful delivery of the Building the Education Revolution program.

3. Catholic Schools operate with 10% less net recurrent income per student than government schools creating a resources gap
   The ACARA data shows that even after parent contributions are taken into account, government schools operate at around $11,523 per student and Catholic schools operate with around $10,008 per student.

4. Recurrent and capital funding for Catholic schools needs to be maintained in real terms and indexed to the equivalent costs of educating students in government schools
   A funding freeze for Catholic schools would be unsustainable and would lead to loss of service and teaching positions. Catholic schools are one of the largest employers in western Sydney with over 5,000 employed.

5. Funding for students with additional needs and schools in disadvantaged areas in both government and non government sectors needs to be increased
   Catholic schools support calls for both government and non-government schools to be appropriately funded to ensure that they achieve for their students high equity and high quality outcomes.

How much money is spent on your child’s education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent schools</td>
<td>$14,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public schools</td>
<td>$11,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic schools</td>
<td>$10,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


For Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta approximately 79% of educational funding is from government sources and 21% is from private contributions.

Leanne Nettleton—Principal
From the Principal:

Catholic School Funding email addresses

The Premier, The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, is  kuringgai@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Minister for Education, The Hon. Adrian Piccoli, is murrumbidgee@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Member for Castle Hill, Mr Dominic Perrottet, is castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Member for Baulkham Hills, Mr David Elliot, is baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Member for Hornsby, Mr Matt Kean, is hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

School Swimming Carnival Term 4

Commencing this year the school Swimming Carnival will be for all the children in Years 3-6 and ONLY those children in Years 1 and 2 who will be turning 8 in 2013 and who are competent swimmers, capable of swimming 50 metres. The children in Kindergarten and Year 1 will participate in the Learn to Swim programme as usual. Mrs Nettleton spoke to those present at the Parents and Friends meeting on the 22nd August 2012 and outlined the current thinking around school swimming carnivals and the safety of children at such events.

Slapped Cheek

If your child presents with any of the symptoms of slapped cheek - runny nose, fever, aches and pains, a rash and red cheeks, it is very important for you to seek medical advice and to inform the school of any diagnosis. Please keep your child home from school if they are sick.

Speeding in the school Car Park

Please be mindful of the speed at which you are driving through the car park before and after school. Speeding places our children and their families at risk.

NAPLAN ONLINE PILOT RESEARCH STUDY

St Bernadette’s Primary School has been nominated by the Parramatta Diocese to participate in the NAPLAN Online Pilot Research Study for Numeracy, Language Conventions and Reading and the proposed Civics and Citizenship for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. This will take place next week during regular school hours. While not every child in these grades will take part, this will give the school a preview of what may be expected in the administration of online assessment procedures for schools across Australia in the future.

R.E. NEWS

Grandparents’ Day this Tuesday!

8:45 – 9:10
Beginner and Concert bands playing in the church.
9:15 – 10:00
Liturgy in the church
10:00 – 11:00
Morning Tea for Grandparents and Book Fair

- Grandparents are asked to collect grandchildren from their classroom and take them to the Book Fair should they wish to purchase a book to donate to the school. Please remind children that they are NOT to go into the Hall for morning tea. Please also remind grandparents which class their grandchildren are in. Grandparents often do not have this information and are not sure where to go! There will be students to assist grandparents on the day.
- 11:30 Book Fair ends!

We look forward to seeing many grandparents and special friends on the day!

Year of Grace/Mission Week activities

It was beautiful to see so many small hands doing God’s work on our playground this week during Mission Week! There were cakes, lollies, jewellery, slushies and icy spiders for sale, with lots of different games to try! Each stall was run by a group of enthusiastic, smiling children, wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you to all those children for their generosity of time and talents. Their great work can be reflected upon in this prayer:

Dear God, in this your year of Grace,
Help me to reflect and pray,
Believe, seek healing and renew
So I will know your way.
Help me to give to all I meet, your love in how I act
And to respond to those in need
With respect and generous care.
Help me to show Your Grace to all in the way that I believe
So that all people will then know a faith-filled way to live.

Monica Fitzalan
Religious Education Coordinator
Summer Uniform
Should the weather continue to be as warm as it has been, parents are able to send their children in summer uniform next week.

We ask that all children be in their full summer uniform by Week 3 next term.
Thank you.

Thursday, 20th Sept (next week)
Just a reminder that children are asked to wear Green and Gold clothing and running shoes.
Blue log cards need to be returned to school by Thursday next week. Money is due Week 1, Term 4. Thank you.

Grandparents' Day—Tues 18th Sept
All grandparents of St Bernadette’s are warmly invited to donate a book to the library on behalf of their grandchildren.

Come to the library from 10am onwards to view the selection of books available.
Payment by cash or credit cards.

SCHOOL SOCIAL
The St Bernadette’s School Social is on Friday 19 October from 7pm at The Hills Lodge.
Just $65 a head including a delicious three course dinner and a DJ with a wide selection of music to suit all tastes.
Please RSVP by Monday 15 October via the school office. A special accommodation rate for guests.
Any enquiries contact Jo Porte on 0402359274 or at jo_porte@hotmail.com. See you there!
Other Items of Interest

**UNIFORM SHOP**
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday, 18th September between 8.00am and 10.00am. Parent helpers rostered for this day are Karen Byrnes and Pauline Andrew. Thank you for giving your time.

**APP OF THE WEEK**
Blackboard! Free
This can be used as a drawing/writing tool on the iPad. This is a great way to practice sight words and writing for the younger grades.

**Are you leaving us at the end of the year?**
We already have quite a list of prospective families on a waiting list for next year. If you already know that your child will be leaving St Bernadette’s at the end of this year, would you kindly notify Mrs Nettleton in writing.

**Lollipop’s Playland**
Lollipop’s - a local playland and café - is supporting St Bernadette’s. For every dollar spent at Lollipop’s on entry fees or a party, they will donate 10 cents to our school.
The Hills Leisure Centre, 10 Hudson Avenue, Castle Hill Ph: 9680 8868

**Child Protection**
A reminder for parents who are required to ‘UPDATE’ their child protection and for ‘NEW’ parents to the school.
The Catholic Education Office has replaced the Child Protection Briefing with an online training module for use by volunteers. All parents whose child protection is due to expire are requested to follow the link below. Instructions are given.

An email is then sent to yourselves and to the school confirming that your child protection is now up to date. For ‘new’ parents to the school, the same online method is available to you. To access the module please follow the link below:

www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection

Child Protection must be completed by all parents wishing to help out in the school on excursions, canteen, uniform shop and classrooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER FOR: Week 10 Term 3**
Parent helpers please arrive at 10.25am for recess and 12.45pm for lunch

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Recess</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Rosina Murphy, Janick Dimataga</td>
<td>Rosina Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Nina Irwin, Michelle Schillaci</td>
<td>Nina Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Angela Pillai</td>
<td>Angela Pillai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Jennifer Parsons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Cheryl Halim</td>
<td>Cerie Anne Kelly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMINDER:**
**Application for Exemption From Attendance at School**
Schools in the Parramatta Diocese have been informed that when families request to take their child(ren) out of school during term time it is necessary for them now to complete an Application for Exemption From Attendance at School form (PRIOR to taking your child out of school). This form can be downloaded from the school website (PARENTS/HANDBOOK/STUDENT ATTENDANCE). On completion, the form is to be sent to the school office so that a Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School can be issued to parents. Parents are advised that when this certificate is issued they will need to have this with them during the period of exemption that has been granted. This certificate is a legal document.

*If the absence is to attend a funeral, music or ballet exam then just a note of explanation to Mrs Nettleton is sufficient. Mrs Nettleton will then confirm the absence with a letter.*

**Good Guy’s Vouchers**
Our total is : $ !
Thank you for your support!
St Bernadette’s Playgroup
We welcome new and existing families to come along to St Bernadette’s playgroup. Playgroup runs every Monday (9.30—11.30am) and Thursday (10-12pm) morning during school term. We have great fun and it is a wonderful way to meet other families in the school and parish with children under five.

For further information please visit the parish website or contact Carolyn Lincoln 0411 547 285, Mari Meyer 0427444 031 (Thursday only), Vicki Radman 0435278902 (Monday only). We look forward to meeting you!

Congratulations to Brendan Nguyen in 3E who achieved a distinction in the ICAS Science Competition.

Children return for Term 4 on Monday, 8th October.
Term 4 concludes for students on Wednesday, 19th December.

Measles Alert
Sydney is currently experiencing an outbreak of measles which began in April 2012 and is centred in the South Western Sydney and Western Sydney regions. Many of the cases have been high school students, with a smaller number in primary school. There is potential for the measles outbreak to spread further given young people have large social networks both within and outside of school. NSW Health advises that measles is a serious viral illness that mainly affects unvaccinated children, teenagers, young adults, and babies too young to be vaccinated. Measles is highly infectious and can easily spread through the air.

PLEASE SEE NOTE ON SCHOOL WEBSITE.


Discover Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta in September.
See Mercy values in action at our next College Open Morning Tour on Friday September 21, 2012. The College is now enrolling for 2014 and there are limited vacancies for 2013.
Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.
From the Executive Director of Schools, Mr Greg Whitby:

Spot on Family Fun Days at Riverside Theatre during September School Holidays

This school holidays Riverside Theatre is providing an oasis of FREE play activities for the whole family to enjoy from 24-29 September 10am -2pm. For more information visit http://www.riversideparramatta.com.au/performancelist.asp?cID=169