Diary Dates
Friday 13 August
Parish Mass 5B & KB
Tuesday 17 August
ICAS Mathematics Test
Thursday 19 August
Kindergarten Excursion
Friday 20 August
• Parish Mass 5R & KR
• Yr 4 Religion Assessment
Tuesday 24 August
Netball Gala Day
Wednesday 25 August
Wacky Wednesday-Year 6 Fundraising
Thursday 26 August
• Voice of Youth Finals
• Year 3 Assembly-2.15pm
Friday 27 August
• Parish Mass 6B & 1B
• Diocesan Athletics
Tuesday 31 August
Father’s Day Stall
Wednesday 1 September
Journey to Antarctica Incursion-Yr 6
Friday 3 September
• Father’s Day Celebration BBQ-7am
• Bishop Anthony visiting School
• Cricket Clinic-Infants
Saturday 4 September
Combined Parish/School Working Bee

From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents, Girls & Boys,

Last Sunday we had our combined Parish and School Mass at 10.00am to celebrate the life of Blessed Mary MacKillop, soon to be proclaimed as Australia’s first saint.

It was a wonderful and joyful Mass with members of the school choir leading the singing of a new Mass - The Mass of Unity. Many children from St Patrick’s attended with their families.

In his homily, Father Peter highlighted the importance of caring for children, our most precious asset.

Mary MacKillop had great compassion for the children of her time. Many lived in poverty and had little or no education. She started a school for these children and was joined by many other caring women to form The Sisters of St Joseph. This order went on to become the largest Religious Order in Australia and started schools throughout Australia and New Zealand. Below is a prayer to Mary MacKillop from the Sisters of St Joseph.

Mary MacKillop Prayer

God of the pilgrim
Mary MacKillop trusted your guidance
in her journey of life
and deepened her confidence in your will.
May we renew our trust in your Providence
to lead us in hope.
May we relish the sacred in the ordinariness
of our lives.
May we grow in the fullness of your love
and the depth of your mystery.
We ask this through Jesus Christ the way,
the truth and the life. Amen

Mr Michael Curry
Office News

Bishop’s Visit
Bishop Anthony Fisher will be visiting the school on Friday 3 September. More information will be available at a later date.

School Fees
Parents are reminded that school fees are due to be paid by Friday 20 August. This is the last account for 2010. Thank you to all parents who have already paid the accounts.

If you are experiencing difficulties in paying please do not hesitate in contacting Shannan Browne in the school office to make arrangements.

Homework Group
Just a few reminders for the Homework Group students:
• all students attending MUST have their homework
• students need to have a pen/pencil (and other necessities) to complete homework
• students must have a permission note from their class teacher to use a laptop in Homework Group
• if students are NOT attending Homework Group, Mrs Marks or Mrs McGavin need to be informed (this does not apply if you are absent from school)
• Homework group runs from 3:30 - 4:30pm Tuesday afternoons. It is important that parents are here before 4:30pm to pick up their children. Homework Group is run by teachers and university students on a voluntary basis and should not have to wait until 5pm for parents to collect their child.

Thank you for your assistance.

Mrs Maria Marks & Mrs Nancy McGavin

Honesty
In the last week we have had a number of items taken from school bags. Teachers have taught about honesty in Values Education lessons. Parents are asked to re-inforce this at home.

Parents are reminded that students are not to bring electronic games to school. Mobile phones are discouraged. If for emergency reasons you wish your child to have a mobile phone it must be handed in at the office during the day and collected each afternoon. Please ensure student’s name is on the phone. If any child is seen with an electronic game/mobile phone during school hours it will be confiscated and a parent will have to collect it from the school office.

If your child brings anything home that is not theirs, please contact the school office.

Kitchen Garden excursion-Recount
On Tuesday the 3rd August, St Pat’s Kitchen Garden Group went to Mamre Farm. It was windy and fun. The house is really old and looked very special. We really liked it. When we got off the bus, a girl named Rachel took us to a room in Mamre Farm where we ate our little lunch. Then we did some activities all about vegetables!

Farmer Luke went vegetable shopping in his garden and showed us some of the vegetables and how to harvest them. He told us the vegetables were kale, broccoli and romanesco. He also told us how we could cook and eat them. One of the activities was peeling the corn off the cob and popping them in the popcorn maker. The corn was yummy. We found out what corn looks like in the garden too.

When we were in groups, we got sprayed with water in the hothouse. It was really funny!

by: Antonia, Merna, Marlin and Yesenia (Year 5)

Vocation Sunday
Vocations Week always begins on the feast day of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Our theme for Mass last week was ‘We Are All Called to Serve’. A definition for ‘Vocation’ is a call by God to serve others. Through our Baptism we are called by God to reach out and look after the people around us and those people in our community who need care. Some vocations mean a complete dedication of a life to serve. Many of these people are well known but if we are busy looking after families, doing our job well or contributing to society we are following our ‘calling’ – our vocation.

Faith Community
Vocation Sunday (cont.....)
To serve others, a good Catholic school should reach out, be inclusive and live the message of Jesus. As I began to reflect on how we reach out and serve here at St Patrick’s, I realised the many ways we support each other in this community. Parents, staff, students and the parish community serve not just with generous donations but with our smiles and genuine support when it is needed and the friendly interaction we have with each other. St Patrick’s is a place where everyone is truly living their vocation.

Teaching & Learning

ICAC Science Competition
Congratulations to the students who entered the Science Competition and achieved the following results:

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<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>5B</th>
<th>6R</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laya Perez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alannah Ayre</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>4R</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cara Rowe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Leise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Jacinto</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>6B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamil Dewan</td>
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Well done!!!

Mr Michael Curry

Reading
As we know, reading can be a rewarding and enjoyable activity. It is more than just decoding words on a page. Good readers interact with the text in such a way that they extract meaning from it. All teachers at St Patrick’s have worked hard to improve the comprehension skills of all students in the school. It has been a concerted effort by all and the benefits to students will flow over to all Key Learning Areas.

Mr Jacob Melham

Personal Growth

Fair Go Games
At the end of Term 2, students participated in a variety of board games to reinforce the value ‘Fair Go’. Board games can be educational and also foster socialisation.

Recount - Fair Go Games
At the end of last term we had a ‘Fair Go’ games day and all the classes got a box full of awesome games!!! We had a choice of what game we would like to play. We all got into groups of 3 or 4.

Before we started to play the ‘Fair Go’ games we had to learn the rules, which was always to play fairly and to give other people a turn. Teachers were giving out awards to the best students who played fairly within their groups. There were a variety of games to pick out of the ‘Fair Go’ box and the most popular one was TWISTER as we had to work together as a team and have the spirit to stay up on the position that we were given. As we were playing the ‘Fair Go’ games the teachers were on duty looking for the best students who played fairly. They also joined in with the students. Good on you teachers!!! We each played 3 games for 10 minutes each game. Year 6 had the last go of the games and after lunch teachers announced the ‘Fair Go’ winners of the day. We had a lot of fun. Thank you Mrs Coghlan a lot for the ‘Fair Go’ games!!!

Ester Jada & Ann-Dee Galea (6R)

The NED Show
The NED Show came to visit our school last week and was a great success. The assembly was centred on three values:

- Never give up
- Encourage others
- Do your best

The teachers are reinforcing these values in both the classroom and the playground. It would also be beneficial to discuss these at home, especially when they come up incidentally.

We have set up a NED zone on our grass area for students to play with yo-yos. This is a no running area and also a soft surface (recommended that they not be used on hard surfaces.) Children can play with any yo-yo, not just those purchased from The NED Show.

Please ensure that your child’s name and class is clearly written on their yo-yo and that they have had their string adjusted to the correct length to avoid breakages.

Many thanks for your support. Please do not hesitate to see me if you have any questions about the program.
Partnership

**Patrician Brothers**
Throughout Term 2, Kindergarten were very fortunate to have regular visits from Patrician Brothers Year 11 students.

They participated in a variety of activities including Maths games, Reading activities, Craft and were even involved in our Jump Rope for Heart Jump off Day.

Kindergarten students learnt a lot from these visits and were always excited to have their ‘high school buddies’ come to the classroom. They keep asking “when are the big boys coming back?”

The boys always arrived with stickers and lots of positive reinforcement. It is great having such valuable links with members in our community.

*Mrs Natalie Coghlan*

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**P&F Association**
Thank you to everyone who attended the P&F meeting last night. The next meeting of the P&F Association will be the Annual General Meeting to be held in Term 4.

**Position Vacant: Accounts Clerk**
St Patrick’s Parish Blacktown seeks an experienced and competent Accounts Clerk to manage the accounts for a very busy office. Duties include: accounts payable and receivables, banking, preparation of quarterly BAS statements, payroll (weekly & superannuation reporting). Applications close at 5pm on Friday 20 August. For more information go to www.parra.catholic.org.au and click on “About your Diocese” then “Employment”.

**McKillop the musical**
Tickets are now on sale for MacKillop, the new Australian musical to be staged as part of the canonisation celebrations. The show runs from October 1 - 9 at the Seymour Centre. Please contact the parish for pre-sale tickets. For more information www.mackillop.info

**Catholic Schools Parent Forum**
Learning for Today’s World - Q & A panel discussion with the Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby, a principal, teacher and parent from the Diocese of Parramatta and educators from outside the Diocese. Everyone is invited.

- **When:** Wednesday 1 September
- **Time:** 7pm for 7.30pm - 9pm
- **Venue:** Holy Spirit Primary School
  7 Todd Row
  St Clair

**“Across the Story Bridge” - Children’s Book Week 2010**
Celebrate Book Week 2010 at Max Webber Library, Blacktown. Come and join in the storytelling featuring short-listed books. Fun for the whole family.

- **FREE**
- **Thursday 26 August**
  6.30pm to 7.30pm
  Children’s Area, Max Webber Library
  Cnr Flushcombe Road and Alpha Street

**AFL Auskick Centre**
A representative from AFL Auskick Centre will be addressing the Assembly on Friday morning to talk to students about a 6 week program to be held at Blacktown West Public School. An information sheet is included with today’s Bulletin.

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**Wacky Wednesday**
On Wednesday 25 August, Year 6 will be holding a fundraiser to raise funds for their Graduation. On this day students are allowed to wear ‘wacky’ clothes and donate a gold coin. Certificates will be given to the student in each grade who wears the ‘wackiest’ clothes!