



# St Patrick's News

## Term 2, Issue 10 – June 10th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Feast of Corpus Christi: The Feast of the Body of Christ

#### Alleluia, alleluia

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever"*



**Working Bee:** This week, we are talking to our students about the MERCY value of 'Service'. Special thanks to all of the families who came to school last Saturday to 'walk the talk'. Thank you parents/carers for the gift of your time and the sharing of your talents. Our playground/gardens look fabulous. Through your generous involvement, you are teaching your children what it means to be part of a community - to give without receiving. Well done everyone!



**TTFM:** Each year, we invite parents, staff and students in Years 4-6, to complete a Diocesan Survey, Tell Them From Me. We encourage parents and carers in our community to complete the online Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey, which will be open from **Monday 31 May to Friday 25 June**.

**At present, only 20 people have responded. I kindly invite you to participate as well. Please see link below**  
<http://tellthemfromme.com/8ckcx>

These surveys provide CEDP with information about school life, how engaged students are with school, and the different ways that teachers interact with them. They measure such topics as emotional and social well-being, physical health, and behaviours and attitudes linked to student success.

I thank you in anticipation for your feedback and support.

#### P and F Fundraisers: Don't miss out!

1. June 10th: Donut and drink day. (Held today)
2. June 17th: 'Corn in a Cup' day.

**Congratulations to** Ruby Scicluna, who represented St. Patrick's at the State Cross Country on Tuesday this week. To reach this level in any sport is a fabulous achievement and we congratulate Ruby on her dedication, school spirit and achievement.

**Parent Teacher Interviews:** These important sessions will be held in the MPA in Week 10. An email has been sent to all Parents/Carers to book your time. Teachers will discuss your child's learning goals, strengths, next steps, Homework, future learning initiatives and social development of your child. If you haven't made a booking, teachers will follow up with you in the coming week. Please see the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14v8TJC3ekme1Z4GaMGR7OaM5-de98tUW/view?usp=sharing>

**Bookings will be open from 3:30pm today.**

#### 2021 eSafety Webinars for Parents/Carers

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) sees parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinar for parents and carers. Please see link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/14rXHJ-rQuiVgpKU1iLU7EUPO21uYhGZ\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14rXHJ-rQuiVgpKU1iLU7EUPO21uYhGZ_/view?usp=sharing)

God Bless you and your family. Thank you for your continued support. Together we can achieve great things!

**Monica Fitzalan**  
**School Principal**

## Enrolling for 2022

**We ask that all families who have a sibling starting in Kindergarten in 2022, contact the School Office 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>



## Important Upcoming Dates

**June 11th:** Staff Development Day - **No School**  
Feast of the Sacred Heart

**June 14th:** Queen's Birthday

**June 17th:** Yr 4 Parish Mass 9:00 (parents/carers welcome to attend)  
Reports going Home  
P & F 'Corn in a Cup'

**June 20th:** First Holy Communion

**June 22nd/23rd:** Parent Teacher Meetings

**June 24th:** Kinder Parish Mass 9:00 (parents/carers welcome to attend)

**June 25th:** Last day of term

## Happy Birthday

**June 15th:** Nyanlwak Shol, Kanishka Halder

**June 16th:** Nina Dsouza

**June 17th:** Asmin Feraset, Portia Concepcion

**June 19th:** Samar Chhina, Andrew Gutierrez

**June 21st:** Lara Razon, Lavin Eyupoglu

**June 24th:** Genevieve Nguyen, Ekansh Saini

**June 25th:** Vaka Tupouto'a, Love Saini



## Reviews of Our School

Families looking to enrol at St. Patrick's, 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/>

## Staff Development Day - No School for Students

Friday the 11th of June is a Staff Development Day - **No School for Students.**

If needed, please enquire with COSHC St Patrick's as they will be providing care for the Pupil Free Day. Operational hours will be between 6:30am and 6:30pm.

The day will include lots of fun activities including painting, arts and crafts, team challenges and baking. To attend on this day, you must have a 2021 COSHC enrolment. See how to enrol by clicking on the link below;

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14n5lbQUXtCrPufuMJuhklfSvrksf0M\\_6/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14n5lbQUXtCrPufuMJuhklfSvrksf0M_6/view?usp=sharing)

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact the service Coordinator Dana, on 0408835838 or email us at [stpblacktown@cdpsl.org.au](mailto:stpblacktown@cdpsl.org.au).

## 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.

## Student Punctuality

**The school's bell rings at 8.55am. Class 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.

## Second Hand Uniform

Do you have any school uniforms that no longer fit your child/children?

*We are in need of size 12 and 14 boys winter pants.*

Please donate to our school office.

*We thank you for your support.*



Sunday, 13 June 2021: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

**Gospel Mark 4:26-34**

**The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.**

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

**Staff Formation Day - Friday 11 June**

Tomorrow, all St Patrick's staff will be attending a Formation Day at The Tops Conference Centre in Stanwell Tops. This perfect tranquil bush setting will set the scene for our spiritually enriching day. **Just a reminder that there will be no school for students on this day.**

**Parish Links - K-6 Faith and Friendship group**

We would like to welcome our students to join the MQOF community for lots of fun activities while learning about Catholic faith. The cost for the 2 hour session is \$5 and pizza will be provided. This group will meet a couple of times a month, with the first meeting on Friday 18th of June from 5-7pm at the African Centre (63 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148). Please [see this flyer](#) for more details.

**First Holy Communion**

Over two weeks, some of our children will be receiving their First Holy Communion in our parish. Please keep the following students and their families in your prayers: Josh Carl Reyes, Sofia Vitetta, Saige DeLuca, Ariana Gabrielle Orat, Lance Mateo Mayo, Gelove Dela Pena, Jay Refalo, Akisha Gabrielle Romulo, Marcus Andrej De Villa, Isabella Rae Juanga, Christopher Weatherby and Lemuela Crasta.

The next First Holy Communion Masses are as follows: Sunday 13th June 9:30am (St. Michael's Blacktown), Sunday 13th June 5:30pm (St. Patrick's Blacktown) and Sunday 20th June 10:00am (St. Patrick's Blacktown). We hope you can join us!

**Sacrament of Confirmation - Enrolments closing soon**

Enrolments are still open for the Sacrament of Confirmation and they will **close on 12 July 2021**. Please register ASAP to secure a place. Enrolment forms are available on MQOF [website](#).

**Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour) - Stage 3**

Last week, all Stage 3 students engaged in deep prayer while participating in Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Below are some of the students' responses from this powerful and enriching faith experience. Holy Hour occurs at St Patrick's Church on Friday nights (6:30-7:30pm).

*'It was dark in the church so we could focus on the monstrance and Jesus. The light shining on the monstrance was phenomenal and spectacular.'* - **Nathan DSousa**

*'The monstrance held the body of Christ so we could see it. While we prayed, Fr. Jack told us how we can get closer to God.'* - **Savannah Thorpe**

*'It was beautiful when it was lit up. I could feel the power of Jesus' love.'* - **Nmesoma Chineke**

*'Fr. Jack prayed special prayers and we listened to the Gospel.'* - **Mya Rafalo**

*'Fr. Jack burnt incense and the smoke took our prayers up to God.'* - **Charbel Mourad**

*'Fr. Jack wore an alb with special symbols. The Eucharistic Adoration helped us get closer to God and helps us treat God and Jesus as our best friend.'* - **Charbel Hajje**

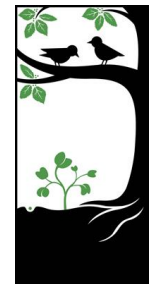
*'Jesus loves us and will be our friend no matter what. When we think of our friends we should also think of Jesus. We should always let go of hate and forgive.'* - **Vanessa Nuval**

**Farewell Fr. Jack**

Early next term, Fr. Jack will be moving to the United Kingdom, where he will spend the next couple of years undertaking further postgraduate studies in Theology. We have been extremely blessed to have Fr. Jack in our parish and school community. He has helped us all grow deeper in our faith and strengthen our relationship with God. He will be greatly missed by staff, students and the wider community. This is a very exciting opportunity for Fr. Jack and we will keep him in our prayers as he continues to live out this special vocation. His last day in the parish will be Sunday 8 August, 2021.

Mrs Natalie Coghlan

Religious Education Coordinator



## Attendance - Every School Day Counts!

### Missing School = Missing Out

*Here Everyday Ready On Time* - Morning Bell **8:55** am!

Attendance this Week	
Year Group	Attendance
Kindy	78%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	88%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	66%
Year 5	87%
Year 6	83%

*Congratulations Yr 1*

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which future learning is built. Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.

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.

### 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!*

When your child is absent due to illness, you will receive a COMPASS message on the day. A parent can explain absence by simply clicking on the link and explaining the reason for absence. Alternatively, you can always email or contact our school office to explain absences. **When a student is away for more than two days, a Medical Certificate will be required on return.**

*St Patricks Attendance Liaison Officer  
Aida Almeida*

### Mini Vinnies

#### *Toasty Tuesday*

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 from 8:30 am.** Your support will be greatly appreciated. PLease see link:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VP2qxV1PFc-5o0yhuBTZ4InhevbmeEEf/view?usp=sharing>



### Hair Cuts

Below is the expectation taken from the Parent Handbook in regards to haircuts. Could I please remind parents and students of the expectations and their responsibilities in regards to children's hair.

#### **Girls Hair**

Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. Hair colouring is not permitted. Hair ties, ribbons, headbands must be navy blue.

#### **Boys Hair**

Neat and simple haircuts. Extreme hairstyles and hair colouring are not permitted. No lines

### 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! Please collect your children and move off the school site promptly.
- 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.

### Parent/ Teacher/ Student Meetings

Today a note was sent home to every family about Booking online your Parent/Teacher/Student Learning Meetings for Semester 1. The online bookings will open on Thursday 10th June at 3:30pm and will close on Monday 21st June, at 3:30pm. These meetings will be taking place in Week 10 of Term 2 on Tuesday/ Wednesday and Thursday. These meetings are important for both your child and yourself as they are a time to receive feedback about your child's academic progress for Semester 1 and setting future learning goals for Semester 2. We encourage all Parents/Guardians to attend. For parents and guardians who do not have access to the Internet you will be able to book your Interviews on Friday morning the 21st June at 9:15am in the School Library.



## Office News

### 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.**

### 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.*

### St Patrick's Online Communication

#### PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG and COMPASS PARENT PORTAL APPS

St Patricks has moved to online communication. **Skoolbag** and **Compass Parent Portal** are free apps that can be downloaded to your phone, iPad and computer as a form of communication with the school. It is available from iTunes and Google.

**All school notes, notices and newsletters** are uploaded on these apps and you will receive an alert when something is uploaded or there is an important or urgent announcement. Moving forward, 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 has been sent to all parents and carers with Username/Password and instructions on how to download this app. If in need, please *don't hesitate to contact the school office on 8869 6000.* **Thank you to the parents and carers who have connected with the COMPASS Parent Portal.**



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

### 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 enter absent through the COMPASS Parent Portal.* 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."* **A medical certificate is necessary when a child is sick for more than 2 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.

### 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.**

### School Fees

**A reminder that School Fee accounts were 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)

### 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.

## 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)**