



St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 4 – March 5th, 2021

*Catholic Schools Week
Family Week*



200 Years of Catholic Education



In 2021, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school through continued commitment of growing opportunities of Catholic education for all.

From our first school in 1820, the contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leadership both on equity and the transformation of learning and teaching through

innovation.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school through a continued commitment to growing opportunities of Catholic education for all. This milestone will provide the opportunity to learn from one another, inviting the voices, curiosity, and creativity of our students, teachers and parents to celebrate the gifts of faith and learning. In owning the history of Catholic schools in Australia, we recognise the hurts of the past.

We acknowledge the history, stories, and Dreaming of the Darug people. We learn from the wrongs of the past, and these challenges guide us to a future that is accepting, welcoming and proudly diverse. The history of Catholic education in Australia is far from staid, beginning with Irish insurgency in the early colony. We continue to grow from our beginnings in 1820, acknowledging the spirit, determination, and initiative shown by our earliest lay teachers.

Ours is a story of courage and determination with heroes like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, a woman whose extraordinary faith effectively extended the opportunities of education to ordinary Australian children. We continue to grow from the foundations laid by the religious orders and the legacy of the clergy who dedicated their lives to building Catholic schools and their communities.

The contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leading, transforming learning and teaching and through outreach. Above all, we celebrate all that unites us, and we commit to a hope that defines us, in living out God's love for one another.

We are blessed every day, to work and live as part of our wonderful Catholic community of St. Patrick's. May God continue to bless you and your family as we 'Share the face of God' with each other daily.

*Mrs Fitzalan
School Principal*

Sunday, 7 March 2021: Third Sunday of Lent - Year B

Gospel Jn 2:13-25 - **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

2021 Mantra

Each year we develop a mantra to inspire us in our faith and learning journey throughout the year. This year our mantra is "Everything is possible for the one who believes" - Mark 9:23. Our mantra is displayed around our school and is a reminder of the importance of having strong faith in Christ.



St Patrick's Day - Mufti Day

We will be celebrating and honouring our patron saint, St Patrick, on Wednesday 17 March. To add to the St Patrick's Day theme, children are **permitted to wear green on this day**. As there will be a number of events happening at St Patrick's throughout the day, it is important that students wear comfortable clothing. **Students will also receive a packet of chips and a drink (popper) from the P&F.** We are looking forward to celebrating the life of St Patrick, who began his work many centuries ago and still continues to influence many lives today.

MQOF 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. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

MQOF Parish Links - Formed

FORMED is a new Netflix style app to help adults and children deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. It includes Lenten reflections as well as movies, programs, audio and books instantly. Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) Parish is providing access to this for FREE. Please visit [this link](#) for subscription details.

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

Book Fair

Our first Book Fair for 2021 will take place during our Catholic Schools Week celebrations, March 8-12. We will be open for the children to collect their books every morning during Week 7 from 8:30am-9am and every afternoon from 3:05-3:30pm. Your child will be given an opportunity to preview the books for sale prior to the commencement of the Book Fair and to fill in a Wish List.

The previews will take place on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March.

If Parents wish to make a purchase, simply use the information on the Wish Lists to purchase the books online. Students will need to bring in their Wish Lists with a valid receipt number given when purchasing online to the library to collect their books.

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we are unable to make cash sales or sell books directly to parents. We will only accept the completed Wish Lists as payment for the books.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Allison Gudaitis
Librarian



Attendance - Every School Day Counts!

As you are aware, every day of attendance at school adds to your child's chances of succeeding at school. As a parent you play an important role to make sure your child attends school everyday, on time. When you do this you understand that attendance leads to success, not just at school but also later in life. Everyday at school counts towards your child's learning.

We are aware that some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other unexpected circumstances. However we also know that when students miss too much school, no matter the reason, it can cause them to fall behind with their school work and social interaction with their school friends. The more absences your child has the harder it is for your child to catch up with their missing school work and stay connected with their school community.

Absences add up quickly. If your child is absent one day every two 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
Aida Almeida

Attendance this week

Year Group	Attendance
Kindy	89%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	88%
Year 3	84%
Year 4	64%
Year 5	87%
Year 6	73%

Congratulations Year 1 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.

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.

Please do not 'jump the queue' or 'join a friend' who is ahead of you in the queue as this is not fair to parents who have waited in line prior to you arriving.

Parent Support: P and F

At St. Patrick's, we are blessed to have the support of our wonderful Parents and Friends Association. Throughout the year, the committee meets to plan fundraising efforts to support the school and your child's learning. We will hold our first P and F meeting for 2021 on Monday, 15th March at 6:30 pm. All who would like to attend are most welcome.

Due to Covid regulations, we ask that you email the school office to advise that you will be attending on the night.

Diocesan Parent Representative Council AGM Postponement

Dear Parents

The Parent Representative Council (PRC) Executive committee wishes to inform all Parents of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta that the 2021 AGM of the PRC is Postponed.

The AGM, which was initially scheduled to be held on Monday, 8th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m. is now being rescheduled to Term 2, Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m. Our AGM and guest speaker presentation will be conducted in an electronic format and registrations for the event will open Wednesday, 28 April 2021. The postponement will allow Principals, School Parent Bodies and school communities to hold meetings and AGM's allowing them to nominate their School representatives and Alternate Representatives for 2021.

This year we are also seeking interested parents and carers who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) to nominate for an ATSI Advocacy Group. This Advocacy Group is being formed to better understand how the council can better Support, Celebrate and Advocate for ATSI families. This is an optional nomination for Principals, School Parent Bodies and school communities to consider. Interested parents can find out more about the PRC on our Web site www.prc.catholic.edu.au and by talking to their Principal.

Nominations for all PRC roles are the responsibility of and authorised by the School Principal or their nominated delegate. Nominations will open on Thursday 4th March and will close on Wednesday 24th March.

All PRC General Parent Meetings are planned to be held via electronic means during 2021 as a precaution due to COVID-19.

Many thanks, Wayne Davie

President Parent Representative Council (PRC) - Diocese of Parramatta

Student of the Week: KATELEEN CRUZ 4L



Hobbies: Watching movies and playing with animals
Pets: 5 Budgies and 2 Lorikeets
Sibling: Kristin in Year 6
Quote: *'Always listen to the voice in the back of your head'.*

Learned in Year 4

- *I can use Fractions and Decimals on a Number Line*
- *I know how to decide between good choices and bad choices*
- *I know about 'conscience' and why sometimes people do the wrong thing*
- *I know what a Biome isdo you?*

Year 4 is a great place to be because I have lots of friends who make me feel safe. The teachers challenge us and make learning fun!

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge Winner!

Congratulations to Jessica Malouf, Daniel Malouf, Kanisha Halder, Paige and Isla Cunningham who all received awards for completing the 2020/2021 Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.

Over the Summer, more than 4000 entries were received in the competition.

We are extremely proud of all the children and congratulate them on their participation.



Project Compassion 2021

Caritas Australia is the international aid development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia. Every year during Lent, Project Compassion is launched to bring hope, support and compassion to the world's most vulnerable.

Every year, countless people turn Lent into a demonstration of faith, love and generosity. You can be a part of this incredible community, who believe that there are simple actions we can all take to "be more" for our world.

How can you help?

- Make a donation to Project Compassion
- Support the Mini Vinnies Water Challenge fundraiser in Week 9
- Give something up for Lent... there are many ways to put your compassion into action. Whatever you choose to do, you'll be contributing towards a more just and compassionate world.



Cash donations can be made directly to your child's class donation box. To make an online donation, scan the following QR code linked to the St Patrick's Project Compassion account.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Casten

Mini Vinnies Coordinator

Allergies	Student Absences and Sick Leave
<p>St Patrick's is an 'allergy aware' school and aims to provide a safe environment for all students with the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>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. <i>E.g. "Freddie is absent today because he has a temperature."</i> 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.</p>
Car Park Safety/Rules	St Patrick's Online Communication
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>COSHC is available daily, from 6:30am to 6:30pm.</p> <p>P:0408 835 838 e:coshcstpatricksblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au</p>	<p>PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Also follow us on Facebook for the latest news, upcoming events and lots more!</p>



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

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

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.

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. **We will be a cashless school from the beginning of Term 2 (excluding fundraisers).**

Thank you

Mrs Shannan Browne
Finance Administrator

School Banking 2021

A Reminder that school banking day is Wednesdays. Please bring deposit wallets with money on the day.





Happy Birthday



21st February: Marcus DeVilla Yr4, Avalon Curl Yr1, **22nd February:** Lilliana Ziolkowski

25th February: Gianne Go STG3, Austin Yu Yr2, Ijeoma Oghor STG3

26th February: Georgina Razon STG3

27th February: Nathan DSouza STG3

28th February: Wieu Yac Yr2

1st March: Aker Shol Yr4, Adeena Mokoia STG3, Ryden Tata Yr3

2nd March: Sianna Dut Yr1

3rd March: Garang Yac Yr4

4th March: Joel Mathew Yr2

5th March: Brianna Ghanoum

News From Patrician Brothers' College



**COLLEGE
OPEN EVENING**

**MONDAY 7 MARCH 4.00PM - 8.00PM
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 4.00PM - 8.00PM**

Online Bookings Essential
Book Here: www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enquiries to College Office on 0811 0290
109 HUSCONCRE ROAD, BLACKTOWN



News From St Andrews College



St Andrews College
is about doing more and going beyond

**OPEN DAY – Tuesday 9
March**

St Andrews College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the Junior Campus for parents and students of Year 5 and 6 2022.
Please visit the College Website to book a Tour time
For further details phone 9828 4000
www.standrewscatholic.qld.catholic.edu.au

Junior campus Tour Times:
9.00am, 9.45am, 11.05am,
11.45am, 1.15pm and 2.00pm
Junior Campus
Years 7 to 10
116 Quakers Road Marayong