

»» QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ««

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION



WELCOME

»» The Catholic Education Foundation had an incredible term dedicated to celebrating and creating opportunities for all! We've been privileged to invite students to speak at Central Office for the Refugee Soup Kitchen and CEF NAIDOC Week events.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff who have joined our journey in supporting the 5,741 current bursary recipients through the From the Heart Giving Program and Women's for Catholic Education Giving Circle. We also appreciate all the one-off donations that have been made this term.

Kathleen Badolato, Janet Freeman & Dominica Pafumi
CEF Team

A Year 11 students' parents were facing significant financial hardship due to long-term struggles. The College had previously been unable to resolve the outstanding school fees, leading to the account being transferred to the School Fee Support Unit.

With both parents experiencing mental health challenges, it took seven months to gather the necessary paperwork for a Financial Hardship Bursary application. The Salvation Army provided invaluable support by assisting with paperwork, document collection, and financial counseling. They are also negotiating on behalf of the family for other outstanding debts.

Thanks to the bursary, the family now has lessened their financial worries and is grateful. They can now feel comfortable to support their child with their final 2 years of schooling.

BURSARY STUDENT STORY

SUPPORTED GRANT APPLICATION

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors at DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club for financially supporting the Catholic Education Foundation's Emergency Food Relief Program to the value of \$8,000.00.

With this funding we have been able to provide food vouchers to families in need at Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield, Trinity Catholic College Auburn, St John's Catholic Primary School Auburn, St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School Auburn South, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School Fairfield, St Joachim's Catholic Primary School Lidcombe, St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School Regents Park.

One family that has benefited from this support recently immigrated to Australia with their children in order to provide more opportunities for their education. Both parents are working very hard in their new jobs but find the cost of living expensive, they expected the transition to be difficult for a period of time, while they adjust to a new culture and setting. They value Catholic education and their faith and active members of their parish. They are very grateful for basic assistance provided by the local community.

This program allows the CEF to extend its vision of creating 'Opportunities for All'.



EVENTS

>>> CITY LINK MENTOR PROGRAM FORBES EXPERIENCE

The second CLMP country experience, following Gunnedah in 2023, was the Forbes Experience 15-19 April 2024. Staff and students traveled by train from Central to Orange and then took the bus to the accommodation at Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes. The College arranged for use of their Bus and Driver which was exceptional as he had local knowledge to share with us.

Students had the opportunity to meet with farmers, local businesses and enjoy a shearing shed visit. They also visited Parkes CSIRO Radio Telescope which was made even more significant by the presentation by Mr John Sarkissian, Chief Operations Scientist at the site and an ex-student of Marist College Penshurst.



>>> ANNUAL APPEAL SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

We thank all school communities that have shown their support of the Catholic Education Foundation's Annual Appeal Fundraiser this term. To date, schools have raised over \$10,000.00 in support of the bursary program.

A special mention to St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Strathfield South who launched their inaugural Annual Appeal Fundraising Week.

The Catholic Education team thoroughly enjoyed meeting the students to educate them on how they can make a difference in other students' lives.

For a school with under 100 students, they definitely strived towards excellence in providing "Opportunities for All" and raised over \$1,000.



>>> HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC COLLEGE, LAKEMBA CAREERS DAY

The Catholic Education Foundation was invited to attend this inaugural event and thank the College for the opportunity to educate staff, students and guests about the work of the Foundation and how we financially support students from within their community. It was wonderful to speak to Year 12 students who are looking at a career in teaching and to provide information on how they can apply for a CEF Teaching Scholarship to assist with studying at ACU or Notre Dame.



>>> REFUGEE WEEK - SOUP KITCHEN

The Catholic Education Foundation hosted the annual Refugee Week Soup Kitchen which aimed to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and the issues comforting them.

The event at Central Office was a chance for staff to raise funds to support refugee students in Sydney Catholic Schools through the bursary program.

Students from Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Wakeley and Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield shared their personal stories of living life as a refugee fleeing oppression but also their settlement experiences in an English-speaking country.

Thank you to the students from Mary MacKillop Catholic College for cooking the hearty soups for Central Office Staff. By all accounts the soups were delicious and raised funds towards our 557 Refugee Bursaries!



>>> CEF NAIDOC WEEK EVENT "KEEP THE FIRE BURNING"




The Catholic Education Foundation - Sydney has announced the introduction of two new scholarships at our recent NAIDOC Week event in our Central Office. In partnership with The University of Notre Dame Australia, the scholarships will enable ten Year 12 students to attend the university.

The CEF will also work with Bennelong Energy Services to pave the way for a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradespeople.

Special thanks to our student guests from Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield and St John Bosco College Engadine, who spoke highly of how the CEF has supported them throughout their schooling.



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The Catholic Education Foundation is committed to helping Catholic families to access a Catholic education for their children in one of our 150 primary and secondary Sydney Catholic schools.

Our Vision is that every child from a Catholic family has access to an education in a Sydney Catholic school, and no child is denied this opportunity due to genuine financial, cultural or social hardship.

Our Mission is to raise sufficient funds to sustain our school fee support program to assist Catholic families in educating their children in a Sydney Catholic school.

We would like to thank all of the Catholic Education Foundation's Corporate and Community Partners for their continued generous support of our vision and mission

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