Beginning teachers and new staff taking up appointments in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wollongong gathered at Villa D’oro Wollongong with Bishop Peter Ingham, principals and staff of the Catholic Education Office on the evening of Friday 8 February, for a dinner function to be officially welcomed to their new school positions.

After an eventful, or rather uneventful start to the evening, with an extensive power blackout affecting Wollongong, staff were advised that the dinner would have to be unavoidably postponed and rescheduled. Before staff and special guests moved on, a prayer was planned to wish people well on their journey home. Miraculously, upon the commencement of the prayer, aptly titled ‘The Light of Welcome’, the power was restored. The power of prayer saved the night!

At the dinner Bishop Peter welcomed new staff and spoke of the vocation of teaching and of accepting the challenge to educate young people. In this mission staff build a sense of community within the Catholic school and the evangelising mission of the Church; and students gain a great sense of meaning in their lives and of hope for the future. He spoke of the gift of education we have in Australia, one that isn’t always available to young people in other countries and of the quality people in the staff room that helps to raise the hopes and dreams of the students. The Bishop quoted that in some countries they say “open a school and you close a prison”.

Special guest speakers included the Head of Secondary School Services: Alan McManus; Principal of Holy Spirit College Bellambi, Amanda Wilson; Assistant Principal at Holy Cross Catholic Parish Primary School Helensburgh, Vicky Davidson; New Scheme Teacher at John Therry Catholic High School Rosemeadow, Jared Baca and two Year 12 students from Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Oak Flats, Michael Steain and Chelsea Tagg who each spoke as members of a panel facilitated by the Professional Assistant to the Director, Tim Gilmour. Feedback from the night about the panel contribution was spectacular, with Chelsea providing the quote of the night, a message for teachers to remember that sometimes they “needed to be the villain, not the friend.”

The Head of Human Resources Services, Carolyn Hadley, spoke of the assistance that the CEO offers to new staff and in the spirit of welcome concluded the evening by again welcoming the new staff and challenging them to make a real difference in the lives of those they teach and support.
**Condoences**
Deepest sympathies are extended to Mary Sinnreich, Year 2 teacher at Good Samaritan Primary, Fairy Meadow. Her mother Mrs Dulcie Heininger passed away last week. Dulcie herself was a teacher in Catholic schools in Wollongong for many years. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mary and her family at this time.

**Important Anaphylaxis Information**
Principals are directed to the attached Safety Alert containing important information concerning the Emergency Response for Anaphylaxis. In addition please find attached a letter from NSW Health regarding Anaphylaxis Risk Management and Emergency Response Training. Please ensure you are familiar with both of these documents and it is advised that you adopt the advice they contain.

A delivery of a set of posters for display and use in your school will be mailed out to Principals early next week.

**2013 Annual CSSA Subscription**
Secondary school principals are advised that the Catholic Secondary Schools Association (CSSA) Annual Subscription is now payable. The 2013 Subscription fee is $155.00. Subscriptions are due Friday 22 March 2013 and early payment would be appreciated. Please see the attached memo for further details.

**International Women's Day**
Please find attached a resource to assist in the celebration of International Women’s Day on Sunday 10 March 2013. It is produced by the National Office for the Participation of Women a work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It may be useful for prayer assemblies or newsletters. For more information or to download extra copies of this resource visit the website www.opw.catholic.org.au

**Project Compassion 2013 – Interactive website**
Some fantastic, interactive features are now live on the Project Compassion website which is an excellent resource for teachers to use with students. Staff are encouraged to visit the site and to have a play! You can find a Lent calendar, Photo message board and an Interactive virtual village www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

**Partners4Learning Web-Based Resource for Schools**
(www.partners4learning.edu.au)
This website was developed by the Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) and partners in 2010 as an online resource for teachers, school executives, P&F Associations and parents in both primary and secondary schools.

The site provides ready-to-download pro formas that teachers and school staff can use to initiate, enhance or improve relationships with parents and their community. The site has resources organised under the categories of Communication, Connecting Learning at Home and School, Building Community and Family, Recognising the Role of Families, Consultative Decision Making, Collaborating Beyond the School and Participating. This is in line with the Family-School Partnerships Framework developed by DEEWR.

A poster promoting the website will be mailed to each school for display in the staff room, foyer or common area.
What Matters? Competition 2013 – It's time to write!
The Whitlam Institute announces details of the popular What Matters? Writing competition for 2013. The annual writing competition asks young people in Years 5 to 12 across NSW and the ACT to write 400 – 600 words about what matters to them. Entries close on Friday 3 May 2013. See attached a letter to the Principal and an entry form. Entry forms and posters are also available for download at [www.whitlam.org/whatmatters](http://www.whitlam.org/whatmatters).

Cash and other prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner up in each category at an Awards ceremony on 29 July 2013. Every entrant will receive a certificate of participation. For more information please visit [www.whitlam.org/whatmatters](http://www.whitlam.org/whatmatters) or join [www.facebook.com/whatmatterscomp](http://www.facebook.com/whatmatterscomp).

Boys Education PD program
Please find attached a flyer regarding a Professional Development program on Boys' Education for Primary School communities that may be of interest.

Date notification: World Mission Month Launch
Schools are advised that Catholic Mission’s World Mission Month Launch with Bishop Peter will take place on Thursday 19 September 2013 at Holy Spirit College, Bellambi.

Availability of a Mission Visitor from India after Easter
Attached is a memo to Principals from Mike Deasy, Catholic Mission on the availability of a mission visitor from India to visit schools after Easter. For further information please contact Catholic Mission ph 4284 0970.

Lake Illawarra Local Area Command – Police / Principals Forum Day & Crime Prevention and Safety Workshops
Principals of Catholic schools that are located within the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command are invited to a Forum day on 5 April. Please see attached letter and program. Attached is also a cover letter and information flyers for the Primary school workshops offered by the YLO’s.
Events at School

Catholic Schools Week

Events in your school

St Brigid’s Gwyneville
Leadership Expo
March 14, 9.30am to 12.30pm
You are all most welcome to join us!

Holy Family Ingleburn
Welcome Mass and BBQ on Sunday 10 March
15 March Open classrooms, a picnic with parents and assembly.

St Michael’s Thirroul
11 March CSW Liturgy
15 March LAUNCH Mission and Vision Statement

Southern Illawarra Catholic Schools
Year 6 Leadership Day
15 March
Guest Speakers include Dr Patty Rose (Edyoutopia), St George Illawarra Dragons and keynote speaker Brett Murray

Diocesan Education Mass

St John Vianney’s Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow
12 March 2013 6:30pm

An invitation to all staff and families to celebrate Mass together with Bishop Peter Ingham in Catholic Schools Week

www.catholicschools.nsw.edu.au
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
10 - 16 MARCH 2013

EVERY CHILD COUNTS
COMPETITION

A total of $5000 in prizes
for students to win

Your message! Great prizes!
Visit the website
Download an entry form

Entry open till
16 MARCH 2013

www.catholicschools.nsw.edu.au
You are invited to join Bishop Peter Ingham for the
Diocesan Launch
of
Project Compassion 2013
School Representatives are asked to engage with Bishop Ingham as the 2013 theme:
'Open Doors Into The Future'
is explored through dialogue, reflection and prayer.
Meet the 'Faces of Project Compassion 2013', sign the Covenant of Compassion and
listen to the special CARITAS guest speaker.
When: Tuesday, 12 February 2013
Time: 10:00am (Liturgy followed by Morning Tea)
Where: St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School
119 Princes Highway, Corrimal
RSVP
by 8 February 2013
Principal: Mr Andrew Heffernen
Phone: 42847987
email: info@sccdow.catholic.edu.au

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's
major annual fundraising and education
campaign. It is a time to reflect upon and engage with
significant issues of peace, justice and
development. It is also a time to recognise our
interconnectedness with our global brothers
and sisters and our environment.

Award winners from Wollongong Diocese were:
Adam Elliot – Rugby League,
St Gregory’s College, Campbelltown
Kara Styles – Netball, John Therry Catholic High, Rosemeadow
Travis Smyth – Golf, Corpus Christi Catholic High, Oak Flats
Georgia Ohrdorf – Basketball,
St Mary Star of the Sea College, Wollongong
Kieran O’Leary – Softball, St Gregory’s College, Campbelltown

Special guest speaker on the evening was
Paralympic gold medallist Jacqueline Freney. Jacqueline won an amazing eight gold medals
at the London games and in the process set
two new world records. Her amazing feat
placed her as the most successful athlete at a
single Paralympic games ever.

Key Dates in Term 1

February
Fri 22  Educational Leadership Conference
Thu 28  CEO & Principals Meeting

March
Thu 7  CEO - Assistant Principals Meeting (Primary & Secondary)
Wed 6 - Fri 8  REC’s & Liturgy Coordinators Retreat
Fri 8  International Women’s Day
Sun 10 - Sat 26 Catholic Schools Week (NSW/ACT)
Tue 12  Diocesan Education Mass at St John Vianney’s, Fairy Meadow
Thu 28  Holy Thursday
Fri 29  Good Friday
Sun 3  Easter Sunday

April
Mon 1  Easter Monday
Fri 12  Last Day Term 1

Schools are asked to regularly check the CEO Website
or InfoPoint for updated calendar information
SAFETY ALERT

TO:

REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOL EDUCATION DIRECTORS
PRINCIPALS
WHS LIAISON MANAGERS
STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATORS
STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

SAFETY ALERT No 35

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NSW GOVERNMENT
PRESCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

A copy of this safety alert should be provided to all school staff (including casual staff) and volunteers working in schools and preschools.

This safety alert is intended to remind schools and preschools of some key requirements if it becomes necessary to respond to a student who has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

If a student is showing symptoms of anaphylaxis then:

1. The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc (ASCIA) action plan for anaphylaxis and the adrenaline auto-injector (an EpiPen or Anapen) should be brought to the student and the action plan followed.

2. If the EpiPen or Anapen should be administered, the time of administration should be noted.

3. If the student has been diagnosed with asthma as well as anaphylaxis and has been prescribed asthma reliever medication the EpiPen or Anapen should be administered before the student is given asthma reliever medication.

4. An ambulance should be called.

5. If the student gets worse or shows no signs of improvement after 5 minutes, a second EpiPen or Anapen should be administered to the student if available.
6. Another student’s EpiPen or Anapen can be used for this purpose if required.

Some frequently asked questions about the emergency response to anaphylaxis follow:

How do I know if a student is having an anaphylactic reaction?

*Any one* of the following are signs of anaphylaxis:
- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- swelling/tightness in throat
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheezing or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- pale and floppy (young children)

What is an ASCIA action plan for anaphylaxis?

It is a special form signed by the doctor that provides instructions about what response should be made if the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school as well as confirming allergens to be avoided and how to use an adrenaline auto-injector.

As it is the emergency response plan for anaphylaxis it should be part of the student’s individual health care plan.


Who provides the ASCIA action plan and the adrenaline auto injector (EpiPen or Anapen) to the pre-school or school?

The parents of each student diagnosed with anaphylaxis should provide the school with an ASCIA action plan for anaphylaxis signed by the doctor for that student and an adrenaline auto-injector.

Where should the adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA action plan be kept by the school?

The adrenaline autoinjector and the ASICA action plan should be kept together in an accessible spot in the school.

Why is it important to note the time when the adrenaline autoinjector is administered?

If an adrenaline autoinjector is administered, it is important to note the time of administration because if there is no change in the student’s condition after 5 minutes or he or she gets worse (i.e. there is no response) a second adrenaline autoinjector should be administered to the student if available.
Information about the time that a student has been administered an adrenaline autoinjector should be provided to ambulance personnel when they arrive at the school.

**Could using another student’s adrenaline autoinjector put that student at risk?**
If another student's prescribed adrenaline autoinjector has been administered and there are concerns that the other student may be placed at risk, he or she can be transported to hospital.

**Who pays for the ambulance?**
Schools are reminded that the NSW Ambulance Cover assists schools by meeting the cost of ambulance accounts for students where an ambulance is called for a student illness or injury to a NSW government school or a school related activity. For further information refer to the facts sheet on this scheme which is available at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/adminandmanage/ohands/bulletins/index.htm

**Where can I get more information about anaphylaxis?**
There are a range of support materials and advice available to support schools on the following Departmental internet and intranet sites:

Public Schools Website

Work Health and Safety Directorate:

Information about ASCIA *Action Plans for Anaphylaxis* can be found on the Department's website at:

Please contact your regional student support officer for further advice and assistance.

Marnie O'Brien
**Director, Work Health and Safety**
6 August 2012
Dr Brian Croke  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education Commission  
PO Box A169  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Dr Croke

RE: Anaphylaxis risk management and emergency response training

I write to seek your assistance with promoting participation by staff of CEC schools in anaphylaxis risk management and emergency response training.

As you are aware, the training contributes to assisting schools to meet their obligation to provide a safe environment for children who have severe allergies and are at risk of anaphylaxis. The Department of Education and Communities also has a range of materials on its website which CEC schools will find useful for that purpose: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php

The website of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) is also an important source of information for schools http://www.allergy.org.au

There are several options from which schools can choose for staff training. They include:

- Face to face sessions run by the State-wide NSW Anaphylaxis Education Training Program based at the Children's Hospital of Westmead (CHW). The Program was developed with clinical guidance from ASCIA and is jointly funded by the NSW Ministry of Health and the NSW Department of Education and is offered to non government schools for a fee of $200 per session;
- Online training through the ASCIA internet site, free of charge for staff of all NSW schools. Schools using the e-training may contact the CHW to provide adrenaline auto injector practice devices which will assist in practical use during the e-training; and
- Private providers.

The NSW Anaphylaxis Education Training Program and online training includes information about strategies that can be implemented in schools for avoiding a student’s exposure to known allergens and contains practical instructions in both the EpiPen and AnaPen adrenaline auto injector devices.

The capacity of the CHW to meet demand for requests for face to face training may be limited, depending on the geographic area in which the school is located and the level of risk which has prompted the request for training. Schools wishing to book a face to face training session or to obtain the adrenaline auto injector practice devices should contact the NSW Anaphylaxis Training Program on anaphylaxis@chw.edu.au
Schools which opt to engage a private provider should ensure that the provider’s training program is based on the clinical guidance provide by ASCIA.

If you have any questions or require additional information, the Ministry of Health’s contact officer is Mary Crum. Her contact details are mcrum@doh.health.nsw.gov.au or 9391 9100.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Dr Kerry Chant
Deputy Director-General, Population and Public Health
and Chief Health Officer

5th September 2012
MEMORANDUM TO: Principals NSW Catholic Secondary Schools  
Diocesan Directors  
CSSA Executive

FROM: Ian Baker

SUBJECT: 2013 Annual CSSA Subscription

The CSSA Annual Subscription is now payable. The **2013 Subscription fee is $155.00.** All funds will be used to support:

- Critical Issues Forums for Schools (The first forum will be held 27 May 2013, separate advice to follow).
- CSSA Trial HSC Exams, including the cost of website maintenance and the updating of examination papers.
- Essential insurance cover.

Your Subscription payment provides CSSA with the minimum level of funding needed to maintain the above outlined services. In this context it should be noted that the cost of Trial examination provision, like other services, continues to rise. Despite this CSSA has held its 2013 subscription at the 2012 rate.

Subscriptions are **due Friday 22nd March 2013** and early payment would be appreciated.

Please refer to the Subscription Instructions attached at Attachment A. Payments may be made by Direct Deposit or Cheque. Also please note that your subscription payment is not to include payment for any CSSA Trial Exams. The cost of 2013 CSSA Examination papers will be invoiced separately.

Please contact Erica Boundy on (02) 9287 1540 if you have any questions regarding the online registrations /subscriptions process.

Yours faithfully,
ATTACHMENT A

2013 CSSA Subscription / Membership

CSSA provides an online subscription process. In order to complete your 2013 Subscription to CSSA please see the following steps below:

2. Fill in the online subscription form for your school/diocesan office and click “SUBMIT”

NB: To maintain CSSA membership each NSW Catholic Secondary School and Diocesan office needs to pay $155.00 for 2013.

![$155.00 SUBSCRIPTION FEE](http://stage.cecnswn.catholic.edu.au/2013/cssasubs2013.asp)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please make cheques payable to “CSSA”.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Note: This is a different entity to the CSSA Trial Exams Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In accordance with GST ruling GSTR2000/17 this registration form will be a tax invoice for GST when you make a payment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The date of issue of this notice will be the earlier of the Forum or your payment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO GST applies to members of the Catholic GST Religious Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To check if you are a member please go to: <a href="http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/gst.asp">http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/gst.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Non-Members of the Catholic GST Religious Group, please add 10% GST to the above amount (i.e. $170.50).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- A “Confirmation of Subscription” page will appear giving a total payment owing amount.
- Do not include any payment for Trial Examination Papers.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Direct Deposit the amount payable with Your School/Diocese name as reference to

Catholic Secondary Schools Association
Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 062028
Account Number: 00906225

OR

Please make cheques payable to “CSSA” and post to:

Mr Ian Baker
Secretary, Catholic Secondary Schools Association
C/- Catholic Education Commission NSW
PO Box A169
Sydney South NSW 1235

NO RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED. PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THE CONFIRMATION OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

PLEASE FINALISE YOUR PAYMENT BY FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2013

Please contact Erica Boundy (02) 9287 1540 if you have any questions.
Suggested prayers of general intercession.

For the family of the Church, that we listen attentively and act upon the Word of God proclaimed

We pray to the Lord.

For all our concerns and fears, free us from Gracious God, that we might have a generous heart to give hope and love to all your children

We pray to the Lord.

For the courage to respond to your call, Loving God, help us to hear Your voice within and around us

We pray to the Lord.

For the oppressed and suffering, that we may be strong in upholding all those whose rights and dignity are limited by prejudice and ignorance

We pray to the Lord.

For all women celebrating International Women’s Day this week; that we may be encouraged and supported in taking up leadership roles within the Church

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are wounded and disconnected from the Church, may they be strengthened by the dignity, honour and respect Jesus gave to women

We pray to the Lord.

For women in caring professions; may they be renewed and refreshed in their care and commitment to people in need

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are injured, sick and prey to spiritual violence, that they may be consoled by the love of gentle Jesus, who suffered for our salvation

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are in voluntary service and engaged in activities which advance the cause of women and girls, may their commitment be strengthened and supported

We pray to the Lord.

For all women who are called to leadership, may they feel secure enough to take up the challenges of their role

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are working on equality and justice for women’s rights, may the Lord be with them and support them in their work

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are hurting and struggling, may they be consoled by the love of gentle Jesus, who suffered for our salvation

We pray to the Lord.

For women who desire freedom from violence, may they be strengthened with courage and resilience

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are surrounded by love, may their love be a light to all those who suffer

We pray to the Lord.

For all women, may we be strengthened and encouraged to be attentive to the needs of others

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are criticized, may they be strengthened by the love of gentle Jesus, who suffered for our salvation

We pray to the Lord.

We offer you, O Lord, the fruits of our lives and all that we have, that you may give us your grace and peace

We pray to the Lord.

For all women, if we may, for the graces of the Holy Spirit, may they be strengthened and encouraged to participate in this annual celebration of women’s gifts and contributions

We pray to the Lord.

Additional Prayers of Intercession, specific to International Women’s Day

For women, young and not so young, may their gifts of wisdom and energy be encouraged and supported in taking up leadership roles within the Church

We pray to the Lord.

For women who are wounded and disconnected from the Church, may they be strengthened by the dignity, honour and respect Jesus gave to women

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Parish Resource

Welcoming parishes to celebrate International Women’s Day

Introduction

WELCOME TO THE 2013 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY Parish Resource. It is our hope that the liturgical and pastoral suggestions for this day will assist your community and all members of all faiths and denominations to participate in this annual celebration of women’s gifts and contributions.

For over a hundred years International Women’s Day has called our attention to the remarkable political, social and economic achievements of women, and encouraged us to work with all people of good will to uphold democracy, human rights and gender equality.

The Australian theme for International Women’s Day in 2013 is ‘The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum’. It is a theme anchored in hope, both realised and for the future, for the wellbeing of the human family. While it is true that women have made great advances in gaining safety, freedom from injustices and violence on the basis of their gender, this gender-based inequality continues to deny women the fullness of life. While we celebrate women, we also express our concern about the gender-based inequality that women continue to experience. In this Year of Grace, International Women’s Day is a great opportunity to publicly affirm the many ways that women exercise gifts of leadership, service, compassion and competence that bring life to our church and our society. As we do, we affirm women’s human dignity, and celebrate that, with the help of our Gracious God, a future is possible where women and girls are full partners in setting the direction of their lives and that of their communities and societies.

We invite you to consider how you might enhance the liturgies and celebrations of your parish by using some of the reflections and prayer suggestions within this resource. Our prayerful affirmation of the dignity of all people, being encouraging and hope to our communities and the whole human family.

With every good wish,

Chair, Council for Australian Catholic Women

Natalie Lindner L’Huilier

Chair, Council for Australian Catholic Women

Welcome to the 2013 International Women’s Day Parish Resource.

Parish Resource

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Chair, Council for Australian Catholic Women

Natalie Lindner L’Huilier

Chair, Council for Australian Catholic Women
Liturgy Notes

Gospel Reflection

Reading: (Fourth Sunday of Lent 10 March 2013)
Reading 1: Joshua 5:9A, 10-12
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Reading 2: Corinthians 5:17-21

The story of ‘The Prodigal Son’ is sometimes also called the story of ‘The Forgiving Father’ or ‘The Loving Father’. The inclusion of this Gospel story on a day when we celebrate International Women’s Day encourages us to stop and ask some deeper questions about this text and the role of women in Scripture.

‘The Prodigal Son’ is not really an accurate title because there are three important characters in the story: a man and his two sons. The story covers the breakdown of family relationships and a journey that eventually leads to the challenges of the restoration of family relationships. In fact, the text does not tell us whether the older son came to accept his father’s actions (and therefore his brother’s actions also), but finishes with the father’s viewpoint.

On International Women’s Day, when we encounter a story where the only women mentioned is a reference to prostitutes (Luke 15:30), it is timely to stop and think about the many roles that women have in our world, and how many of these roles are a result of personal choice or socio-cultural circumstances that have led to women being in such roles. What would our world look like if women everywhere had personal choice over how they used their gifts and talents? How would our societies be if women and girls were treated with dignity and respect by everyone? How would our societies be if women and girls were not treated as second-class citizens, and were not expected to play second-class roles? As Pope Paul VI said, “God is our father; even more he is our mother.”

Pray together

Beatitudes for Women

Blessed is the woman of peace and reconciliation
She will live in the freedom and light of the Lord

Blessed is the woman of prayer
She will live in communion with God and her brothers and sisters

Amen

Consider the Parable
Luke 21:31-32

• What does this parable tell you about family life?
• What does it mean to have ‘thrown the inheritance’?
• If you were to rewrite this parable making shifts in gender and viewpoint, how would you change it?

Be silent and still with the words
"You are with me always and all I have is yours,”
Luke 15:31

Encounter Mystery
The Prodigal/Daughter

uncommon for women to be unnamed in Scripture texts, such as ‘The Widow of Nain’ or ‘The Samaritan Woman’. Luke often praised for his inclusion of many different women in his Gospel, but some Scripture scholars are now critiquing this approach and saying that while he does include more women than other authors, the tasks they are doing in the roles they play are trivialised.

The story immediately prior to the story of the ‘Loving Father’ is the parable of a woman who searches for her lost coin. Likewise, Scripture scholars talk about this story being a metaphor for God, whose love is so great that she searches for what she has lost that is so important to her, and rejoices when she finds it. The text prior to this story is the parable of ‘The Lost Sheep’, which provides another metaphor of God’s love for us.

Let us keep in mind that the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#370) states: “In no way is God in man’s image. He is neither man nor woman. God is pure spirit in which there is no place for the difference between the sexes.” In his Angelus address on September 10, 1978, Pope John Paul I said, “God is our father, even more he is our mother.”

The story of the ‘Loving Father’ challenges us to look at our own images of God, and to ensure that we draw from a wide variety of Scripture texts to provide us with a multitude of different images of God, portraying God’s unconditional love for us. Each image provides us with a glimpse of who God is for us. However, no image is complete, because God is more than we could ever imagine. The story of the ‘Loving Father’ also challenges us to critique the place of women within Scripture and our own lives. Where have we overlooked the contribution of women? Most importantly, what can each of us do to support the women in our lives to be all that they were created to be, thus revealing the feminine face of God to others?
For All School Staff

Website: www.partners4learning.edu.au

Partners 4 Learning
A Must-See Website for The New School Year

Download resources, tip sheets and more to help build parent and community engagement with learning in your school

'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO RECEIVE UPDATES OR SUBSCRIBE TO THE PARENT NET NEWSLETTER
Dear Principal

The Whitlam Institute’s annual What Matters? writing competition, supported by Officeworks, is being more enthusiastically embraced by students, teachers and parents alike each year. In 2012 over 3500 students seized this opportunity with the support of their teachers. Our website (www.whitlam.org/whatmatters) showcases previous finalists, and features two TV programs about the 2011 and 2012 competitions, which give real flavour of what it’s all about! 2013 entry forms and posters are also available to download and print.

This competition is simplicity itself, offering all primary and secondary students in NSW and the ACT the opportunity to write a 400-600 word opinion piece on what matters to them and why. The 2013 competition is now open and we would welcome entries from as many of your students who may wish to participate.

HOW TO ENTER
Students submit typed 400-600 opinion piece accompanied by a signed Entry Form. One entry per student. All participating students receive a Certificate of Participation.

JUDGING CRITERIA
See overleaf for the judging criteria and information.

STUDENT PRIZES
Prizes are awarded in 4 categories: Years 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12.

- $350 for each category winner and $200 for each category runner-up. Winners and runners-up will receive their prize at an awards ceremony, following their participation in a Young Writers Forum run by The Writing Workshop, on 29 July 2013 at the University of Western Sydney’s Parramatta campus. Winning entries will be published in print and online.
- An overall competition winner, announced at the awards ceremony, will receive an iPad donated by Officeworks.
- The Years 5/6 and 7/8 category winners will each receive a full-day creative writing workshop donated by The Writing Workshop, conducted by award-winning author Bernard Cohen.
- The Year 9/10 category winner will be invited to spend a day at the Inspire Foundation, meeting the ReachOut.com Crew and receiving professional training. They will also be offered the opportunity to be paid $200 to produce a feature article for the ReachOut.com website (www.reachout.com)
- The Year 11/12 category winner will receive a book voucher to the value of $100.

CLOSING DATE: 3 May 2013

I do hope that you might encourage your staff and students to participate in this competition. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to relevant teachers in your school.

If you have queries or require further information please contact Georgia Hannouch in our office on (02) 9685 9161 or visit our website at www.whitlam.org.

Warm regards

Eric Sidoti
Director, Whitlam Institute
2013 WHAT MATTERS? WRITING COMPETITION

CRITERIA

The following criteria will be applied by judges when selecting winning entries in the 2013 WHAT MATTERS? writing competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria one</th>
<th>Original work of between 400-600 words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria two</td>
<td>Careful attention to spelling and grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria three</td>
<td>Focus on a matter or issue of significance, expressed with passionate conviction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria four</td>
<td>Articulate through appropriate and effective use of language with logical cohesion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria five</td>
<td>Creative and imaginative approach to the subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria six</td>
<td>Readable and engaging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tips for 2013 WHAT MATTERS? WRITING COMPETITION provided by our judges

The following tips have been provided by our judges to help prepare a winning entry:

1. Correct spelling and grammar is essential.
2. Authenticity. Don’t write what you think your teacher or the judges would want you to write about. Write about it because you care.
3. Personal experience. This is not essential, but a common theme with many of the standout essays is a level of personal experience.
4. Don’t overwrite. Keep the language simple and to the point. Too often the writing gets overwrought in an attempt to express how serious the subject matter is.
5. Be original.
6. Do your homework beforehand. You don’t have to fill your essay with facts and figures, but it will help you shape your understanding of what you are writing about.
7. Use examples, case studies, media reports, etc. Root your essay in real life.
8. Just because the subject matter is serious doesn’t mean your essay has to be completely serious. Humour expressed well can be very appealing. Humour expressed badly isn’t. If you use humour, use it judiciously.

The 2012 winning and highly commended entries can be viewed online at www.whitlam.org/whatmatters. 2013 entry forms and posters are also available for download.

We hope you find these resources helpful. If you have any questions or require more information please contact the Georgia Hannouch on 9685 9161 or visit www.whitlam.org

Please send all entries with clearly completed and signed entry forms by Friday 3 May 2013 to:

Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797
PENRITH NSW 2751.
What Matters?
is a writing competition
that gives year
5 – 12 students
in NSW and the
ACT a chance to say
what matters to them
in society today.
What actions do you
think should be taken
to build a better society?
What would you change if you
could? What do you want other
people to care about?

HOW TO ENTER
Write a 400-600 word opinion piece on what
matters to you and why. Entries must be typed on A4
paper. Strictly one entry per student. All entries must
be accompanied by a signed entry form. Entry forms are
available from your teacher or can be downloaded at
www.whitlam.org/whatmatters

JUDGING CRITERIA AND INFORMATION
Judging criteria and further information is available at www.whitlam.org/
whatmatters, where you can also view the 2012 winning entries.

CLOSING DATE
Friday 3 May 2013.

STUDENT PRIZES
Prizes are awarded in 4 categories: Years 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12.
→ $350 for each category winner and $200 for each category
runner-up. Winners and runners-up will receive their prize at an
awards ceremony, following their participation in a Young Writers
Forum run by The Writing Workshop, on 29 July 2013 at the
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the ReachOut.com website (www.reachout.com).
→ The Year 11/12 category winner will receive a book voucher
to the value of $100.
All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

KEEP IN TOUCH
on Facebook at www.facebook.com/whatmatterscomp, and also
make sure you check out the awesome TV program that was made
by TVS about last year’s competition at www.youtube.com/whitlamuws

For more information see your teacher or visit our
website www.whitlam.org or call 02 9685 9187

COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

ENTRANT DETAILS

Please tick your year group:

Yr 5 ☐ Yr 6 ☐ Yr 7 ☐ Yr 8 ☐ Yr 9 ☐ Yr 10 ☐ Yr 11 ☐ Yr 12 ☐

Please print clearly as your participation certificate will be printed using this information.

Student Name ...........................................................................................................................
Entry Title ................................................................................................................................
Number of Words .....................................................................................................................
Teacher’s Name ........................................................................................................................
School Name ............................................................................................................................
School Address .........................................................................................................................
School Telephone Number ....................................................................................................

School Name ......................................................................................................................................

Parent/ Teacher/ Guardian Declaration: I am the parent/teacher/guardian (circle
the correct description) of the student and confirm to the best of my knowledge the enclosed
entry is the original work of the student and was prepared during 2013. By making a declaration
in respect of this entry, I grant the Whitlam Institute a licence to edit, print and/or publish the
whole or part of the entry online or in publication.

Name ............................................................................................................................................
Signature ........................................................................................................................................
Date ..............................................................................................................................................

☐ I am a teacher and would like to subscribe to the What Matters? mailing list.
Email ...........................................................................................................................................

Send Entry Form To:
Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751

For more information on the Whitlam Institute please visit our website
www.whitlam.org or call 02 9685 9187

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:
boys' education

UNDERSTANDING BOYS:
HOW THEY THINK, LEARN AND GROW

Introducing a new Professional Development program for your whole school community. Conducted by WARREN HOPLEY and based on a research report undertaken by the Inner Western Region of the Catholic Education Office Sydney. The program covers many key areas including:

1. MENTORING INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IN BOYS' EDUCATION
   + Integrating boys' education into your School Improvement Plan
   + Assisting the Leadership Team in the planning process
   + Assisting specific stage groups and working with students.

2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM that will help you to understand how boys think, learn and grow using the following guiding principles:
   + Building relationships between boys and teachers
   + Effective and valued-added pedagogy
   + Relevance and choice in learning
   + Activity-based learning
   + Engaging male role models in the learning process.

3. AN INTERACTIVE PARENT FORUM DISCUSSING:
   + How boys think and how they best learn
   + The challenges schools have already taken up
   + How parents can help their boys to grow into mature men.

CONTACT WARREN HOPLEY ON HOPENLYWARREN@HOTMAIL.COM OR 0407 943 115
The program is flexible and can be tailored to your school's needs. You may register for the entire program, selected parts, or simply a staff meeting or parent forum.

MEETING WITH LEADERSHIP TEAM
+ Discuss the need and outcomes for a whole-school focus on boys' education
+ Examine how boys' education can be integrated into your School Improvement Plan
+ Assist with the development of a concise policy.

STAFF MEETING
Group interaction on:
+ How do we tune boys out of learning and school life?
+ How do we tune boys into learning and school life?
+ Examine recent research on why boys are having difficulties academically and socially
+ In stage groups, plan strategies to be implemented over the next two terms (action research).

PARENT FORUM
+ An interactive forum in the day or evening
+ Examine how boys think and how they best learn
+ Discuss how parents can help their boys to grow into mature men.

FOLLOW UP VISIT (OPTIONAL)
+ Work with committee on drafting a Boys' Education Policy
+ Facilitate a workshop with one stage group

FOLLOW UP STAFF MEETING
+ Examine a collation of the strategies teachers listed in previous meeting regarding how boys are tuned in or out of learning and school life
+ Examine action research: what has been tried, and what results were achieved
+ Examine draft of a Boys' Education Policy.

about warren hopley
Warren Hopley has worked in education for 40 years. A highly experienced Principal, Warren has carried out research into boys education and fighting racism in schools.

TESTIMONIALS
"I highly commend to you the extensive work that Warren Hopley has carried out in the sphere of boys' education over the past two years. Warren has a passion and commitment to boys' education which has led to extremely positive outcomes for the boys attending our schools. Warren's engagement of parents in the boys' education agenda has generated a most positive understanding of the role that schools and parents play in the growth of young boys."

MICHAEL KRAWECK
Regional Director
Inner Western Region, Catholic Education Office Sydney

"Warren has recently been the driving force behind the development of boys' education within the Inner Western Region. His Boys' Education seminars are well supported by current research and school data. He has a down-to-earth nature and is able to communicate a practical understanding of boys which has been very well received by schools and parents alike."

PETER WATKINS
Principal, St Charles Catholic Primary, Ryde

"Warren Hopley has meaningfully engaged and challenged the students, parents, teachers and principals of the Inner Western Region with a host of issues regarding boys and their place in our schools and their learning. Warren has been able to provide real answers and real solutions. As a father of four sons I would commend his body of work most highly."

PHIL TOWNSEND
Principal, St Anne's Catholic Primary, Strathfield South
Dear Principals

Catholic Mission will have two missionaries from India in Australia in the months of May and June *(actual dates are still being determined)*. They are available to visit school communities in the Diocese of Wollongong. An itinerary for their visits to different dioceses nationally is now being planned. The reasons for their visits are to raise the profile of the needs of the missionary Church in India in conjunction with Catholic Mission’s annual appeal for the Propagation of the Faith in all parishes nationally. The visitors are:

Sr Clara is from Chennai, India where she runs the St Joseph’s Home at Marialaya for underprivileged, destitute and abused girls and young women. Sr Clara is also the face of the parish mission appeal and will feature in the appeal DVD that will be shown in many parish churches. The theme of this year’s parish appeals is: *I will rescue you*.

Fr Faustine Lucas Lobo, National Director for the Pontifical Mission Societies’ India. He is a diocesan priest for the Diocese of Mangalore and prior to his appointment as mission’s director served as Public Relations Director to the Conference of Bishops of Karnataka.

Expressions of interest by school communities in securing one of these missionary speakers can be directed to Mary Hiscox by email [Mary.Hiscox@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Mary.Hiscox@dow.catholic.edu.au) or fax 4283 1455 by Wednesday 20 February 2013. No guarantees on this one as it is anticipated that there will be considerable interest in these international mission visitors from parish and school communities nationally.

Yours in the spirit of mission and evangelisation and with best wishes in this Lenten season

Michael Deasy
Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission
Email: wollongongdd@catholicmission.org.au
Principals Forum,

This is a formal invite to all Principle's from the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command to attend a Principal’s Forum on the 5th April, 2013 from 9.45am till 12:00pm at Lake Illawarra Police Station located at 6 Pioneer Dr, Oak Flats (next to oak Flats Railway Station). There will be a presentation from crime scene about preservation of crime scenes and evidence on the day.

To ensure I can provide you with the relevant and correct information (This includes any questions that you wished answered) at the forum please forward or contact S/CST WALSH or S/CST BURGESS either via email wals3ben@police.nsw.gov.au / burg2sco@police.nsw.gov.au or call 42325328 / 42325329 by the 5th of March 2013. Please remember these forums are used for Police and Principles to exchange information and any issue’s re: individual students/problems are to be addressed outside this forum.

A light morning tea will be provided.

RSVP by the 5th March 2013

Looking forward to seeing you all at the forum.

Senior Constable Ben WALSH
Senior Constable Scott BURGESS
Youth Liaison Officer’s
Lake Illawarra Local Area Command
PH: 02 42325328 / 02 42325329
EMAIL: wals3ben@police.nsw.gov.au
burg2sco@police.nsw.gov.au
Principals Meeting
Lake Illawarra Local Area Command
Friday, 5th April, 2013

9.45am Arrive
10.00am Welcome and Introduction
   Information regarding the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command
10.10am Address by Mr Wayne STARLING – Commander – Lake Illawarra
   Local Area Command.
10.15am Talk by SOCO’s re:
   - securing crime scene
   - Preservation of evidence
11.45am Opportunity to ask questions

12.00pm Finish

### If there is sufficient interest, some officers will be available to stay back
and answer questions. ###
Dear Principal,

Your school has been identified as being in an area that would benefit from participation in ‘Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness and the Keeping me safe Workshop’s. These workshops are conducted by Police and run for approximately 30 minutes. The ‘Keeping me Safe Program’ is aimed at helping children identify safe adults in their community, as well as safe places to go when they are lost, feeling unsafe, frightened or in danger. The program reinforces the message that it is NOT safe to go with anyone unless their parents (or guardian and carer) have given their permission. This program is primarily targeted at kindergarten, years 1 and 2 students. As such, Police in consultation with yourselves will choose an appropriate program for your particular school. These workshops are targeted for students from kindergarten to year 6, where some are specifically designed for certain age groups only, as stated in the attached form.

Workshops are carried out one class at a time (about 30 students maximum) with a teacher needing to be present at all times to assist the attending Police Officer. We can only complete a number of classes per day also. Your school would also be expected to make available; an interactive white board and a computer.

If you are interested in having Police conduct a workshop at your school, please complete the following form and return it to the address listed above. As we have a large number of schools in our command we try to attend as many schools as possible, so we would hope to try and complete at least 2 modules at each school who replies, where possible. Attached is information on each workshop that can be put in the schools newsletter prior to the workshop being conducted.

Alternatively, you can E-mail me on the address provided on the letterhead. If you have any questions relating to Crime Prevention Workshops, or how they relate to your school, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number provided.

Regards

Senior Constable Scott BURGESS
Senior Constable Ben WALSH
Youth Liaison Officers
Lake Illawarra LAC
Please respond to this letter ASAP to book in your school. Priority will go to the schools that respond first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of classes you wish to participate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Liaising with Police</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His/Her E-Mail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contact details (ph number)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred day of week for workshops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rank the following modules in order of what you believe to be most important (1) to least important (5) to be conducted at your school.

**Primary School Only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keeping me safe (safe people safe places), years K to 2</th>
<th>Cyberbullying/Cybersafety, years 5 and 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bike/Road safety, years K to 6</td>
<td>Malicious Damage/graffiti, years 5 and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing, years 5 and 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stealing/shoplifting Program

This program explains to the children what stealing is and why people steal. The consequences, short and long term are shown and the effects stealing can have on the victims. Theft is increasing and is one cause for a price increase at stores, to cover the cost of the loss of stock. Young children can be dealt with under the young offenders act for stealing under certain circumstances, which is a diversionary method other than going to court.

The main idea is to provide as much information to make the children aware of the consequences of theft and how it can affect the community, their lives and the lives of their own families.

Lake Illawarra local Area Command
6 Pioneer Dr, Oak Flats NSW 2529
PH: 02 42325599
FAX: 02 42325511
Malicious Damage/Graffiti Program

This program identifies what graffiti/malicious damage is and it’s consequences for the offenders, especially with the new graffiti laws in place. This program will help children identify that damaging someone’s property is an offence and is wrong.

NEW LAW – GRAFFITI OFFENCES

On 10 December 2012 the Graffiti Legislation Amendment Act 2012 commenced and has removed the power of police to issue warnings, cautions and conferences under the young offenders act. All graffiti offences for youths will now be an immediate charge.

What is a graffiti offence?

A graffiti offence is defined as an offence under the Graffiti Act, including:
- damaging or defacing property by means of a graffiti implement
- possession of a graffiti implement
- affixing bill posters or marking premises by chalk, and
- sale or supply of paint cans to, or possession of spray cans by, persons under 18 years of age.
**Keeping Me Safe Program**

**Hello I’m Constable Charlie!**
The “Keeping Me Safe” Program is provided by the NSW Police Force together with the community to teach children simple strategies for their own personal safety.

**Helping children to identify safe adults and safe places.**
This program aims to help children identify the safe adults in their community, as well as safe places to go when they are lost, feeling unsafe or frightened or are in danger. Other goals include enabling children to develop their own personal safety strategies, to respect their bodies and their personal space, and to feel empowered to say NO and seek help when they feel unsafe or unsure and to have the confidence to tell a trusted adult if they are being harmed in any way.

**Keeping me safe.**
This package pulls together resources to assist children to find: safe places - whether in their own home or out in the community: as well as safe people they can turn to. Reinforcing the message that it is not safe to go with ANYONE unless their parents (or guardian and carer) have given their permission.

Lake Illawarra Local Area Command
6 Pioneer Dr, Oak Flats NSW 2529
PH: 02 42325599
FAX: 02 42325511
Bike/Road Safety Program

This program demonstrates the importance of road safety while on bicycles and just walking or playing. We will talk about bike maintenance, checking the bike before riding it, what safety equipment is needed to ride the bike and what dangers to lookout for. The children are encouraged to think and answer questions about bike and road safety and what precautions they should take whilst riding or they are near roads and traffic.

The main idea is to provide as much information to make the children aware of the dangers involved with the road and how difficult it is for a fast moving vehicle to stop. We explain that drivers do not always have good vision when driving, especially reversing, and the dangers of driveways.