



# St Patrick's News

## Term 2, Issue 8 - May 14th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to return to school this week after my Leave to have surgery. I certainly missed our beautiful community and I thank you for your warm welcome back. It has certainly been an exciting start to Term 2, with students participating in lots of wonderful learning experiences.



**Cross Country:** We were particularly proud of the students who represented our school at Diocesan Cross Country last week. All students who attended represented the school superbly, displaying excellent behaviour and a 'never give up' spirit. We thank their families for their support in taking them to the venue and supporting our students. Well done to Mrs Harkin, Mrs Lupa and Mrs O'Donoghue who looked after the children on the day.



**NAPLAN:** Students are currently completing their NAPLAN tests and again, we congratulate them on their efforts and determination to show their knowledge and writing skills.

**Working Bee:** We invite all families to join us for a school Working Bee on Saturday, 29th May from 8am - 12 noon. Children are welcome to attend and join in the fun, however, they must be accompanied by an adult. Come for a little while or stay the whole time! Morning Tea will be provided. **Please bring a wheelbarrow, hedge clippers, shovels, garden rakes, mattock, buckets and gloves.** There is lots of weeding, planting and general gardening to do. Many hands make light work! All children who join us will receive 3 Shammys to add to their class total.

**Kindergarten 2022 Enrolments:** Please note that Interviews begin in the coming weeks. **Applications for Kindy 2022 must be handed in to the Office by Wednesday June 16th.** Please complete the form for your Kindy child as soon as possible to secure your place.

**Secretary's Day:** This week we celebrated our wonderful Office Staff, who go above and beyond to ensure that our school Enrolments, Finance, First Aid, Administration work etc... is completed. Their dedication, friendly smiles and commitment are appreciated. Thank you Ms Browne, Mrs D'Avino and Mrs Almeida!



**A-E Reports:** In Week 9, you will receive a Report outlining your child's achievements in Semester 1. Students in Kindergarten receive a Report on progress: **Working Towards / Achieving / Working Beyond.** Students in Years 1-6 are graded according to an A-E scale. We are inviting Year 1 parents (and parents from other grades who wish to attend) to a Parent Information Session on Thursday June 10th, at 9:10 am to explain how the grading scale works. We work with students to develop Assessment Capable Learners and we would love to share with you what this means! Come along - there will be a Lucky Door Prize and you must be there to win it! For students in Year 1, it is the first time they will be graded on the A-E scale, so it is important that parents join us to hear the scale explained.

God Bless

Monica Fitzalan  
School Principal

*This is my commandment:  
Love one another  
As I have loved you.  
A man can have no greater love  
Than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends  
If you do what I command you.*

Sunday, 16 May 2021: The Ascension of the Lord - Year B

**Gospel Mark 16:15-20**

**The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'



And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

**Pentecost Sunday - Save the Date!**

Pentecost Sunday marks the birth of the Catholic Church; when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ. It is a festive time when we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday 23 May, our parish and school community will be celebrating this day with Mass at 10am, followed by a sausage sizzle (beef & chicken sausages), music and entertainment in our school grounds. Our school choir will be performing after Mass and our school will have a stand at the event. Everyone is welcome to join in this special celebration! **Please register your attendance through [Calendly](#) by Sunday 16 May 2021 (for catering purposes).**

For the latest news and updates from Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, please visit their [website](#) and follow their [Facebook page](#). Here is a link to their last [Newsletter](#).



**First Holy Communion**

This week, some of our students and their families began preparation to receive their First Eucharist in June. They are all very excited about receiving this sacrament for the first time. It is a very special time as we see them take a new step in faith; a time they not only deepen their relationship with Jesus but also with the Catholic community. Please keep the following students and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this special occasion:

*Josh Carl Reyes  
Ariana Gabrielle Orat  
Lance Mateo Mayo  
Akisha Gabrielle Romulo*

*Sofia Vitetta  
Christopher Weatherby  
Gelove Dela Pena  
Marcus Andrej De Villa*

*Saige DeLuca  
Lemuela Crasta  
Jay Refalo*



**Altar Servers - Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following students who completed their Altar Server training with Fr. Jack earlier this term: Nathan DSousa, Chadwick Kelso, Talana Blackler, Charbel Hajje, Charbel Mourad, James Andrea, Ijeoma Ighor, Sophia Singh, Blake Pasnin, Kobe DeGuia, Melanie Tannous, Cailyn Paras, Olivia Pender and Nicholas Constable.

They are reverently altar serving at parish masses each Thursday morning as well as school masses and at some weekend masses. We are so proud of them all for taking this active role in their faith and showing positive leadership in our community. Altar Server training is open to anyone who has received their First Holy Communion. If your child is interested, please see Mrs Coghlan.

*Mrs Natalie Coghlan  
Religious Education Coordinator*

**NAPLAN 2021**

**2021 NAPLAN TESTING TIMETABLE**

Year	10th May Mon	11th May Tue	12th May Wed	13th May Thurs	14th May Fri	17th May Mon	18th May Tue	19th May Wed	20th May Thurs	21st May Fri
3		Writing	Reading			Conventions Of Language		Numeracy	Make up Days	Make up Days
5		Writing	Reading			Conventions Of Language		Numeracy	Make up Days	Make up Days

**All NAPLAN assessments except for Year 3 Writing will be completed online.**

## Parramatta Parent Representative Council AGM and General Parent Meeting

This Year our Parent Representative Council (PRC) Wellbeing presentations are focused on student, parent, family and spiritual Wellbeing. We would love to see as many people as possible attend the event and bring along another parent or caregiver from your community.

The PRC has had overwhelming requests from parents to have a presentation to cover this topic. Click the following link for the advertised event: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FyLmCUIvuNeRDxqECYU5H5aHUZO\\_Oer/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FyLmCUIvuNeRDxqECYU5H5aHUZO_Oer/view?usp=sharing)

**Our Term 2 presentation will be on the 24th of May.**

**The topic we will be presenting is on Emerging from COVID-19: Implications for Wellbeing HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY.**

Our guest speaker is Anoushka Housman Clinical Psychologist School Wellbeing Counsellor - Santa Sophia Catholic College, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) [Register here for the PRC Term 2 Meeting](#)

Anoushka will cover how parents can help learn effective ways to deal with a child's and their own, anxiety. What can they do and how to encourage positive behaviour practices?

Anoushka is a Clinical Psychologist and is currently working as the School Wellbeing Coordinator at Santa Sophia Catholic College. Anoushka has been an integral part of shaping the way the Diocese of Parramatta School deal with mental health and wellbeing of its students.

Although trained to work with all age groups, Anoushka has specialised in working with children and adolescents in a variety of settings and anxiety has always been of particular professional interest to her.

### Library News

On the 19th May 2021, our school will be participating in the National Simultaneous Storytime.

This is an initiative which intends on promoting reading throughout the nation by having 1 million children reading.

This year is a very exciting year because the chosen story will be read by an actual astronaut, in SPACE!

Our whole school will stop at 11am and will watch the book being read by astronaut, Shannan Walker, from the International Space Station orbiting the Earth.

We are very excited to be a part of this exciting event.

*Mrs Gudaitis*  
Librarian



### COMPASS Parent Portal - New Communication Tool

The Compass Parent Portal will be our primary communication tool between home and school. Parents and Carers can add and review their child's absences and be informed with important updates, notices and reminders. An email was sent to all parents and carers last week on how to download this app. A secondary email was also sent with your temporary Username and password. Please check your inbox, spam and junk folders.

If you do not have your temporary log in details please contact the school office on 8869 6000.



### Australian Early Development Census

In early 2021, our school, along with thousands of others across the country will begin preparations for the fifth Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

The AEDC gives us a national picture of the development, health and wellbeing of children in their first year of full-time school. Since 2009, the census results have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and develop better policies to target support for children and families.

Children don't miss any class time, and parents/carers don't need to supply schools with any new information for the census. The AEDC gives us data at a school and community level - it isn't an assessment of individual children.

Some teachers have also noticed that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole and that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to Year 1 and developing class programs.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers don't need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census. To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website: [www.aedc.gov.au](http://www.aedc.gov.au). If you have any questions, you can contact Leonie Preston.

### Information Sessions from Carers NSW

Carers NSW are holding some free information workshops on Caring for a Child with a Disability and Your Child's NDIS Plan. Please see the attached brochures to register for these free sessions.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11HYs4dl0WOkN4DLssw9gNCtRqfXzleyY/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11M\\_GehFuXmACi0-5MwDZw4Wud5sl\\_t2f/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11M_GehFuXmACi0-5MwDZw4Wud5sl_t2f/view?usp=sharing)

Caring for a Child with a Disability  
Your Child's NDIS Plan

## Attendance

### Attendance - Every School Day Counts! Here Everyday Ready On Time - Morning Bell 8:55 am!



Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves. Non-attendance has a variety of effects on students, both academically and socially.

As you are aware every day of attendance at school adds to your child's chances of success and achievement from Kindergarten through to high school.

#### Every day at school counts towards your child's learning!

*Absences add up quickly. If your child is absent 1 day every 2 weeks over the course of a school year, this will add up to 20 days loss of education. This is almost half a school term in a year!*

If your child is absent due to illness, please inform the school by replying to our text messages, or send us an email. Alternatively you can always contact our school office and explain absences on the day. When a student is away for more than two days, a Medical Certificate will be required when returning to school.

St Patricks Attendance Liaison Officer  
Aida Almeida

Attendance this Week

Year Group	Attendance
Kindy	80%
Year 1	87%
Year 2	80%
Year 3	84%
Year 4	66%
Year 5	89%
Year 6	81%

*Congratulations Yr 5 for Best Attendance!*

## Afternoon Arrangements

We thank all parents/carers for their patience and support at this time. Our Number 1 priority is always childrens' safety and all decisions are made with this in mind.

#### Options for pick up include:

- 1 Buses
- 2 COSHC
- 3 Back Gate (a fast, safe option that many parents have moved to). Mr Crowley or Ms Preston are always at the back gate and students are only allowed to walk off if parents/carers are visible. All students are gone from this back gate quickly and safely.
- 4 Come to the Main Gate later (We shut it at 3:25, but most students are gone by 3:20) If you arrive at 3:20, you don't have to rush off from work, there are lots of parks and you don't have to queue at all!
- 5 Students wait on the silver seats with their teacher. No students are allowed to walk to the gate to meet parents - if all students did this we would have over 300 just 'walking out' which would be extremely unsafe.

## Mini Vinnies

### Project Compassion 2021 & Toasty Tuesday

On behalf of the Mini Vinnies Team, we would like to thank our St Patrick's community for the overwhelming generosity and support during the Lenten season this year. We managed to raise \$1460 (cash donations as well as online) for Project Compassion. I'm sure this money will go towards improving the lives of many people in struggling communities around the world.

This term, we will be raising money to go towards helping St Vincent De Paul in their efforts to help the homeless community around Blacktown. Every Tuesday, Mini Vinnies will be selling warm cheese toasties for \$2. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Mini Vinnies Coordinators

Miss Nathalie Casten and Miss Liana Blazevic



## URSTRONG

This year St Patrick's is using the above program called URSTRONG to support the relationship outcomes in the Health section of the PDHPE syllabus. At present they are offering a free parent membership to all parents. This will enable you to access the Language of Friendship video series, one-on-one activities, worksheets, video quick tips, articles and exclusive access to parent webinars + Q&A sessions, hosted by Dana Kerford the creator of the program. Please click on the link to find out more <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14MHWJbi1BdXeoZ6n8bbyRv172KSC9Z2c/view?usp=sharing>

## Allergies

St Patrick's is an 'allergy aware' school and aims to provide a safe environment for all students with the following procedures:

- Parents are requested **Not To Provide** nut products or foods containing nuts
- Sharing of food is not permitted
- Parents are advised that **birthday cakes, other foods or novelty items** are not suitable for celebrating birthdays at school
- Birthdays are acknowledged at Assembly each morning.

## Student Absences and Sick Leave

If your child is absent please notify the school or their classroom teacher by doing one of the following: **write a note to explain their absence and the date/s accordingly once they return to school, contact the school via phone on the day of their absence or reply to the text message that is sent by the school.** If your child is sick or unwell, please briefly explain the reason why they are sick or unwell. *E.g. "Freddie is absent today because he has a temperature."* If you respond to the text, there is no need to send a note when your child returns to school. **A medical certificate is necessary when a child is sick for more than 2 days.**

## Car Park Safety/Rules

**In the interest of safety, please do not drop your children at school, either at the gates or near the church, before 8:30am.** If children are here early they need to be booked in at COSHC or sit and wait with you in the car until the gates open. Some children arrive 5 or so minutes early and wait at the church, which is OK on an irregular basis.

**KISS AND DROP:** If you wish to 'Kiss and Drop', **the only place to do this is in the circle near the church.** Here, children are able to safely exit the cars and walk without having to cross a road. **Adults, please do not get out of your car and children please exit on the left.**

**COSHC is available daily, from 6:30am to 6:30pm.**

P:0408 835 838 e:[coshcstpatricksblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:coshcstpatricksblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## St Patrick's Online Communication

### PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP

St Patricks has moved to online communication. Skoolbag is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, iPad and computer as a form of communication with the school. Skoolbag IS NOT a social media app. It is available from iTunes and Google. Once you have downloaded the app to your phone, just search for St. Patrick's Primary School and you will see the school crest.

**All school notes, notices and newsletters** are uploaded on this site and you will receive an alert when something is uploaded or there is an important or urgent announcement.

Also follow us on Facebook for the latest news, upcoming events and lots more!

## Reviews of Our School

Families looking to enrol at St. Patricks, always look at our Website and Facebook page. It would be greatly appreciated if you could add a Review on our Facebook page, highlighting a positive aspect of our community. St. Patrick's is certainly a beautiful community to be part of and we would love to see your affirmations.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Primary-School-Blacktown-714911375225324/>

## School Times

**8:30 - 8:55am** Gates open and morning duty commences  
Please sign your children in if they are late.

**3:25 pm** Pick up ends.

If you are unable to collect your child **BY 3:25 pm**, please talk to COSHC, who have places available for students each afternoon.

Please **DO NOT drop your child to school prior to the gates opening at 8:30.** It is **UNSAFE** for your child to be left near the church - children are often scared and anxious when they come in if they have been left early and we certainly want your children to be beginning the day on a positive note! Similarly, if you need to drop your children to school early, COSHC has care available from 6:30am each morning.

## Uniform Reminders

**All students should be now wearing winter uniforms.**

Please ensure that all items are the correct colour/style and have your child's name on them. *Brightly coloured jumpers/cardigans are not to be worn.*

Please remember that children should not be wearing earrings (other than small studs or sleepers) to school. Headbands for girls should be school colours and coloured jewellery should not be worn.

Please remind your child to wear their tie as it is an important part of their uniform. Girls' ties can be purchased from our school office for \$7 each. *We thank you for helping us to maintain the high standards expected of students in our beautiful Catholic school.*

## School Fees

A reminder that School fee accounts are due on Wednesday 26th May. If you are unable to finalise your account by this day, please don't hesitate to contact me on 8869 6000 to make an arrangement.

Many thanks

*Mrs Browne (Office Administrator)*

## Notification of Student Leaving

The Diocesan Tuition Fee and School Building Levy are annual fees billed in Terms 1, 2 and 3. A pro rata fee based on weeks enrolled for the year is made for students entering the School part way during a term. If a student leaves the School during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term. Other School Based Fees for items such as camps, excursions, materials or technology may be charged to a student's account and are payable under the same conditions as Diocesan Fees.

A Term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

## Student Punctuality

**The school's bell rings at 8.55am. School starts at 9am.**

When students arrive on time they are able to move to class efficiently and start their lessons. When students arrive even 5 minutes late, they miss out on the introduction or plan of the first lesson and their learning is affected. Parents and carers are asked to ensure that their children are at school by 8.50am to allow them to take full advantage of the day's learning. Gates close at 8:55am. Please park your car and walk your child into the Office for a late note if you arrive after 8:55am.

## Enrolling for 2022

We ask that all families who have a sibling starting in Kindergarten in 2022, to contact the School Office within the next few weeks so that we can confirm how many places we have available for other families.

We are currently taking Enrolments for 2022 and wish to help you secure a place for your child. Please collect an enrolment form from our school office or click the link below to download one

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now>



## Ice Blocks

From time to time children will receive ice blocks as part of their nominated whole class reward or for certain school events.

If you do not want your child to receive an ice block, could you please let the office know.

## Cashless Payments

As instructed by The Catholic Education Office, we are now a cashless school (excluding fundraisers). It would be appreciated if all the payments are made by EFTPOS. We understand that this may be challenging for families but we appreciate your efforts to follow this CEDP directive.

## Happy Birthday

**May 18th:** Jasper DelaRosa

**May 19th:** Ernest Jesson Gerado, Rannbir Grewal,

**May 20th:** Arnav Pawar, George Hontas, Kobe Royeras, Ayman Almourtada

**May 22th:** Chloe Borg

**May 23th:** Jeeval Kumar

**May 25th:** Leon Anic

**May 28th:** Navsheen Kaur

**May 29th:** Matthew Kelso

**May 30th:** Charbel Hajje

**May 31th:** Jayden Valenzuela



## Important Upcoming Dates

**May 19th:** National Simultaneous Storytime 11am

**May 17th:** Dental & Eye test Check ups start

**May 20th:** Kindergarten Parish Mass 9:00am

**May 23th:** Pentecost Sunday Mass 10am

**May 24th:** Feast OLHC Liturgy 2:30pm

**May 26th:** National Sorry Day Liturgy

**May 27th:** Stage 3 Parish Mass 9:00am

**May 29th:** Working Bee 8:00am - 12am

## News from Oakhill College

Oakhill College Gala Day! We warmly invite families to the Oakhill College Gala Day on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am–3.00pm**. We will have rides, sport, displays, stalls and more. Our Major Raffle includes Castle Hill Volkswagen Polo Car and other prizes valuing \$30,000. Tickets are on sale now at [www.trybooking.com/eventlist/oakhillpandf](http://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/oakhillpandf).

For more information visit: [www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/community/parents-and-friends](http://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/community/parents-and-friends)