Diary Dates

Wednesday 30th August
9am-11am Fathers' Day Stall

Thursday 31st August
2.40pm Stage 1 Assembly

Friday 1st September
7.30am Fathers' Day Breakfast and Liturgy
10.30am Farewell Joe Longo

Monday 4th September
7.00pm Captivate Performance - Years 3&4

Tuesday 5th September
9.15am Parent Workshops (change of date)

Wednesday 6th September
P&F Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

Wednesday 6th September
2.40 Stage 2 Assembly

From the Principal

Learning for Life at St Patrick’s; a school in the Mercy tradition where we welcome, love & forgive everyone

Pope Francis has chosen the theme, “Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless”, for the 103rd World Day of Migrants and Refugees, commemorated in Australia on the last Sunday of August 2017.

Pope Francis reminds us that:

“Migration today is not a phenomenon limited to some areas of the planet. It affects all continents and is growing into a tragic situation of global proportions. Not only does this concern those looking for dignified work or better living conditions, but also men and women, the elderly and children, who are forced to leave their homes in the hope of finding safety, peace and security.”

The statistics are alarming. UNICEF reported in December 2016 that, “An estimated 535 million children...live in countries affected by conflict or disaster, often without access to medical care, quality education, proper nutrition and protection...”

Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta, who himself arrived in Australia as a ‘boat person’, encourages us to show our concern:

“We are no longer able to sit in silence when confronted with these realities. We therefore need to become informed and also become engaged.”

“Whenever we speak about children and child migration, we must always remind ourselves and declare that the best interests of the child must always come first. Where children can flourish the most is first and foremost within their own families. Therefore, when migrant and refugee children come to Australia attention needs to be paid to assisting their parents and helping them to settle and integrate into Australia.”

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
In the following weeks each grade will begin their next unit of work in Religious Education. Year 2 and Kindergarten will be learning about celebrating God’s love - Year 2 through the Eucharist and Kindergarten through the community. These celebrations of God’s love tie in beautifully with the research Stage 3 have been doing on the Christian faiths of our Blacktown community and comparing them with our Catholic faith. Here in these three grades you can see the thread of celebration of God’s love. Stage 3 will continue this thread of faith in studying how they live out the message of Jesus. We are all equal in the eyes of God and truly loved by him.

Year 1 learn about the gifts of the senses God has given us and how important it is to use them wisely in caring for our world and each other. Year 3 turn from learning about Mary to caring for God’s wondrous creation. Here in Year 1 & 3 we see a thread of the importance of caring for the wonderful gifts God bestows upon us in his undying love for each of us.

Year 4 complete the Religious Literacy Assessment (RLA) practical and concentrate on learning how the Bible came about and the wonders it contains. They will sit the online RLA knowledge assessment with Year 6 in weeks 6 to 9. This will assess their knowledge and understanding of God, Jesus, Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments, Church and Christian Living.

In each of the units the students are studying, they will concentrate on one particular piece of Scripture. They will look at the literal meaning of the story, the spiritual aspects (where are God, Church & Sacraments are found in the Scripture) and the action to which they are called by the Scripture (how will they act towards others and their world to show how much they love God).

On this journey, I encourage you to talk to them about what they are learning in Religious Education and read to them stories from the Bible.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Year 5
- 58% of students in the top three bands for Reading
- 60% of students in top three bands for Numeracy
- 30% of students in top three bands for Writing
- 50% of students in top three bands for Spelling

We realise that NAPLAN is only one assessment on one day, however, we would like to acknowledge all students on their effort and achievement.

ICAS SPELLING AND WRITING RESULTS
Congratulations to the following students who have received merits, credits and distinctions in the following ICAS assessments:

Writing
Sherie Singh - Year 3 Credit
Anav Gurjal - Year 3 Merit

Spelling
Anav Gurjal - Year 3 Credit
Arjun Pillay Year 4 - Distinction
Priyesh Chand Stage 3 - Distinction
Bogdan Danylevych - Merit

Maths Olympiad
Congratulations to the following children who scored 3 and 4 out of 5 for Maths Olympiad 3: Aadi Kumbhat, Priyesh Chand, Youseff Tannous, Bogdan Danylevych, Jacob Quinn and Adrienne Arellano.

Tom Crowley
(Assistant Principal)

Library

Book Talks
Last Friday, Leanne Port from Scholastic visited our library to talk to each class about books suited to their age and interests. This visit generated a lot of discussion around new books as well as some old favourites.

We have a wide range of books in our library available for borrowing. Hopefully your child has found some books that have sparked their interest and enthusiasm for reading. If you need help choosing books for your child, please see Mrs Coghlan.

Book Fair
Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who supported our Book Fair this year. It was fantastic to see the students SO excited yet again. We hope they are enjoying reading their new books at home!

We made a record number of sales yet again this year. Sales totaled ????, which gives us a total of ??? to spend on new books for use throughout the school.

Educational Musical
Just a reminder that we will have Perform! Educational Musicals visiting our school on Monday 28th August. Their performance is based on the Book Week theme ‘Escape to Everywhere’. Parents/carers are welcome to
Encouraging a love of reading

Last week, Greg Whitby (Executive Director, CEDP) released an article titled ‘Encouraging a love of reading’ https://catholicoutlook.org/encouraging-love-reading/

It highlights the importance of nurturing a love of reading, providing a variety of texts and matching students to the right book.

Natalie Coghlan
Teacher Librarian

How young children learn how to read

As teachers, a question we are often asked is “How can I help my child become a good reader?” This summary by Mem Fox highlights the value and importance of reading with your child, especially in the early years of school.

Learning language and learning how to speak – is the most important pre-reading skill of all. Learning how to talk clearly, with a wide, interesting vocabulary is far more important than anything else in preparing children to learn to read – much more important than learning the letters of the alphabet or letter/sound relationships. Put simply, children who can’t talk can’t learn to read. We have to teach them to talk first and reading aloud to them is the best way of doing it.

When a great story is read aloud listeners, even very young listeners, learn and understand new words that would normally be beyond them because they occur within a story they know and love, a story they hear again and again. Children also learn lots of new words and ways of using them when the story is finished and there’s a buzz of excited conversation about it.

Chatting to children, having two-way, normal adult-like conversation is incredibly important in developing their language. Question and answer conversations don’t do much for language development but free-range gossip about a book, if we allow children to lead the conversation, provides huge benefits.

As soon as a story is read there is something to talk about: pictures, characters, plot, feelings, reminiscence and so on. Stories tend to get tongues wagging, and wagging tongues mean language is developing and if language is developing then those lucky children will be better able to learn to read quickly, happily and easily.”

Part of our Literacy focus in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 is the development of oral language. Children can learn so much by engaging in conversation with their peers and with adults. Providing opportunities for children to talk about books and stories means they are able to expand their vocabulary and understanding of language, which has the flow on effect of positively contributing to their learning.

Jodi Jefferson
Instructional Leader

Zone Athletics Carnival

Last Friday Mrs Floody and I took 31 students to the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival. All students represented our school with pride and displayed great sportsmanship on the day. The children were very successful with some fantastic results in both track and field. The following students will represent our school at the Parramatta Diocesan Carnival:

Daniel Koko  Emmanuela Nwosu
Viviana Abusalah  Esther Peter
Annabelle Johnson  Ethanael Tepa
Katherina Alimo  Akeeny Abusalah
Vince Alapati-Asoava  Rashil Eltom.

A special mention to Daniel Koko, Viviana Abusalah, Esther Peter, Annabelle Johnson and our Senior Girls 4x100 metre relay team, who all won events on the day. Congratulations to Esther Peter and Annabelle Johnson who were also named age champion and runner up age champion on the day.

Justin Browne
Sports coordinator
Personal Growth

Kitchen Garden News

The last few weeks have been very busy in the Kitchen Garden! We have added many new plants into our flower garden which are attracting the bees to help pollinate the fruit trees. We have grown lots of beautiful vegetables including; peas, beetroot and radish. We used the harvested beetroot to make Beetroot and Fetta Dip which we ate on toasted baguettes! We also grew herbs including; rosemary, thyme and oregano which we cut to use on Herb Pizzas with cheese topping!

At present we have celery, silverbeet, beetroot, bok choy, potatoes, corn and zucchini growing in our vegetable garden. We also planted a dwarf lemon tree to add our citrus collection and new strawberries to the strawberry patch! We have planted some tomato and pea seeds to hopefully plant when the frost ceases.

Mrs CD, Mrs Floody, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Pono are so proud of the students who continue to work so hard to maintain and care for our wonderful Kitchen Garden.

Partnership

Prayers for Cadman Family

As you are aware, early Monday morning, the Australian Government confirmed that 7-year-old Julian Cadman, who was a student at St Bernadette’s Primary, Lalor Park, was killed in the attack in Barcelona last Thursday evening. Julian’s mother Jom remains in a Barcelona hospital recovering from her serious injuries.

The Cadman family have expressed their deep thanks to the school communities within the Diocese of Parramatta for their compassion, their prayers and their support during this incredibly challenging time. They are well aware that the healing process will be a very long one but have been comforted by the knowledge that our communities will continue to stand in solidarity with them.

There have been many requests for advice on how people can help in a practical way. A GoFundMe site has been set up by a close family friend to provide long-term financial support to the family. The site can be accessed at https://www.gofundme.com/the-julian-jom-fund.

Please keep the Cadman family in your prayers.

Farewell Joe Longo

As advised last term Mr Joe Longo, Groundsman and Maintenance, retired from this position at the end of Term 2. Mr Longo has been a valued member of St Patrick’s school community for over thirteen years. Our best wishes are extended to Mr Longo as he commences a new phase in his life and the opportunity to pursue his love of fishing.

You are invited to join us at a Farewell Liturgy and Morning Tea on Friday 1st September 2017 at 10:30am in the Multi-Purpose Area followed by Morning Tea (please advise the office if you are attending morning tea).

Fathers’ Day Celebration

Please join us at our Fathers’ Day Breakfast on Friday 1st September 2017 at 7:30am, in the Shelter Area.

This will be followed at 8:30am by a ‘Classroom Tour’ for Dads led by their tour guide children. The Liturgy of the Word is at 9:00am in the Multi-Purpose Area.