From the Principal

‘Acknowledging Success at St Patrick’s in 2015’

Migrant and Refugee Week 2015 begins on Monday 24th August and culminates with the 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Sunday 30th August.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his message for the 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2015, has chosen the theme “Church without frontiers, Mother to all”. It is part of our Christian mandate from Jesus Christ to care for others.

“The Holy Father, wishing to draw attention to and remind us of this, has chosen this theme. He wishes us to go beyond ourselves, to live an authentic Christian life, and show compassion and solidarity to those at the furthest fringes of society.

In particular, Pope Francis has identified migrants and refugees to be in need of our special attention and care, as they are our brothers and sisters “who are trying to escape difficult living conditions and dangers of every kind.”

Migrants in our local and parish communities often go through challenges and difficulties that are unseen. Simple things such as language, culture or customs can bring about hardship and anxiety. It is precisely here, in these everyday situations, that Christ is calling us to move beyond ourselves, and express solidarity to our fellow brothers and sisters.

We can reach out to our neighbours by lending a helping hand, just saying hello or even just a simple smile. This is the beginning of ‘encounter’. From here we can move together in solidarity. Many of us may never change the world, but let us not forget that we can change the world around us” (Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop Chair for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees).

The spirit of welcome and hospitality of St Patrick’s School is the gift that you extend to each other and this enriches our wonderful multi-cultural community.

God Bless

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal
Faith Community

This week we will concentrate on the history of the Liturgy of the Word.

Mainly Jewish by birth, the members of the early Church initially retained much of their religious identity and while they gathered weekly for the Eucharistic meal, they also continued to participate in the weekly Sabbath synagogue service. At this service, the Law and the Prophets were read, psalms were sung and commentaries on the Word were offered by the rabbi.

In the latter part of the first century, hostility developed between the Jewish communities and those Jews who had become Christians. Jewish Christians eventually stopped attending the synagogue and instead they added a service of the Word to their weekly celebration of the Eucharist.

At the Word service the Hebrew Scriptures were read, just as in the synagogue, but to them were added the Letters of the Apostles and St. Paul as well as the accounts of the words and deeds of the Lord that eventually developed into the Gospels we know today. It was also customary for the one who presided at the liturgy to preach and for the assembled faithful to pray for the intentions of the community.

This is where our sequence in the Liturgy of the Word came from and today is celebrated in the same way as in our early Church.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Mary MacKillop

On Friday, 7th August our community honoured Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a Liturgy in the MPA. Stage One led the Liturgy and surrounded the prayer space with some excellent images of Mary in the ‘Warhol’ style of artwork

Mrs Marrins began the Liturgy sharing some of her recent experiences of following the path of Mary’s life throughout Australia.

Year One and Two read so reverently leading the whole school prayerfully and respectfully through the whole liturgy. The Mary MacKillop Committee

Mass of the Assumption

On Friday, 14th August the School community gathered to share in the Eucharistic Celebration, honouring our Lady being taken to heaven body and soul.

This prayerful celebration was led by Stage Two students and Fr. Luis who enjoyed singing and clapping along with the children during some of the hymns and responses. Our School Captain, Stephanie Nwosu, was joined by two new altar servers Sam Byrnes and Kelicia Ilenick, who performed their duties admirably.

The Assumption Committee

Staff News

Prayers and Sympathy

Your prayers are invited for:
Miss Nathalie Casten (Year 1 Teacher) whose grandfather died recently in the Philippines and Mrs Jodi Jefferson (previously Kindergarten, currently Stage 3 Teacher) whose father died last Saturday.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
Let the perpetual light shine upon them
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen
Staff Appointment
It is with regret that I announce that Mrs Monique Kearins, School Support Officer, has been appointed to the position of Office Administrator-Finance at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills. Mrs Kearins has been a valued member of our school community for over four years. She will be greatly missed for her expertise in technology (website and facebook), professionalism, efficiency and generosity. We have had the privilege of benefitting from her engaging and considerate manner as she warmly welcomes community members and visitors to the school. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Mrs Kearins as she commences her new appointment on Monday 7th September 2015.

Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal

Teaching & Learning

Voice Of Youth Competition
The Parramatta Diocesan Voice Of Youth public speaking competition is a Year 6 competition, which allows children with a flair for public speaking an opportunity to use their talent. It is a competition that Primary schools in the Parramatta Diocese have been involved in for 28 years.

Over the past six weeks Stage 3 students have been working on, preparing and delivering their speeches for this competition. Three Year Six students from each Stage 3 class were chosen to represent their class at our school final.

Congratulations to the following nine children who made our school final; Jasmine Germino, Hallee Ward, Ashleigh Hooper, Madison Andree-Evarts, Olivier Moutia, Lillie Pender, Josh Acierda, Aleisha Macaraeg, Martha Buitizon and Ranveer Boparai.

Following our school final, Jasmine Germino, Olivier Moutia and Ashleigh Hooper represented St. Patricks at the Blacktown Cluster Final, which was held on Wednesday, 19th August.

The students did a wonderful job and presented their speeches with great skill.

Special congratulations to Ashleigh Hooper who was successful in winning the Blacktown Cluster final. Ashleigh will now go on and represent our school and Blacktown cluster at the Eastern Division semi-final on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015.

Finally to our Stage 3 students who went and supported Ashleigh, Jasmine and Olivier on the day, your behavior was exceptional. You were great representatives of our school.

Maths Olympiad
Congratulations to Aleisha Macaraeg who scored 3 out of 5 for Maths Olympiad 3.

Mr Crowley’s Problem For the Week
The answer to last newsletter’s problem was 4. Congratulations to Ashlee Sebastian Stage 3 and Hayden Laurance Year 3 who answered this problem correctly.

This week’s problem is How many two-digit whole numbers contain the digit 4?

Good Luck Mathematicians.
Mr Tom Crowley
Assistant Principal

Book Week 2015
BOOKS LIGHT UP OUR WORLD
You are warmly invited to join in our 2015 Book Week activities in weeks 7 and 8. The theme for Book Week this year is "Books light up our world".

Instead of a Book Character Parade, this year, each grade will be studying the books shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia. They will be studying books from the Early Childhood and Picture book categories over two weeks (Week 7 & 8).

Monday 24th August and Wednesday, 26th August Student Book Fair
The Book Fair is open for students to purchase their books in class allocated time slots.

Friday 28th August Author Visit
Deborah Abela will be visiting our school to talk to the students about the writing process. Deborah is a trained teacher who has also spent 7 years producing and writing children's TV at Network TEN.
She is the author of the Max Remy Super spy series, Jasper Zammitt (Soccer Legend) series, The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoofen, Grimsdon and Ghost Club. Deborah’s author talks are informative, interactive and fun. With her teaching and TV background, she uses images, videos, storytelling and games, to explain the writing process and help kids develop their own engaging stories, leaving them excited about books, reading and writing.

Tuesday 1st September at 2:15pm
You are invited on a Gallery Tour of classroom learning spaces. Each grade will be showcasing their learning about the shortlisted book for their grade. Students and parents are invited to bring a torch or glow stick as they tour the classrooms to represent the theme “Books light up our world”.

We look forward to lighting up our world with books during the next two weeks of Book Week at St Patrick’s.

Joanne Beamish
Teacher Librarian

SPORT
Zone Athletics Carnival
St Patrick’s students really shone at the Zone Carnival this week. All students displayed exemplary behaviour and good sportsmanship. With numerous students making it into the finals of their track events & some making it through to the next round, it is clear that we have many talented boys and girls in both track and field. A special mention to the Senior Girls Relay Team who not only won their race, but also broke the record!

I congratulate Jessica Laurence who broke the 100m record for Under 12 girls & also received the Age Champion Trophy for her age group. I would also like to congratulate Stephanie Nwosu who received runner up age champion for her age group.

All St Patrick’s students who attended Zone should be very proud of their efforts on and off the track.

Karen Jaye
Sports Coordinator

Partnership
St Patrick’s Working Bee
On Saturday, 29th August 2015, St Patrick’s school community will be holding a Working Bee. The focus of this Working Bee will be to trim plants, plant new plants and place new bark for the gardens.

Mrs Hawkes has been working in our lovely gardens and needs as much help as possible.

It would be appreciated if parent/s from St Patrick’s could come along and spend an hour or two helping out.

Helpers are requested to bring their own equipment e.g. Hedge Clippers
Wheelbarrows (Desperately needed)
Shovels
Garden rakes
Mattock
Buckets

The Working Bee will be from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Morning Tea will be provided.

World Youth Day 2016 Fundraising Raffle
Raffle tickets are available to collect from our School Office to sell. $20 per book. Money raised will assist pilgrims to offset cost of pilgrimage and mission trip to WYD in Poland in 2016.

If you would like a book to support the WYD Fundraiser please see the School Office.

FREE Seminar – PRC
Guest Speaker - Dr Michael Carr-Gregg
Nationally registered child and adolescent psychologist
Save the date: Saturday 17th October 2015 – 2:00pm
St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong
Topic: Strictly Parenting - Everything you should know about raising a school-aged child.
Book early, just email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Office
School Fees
School Fees are now overdue. Please kindly make prompt payment if you have any outstanding fees owing.

Office Hours
School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm with Wednesday mornings opening at 8:55am.

All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. Payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.