



St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 5 – March 19th, 2021

*Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.*



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we were delighted to welcome new families on site, as they participated in our 'Kindy Tours' for 2022 students. Our Learning Spaces were looking engaging and exciting as we took the new families for a walk through the school. Our Year 6 leaders did a wonderful job welcoming families and leading us in prayer.

Special thanks to one of our wonderful parents who posted the following comment on Facebook.

When we ask our child at the end of the day what her best part of the day was and she says "school", it pretty much sums up how good this school is. Our child feels safe, happy and enjoys learning. The Principal and Assistant Principal know every kid in the school. The teachers/staff are very supportive. Thank you for all your hard work!

Your comments and support are greatly appreciated. We thank you for promoting our wonderful school and for letting others in our community know of the great teaching and learning that happens here daily.

Special thanks to the wonderful group of parents who joined us for the P and F Meeting on Monday morning. They came ready with great ideas for Fundraising to support the school. We are excited to announce that later in the year, when it will be warmer, we will be holding a 'COLOUR RUN' as our major fundraiser for the year. More on this to come.....

Over coming weeks, we are inviting families to take home a pile of 'flyers' to pop in your neighbours' letterboxes, to advertise St. Patrick's. If you and your children would like a pile to deliver, please pop into the Office to collect them. Please let the Office ladies know which streets you will be covering.



St Patrick's Day celebrations: It was wonderful to have so many parents and carers join us on Wednesday as we celebrated our Patron Saint: Saint Patrick. The great St. Patrick brought the faith to many and used the shamrock to teach people about God.

May God be always in our hearts, always on our minds and always looking over our shoulder.

Leave: This Friday I will have a surgical procedure which requires a 6 week recovery period. I will therefore be away for Weeks 9 and 10 of this term and for Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 2.

In my absence, Mr Crowley will be the Acting Principal. The Acting Assistant Principal will be Mrs Leonie Preston.

They will do a fabulous job looking after our school community and I thank them for their leadership.

I will look forward to seeing you all when I am back next term.

Wishing you and your precious children God's blessings. Have a very blessed Easter.

Mrs Fitzalan
School Principal

Sunday, 21 March 2021: Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year B

Gospel [Jn 12:20-33](#) Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection

Scriptural context – The Final Days

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

St Joseph's Feast Day

Today is the Feast Day of St Joseph and our school community started the day with a special prayer led by Kindergarten. This year is also the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. We are encouraged to imitate the example of St Joseph in our lives and community, and value good, faithful and noble service.



Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future - Pope Francis

"The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same." In a crisis, the Pope writes, "you reveal your own heart: how solid it is, how merciful, how big or small." He argues that "it is an illusion to think that we can go back to where we were. Attempts at restoration always take us down a dead-end street." Rather, "this is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek."

Religious Education Calendar

Over the past couple of weeks, our school community has been busy celebrating many special occasions and feast days such as Catholic Schools Week, St Patrick's Day, St Joseph's Feast Day, Harmony Day and World Down Syndrome Day. It has also been a busy time with weekly priest visits to classrooms and opportunities for Years 4-6 Reconciliation, parish masses as well as many other exciting class projects connected to the Religious Education Curriculum and Project Compassion.

We will continue to keep enriching our faith formation over the next few weeks with upcoming events connected to World Water Day, The Annunciation of the Lord, Stations of the Cross and then finish the term with a special Holy Week liturgy. Please 'like' and follow [St Patrick's Facebook Page](#) as we will continue to share photos of some of these events.

Holy Week Liturgy - Save the date!

All parents and carers are invited to join our whole school Holy Week Liturgy on Thursday 1 April at 2pm in the Church. Due to COVID rules and guidelines, everyone will be required to sign in. A sign on sheet will be provided in the Church foyer.

*please
join us*

Altar Server Training

Congratulations to the following students who started their Altar Server training with Fr. Jack today: Nathan DSousa, Chadwick Kelso, Talana Blackler, Charbel Hajje, Charbel Mouard, James Andrea, Ijeoma Ighor, Sophia Singh, Blake Pasnin, Kobe DeGuia, Melanie Tannous, Cailyn Paras, Olivia Pender and Nicholas Constable. It is a big commitment and we are very proud of them for taking a more active role in their faith. They are looking forward to serving at upcoming school and parish masses. Altar Server training is open to anyone who has received their First Holy Communion. If your child is interested, please see Mrs Coghlan.

Parish Links - Sacramental Process

Enrolments are now open for the Sacramental Process! Please register ASAP to secure a place. Enrolments for First Holy Communion will **close in the next few weeks on 16 April 2021**. Enrolment forms are available on MQOF [website](#). 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](#).

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.

Attendance this week

Year Group	Attendance
Kindy	87%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	80%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	66%
Year 5	89%
Year 6	73%

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

Congratulations Year 1 for Best Attendance!

St Patricks Attendance Liaison Officer
Aida Almeida

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. We invite a small group of 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.

Project Compassion 2021 - *Be More*

Have you ever wondered what the Project Compassion money we raise goes towards? Here are some examples of how Caritas Australia has used the money raised during 2020 to help improve the lives of many unfortunate families and communities around the world.



To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, Caritas built handwashing stations and provided soap and masks in the largest refugee camp in the world.



In Tanzania, Caritas has helped many communities by improving their access to safe drinking water.



In the Solomon Islands, Caritas has helped schools increase their animal farming. They now have enough food to eat and to sell at the market.



In Bangladesh, Caritas Australia has provided stoves and gas so women could cook for their families. They have also helped set up makeshift shelters for refugees to live in.

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



March 3rd: Jake Lenferna

March 6th: Krystal Zaghtiti

March 7th: Ariana Orat, Anika Trinidad, Alisi Aho

March 8th: Samuel Keher, Aleeha Brar

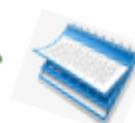
March 13th: Christian Mourad

March 17th: Kalan Abraham

March 18th: Sophia Jug, Stanley Jug

March 19th: Xavier Borg

Important Upcoming Dates



March 24th: Project Compassion: Mini Vinnies Water Challenge

March 25th: Kindergarten Parish Mass 9:00am

March 28th: Palm Sunday

April 1st: Last Day of Term 1

April 19th: School Resumes

April 22nd: Stage 3 Parish Mass 9:00am

April 23rd: OPEN DAY Tour for 2022 Kindy's 10:00am

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

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  **SkoolBag** 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/>

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.

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.

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 <u>school</u> hat with school emblem. Cap for Yr 6 only,	HAT	Navy blue <u>school</u> 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.



Kitchen Garden

A big thank you to our helpers from Bunnings, who devoted their time to help transform our Kitchen Garden into a more beautiful and exciting space by adding all sorts of new plants and seeds for our students to enjoy cultivating in weeks/months ahead. We will be delighted to share all the beautiful harvest from the amazing work done. Thank you to everyone who was able to help.



St Patricks is Celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education

