



St Patrick's News

Term 2, Issue 7 – April 30th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, I hope you have had a wonderful Easter and holiday spent with your family and friends. I am sure you would have appreciated the fact that we were able to celebrate Easter by attending the different Church events from Jesus dying on the cross to his Resurrection.

It has been wonderful to see all the children back at school focused on their learning and catching up with all their friends. A reminder that from Monday Week 3 all children must be in their **full Winter school uniform**.

We welcome three new teachers to St. Patricks who have joined our community for the rest of the year in different roles. Mrs Hill will be working at St. Patricks on Monday and Friday. She will be working in Learning support and releasing Mr. Browne on a Monday for a period of time and Mrs Aberley on a Friday. Mrs Simhari will be working in Mr. Johnson's class on a Tuesday and Mrs Smith will be working at St. Patrick's on a Wednesday and Thursday in a variety of classes. We are very blessed to have teachers of the calibre of these three ladies join our school community.

Mrs Fitzalan will be back in her role as Principal starting Week 4. I would like to thank everyone in the school community for their support of me over the past 6 weeks in this role. A special thank you to Mrs Preston who has filled in so professionally as the Acting Assistant Principal.

Staffing Update



Mrs Rawa Simhari

"I've been a school teacher for over 20 years, and particularly enjoy the art and craft lessons. Last year I became a grandmother for the first time to a sweet baby girl, and due to become 'Nana' once again next month. Outside of work, I love to shop, cook, and spend time with my family. I'm excited to get to know the community and all students and teachers at St Patrick's this year! "

Mrs Louisa Hill



I have been a classroom teacher for 16 years and enjoy working with children of all ages. I have been blessed with three amazing boys who keep me very busy in my life. I am currently working part time (2 days a week) as my youngest boy is only 1 years old and I have my hands full with him, watching him grow and reach all his milestones. I love shopping, watching movies, spending time with family and friends, eating chocolate and travelling. I am very passionate about teaching and look forward to working with your precious children. I look forward to meeting you all at some point this year.

School Carpark

As of Monday 3rd May, works will commence on replacing the roof to the Primary Toilet block and our School Library. This will not impact the students' learning spaces or their learning. The builders site will be set up at the bottom of our school car park and may restrict access at times. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused during this 6 week period.

God Bless

Tom Crowley
Acting Principal

Sunday, 2 May 2021: Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Gospel Jn 15:1-8 All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Season of Easter

During the Easter holidays, we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. May all our families be guided by the teachings of Christ and draw strength and hope from the Easter message of the Risen Christ. During challenges, suffering or times of grief, may these messages bring renewed hope and joy to all. As we journey through the 50 days of this Easter season, may it be a time filled with optimism for the future as we continue God's great works of love and mercy for all. This term began with Stage 3 leading a beautiful Easter Liturgy to celebrate the Risen Christ. They also led us in a moving ANZAC Day Liturgy that involved the whole school reverently reflecting on the importance of this day.

"May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13

Pentecost Sunday - Save the Date!

Pentecost is the birthday 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 2021, our Parish will be celebrating this day with Mass at 10am, followed by a sausage sizzle (beef & chicken sausages), music and entertainment in our school grounds. Everyone is welcome to join in this special celebration! Please register your attendance through Calendly or the sign up sheet in the foyer of the church by 16 May (for catering purposes) <https://calendly.com/mqofblacktown2/pentecost-celebration2021?month=2021-05>



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](#).

May, Month of Mary

Since the 13th Century, Christians have dedicated the month of May to honouring Our Blessed Mother, Mary. During this time, Christians across the world offer special prayers to Mary. "In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance." (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1). During this month, we're encouraging everyone to pray the Rosary as a family, asking Mary to guide and protect all families in our school and wider community.

Mother's Day Mass - Save the Date!

Please join us for Mother's Day Mass on Friday 7th May at 9:15am. Mass will be followed by Morning Tea in the Teacher's Courtyard. A separate note with additional details was sent home. For catering purposes, please ensure the note is returned by Monday 3rd May 2021. We hope you can join us!

Hello and welcome back to Term 2.

This term we will be celebrating reading and the wonder of books with the National Simultaneous Storytime. It will be held on Wednesday, 19th May 2021 at 11am. During this event all students in the school (and all over Australia) will stop at 11am to hear the story 'Give Me Some Space' Written By Philip Bunting being read to them by a real life NASA Astronaut, Shannon Walker, FROM SPACE! How exciting!

For any further information about National Simultaneous Storytime or to order your very own copy of the book, 'Give Me Some Space' By Philip Bunting, please click

[here.](#)

Borrowing will commence for Term 2 in week 2.

Librarian

Mrs Allison Gudaitis



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/11HYs4dloWOkN4DLssw9gNctRqfXzleyY/view?usp=sharing>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11M_GehFuXmACl0-5MwDZw4Wud5sl_t2f/view?usp=sharing

Caring for a Child with a Disability

Your Child's NDIS Plan

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. If you have any questions, you can contact Leonie Preston.

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	82%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	80%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	66%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	81%

Congratulations Year 1 for Best Attendance

2021 NAPLAN TESTING TIMETABLE

Year	11th 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

Naplan Equating Study:

Next Thursday a number of students from Year 3 and Year 5 will be completing a NAPLAN pencil and paper test as part of an Equating study that is held every year. A note was emailed to all parents in Years 3 and 5 last term explaining this Study.

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 - 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.

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.



On Thursday last week Mini Vinnies had a water challenge to raise money for those less fortunate. Click the link to read all about it <https://drive.google.com/file/d/113miBXQqoQsBjHi-Azqwu7vuiGNEOUzK/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mini Vinnies Coordinators

Miss Nathalie Casten and Miss Liana Blazevic

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 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

From Monday 3rd of May all students should be 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.

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. 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.

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. ***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 are now a cashless school (excluding fundraisers).**

Happy Birthday

April 19th: Valerie Tedja

April 20th: Kaleb Green

April 23rd: Beatrice Salazar, Ellaiza Saranghilo

April 28th: Kayden Pisu

April 30th: Chaze Cruz

May 2nd: Holly Jones

May 4th: Majok Majok

May 5th: Azri Mortimer

May 7th: Esther Lemiri

May 9th: Ateng Dut, Launga Kalu, Jaivir Singh

May 11th: Melanie Tannous

May 13th: Lomio Ata, Dominic Ashton

May 14th: Jayhaan Kumar

May 15th: Tanika Walker-Hodgson, Stella Borg

Important Upcoming Dates

May 4th: Diocesan Cross Country

May 5th: Mothers Day Stall 9:30am
Year 1 Parish Mass 9:00am

May 6th: Year 2 Parish Mass 9:00am
Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN Equating Study

May 7th: Mother's Day Mass 9:15am
Mother's Day Morning Tea

May 11th: NAPLAN for year 3 & 5 Commences

May 13th: Year 4 Parish Mass 9:00am

Year 6 Camp 2021

Camp was an experience of a lifetime. So many activities were not our cup of tea but we still had the greatest time there. Mud run, when you hear that you probably think we just run through the mud but it was a lot more than that. We sang baby shark while half of our body was submerged into the muddy water. We swang from ropes, we went down the slide to mud and we got pushed out of our comfort zone. We did way more than the mud run, we also went on a GIANT SWING!! We could swing from 20 metres up in the air and yes that might be terrifying but everybody was so supportive. There was also a power fan and it was not a fan blowing in your face, it was climbing up 15 metres to get to the top of the pillar. Now you may be wondering how to get down well... YOU JUMP DOWN! That may seem scary and yes some took longer than others but again every person was extremely supportive and encouraged each other to have a go. We also did canoeing and every boat was at war. Paddles were like swords, boats were like military vehicles and everyone got WET! Our last activity was Commando - it was students versus teachers and the teachers did not go easy on us. Our objective was to capture the hostages and to retreat them back to base. Our overall experience at camp was phenomenal and if we had the chance to go back we would definitely do so. Lastly, we would like to thank the wonderful teachers who gave up their time to give us this once in a lifetime experience.

By Mary Abulail and Cailyn Paras

