Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to all our HTG parents and carers who joined us for our Maths Mania Workshops for Catholic Schools Week last Monday. It was wonderful to see so many people turn up and have a go at the open-ended, rich tasks we provided. Our shopping task really highlighted the importance of mathematical thinking and problem-solving strategies and how you can help your children when thinking about everyday mathematical tasks.

As a part of the Numeracy Now project, teachers are designing and teaching activities in Mathematics that don’t just require one answer or have just one solution. We are trying to develop skills and strategies in our students that build on mental processing and mathematical creativity, as well as motivate our students to develop their problem-solving ideas.

Open-ended activities are great activities because they allow for many different approaches and solutions. Open-ended activities encourage learners to pose their own problems and ask questions as to how a problem can be solved.

You can involve your child in using numbers to solve problems and making decisions with you. Below are some activities you might like to try:

**Kindergarten/Stage 1:**
I have a vegetable patch in my backyard that looks like this grid:

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  |   |   |
  |   |   |
  |   |   |
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- How many vegetables will I plant in my vegie patch?
- If I plant twice as many, how many plants will I have?

**Stage 2:**
I have a vegetable patch in my backyard that looks like this grid:

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  |   |   |
  |   |   |
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- What is the area of my vegie patch?
- If I make a vegie patch two times as big, what is the area now?

**Stage 3:**
A farmer wants to put in a vegetable garden. He has 60 m of fencing. What might the area of the garden be?

- What would the perimeter of the garden be?
- If the farmer doubles or triples the fencing, what might the area and perimeter be?

We will be having more Maths Mania Workshops coming soon, focusing on open-ended tasks, just like the activities your children do in their Mathematics lessons.

We can’t wait to see you there!

God bless,

Ms. Kathryn Salkeld, Assistant Principal
Dear Parents and Friends,

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in Western Sydney. Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the tax payer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in Western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE member, Tony Issa and STATE opposition candidate, Julia Finn to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election.

Please read the attached information.

Thank you most sincerely for your participation at Mass last Sunday. Another very proud moment for our school community and it is because of the people that you are that we can achieve anything we put our minds to.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Regards

Helen Boyer, Principal

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2016

Holy Trinity School is now accepting enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2016. If your child turns five (5) years of age by 31st July 2016, please call into the school office to collect an enrolment pack.

Return the completed form to the school with your child’s:-

* Baptism Certificate
* Birth Certificate
* Immunisation Certificate

2015 State Election

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Students of the Week
Week ending 13.3.15

Kindergarten: Noel Emmanuel
Year One: Charlotte Bou-Francis
Year Two: Chanel Taouk
Year Three: Neha Nair
Year Four: Ava Pirini
Year Five: Khang Nguyen
Year Six: Angelina Batistic

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the families who have brought in Easter Eggs for the Easter Raffle.

We are still accepting donations of eggs to make up prizes to be drawn on Monday 30th March.

We invite any parents who are able to attend a “working bee” on Friday 27th March to help package up prizes for the Easter Raffle.

Calendar Dates

Wednesday 25th March - Annunciation of the Lord
Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday
Tuesday, 31st March - BBQ for students with 100% attendance for term
Thursday, 2nd April - Holy Thursday Liturgy all welcome - Last day of Term 1
Friday, 3rd April - Good Friday – Passion of the Lord
Sunday, 5th April - Easter Sunday
Catholic Education: responding to demand

We have a strong history of using evidence-based practice to improve our student outcomes. Through certainty in State government capital works funding, we can efficiently respond to demographic demands of a Catholic education in high growth areas.

1. CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING
- In the Diocese of Parramatta, Catholic schools educate around one quarter of the total school age population.
- It would cost NSW taxpayers $3 billion more each year if all Catholic school students were accommodated in government schools.

2. CAPITAL FUNDING
- NSW Catholic schools need to add 80,000 student places by 2031, requiring 20 new schools in addition to refurbishments and expansions of existing schools.
- 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 Marsden Park, Rouse Hill and Stanhope in response to growth. The Diocese will need an additional $7.1 million to upgrade schools in Merrylands and Marayong.
- 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.
  - 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.

3. LEARNING SUCCESS
- Since 2012, we will have trained 105 reading recovery teachers and provided over 600 students access to early intervention literacy programs through the State Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan funding.
- An additional 500 Year 1 students have reached or exceeded Diocesan wide benchmarks since 2012.

4. REIMAGINING SCHOOLING
- We are responding to the changing nature of schooling and learner's needs by partnering with business, Church, community and parents, to move beyond existing models of stand-alone schooling to a connected learning community so we can use school funding more effectively.
- Delany College, Granville has partnered with Telstra to provide students with collaborative learning spaces that utilise education-specific technology.
- The Centre for Deeper Learning at Parramatta Marist High School opened this year and is designed to support teachers to continue their learning, share evidence based practice with other interested educators and continue to promote innovation and change.

5. CATHOLIC ETHOS
- NSW Catholic schools have provided quality, faith-based education for Australian children since 1806 and are open to all families who seek an education based on Catholic teaching and values.
- Governments must remain vigilant about legislation that will impact upon religious freedom and the right of Catholic schools to deliver on that commitment through appropriate employment, enrolment and curriculum policies and practices.

Any future NSW Government must support the choice of Catholic school parents through certainty in capital works funding for Catholic schools for the next three years.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta employs over 4,500 teachers and staff and provides quality Catholic schooling for over 43,000 students in 56 primary, 22 secondary schools and four early learning centres in greater western Sydney.