Secondary Prayer and Conversation with Bishop Peter

Year 11 students from across the Diocese met with Bishop Peter Ingham recently to share their insights and responses about contemporary issues, their joys, hopes, concerns and questions. Themes such as war, marriage, racism and youth mental health were raised. The event recognises the important voice of young people in the Church. Bishop Peter shared lunch, conversation and prayer with the students who represented their school. Through the mutual exchange of ideas, the participants gained an increased awareness of how young people find their place in the church and society. Staff and students of Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Oak Flats were welcoming hosts and they provided wonderful hospitality that promoted a relaxed atmosphere for students to meet and enter into the conversation.

Message for Christmas and New Year from the Director

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts during 2012, wishing all staff a safe, happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Turner
The following details were recently sent to schools regarding Annual School Tuition Fees and Building Levies for 2013.

**Primary Schools:**

The primary family tuition fee for 2013 will be:
- per Annum $1,263
- per Instalment (x3) $421

**Parish School Enhancement & Debt Servicing Obligation (Parish SEDSO)**

The Parish SEDSO Levy for 2013 increases by $35 to:
- $627 per family per annum per Instalment (x3) $209

**Secondary Schools:**

The secondary annual per pupil fees for 2013 will be:
- Years 7-8 per Annum $1,374 per instalment (x3) $458
- Years 9-10 per Annum $1,485 per instalment (x3) $495
- Years 11-12 per Annum $1,854 per instalment (x3) $618

Sibling reductions remain at: 2nd child 25%, 3rd child 50%, 4th + child no charge.

**2013 Building Contributions** for Secondary Schools will be increased by $45 to:
- St Joseph’s, Albion Park $720 per family
- Holy Spirit, Bellambi $570 per family
- St Benedict’s, Oran Park $645 per pupil
- Magdalene, Narellan $645 per pupil
- St John’s, Nowra $480 per pupil
- Corpus Christi, Oak Flats $720 per family
- John Therry, Rosemeadow $480 per pupil
- Mount Carmel, Varroville $480 per pupil

**School Website Enrolment Information**

Principals are reminded of the request for an Enrolment Tab to be clearly displayed on their school website. School fees information should also be easily accessed. To this end, the Enrolment and Fees Information available from the CEO Website may be copied and modified for each school's use.

**My School 2013 Process**

ACARA has advised the schedule of activities leading to the release of MySchool in late February 2013. For your information please see attached communication to principals for advice and proposed schedule. All data collection is complete and CEC has finalised its advice to ACARA. If you have any questions, please contact Rosalie Nott (rosalie.nott@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au or phone 9287 1560).

**Post Graduate Opportunities in Mathematics - University of Notre Dame**

The University of Notre Dame is offering teachers the opportunity to complete a Graduate Certificate in Mathematics or a Master of Mathematics Education. The School of Arts and Sciences delivers both of these newly introduced postgraduate programs. The postgraduate mathematics courses are tailored for teachers aspiring to teach mathematics as well as current mathematics teachers interested in further developing their teaching practice or considering leadership positions within schools. Teachers accepted into the Graduate Certificate in Mathematics or the Master of Mathematics Education will be eligible for a 20 percent fee reduction. Course information can be found on the University of Notre Dame web site, [http://www.nd.edu.au/sydney/courses/postgraduate.shtml](http://www.nd.edu.au/sydney/courses/postgraduate.shtml). Please see the attached flyer / poster

For further information or to register interest in the course, contact Gerry Sozio from the Catholic Education Office on 0427 939 243 before the commencement of the 2013 school year.
Asia Education Foundation’s First National Conference 12 - 14 August 2013
The Asia Education Foundation is holding a first National conference from 12 - 14 August 2013 in Melbourne. The theme is Equipping Australian schools for the 21st (Asian) Century. For further information see the attached and visit www.asiaeducation.edu.au

Prayers for Gatherings
Earlier this year a new prayer online website was launched by Archbishop Philip Wilson. The website is called ‘Prayers 4 Gatherings’ and has received positive feedback from a number of Catholic schools in Australia and New Zealand. The prayers are a new resource to help staff and students access prayers that are reflective, meaningful and contemporary. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

AUSTSWIM Assessor Online Module
AUSTSWIM are excited to introduce this module that has been specifically designed to guide teachers through all aspects of the AUSTSWIM Assessor role, which is to assess the teaching competency of trainee AUSTSWIM teachers after they have gained an appropriate amount of experience under the supervision of their Training Supervisor/s. In order for AUSTSWIM Teachers to be eligible to assess a trainee teacher’s competency, they are required to undertake & complete this Online Module. This requirement will be phased in during the 2013 year. The Online Module is free of charge and gives AUSTSWIM Teachers an automatic 2 hours of professional development towards their Teacher licence renewal (minimum requirements are required to apply). AUSTSWIM is very appreciative of the enormous contribution of the Assessors, who volunteer their time to assist candidates through to completion of their licence. For full information on becoming an AUSTSWIM Assessor visit: http://www.austswim.com.au/Teachers/Assessor.aspx

Mt Carmel Retreat and Conference Centre
Please see the enclosed material about this venue

Safe Schools are Smart Schools Competition
The federal government has launched a new competition for schools to highlight what they are doing to make their school a safe and supportive place in which bullying, violence, harassment and discrimination are prevented. “The Safe Schools are Smart Schools” Competition is a chance for primary and secondary schools across Australia to share how they are creating a safe environment that aligns with the National Safe Schools Framework,” Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, said. Schools can register their interest. The deadline for entries into this competition is 1 March 2013. The prize is a $5000 purchasing voucher for the best primary and secondary school entry in each state, great publicity for your school - but most importantly the opportunity to share good practice. If interested, more information can be found at: http://deewr.gov.au/safe-schools-are-smart-schools-competition

Caritas Project Compassion School Kit
Please find enclosed Caritas Project Compassion School Kit for 2013 as well as information on the Caritas ‘Just Leadership’ program.

Illawarra Schools – Excellence in Vocational Education & Training Awards 2012

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded ‘VET Student of the Year’ in their respective categories.

Brody Hickling (Holy Spirit College, Bellambi) – Electrotechnology
Jeremy Quinn (Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Oak Flats) – Construction
Casey McAlary (Holy Spirit College, Bellambi) – Information Technology
New Workplace Gender Equality Legislation

As with other employers with over 100 staff, Wollongong CEO has been covered by the provisions of the Federal Government’s Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act and has reported annually to the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA).

In 2011 the CEO received a coveted Finalist Award, the Minister’s Award for outstanding EEO initiative or result for the advancement of women, as part of the 2011 EOWA Business Achievement Awards. This award recognised the contribution Wollongong CEO has made in leading the way in creating equitable workplaces for employees, including the development of the “Working Parents Toolkit”, the “Teachers Sharing Teaching strategy” and the “Learning in and for Leadership Programs”.

The previous legislation has recently been amended by the Federal Parliament to become the Workplace Gender Equality Act, with a focus on enhancing equality in the workplace for women and men, especially those with family responsibilities. For further information please refer to the website http://www.wgea.gov.au/

Another focus of the new legislation is pay equity, with the current gender pay gap in Australia being 18.3%. In Catholic education, a key pay equity issue is access to professional development and leadership opportunities, including identifying and addressing any gender based barriers.

The Wollongong EOW Committee, which meets each term, will be renamed the Workplace Gender Equality Committee and will continue to develop initiatives to advance equitable and inclusive policies and practices in schools and at the CEO.

Stayed tuned for further updates to be provided in Term 1, 2013.

St Paul’s Camden students prove it’s the thought that counts

Year Six students at St Paul’s Primary School, Camden are very proud of the unique gift they have given to the school this year. The students have created a special memento based on their school journey at St Paul’s over the years.

This process began with the children developing a Google form which they emailed to family and friends. The students then brainstormed ideas of questions they might ask using an iPad with the Inspiration App. Children then went away and created questions, such as, ‘What is your proudest moment of me at school?’ ‘If you could describe me with a picture what would it be?’ ‘What do you think is my greatest strength?’

The children then used the spreadsheet to create their own art work which was placed into a mosaic cross. The teachers also showed them a keynote presentation with images of different types of artworks and imagery (heart represents love). The cross is going to be displayed in a stairwell in the school as a permanent symbol of their time at St Paul’s. The children are very proud of this artwork and so are the staff.

CEO closed Tues 25 Dec – Tues 1 Jan 2013, re-opens Wed 2 January 2013
Term 1 dates 2013 (School staff return Tues 29 January, Students Return Wed 30 January 2013)
Copies of the Circular to Schools can be downloaded on Infopoint