If any families wish to write a farewell message to Fr. Walter, there is a book in the school office foyer where you can record your message.

**Cross Country:** Cross Country will be held this Friday at Bensons Lane commencing at 9.45am. Parents are most welcome to come and watch.

If you are able to help on the day a note will be going home Wednesday, please complete and return to school on Thursday.

**Head Lice:** There has been reported a case of Head Lice within the school. In order to determine if your child has been infected we are asking all parents to check their child’s hair. If you require information, please contact your local pharmacy as treatment is readily available.

**Father Walter’s Farewell:** On Wednesday 25th March, the staff will farewell Fr Walter with a morning tea. Following this at 11.30am we will have a short assembly where the children will be able to farewell Father and present him with a gift. Also at this assembly, the P&F will present father with a gift on behalf of the parents. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Colouring in Competition:** An Easter Colouring in Competition was given to each child on behalf of Wiseberry Real Estate. **If they wish to participate please return to the office by Tuesday 1st April.**

1st Prize: - Large basket of Easter Eggs & family pass to Reading Cinema
2nd Prize: - Small basket of Easter Eggs & 2 movie passes
3rd Prize: - Small basket of Easter Eggs

Winner will be drawn at 12.00pm on Thursday, 2nd April

As an extra bonus, they will donate $250 to the school if the 1st prize winner attends.

**Nude Food Day:** Nude Food Day is about focussing on the positive message of ‘nude food = healthy body + a healthy planet’, we want your children to be empowered to choose healthy, rubbish free food for their lunches and snacks. Choose healthy foods for recess and lunch. **No pre-packaged foods.** Pack your food and drinks in reusable containers or paper. **No plastic packaging.**

**2016 Kindergarten Enrolments:** We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2016. Please come into the school office to pick up an enrolment pack.

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Enrolment forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be available at Vigil and Sunday Masses from 14-15 March until Enrolment Ceremonies on 25-26 April.

**You Are Invited:**
For ‘Brunch’ on Sunday March 29 at 11am.
An opportunity to farewell & thank Fr Walter.
Free sausage sizzle, drinks, tea & coffee. To be held in St Monica’s School grounds.
Please bring a small plate of slices or small cakes to share. Thank you.
will be no bins provided on Nude Food Day. Remember that Nude Food Day is held each Tuesday. This is a sample of what a nude Food lunch-box looks like.

Easter Raffle Tickets and Money due – Monday 30th March.

Easter Morning Tea Order and Money due – Monday 30th March.

**Education Mass**

Last Thursday the teachers of the Parramatta Diocese joined together at St Patrick’s Church Blacktown to celebrate the annual Education mass. The Mass was preceded by a procession of school banners carried by school captains. St Monica’s was also supported by Father Walter who was one of the few parish Priests who took part in the celebration.

**Easter in the Parish**

**Easter 2015 Schedule**

**The Triduum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holy Thursday</th>
<th>April 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass of the Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blessed Sacrament reserved at the Altar of Repose till</td>
<td>11.00pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Friday</th>
<th>April 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of the Lord’s Passion</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holy Saturday</th>
<th>April 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easter Vigil</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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**Easter Sunday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Easter Sunday</th>
<th>April 5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>Richmond:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30am, 9.30am, 6.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurrajong:</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
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Media release
Friday 27 February 2015

NEXT NSW GOVERNMENT MUST LIFT CAPITAL FUNDING TO ALL SCHOOLS

Enrolments in NSW schools will grow by 267,000 students by 2031, putting more pressure on both the government and non-government school sectors to expand.

Catholic Education Commission NSW Executive Director Brian Croke said the NSW Government must increase capital funding to all school sectors to accommodate this growth in enrolments.

"The NSW birth-rate is now 10,000 per year higher than it was in 2010," Dr Croke said.

"That means 500 extra kindergarten classes are needed each year - which must then become 500 additional Year 1 classes the following year, then 500 Year 2 classes the year after that, and so on.

"This growth rate will be sustained, if not increased, in coming years and it will affect all sectors - government, Catholic and independent.

"The NSW Government and Opposition have already announced several new government schools during this election campaign - which we support - but the government sector alone will not be able to meet this growth in enrolments.

"Catholic and independent schools currently educate 400,000 students or a third of those enrolled in NSW.

"The NSW Government needs non-government schools to grow so that they can continue to enrol their current proportion of this increase - otherwise, taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for far more classrooms and teachers than is currently envisaged."

Dr Croke said the NSW Government must first reverse its 2012 decision to cap capital funding to non-government schools at $11 million per year and put in place a sustainable, long-term funding framework that grows as enrolments increase.

"Catholic schools, which enrol more than 251,000 students, need to build more than 2,300 new classrooms to accommodate a further 56,000 students by 2031.

"For decades, these building projects have largely been funded by parents - and they will continue to be - but the NSW Government must now ease the pressure on parents by lifting its funding support.

"Catholic schools educate 21% of the state's students, but receive just 12% of the capital funding allocated by the NSW Government to all schools.

"Last year, Catholic schools received just $7.6 million in capital funding from the NSW Government. That's less than what was received in 2011 - and since then, Catholic school enrolments in NSW have grown by more than 10,000, or the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools.

"By comparison, government schools will receive $399.1 million for capital works in 2014-15.

"To put it another way - that's $524 per government school student and $330 per Catholic school student."

Dr Croke said Catholic schools save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year because Catholic school parents meet most of the capital costs.

"Without Catholic schools, taxpayers would have to fund hundreds more government schools because those students have to be educated somewhere."

Media contact: Jim Henna 0414 828 629
March 2015

An Open Letter to all Catholic School Parents in Diocese of Parramatta

Dear Parents and Carers

On Friday last week, Rev Fr Peter Williams (Administrator of the Diocese of Parramatta), Rev Fr Chris De Souza (Priest Responsible for Education), Greg Whitby (Executive Director of Schools), and I met with MPs and candidates from both the Labor and Coalition parties. Our aim was to ensure that both sides of politics were aware of the key issues affecting Catholic schools and families particularly:

1. To ensure future legislation did not prevent our schools maintaining their Catholic identity and ethos
2. To ensure a commitment to ongoing funding of Catholic schools (the state government contributes about 25% of all government funding to Catholic schools)
3. To seek a commitment to a coherent educational policy (pre to post school)
4. To seek a commitment to an increase in capital works funding and a decrease in local council charges to support the growth of Catholic schooling in western Sydney.

Are you concerned that there is no guaranteed government funding to build new schools or expand and improve existing schools in western Sydney?

At present, neither the NSW Coalition or Labor parties has made a long term commitment to fund capital works programs for new and expanding Catholic schools in western Sydney.

The Facts

- Across NSW Catholic schools educate 21% of the state’s students, yet receive just 2% of the capital funding currently provided by the NSW Government to schools for new projects. Expressed another way, Catholic schools receive $30 per student in capital funding from the NSW Government while government schools receive $524 per student.

- To keep up with demand, the Diocese of Parramatta will need at least $19.3 million in 2015-17 to build new schools and learning spaces in the north west sector to respond to growth. The Diocese will need an additional $7.1 million to upgrade schools in Homebush and Blacktown.

- Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs.

- Over the past three years, the metropolitan-based dioceses paid $18.5 million in levies and bonds - almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools.

Locked Bag 4
North Parramatta NSW 1750
parentssecretary@gmail.com
www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Support - Educate - Celebrate
The Facts (continued)

- Local council infrastructure charges for developments at Westmead have been quoted at $464,000. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves e.g. the cost of nearly five teachers.

This issue goes beyond party lines - this is about equality and fairness and our rights as parents to be supported in our choice of Catholic schooling.

In the meeting, one MP noted he hadn’t received any indication from any parent in his electorate that they needed a new Catholic school or that their school would require expansion

Catholic school parents were INSTRUMENTAL in major changes to proposed cuts to NSW state funding a couple of years ago.

DON’T LET YOUR VOICE AS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT GO UNHEARD.

What can you do?

Contact your school principal about inviting local MPs and Candidates to your school prior to the election.

Even if you think that your school requires no assistance at this time, it is the collective voice of Catholic school parents that can make the difference, so write or contact your local MP and candidates.

If you want to some assistance in what to say or write to your sitting MP or candidate or just want to stay in touch about proposed MP visits near you, please email: prcparrapresident@gmail.com.

The election is just a few weeks away on 28 March 2015. Don’t let the opportunity slip past!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Selina Celleia
President, PRC
Parramatta Diocese

Website: www.prc.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PRCParra
Twitter: @PRCParra

Support - Educate - Celebrate