



CEO/Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Sunday's Gospel reading the question was put to Jesus; "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus response was simple; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. The second most important commandment is like it: Love your neighbour as you love yourself" In our Good Samaritan school, Jesus' response has a particular resonance with us. The simplest way to love God is to love our neighbour. Who is our neighbour? On one hand it is perhaps easier to think that like the parable of the Good Samaritan, our neighbour is the person or people who are most obviously marginalised in our community; the poor, the homeless, the sick, victims of crime, people with disability, refugees and so on. And while we should certainly call these people neighbour, perhaps the greater challenge is to know and understand that everyone is neighbour to us. Often times, people close to us are suffering because of broken relationships, a diminished sense of 'self', a lack of confidence, a failure to achieve or even excessive wealth. These people in their own way are marginalised, perhaps just not so obviously as those who we readily identify as being on the fringes. Jesus' challenge to us is to call everyone *neighbour* and to love them accordingly.

Thank you to the very many parents, friends, supporters and members of staff who so generously gave of their time, energy and resources to make the annual Country Fair such a wonderful success. Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather which certainly helped attract a large crowd throughout the day. Thank you in particular to the organising committee who work so hard throughout the year preparing for the Country Fair, for many weekends leading up to the day and especially on the Saturday and Sunday of the Country Fair. Without their tireless efforts, the success of the Country Fair simply would not have been possible.

I would also like to acknowledge in a particular way, the girls from St Patrick's College, fifteen of whom gave up their entire Sunday to help work on various stalls at the Fair including face painting and Devonshire teas. The girls were conspicuous dressed in their sport uniform and they were wonderful ambassadors for St Patrick's as well as their families. Thank you also to the girls' teacher, Mrs Melissa Arena, who also gave up her Sunday to be with the girls and assist at the Fair.

Also thank you to the boys from St Gregory's College and their Director of Boarding, Mr Matthew Brennan, for their invaluable support in cleaning up at the end of the day. They relieved our weary parents and helpers of a significant burden at the right end of the day.

Thank you to Mrs Sue Lennox, Principal of St Patrick's College and Mr Damien Millar, Headmaster of St Gregory's College, for their willing and generous support of the Fair.

Our annual ex-students' re-union, which was also held on Country Fair day, was a resounding success with a large number of ex-students and family members attending. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed sharing their stories and catching up with one another. Many thanks to all those responsible for making this important occasion possible and run so smoothly.

Please be aware that in the coming weeks the students will be involved in a practice of new 'lockdown' procedures, made necessary by our move to the new building. This information may be helpful in more fully understanding the answer to the "what happened today at school" question. We continue to practice evacuation procedures regularly.

A reminder that the next P&F meeting is on Monday evening 7 November commencing at 7.00pm for 7.15pm in the school staffroom. The meeting is scheduled to finish at about 8.50pm.

Best wishes

Tony Fitzgerald, CEO/Principal

PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that Friday 11 November will be a pupil free day. Mater Dei staff members will be undertaking professional development that day. Students return to school on Monday 14 November.

The following students received a Principal's Award for Term Three:-



Nathan D



Jake F



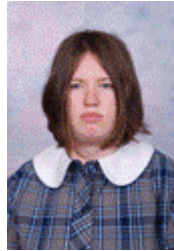
Matthew H



Brenton S



Aaron S



Jackie A

IMPORTANT:

Mater Dei Uniform Fitting Date

On **Tuesday 8 November from 2pm to 3pm**

Yeronga Uniforms will be at Mater Dei for fittings and purchase of the Mater Dei new school uniform. Please note **ONLY SUMMER UNIFORMS and SPORTS UNIFORMS** will available on this date for fitting and purchase. Parents/carers may purchase items and take home with them that day using cash or card for payment. Parents/carers may alternatively wish to organise fittings and purchase of these items at the Yeronga Uniform store at Shop 12 Capitol Arcade, 85-91 Argyle St Camden (4655 5839) at their own convenience. Business hours Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm plus Saturday 9am-1pm. Stock arrived this week.

A reminder: students do not need to be in all the new uniform items until the year commencing 2014.



Two of our dads cooking for the ever-popular barbecue stall at the Fair

MATER DEI P&F NEWS

It's hard to believe we are well into Term 4 and Christmas is only 8 weeks away.

The 2011 Mater Dei Country Fair was again an outstanding success, raising an unbelievable \$25,000. The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was abuzz with activity. This outcome would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of a handful of people who work tirelessly all year and the volunteers who did a fantastic job on the day. I won't name individuals as I am sure to miss someone, but many, many thanks to you all for ensuring this Mater Dei tradition continues to get better each year.

I must again thank Paul Templeton for his ongoing support and generosity. Paul not only donated a Go-Kart and a pile of tools from his Toolbox Stores, but he also spent the day selling raffle tickets which raised over \$2,000. A great effort Paul and greatly appreciated.

As I reported last year the Girls from St Patrick's College said they couldn't wait to return this year to again help, and help they did. You all did a fantastic job on the the face painting and Devonshire teas. Thanks you all very much for your time and ongoing support.

The boys from St Greg's were there again to help with the cleanup at the end of the Fair. Once again you did an unbelievable job and on behalf of the other helpers many thanks for saving our backs.

You are all a credit to your schools and parents. Our future is in good hands.

The Chocolate Wheel was again a great success and only made possible by the generosity of our friends from St Thomas More. Each year they come along, set up all the prizes and do a fantastic job spinning that wheel. Many, many thanks.

Thanks also to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and Mater Dei staff, their family and friends for their ongoing help and support which is always above and beyond the call of duty. I don't like to single people out but I must thank Helen Flett for giving up her own time to attend the Fair Committee meetings during the year.

And finally thanks to our special children who came along, had a great day and make it all worthwhile.

Next year the Country Fair will be held on Sunday 14th October 2012, so put it in your diary and tell your family and friends.

REMEMBER THE P&F COMMITTEE IS ALL ABOUT HELPING OUR KIDS.

Kind Regards, Garry Saunders – P & F President – 0433396369

RAFFLE RESULTS

Winners of the Country Fair main raffle, which raised over \$6,000 were:-

- 1st prize: Sarah Little, Camden
- 2nd prize: Mark Turner, Currans Hill
- 3rd prize: Anthony Pillizzaro, Buxton
- 4th prize: Jaym Willingham, Tahmoor
- 5th prize: Pauline Hurst, Douglas Park

The winner of the TOOL BOX raffle—a Go Kart plus a huge variety of products from the TOOL BOX was a very excited gentleman named Keith from Leumeah, who was there at the drawing of his ticket. Thanks also to Andrew Gibbs who delivered the winnings the same afternoon.



Fun at the Fair



In Pastoral lessons, Secondary Students have been considering the qualities of a leader. This is an especially significant topic for those students currently in Years 9, 10 & 11 as they undergo the leadership appointment process for 2012. Students have discussed the value in having different kinds of leaders, the importance of role modeling by all Secondary students, respect for self and others in our attitude, conduct, and presentation, and of course the responsibilities and rewards that come with School and House Captaincy positions. I wish all students who have nominated themselves to be considered for a Student Leadership position the best of luck, and that their peers appreciate their efforts and willingness to serve and represent their school.

Our students have a number of exciting excursion opportunities in the coming weeks, where they will have the chance to apply many of the concepts that they have learnt about at school into relevant, real-world experiences, to practice their social skills and to have a great time in the process. For example, Stage 4 students in Secondary K and Secondary S will travel to the Australian Museum to explore the Indigenous Australians exhibition, Secondaries G, D, F, 11/12-M and the Satellite Class will participate in the AFFORD Funathon activity day at Blacktown Olympic Park, and all students will soon be going to the Dumaresq Street Cinemas in Campbelltown to watch "Puss-in-Boots" in the lead up to Christmas. I'm sure that students will find these to be rewarding experiences.

Our senior students are preparing for their end-of-year celebrations, including the Years 11 & 12 Formal and Graduation Mass. As the end of the year draws nearer, we are tinged with sadness as we are reminded that our Year 12 students will not be with us at Mater Dei next year. However, we are gladdened with the thoughts of their prospects and the opportunities that the future presents for them. Further, anticipation is building for those students moving from Stage 5 classes into Year 11, especially who will be in the Satellite Class for 2012. These students have begun their transition program this week, which will involve numerous visits to John Therry Catholic High School to engage in orientation and lesson activities. My thanks go to Mrs Glynis Patrick for her organisation of this highly beneficial program, and to the John Therry Community for your welcome and support of our students.

Alison Meani, Secondary Coordinator

The Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer Program is asking for parents/carers of students with a disability to give some input into the type of resource, information and advice they could provide for families when their young person with a disability is moving from high school to post school programs and work. If you are interested in contributing, please complete the quick survey at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/getreadyparentconsultation>

THANK YOU

At our Thank You Assembly for the Foundation Dinner last Friday, Chris Patterson (Member for Camden) and Jai Rowell (Member for Wollondilly) on behalf of the NSW Government presented a cheque to Mater Dei for \$10,000.

We acknowledge the generous support of the NSW Government and we sincerely thank both Jai Rowell and especially our local member, Chris Patterson for their support and advocacy on behalf of Mater Dei.

Diary Dates for 2012



***Mater Dei
Charity Golf Day
Monday April 2
Twin Creeks Golf Club,
Luddenham***

Ladies Lipstick Luncheon



Friday, May 11,

The Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club

Tickets for luncheon and sponsorship packages for both events are on sale now. Visit www.materdei.org.au or contact Debbie in the Development Office.

The Mater Dei



Great Pigeon Race

The pigeons were successfully liberated from Mater Dei's oval on October 16. The event raised \$10,000 for our community participation programs. A special thank to James Regan from Regans Accountants, who organised the event!