



St Patrick's News

Term 2, Issue 11 – June 25th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever



Today is the last day of Term 2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, encouragement and feedback. It is always wonderful to hear what you think is working well and this week we have heard how much you liked the Parent/Teacher Interviews in the MPA, you like our streamlined communication via COMPASS and Skoolbag and you enjoy how current and active our Facebook page is. Thank you for taking the time to complete the 'Tell Them From Me' survey which ends today!

Have a wonderful holiday with your beautiful children. Please take the time to slow down, play together, read together and listen to each others' stories. Family time is so precious!

Parent Teacher Interviews: This week we had most Parents and Carers on site to meet with their child's class teacher. This valuable opportunity provided time to discuss children's learning progress, strengths, challenges and goals in moving forward. The students have worked hard throughout Semester 1 and are to be congratulated on their efforts with learning, skills in communicating and in collaborating with their peers and teachers. I would like to thank our wonderful teachers for their expertise and energy, for their commitment and dedication and for their care and guidance of our beautiful students. **Together we can do great things!**



COVID Updates

Many thanks for your patience as we work together to follow Government guidelines. Please remember to wear a mask as you arrive to collect your child/children of an afternoon. Both the front and back gates will open at 3pm to allow for you to spread pick up times out and not have to stand in a long line for a long time! We will allow approximately 10 parents in at a time and we thank you for joining the line in the carpark and waiting patiently. We will continue this way too, as Term 3 begins. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zpu6B3GzVx76tZm3xZKnAcP3baFwlszc/view?usp=sharing>

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday together. May you find opportunities to celebrate, to sing, to listen, to play, to share stories, and to enjoy just being together.

Make time to read and when you've finished what you are reading - read some more!

Monica Fitzalan
School Principal

Education is the most
powerful weapon which you can
use to change the world.



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

July 12th: School Returns

July 14th: Year 1 Parish Mass 9:00 am Parents/Carers welcome to attend
Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day

July 15th: Stage 3A & 3B Parish Mass 9:00 Parents/Carers welcome to attend

July 16th: Athletics Carnival - Charlie Bali Reserve

July 22nd: Year 3 Parish Mass 9:00 Parents/Carers welcome to attend

July 23rd: Stage 3 Touch Gala Day boys & girls (mixed)

Happy Birthday

June 27th: Alexander Okeke, Savrinjot Kaur, Leona-Ray Yap,

June 28th: Sophia Singh, James Andrea, Avaneesh Menon

July 5th: Cailyn Paras

July 8th: Peyton Alcantara, Jamal Suliman

July 9th: Sai Krish Sathya, Mr Hey

July 12th: Mrs Fitzalan

July 13th: Vivian Chin

July 17th: Ariki Smith

July 18th: Ceefah Lemiri

July 19th: Aerika Sikri

July 21st: Yash Pandey, Vanessa Nuval, Kush Pandey

July 23rd: Gelove DelaPena



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/>

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.



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.

As SCHOOL PHOTOS are being held early in Term 3, haircuts are extremely important!

Girls Hair	Boys Hair
Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. Hair colouring is not permitted. Hair ties, ribbons, headbands must be navy blue.	Neat and simple haircuts. Extreme hairstyles and hair colouring are not permitted. No lines

Sunday, 27 June 2021: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Gospel Mark 5:21-24. 35-43

Young girl, I say to you, arise.

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

Some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

Gospel Reflection – A lesson in faith

Although Jairus obviously believed that Jesus might be able to do something to help heal his daughter, once news came that she had died he needed a strong reminder from Jesus to not be afraid and to have faith. Was it the example of the woman's faith in Jesus that gave Jairus the strength to continue to believe? When they arrive at the house the mourners laugh at Jesus and are consequently excluded from witnessing the miraculous raising. Since they don't have faith, they are not given the opportunity to witness faith in action.

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish links - Parish Priests

Next term we'll be welcoming Fr. Chadi Ibrahim to MQOF Parish. He will join our community from 9th August 2021 and will take on the role of Assistant Priest alongside Fr. John Paul Escarlan. Fr. Regie Lavilla will continue his role as MQOF Parish Priest. Fr. Jack Green will be undertaking study leave at the University of Oxford in the UK from 9 August 2021. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Chadi and we wish Fr. Jack all the best for this next chapter in his priestly vocation.

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](#). 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

Attendance - Every School Day Counts!

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

Attendance this Week

Year Group	Attendance
Kindy	81%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	86%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	71%
Year 5	84%
Year 6	86%

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

Missing School = Missing Out 😞

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.

Pyjama Day

On Friday 6 August, we are inviting all students to participate in a Pyjama Day and bring a gold coin donation as part of the Year 6 Graduation Fundraising for 2021. **Appropriate footwear must be worn. UGG Boots and slippers not permitted.**



Library News

Book Review: *By Filinita Aho Stage 3H*

Book Title: Bo Loves Books by Kaye Baillie and Tracie Grimwood

Rating ★★★★★

My Favourite Part: My Favourite part was when the girl and the dog were bonding.

My Rating: I rated this book 5 stars because it showed that reading books can be fun. I also recommend this book to be 5 stars because it is good for young readers to read and love books.

This week's book on review is one of the books on offer for the Premier's Reading Challenge. You can find this and many more books on the PRC shelves in the Library to help you to reach your book totals.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has begun for 2021! It will run from the beginning of March through to the 20th August 2021.

Students who enter the challenge will need to enter their books online using their unique login details. I have provided all teachers with their students' login details.

The official PRC website (for more information) please visit:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Please be advised that Kinder and Year 1 teachers will be entering the challenge on behalf of the students so there is no need to log in your child's books. If you have a child from Year 1 or 2 and you wish to enter their books yourself, just let your class teacher know so that there will be no issues with submitting the completed challenges.

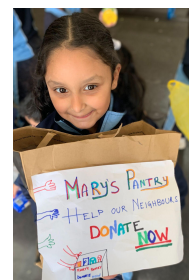
Mrs Gudaitis
Librarian

Mini Vinnies

Mary's Pantry Winter Appeal

The Mary's Pantry Winter Appeal is run by our parish, St Patrick's Blacktown. Mary's Pantry asks for donations of **non-perishable food**. The items collected throughout the appeal are distributed to families and individuals in the community who are in need of assistance.

- Special thanks to all those who have generously donated food items over the last 2 weeks. We have had a fabulous response. Thank you to Miss Casten and Miss Blazevic who have coordinated this drive with the Mini Vinnies team.



These items will help support members of our local community and parish during the harsh winter months. We thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Miss Casten and Miss Blazevic
Mini Vinnies Coordinators



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