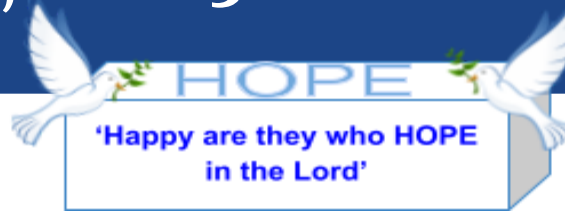




St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 3 – March 2nd 2023



Term 1 - 2023

March 5th: Second Sunday of Lent

March 6th: Parents Representative Council Meeting, Catholic Schools Week begins!

March 8th: Blacktown Zone Swimming

March 9th: Yr 4 Parish Mass 9am, Picnic lunch and Reading afternoon - all welcome. Book Fair begins!

March 10th: 2024 Kindy Open Day, School Assembly 2:40pm

March 12th: Third Sunday of Lent

March 13th: NAPLAN week

March 16th: Yr 3 Parish Mass 9am

March 17th: Feast of St Patrick: Open classes 9:10-9:45, Mass at 10am. School Assembly 2:40pm

March 19th: Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 23rd: Yr 2 Parish Mass 9am

March 24th: Harmony Day & World Down Syndrome Day

March 25th: Feast of Annunciation,

March 26th: Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 27th: School Cross Country

March 30th: Yr 1 Parish Mass 9am, Principal's Morning Tea.

March 31st: 2024 Kindy Open Day

April 2nd: Palm Sunday

April 3rd: Palm Sunday Focus Yr 2 - 2:20pm All Parents Welcome to Attend

April 4th: Holy Thursday: The Last Supper Yr 3 - 2:20pm All Parents Welcome to Attend

April 5th: Holy Thursday: Washing of Feet Yr4 - 2:20 All Parents Welcome to Attend

April 6th: Stations of the Cross Yr 5 & Yr 6 - 2:10 All Parents Welcome to Attend.

April 6th: Last Day of Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lent begins: Special thanks to those parents/carers who joined us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgies to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent. As we journey towards Easter, we are reminded of God's love and hope for us all.

MERCY DAY: As a MERCY School, built on the foundations of the MERCY Sisters who were led by Catherine McAuley, it is a wonderful day to focus on the values we espouse: Hospitality, Compassion, Love, Excellence, Service, Dignity, Justice and Respect.

May our hearts always be filled with the loving Mercy that God showed us.

Family Week: During 'Family Week', this coming week, teachers do not give any Homework. Week 7 each term is a time to focus on the gift of our family. Take time to cook together, to read together, to go for a walk together or to play a game together. Time and family memories are what sustain us all through challenging times and 'lost time' cannot be given back. Enjoy your 'Family Week' time.

Catholic Schools Week: The Theme of our Parramatta Diocesan Schools this year is 'Teachers Make The Difference'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outstanding staff who go above and beyond always, to support the learning of your children. We have a few special events to which you are warmly invited:

Monday 6th March at 2:30pm in our MPA. A Catholic Schools Week Prayer will be held.

Thursday 9th March, a special Picnic Lunch and Reading Afternoon will be held. A flyer has been sent to all parents/carers through COMPASS and it is also on Facebook. We would love to see you there from 1:30pm. Bring your favourite book and a picnic rug!

Friday 10th March - Kindergarten School Tour & Information Session for new families and parents who wish to enrol their child for 2024. 9:30am in our Library.

Mrs Aida Almeida: One of our friendly Office Staff, Mrs Almeida, will be finishing at St. Patrick's at the end of Week 9, her last day being 24th March. We will miss her laugh, welcoming smile, gentle manner and hardworking nature. I would like to thank Mrs Almeida for her generosity of time, her commitment to helping all staff and her warm nature in supporting students and parents. She is returning to live in Portugal with her family. All the best and God bless you Mrs Almeida!

Wishing you and your precious children God's blessings.

Monica Fitzalan
School Principal



Dear Parents/Carers,

Ash Wednesday

On the 22nd of February we gathered to celebrate Ash Wednesday, a day when we remember who we are and how much God loves us. Ash Wednesday is the start of a special season in our liturgical calendar called Lent. Over the next 40 days, we will take extra steps to strengthen our relationship with God, by fasting, extra prayer and service to others.

The ashes remind us of life and death and of our need for God. The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. We now enter the second Sunday of Lent. We continue our journey through the desert with Jesus.

We pray:

O God, who has commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mercy Day

On the 27th February we gathered as a community to spend some time reflecting on the Mercy charism. The Mercy charism has been handed down to us from the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy, who founded our school in 1919 and remained with us until 2001. On this day we remember the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley who we derive our Mercy Values from. Students learnt about the Mercy Values by participating in different activities such as art, charades and even a scavenger hunt. Students also brought home a Hand of Mercy template to share with their families and to come up with ways we can show mercy to others. Thank you to those families who have sent through the photos of completing the activity at home.

God bless!

Miss Cecilienne-Mae Matienzo
Religious Education Coordinator

Important Dates and Reminders!

Sunday Gospel Reading

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

[Mt 17:1-9](#)

Living the Gospel – 'Listen to him!'



God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One, and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation

Parish Links

For further Parish information please visit the following link:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/>

Parish Bulletin

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/news-events/#bulletin>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 4th: Joel Mathew

March 6th: Montana Ma'afu & Krystal Zaghtiti

March 8th: Samuel Keher

March 14th: Vironyka Eissa

March 5th: Brianna Ghanoum

March 7th: Alisi Aho

March 13th: Christian Mourad

March 17th: Kalan Abraham



Mary's Pantry

Mary's Pantry is a food service for families doing it tough in the Blacktown area. Mary's Pantry is located at the entrance to the church and is open Monday-Friday 10am-1pm. Please bring your Centrelink card to collect free bags of groceries and essentials every 2-3 weeks.

The Alpha Park Connect serves free meals and provides support and community. Meals are served Sunday-Thursday 5:30 pm or Saturdays 4pm at Alpha Park (across from the WestPoint carpark entrance).

Family Connect and Support assists families who may be experiencing difficulties, including financial, parenting, substance use, mental health, domestic and family violence and housing, by connecting them to the right supports and services for them. Open 8:30am - 5:30pm on Ph: 1800 066 757

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Key dates for the 2023 challenge are:

27 February 2023 - challenge opens for student entries

Friday 18 August 2023 - challenge closes for student entries.



As was the case last year, students from Years 3-6 will be required to enter their books read into the PRC book log independently. Children from Kindergarten - Year 2 will have their books entered on their behalf by their teachers based on the books that they have read in class throughout the year. Year 3-6 passwords are the same as in previous years, copies of each child's login details will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Book Fair

Our first Book Fair for 2023 will take place during Week 8 (March 13th-17th) to coincide with our St Patrick's Day Celebrations. We will be open for parents/carers and children to purchase every morning during Week 8 from 8:30am-9am and in the afternoons from 3:00-3:30pm Monday to Friday. Your child will be given an opportunity to preview the books for sale prior to the commencement of the Book Fair and fill in a Wish List. Purchases may also be made (EFTPOS) on the Picnic/Reading afternoon.

Borrowing:

The borrowing schedule for each class is as follows:

Monday: Year 3 and Year 2

Tuesday: Kindergarten and Year 4

Thursday: Year 6

Friday: Year 5 and Year 2



Counselling Corner

CSPD Family Clinic

Family Clinic consultations are provided for families wanting to address school and home based concerns with school avoidance, behaviour, relationships and mental health. The team considers the difficulties you and your child are experiencing within the context of your family and the school, harnessing the strengths and resources that your family can bring to understanding and changing the situation. The team consists of experienced counsellors trained in psychology, social work, family therapy and mediation. Referrals to the clinic are made via your child's School Counsellor.

Online Gaming - Safety and Screen Time

→ Raising Children - Healthy video gaming for children

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/entertainment-technology/gaming-gambling/healthy-gaming-children-teens>

→ eSafety Commissioner - Help them manage the risks <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/gaming>

→ Parentline - Fortnite frustration; what can parents do? <https://www.parentline.org.au/online-gaming-and-your-children/>

Please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office if you think your child might benefit from counselling support.

Take care, Caitlin (Wellbeing Counsellor)

NAPLAN changes from 2023

As you may be aware, 2023 NAPLAN testing will be held from 15 March 2023. There will also be changes to the way that NAPLAN results are reported. Parents and carers will get earlier and simpler information about their child's NAPLAN achievement based on the following 4 levels of achievement:

- Exceeding
- Strong
- Developing
- Needs additional support.

The descriptors for each category will make it clear to parents what their child's literacy and numeracy skills are at the time of NAPLAN testing, and we will continue to work with you to meet your child's needs. NAPLAN will remain one of many useful ways that we assess your child's learning and support needs.

Please be aware of NAPLAN testing dates, as outlined below:

Date	Year 3	Year 5
Wednesday, 15th March	Writing (pencil and paper)	Writing (online)
Thursday, 16th March	Reading and Language Conventions	Reading and Language Conventions
Monday, 20th March	Numeracy Writing catch-up	Numeracy Writing catch-up
Wednesday 22nd March - Friday 24th March	Catch-up sessions	Catch-up sessions

Learning News - What's happening in classrooms

We are excited this year to share that our focus on learning is around 'Challenge.' In Numeracy, the leadership team recently participated in an "Excellence in Mathematics" professional development course. Our aim is to build a culture of how mathematics is taught in our classrooms that ensures each student is challenged as they progress in their understanding, skills and disposition to use mathematics. We hope you hear all about the great mathematics that is happening!

Our Year 6 students (and teachers) are learning to use video through literacy. Students will learn the skills of storytelling using technology. This is only their second week of learning so we can't wait to see and share their video productions.

For our Kinder and Year 1 students, they are participating in Wired for Sound. This exciting project uses music and singing to increase coordination and focus on literacy learning. Their attention to learn the words, match the pitch and coordinate a clap, click and patch is amazing. They sound fantastic and they are concentrating super hard!

If you have any older children in Years 7 - 12, CathWest is providing some upskilling courses during the school holidays, free of charge. Please see the attached flyer for course on offer and registration details. [UPSKILL AT @CATHWEST](#)



The St Pat's Way
Our three expectations are:



St Pat's Way

Easter Raffle

The P & F are running an Easter Raffle which will be drawn on Wednesday 5th April at 2:30pm. There are 4 prizes up for grabs.

The QKR! app is now open for you to purchase your tickets. Ticket sales close on Saturday 1st April, 2023.

Good luck and thank you.
P & F Committee

Office News

School Fees

Dear Parents, you should've now received your fee statements. If you have changed your address, please don't forget to update details by filling out the following form and returning it to us as soon as possible. [Change of Address/Contact Details](#)
If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our school office on 8869 6000.

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.

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.

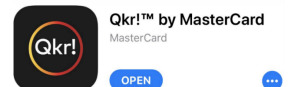
St Patrick's Online Communication

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.

Wishing you all God's blessings in 2023.

We are delighted that you are part of our St. Patrick's Community.



St Patrick's Primary School Blacktown



Open Days

10th March 9:30am

31st March 9:30am

8th May 9:30am

Looking to Enrol for Kindergarten 2024?

2024 Enrolments Now Open!

Don't Miss Out!

Contact us!

02 8869 6000

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



OLMC PARRAMATTA **OPEN DAY**

Sunday, 5 March | 9.00am – 3.00pm

Courageous Advocates. Limitless Possibilities.

