



St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 4- March 18th 2022



HOSPITALITY

Dates to Remember

Term 1

March 18th: Cross Country

March 21st: Harmony Day & World Down Syndrome Day

March 24th: NAPLAN Practice Test

March 25th: Feast of the Annunciation

March 29th: Tour for Kindy 2023 Families 10am

April 7th: Holy Week Celebration

April 8th: Last day of Term 1

Term 2 Upcoming Dates

April 25th: Public Holiday

April 26th/27th: Stage 3 Camp

April 29th: Anzac Day Liturgy 2pm

May 3rd: Diocesan Cross Country

May 5th: Tour for Kindy 2023 Families 10am

May 10th: Naplan begins

May 20th: Last Day of Naplan

May 24th: Feast of Our Lady

May 26th: National Sorry Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

March 17th: Feast of St. Patrick.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died March 17, 461.

"The Breastplate," Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:

*"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired
Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."*

St Patrick, Pray for Us.

- Please see Facebook for some fabulous photos from our Fun Day.



Harmony Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Flood Appeal

We look forward to a wonderful day of celebrations on Monday! Please see the attached note that was sent home earlier this week. [Harmony Day World, Down Syndrome Day & Flood Appeal](#)

Thank you for your donations via the QKR app, to support all those who have lost their possessions, schools and livelihood in the recent floods. Your donations to the flood appeal are a way to show our care and support for people in their time of greatest need. Please go to the QKR app to donate.

God bless you and your beautiful children as we work in partnership at our great St. Patrick's Primary School.

Monica Fitzalan
School Principal



Sunday, 20th March 2022: *THIRD Sunday in Lent - Year C*

Lk 13:1-9 The parable of the fig tree

Suffering and loss are reminders of our mortality; our life is short. What are some of the things in our lives that aren't important, that aren't life-giving, that we need to let go? In nature, the right conditions allow for trees and plants to flourish. God never gives up on us—always providing the conditions that allow us to flourish. What are some of the things we need to do in order to flourish, to “bear fruit” in our life and the lives of others?

Plastic Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Our school is continuing the collection of bread tags to reduce landfill and help raise funds to purchase wheelchairs in South Africa. All bread tags received will be sent to South Australia to be recycled. The recycler then makes a donation to fund the wheelchairs. Each classroom and the office has a jar for collecting donations. Please help us collect as many as possible. We will be collecting throughout the entire year.



Project Compassion: For All Future Generations

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our lives and
for the life of every person, both near to us and far away.

We thank you for the wonder of all your creation.

Through fasting, almsgiving and prayer
may this Lent draw us deeper
into the warmth and light of God's love.

May we see the world more clearly,
Especially those who are often overlooked.

May we come closer to your heart,
Which you showed through the cross of Jesus.
May we be full of hope for all future generations.

We ask this in Jesus' name,
Amen.



Important Dates and Reminders!

World Water Day

Next Thursday, Mini Vinnies students will be bringing in buckets and walking 3kms to raise awareness for those in our world who are facing water shortages or have no accessible running water in their homes.

All donations are made directly to our [school's fundraising page](#).



Monday 21st March

Let's all celebrate Harmony Day and World Down Syndrome Day!

Wear orange or **national costume** or **dress in the colours of your flag** or **crazy/coloured socks**.

As we stand united in **HARMONY** and celebrate diversity where **EVERYONE BELONGS** and is **INCLUDED**.



Mary's Pantry

Provides emergency provisions and groceries for those who are struggling in our community.

Open weekdays between 10am - 1pm

Located near the entrance to the Church.

Thank you to MQOF Parish for providing this support to our families.



Third Sunday of Lent



We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Janice. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive. Watch a short film about Janice's story [here](#).

Thank you for your generosity with our Project Compassion School Team! We currently have \$550 in total. We greatly appreciate your donations which helps us move closer to meeting our whole school target. Your support is invaluable to us, thank you again!

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 through our St Patrick's Primary School grade teams:
<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/stpatricksprimaryschoolblacktown>

Kids On Keyboard Returns!

Kids on Keyboard is returning to the classroom in Term 2. Class runs Tuesdays in first break. The program is open for students in Year 2 and above. Keyboards are provided in class time for each student to use. Keyboard is a lot of fun and a great way to introduce your child to the world of music. Creative Vouchers are accepted. If you are interested in enrolling your child or wish to know more please contact Christine on 0409247424. For more information please see links:

[Kids on Keyboard how to enrol](#)

[Kids on Keyboard enrolment form](#)

New Staff Member

*A warm welcome to **Mr Jeff Wood** who has joined our St Patrick's Community as our main maintenance man. We know that he will enjoy working in and looking after our beautiful grounds.*



Library News

Library Information

A very warm welcome to you all! Mrs Pono and I are very excited to continue to be the Library staff at St Patrick's Primary School for 2022!

Our Library is filled with a variety of valuable resources and provides a dynamic learning space for staff and students to gather throughout the day. [Library News](#)

St Patricks Book Fair

Thank you for your support of our recent Book Fair. We hope that your children are enjoying their new books!

Collecting Children early

Please ensure that appointments for students are made outside of school hours.

At the end of the day, notes are given out and important information is shared. Children are learning right up until bell time.

When you take children out of class early, it not only causes extra 'busyness' for our Office staff, but can cause your child distress as they are being called out of class and their peers ask why.

Out of school hours appointments are best practice.

RAT TESTS

Positive Result? Please call school immediately.

- **Tests to be taken each Monday and Wednesday morning**
- **School must be notified if there is a positive diagnosis**
- **Please note that if your child has had Covid in the last 4 weeks, they do not need to test.**

Children at school: Any child with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

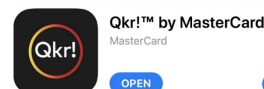
St Patrick's Online Communication

Compass Parent Portal - St Patrick's encourages parents to download the Compass Parent Portal app once your child is enrolled at our school. It will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between parents and school. All **school notes, notices and newsletters will be sent through Compass.**



To access the Compass Parent Portal app, simply download the '**Compass School Manager**' app, available through Apple Store or Google Play. It is suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones.

QKR! (pronounced 'quicker') Mobile Payment App - St Patrick's is now a 'cashless school'. QKR! is an easy to use mobile phone application that is also suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones. This service is currently available for all payments **except for school fees**. Communications will be distributed as new events and products become available for purchase.



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

If in need, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 8869 6000.

Please ensure that you are watching our school Facebook page and that you have signed up for COMPASS as this is how all correspondence/updates are shared with you.

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 entering in COMPASS Parent Portal, 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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 22nd: Lemuela Crasta & Ainsley-Jorge Gebran

March 24th: Ruby Derksen & Mozamil Wahidi

March 27th: Ihieoma Oghor

March 30th: Carter Ashton

March 31st: Leah Pavlek

April 1st: Alexa Razon



Kindergarten Enrolments 2023

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/>

Please call the Office to advise them if you have a child who will be starting **Kindergarten in 2023**. We ask that all families who have a sibling starting in 2023, advise the Office within the next week so that we can confirm how many places we have available for other families.

We are currently taking Enrolments and wish to help you secure a place for your child.

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now>

Please follow [THIS](#) link for more information regarding our Kindergarten Enrolment Process.



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 School Principal before the withdrawal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.**

Leave of Absence

If your child is going on extended leave greater than 5 days, an **Application for Exemption Form** must be completed and returned to the office prior to the leave date. Please complete the following form [Application Extended Leave](#). This leave will be considered by the Principal for approval.

Please note that any Leave time taken during term will impact on your child's learning. Our Diocesan mantra is, 'Every Child, Every Day' and students are legally obliged to attend school every day of the school year. Holidays and Leave should ideally be taken in school holiday periods.

School Fees

Dear Parents, you should now have received school fee statements for term 1. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our school office on 8869 6000.

If you have changed your address please don't forget to update it by filling out the following form and returning it to us as soon as possible. [Change of Address/Contact Details](#)

Many thanks,
Mrs Browne

No Toys from Home at School

At St Patrick Primary School, we request that children do **NOT** bring toys from home to school. Toys brought to school can disrupt the learning at school. Whilst we understand that children may wish to carry familiar toys with them to show their friends, bringing toys from home to school can create difficult situations to manage. Hence we request that children do **NOT** bring toys from home to school.



St Patrick's Primary School Blacktown



**Looking to Enrol
for
Kindergarten 2023?**

**2023 Enrolments Now Open!
Don't Miss Out!**

**Contact us!
02 8869 6000**

Email: stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/

Is your child ready to start Kindy?
Join us for a
Kindy Open Day!



Open Days

15th March 10am

**29th March 10am
&
5th May 10am**

Enrolment Packs Available Now!

Please call our school office to organise your enrolment pack or
download an enrolment form from our school website.

www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au



YEAR 7, 2024 ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you and your family to attend our Year 7, 2024 Enrolment Information Evening. Hear from our College Principal, Ms Lucie Farrugia and other key members of the College Leadership Team and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Time: 6:00pm (Registration from 5:30pm)

Enquiries: Enrolments Office T (02) 8838 1222 E enrolments@olmc.nsw.edu.au

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au



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