



St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 3 – February 19th, 2021



As we begin the Season of Lent, may we take time to PRAY, FAST and GIVE ALMS. Lent is the Season to 'Be More' 'Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return.'



Dear Parents and Carers,

Opening School Mass

Last week we were delighted to celebrate Mass as a school community. Special congratulations to our Year 6 Leaders who were inducted during this special Mass. Thank you to Father Jack who led us in prayer and offered blessings over our school community for the 2021 school year.



Parent/Teacher Phone Calls

We thank all parents/carers for taking the time to discuss your child's Homework, Personalised Plan (if they have one), Homework, class rewards, different teachers in the classroom for various reasons, and other grade related content for 2021. It is through working together that we can achieve great things for your children.

Reward System at St. Patrick's

Last week, a Google Form was shared with all parents/carers, asking for your input around changes to our Award system. Over 94% of parents/carers who completed the survey were in favour of the changes and a couple of people asked for some clarity around some things. Hopefully, the information below will give further clarity.

PBS4L

This year, St Patrick's will begin a Positive Behaviour Reward System with our students, called PBS4L. Many schools in the Parramatta Diocese use this type of system to encourage positive behaviours and reward students who live and act 'The St. Patrick's Way'. Students will receive 'Shammy's' which will contribute towards a class reward system.

A 'shammy' is a token with a picture of a 'shamrock' on it. These can be given out individually or to a whole class! Each class has a class reward that they have set for themselves, which they are striving to attain. Thus, individuals and the whole class have their positive behaviour reinforced!



At the same time, after listening to teacher and parent/carer feedback, we would like to acknowledge and reward **LEARNING and VALUES**. We hope to give **1 Learning Award and 1 Values (Pat on the Back) Award per class per week**.

Finally, we intend to hold a **Principal's Morning Tea each term**, which 2 students from each class would attend. Classroom teachers would nominate these students based on exemplary behaviour, attendance, values etc... Parents would be notified that their child has been selected for the Morning Tea. Please see link below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10u6toV25kae4JjGtr1alw1WteXkoVMs9/view?usp=sharing>

* Please note, these systems are in place of the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Mission and Principal Awards. This system required lots of cutting, sticking and gluing and children were often confused about where they were up to. Your overwhelming support in endorsing our new system will see changes happen immediately!

Our aim is always to 'catch them being good' and reinforce positive behaviours and great learning, as frequently as possible.

The traditional 'End of Year Awards' will still be given eg. Academic Excellence, Christian Values, School Spirit, Most Improved and Creative Excellence.

May God bless you and your precious family.

Mrs Fitzalan
School Principal

Faith Community

Sunday, 21 February 2021: First Sunday of Lent - Year B

Gospel

Mk 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Living the Gospel – Change of heart

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

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Project Compassion

This week the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday (17th February), which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each class has a Project Compassion box for students to donate cash.



Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Parish Links - Sacramental Process

Enrolments are now open for the Sacramental Process! Please register ASAP to secure a place. Reconciliation usually begins with Year 3 students. First Communion and Confirmation will also be celebrated as separate sacraments during the year. Please visit the parish [website](#) for information and enrolment forms or contact Gerald Oblea (Sacramental Coordinator) at the Parish Office on 96221125, 0422724008 or sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au.

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](#).

Mrs Natalie Coghlan
Religious Education Coordinator

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.

At another school in our Diocese at the end of last term, there was a terrible accident in which many students and adults were hurt in a car park, not far from our beautiful school. We therefore made the decision to bring students back into the playground for afternoon pick up - based totally on concerns for their safety.

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. We invite 10 -12 parents/carers to come in at a time, students walk to you and you exit through the COSHC gate together. This works extremely efficiently, with the gate opening at 3:10 and nearly ALL students gone by 3:25!!!

If you are in a particular hurry, please consider Back Gate. For those who wait so patiently and respectfully at the front gate we say a big thank you. Your children learn those beautiful qualities from you.

School Banking 2021

St Patrick's is pleased to announce that we are recommencing School Banking for 2021. Please click on https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-LJ3rUHOtVbng_JtIJ6ylcqZnLBpMGA6/view?usp=sharing for more information on



how to open up an account. Our School Banking day is every Wednesday. Please ask your child to bring their banking to school on Wednesdays.

Zone Swimming

On Thursday 18th February, we had 10 St Patrick's students attend the Zone Swimming Carnival at Mount Druitt Pool. Congratulations to Andie DelaPena, Vanessa Nuval, Olivia Pender, Ruby Scicluna, Sophia Singh, Savannah Thorp, Christopher Weatherby, Jarwyn Quartey, Rajvir Matharu, and Charbel Mourad.



Student Voice



Name: Jamal Sulliman

Grade: Yr 6

Hobbies/ Likes: I like to draw, paint and I play soccer for Parramatta F.C. Eagles

Quote: "If you don't believe you are the best, then you will never achieve all that you are capable of."

Something I learnt this week: This week I am learning what a biome is.

What I love about St. Patrick's: I love the playgrounds of the school and representing our school at a variety of different sporting gala days.

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.**

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE GRASS AREA AS CHILDREN WALK HERE!

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

P:0408 835 838 e: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/>

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.

Uniform Reminders

Please read the Uniform descriptions carefully, particularly in relation to haircuts, shoes and bags. **A friendly reminder that boys' hair should be cut in a neat, short hairstyle (above the collar) with no lines or shavings.** **Your adherence to our school policies is appreciated.** We thank you for helping us to maintain the high standards expected of students in our beautiful Catholic school.

SPORTS SOCKS	White ankle socks with turn-down cuff	SPORTS SOCKS	White ankle socks with turn-down cuff
SPORTS SHOES	Mainly white with white tie up laces	SPORTS SHOES	Mainly white with white tie up laces
SHOES	Black school shoe (Converse, Nike Air, black joggers are not acceptable)	SHOES	Black school shoe (Converse, Nike Air, black joggers are not acceptable)
HAIR	Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. Hair colouring is not permitted. Hair ties, ribbons, headbands must be navy blue.	HAIR	Neat and simple haircuts. Extreme hairstyles and hair colouring are not permitted. No lines
HAT	Navy blue school hat with school emblem. Cap for Yr 6 only.	HAT	Navy blue school hat with school emblem. Cap for Yr 6 only.
BAG	Navy blue posture support backpack with school emblem	BAG	Navy blue posture support backpack with school emblem

Cash Payments

As instructed by The Catholic Education Office, moving forward we will become a cashless school. ***It would be appreciated if all future payments are made by EFTPOS.*** We understand that this may be challenging for families but we appreciate your efforts to follow this CEDP directive.

Thank you

Shannan Browne

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.

Mini Vinnies

At the start of every year there is always a flood of interest from our Stage 3 students wanting to join our Mini Vinnies team. This year was no different. There were applications galore! All with affirming words for the contributions that previous Mini Vinnies teams made in previous years. It was exciting to read each application as they were convincing and bursting with enthusiasm for what is in store this busy year.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10sOrqZlpJD7T-v2XMLVQU7OocoHuehmn/view?usp=sharing>

Happy Birthday

7th February: Ronan Sugimori Yr 6

9th February: Sabreen Kaur Yr 5

12th February: Dyllan McCullough Kindy, Laticia Hodgson Yr 2

14th February: Oliver Kirk Kindy

17th February: Eliche Datorin Kindy

8th February: Nuoxin Yan Yr2, Tyga-John Saad Kindy

11th February: Luke Constable Yr 1

16th February: Miguel Paje Yr 2

19th February: Grace Lasu Yr 5



News From Nagle College

Presentation people,
making a difference

ENROLLING NOW
Discover your potential at Nagle College

Visit our website to **book a tour**
nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

**In Deed
Not Word**

Nagle College offers a broad curriculum, a pastoral focus and a strong community emphasis.
Whether their interests lie in academic, sporting or creative pursuits, Nagle College will strive to develop and support the interests in each and every student.

Visit our website to **book a tour**
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Or call us on 02 8887 4500