Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Think back to what life was like when you were the age your children are now. If you can remember some of the concerns and struggles you had at that time, you’ve taken a first step in developing a true understanding of your children.

Some of the elements of childhood and adolescence don’t change very much from generation to generation; however much in our world has changed drastically in the past thirty years. The problems and experiences our children have today are vastly different from those of a generation ago. Because of this, it takes more than looking back on the ‘good old days’ to really understand the world our children inhabit.

Take time to be with your children. This is a simple statement, but it is difficult to do. Most parents have a multitude of work and household responsibilities which must somehow be juggled. Nevertheless, the gift of your own time is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Start by prioritising your own life and finding the time to be with your children.

Go to their activities. Be there when they bring their friends home from school. Listen to their favourite music and find out what messages they are hearing in it. Know the television shows and videos they are watching, and take some time to watch with them. If you have a home computer that connects to the Internet, monitor your children’s usage. There is a world of information at their fingertips but there is a great deal of rubbish too!

Be aware of how much time they are spending on the computer, in front of the TV or on the phone. Don’t be afraid to comment on things you don’t agree with, but be ready to listen to their point of view and get a conversation going. Find out something about your child’s interests, even if it’s just enough to carry on a conversation about them. All of this will help you to develop a better understanding of your children and the world they live in.

Give guidance to your child by discussing your values and choices and how you came to believe the things you do. There are such differing messages in popular culture and within children’s peer groups; your views, even if your children don’t fully agree, will give them a sense of security and will also give them some direction in life.

I will be on leave for the last two weeks of this term and the first two weeks of Term 4. In my absence Mrs Tripp and Mr Melham will be looking after Holy Trinity.

(taken from Working with Parents and Families)

Holy Trinity Prayer

O God my Father in Heaven
I offer you myself and all I do today.
Mary, my Mother, help me to love God today.
Amen

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal
**Book Fair**
Thank you to all the students and families that supported the Book Fair this year. We sold approximately $2,800 in books and extra goodies which will contribute to purchasing over $800.00 in books and resources for the library.

**Father’s Day BBQ**
Special thanks to staff and parents who assisted with donations, cooking, setting up, serving and clearing up at last Wednesday’s Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast. It was a wonderful community atmosphere and it was great to see so many fathers, grandfathers and families able to attend.

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**Dance Fever Challenge**
Next Wednesday 12th September our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will participate in a special Interschool Dance Challenge at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre Homebush. Buses have been hired to transport children, family members and school staff to the venue. There will be no charge for people who wish to travel on the bus. Buses will depart from the school at 4.30 pm and will return to the school after the end of the Challenge, at approximately 9.45 pm.

The only cost involved is $5.00 entry per person (including children competing).

If you have not already returned your form and money you are asked to return the tear-off slip below to the school office by Friday 7th September so tickets can be issued.

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**Harmony Wall**
We wish to design and paint a mural on the fence at the back of the old presbytery. We aim to call this our Harmony Wall. We are asking our Community: parents, friends, students and ex-students to contribute to the space.

A double-sided A3 sheet is being sent home today with some suggestions and we would be happy to accept all ideas and designs. (use the back of the sheet if you make a mistake)

A final selection of designs and images will form the basis of the Harmony Wall. We would like final drawings and ideas in by Monday 22nd October.
**Child Protection Training For Volunteers**

To assist in the classroom, as a sport, canteen or excursion helper you will be required to complete child protection training for volunteers working in schools. Parents who have completed this training in the past need to update every two years. To assist parents, an online training module is available. After completing the module an email notification will be sent to the volunteer’s email address and to the school email address. This email is a confirmation that the training has been completed and the school records are updated accordingly.

**What to do?**

1. Child Protection for Volunteers may be accessed by the following link: www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection
2. Scroll down to CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING and click “HERE”.
3. Open the module by clicking the START link.
4. Read through the presentation.
5. Complete and submit quiz questions. This will take approximately 45 minutes.
6. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing your name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school where you intend to volunteer (check that you have typed your email address correctly or you will not receive notification).

**Staff Carpark**

Parents are requested not to park in the fenced area opposite the school as this carpark is for the use of Holy Trinity and Delany staff only. The gates may be open at times as staff are coming and going. The aim is to leave the on street parking free for the use of parents dropping off and picking up their children.

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**Students of the Week**

**Week ending 31.8.12**

- Kindergarten: Amot Aken
- Year One: Ading Ahoi
- Year Two: Andre Berou
- Year Three: Daniel Berou
- Year Four: Jeanette Taliauli
- Year Five: James Attard
- Year Six: Belinda Martin

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**Numeracy Hint from Mrs Tripp**

Keeping a growth chart is a good way of helping your child understand measurement units. Use simple language such as “Sam is taller than Jim” to compare the heights of people.

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**HEAD LICE (Pediculosis)**

Areas of Sydney are experiencing problems with head lice. This is not an uncommon problem in schools but it needs to be addressed. We are therefore asking ALL parents to take the following action.

- Check your child’s hair for evidence of lice or eggs.
- If they are present, use an effective head lice treatment (available from the local chemist) and follow the directions provided with the product. All other children in the family should be treated at the same time.
- Remove all the eggs from the hair; this process is essential because if even one is left, the whole cycle can begin again.
- Treat the hair again 7-10 days after the first treatment to kill any lice that hatched after the first treatment.
- Washing bedding in hot water (over 60ºC), or putting bedding into a hot tumble dryer, or ironing clothing or bedding will kill any live lice.
- Other items that cannot be washed or ironed can be placed into a plastic bag, and left in the sunshine for 2 or 3 days.

We hope that, if every family follows with the above procedures, the problem will be alleviated.
Social Skill Focus
Saying - Please, Thank You and Excuse Me

* Teacher models and students role play a variety of scenarios in the school environment.
* Students discuss the feelings evoked when someone is polite to them
* Students discuss the possible outcomes when accidents occur.
* Use a friendly voice to say ‘please, thank you and excuse me’.
* It is okay to interrupt if it is an emergency.
* If it isn’t an emergency, wait till the people stop talking and look at you.

Parent Links:
Model good manners in front of your child. Reward good manners and let your child know that it is appreciated. If your child doesn’t say please and thank you remind them, but don’t make a big issue of it. Point out children with good manners.

World Youth Day Rio 2013 Raffle
Parramatta Diocese is holding a raffle as part of fundraising events to help send pilgrims to WYD Rio 2013.
Tickets cost $2.00 each.
More books are available from the school office.

Term 3 School Fees
Term 3 fees are now overdue.
Please make payment as soon as possible.
If you are having difficulties paying fees please contact the school office.
Families who have arranged to pay by Direct Debit or BPay please disregard this notice.

Holy Trinity Parish 125th Anniversary Commemorative Mugs
If you would like a memento of the 125th Anniversary of the Parish, printed commemorative mugs are still available from the school office for $5.00 each.

Canteen News and Roster - More Volunteers Welcome
If you are able to help on the roster, please contact the school office. Volunteers must complete Child Protection Training which is accessed online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection.

This can be completed at school if you do not have access to a computer. Please contact the office.
Paulette Zaiter, Canteen Coordinator

Fri, 7th Sept - Rosette Bou-Francis, Sue Bou-Francis
Tue, 11th Sept - Sophie Depares, Lillian Ibrahim
Fri, 14th Sept - Annie Zreika, Arvin Rubbi
Tue, 18th Sept - Marcel Abdow, Paulette Zaiter
Fri, 21st Sept - Maram Salloum, Nada El Khoueiry, Helen Hakim

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Calendar Dates
Fri, 7th September - Assembly Year 2 – parents and friends welcome
Sat, 8th September - Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day
Tue, 11th September - Our Lady’s Birthday
Wed, 12th September - SPARK Special Session
Wed, 19th September - Dance Fever Challenge at Homebush
Fri, 21st September - Life Education Van - Kinder to Year 2
Fri, 21st September - Term 3 ends
Mon, 8th October - Term 4 Begins - Children return in summer uniform