



St Patrick's News

Term 1, Issue 4 - March 17th 2023



*Here at St. Patrick's
We are people of MERCY,
All are welcome in faith and in love,
Under your protection
And safe in your arms -
We reach out in hope - spread the good news to all.
(School Song)*



Term 1 - 2023

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

Term 2 - 2023

April 24th: First day of Term 2

April 25th: ANZAC Day Public Holiday

April 26th: ANZAC Ceremony 9:00am &
Resurrection Liturgy 2:30pm

May 8th: 2024 Kindy Open Day

May 12th: Mothers Day Mass & Morning
Tea

May 14th: Mothers Day

As the great St. Patrick spread the news of the love of God to others, may our community be a living example of faith in action. May God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit walk with us as we live our lives.

Friday March 17th - Feast of St. Patrick.

Newsletter: As we communicate so frequently via COMPASS, we will now only have a full Newsletter twice a term. This will be in Week 2 and Week 6 of each Term. Each Friday, we will send out a 'What's on this Week' message so that you have all of the important dates you need to know!

Farewell Mrs Almeida: Very sadly, we say goodbye to our wonderful Office lady, Mrs Almeida. Her dedication, creativeness, attention to detail, work ethic and warm smile will be greatly missed. As she returns to live in Portugal with her family, we wish her God's blessings always and we thank her for the gift that she was to our community.



Pupil Free Days: Please take note of the following Pupil Free days for 2023.

Friday June 9th

Monday 28th August

Friday December 15th - Last day of school for students 2023.

NAPLAN - Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who have been working so well to prepare for this year's NAPLAN Assessments. As these tests are just one test at a point in time, we encourage parents to support their students to maintain a positive headspace and to do their best.

Wishing you and your precious children God's blessings.

Monica Fitzalan

School Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left...



The above words are from St Patrick's Breastplate: A Prayer Of Protection- Today, Friday 17th of March, our school celebrates the Feast day of our patron saint, St Patrick. St. Patrick lived a very long time ago. He brought faith to many people through wonderful stories about God's love. St Patrick showed that he loved God by welcoming, loving and forgiving everyone he met, especially those in Ireland.

St Patrick lived a life dedicated to God and his life was a little bit like Jesus' life. He was a leader and taught people about God. We know how important it is to live our faith and follow Jesus' examples and teachings. St Patrick lived his life doing the work of Jesus. Take some time to think this week about how you can dedicate part of your life to God, remembering that during this time of Lent we are called to pray, fast and give alms.

God bless!

Miss Cecillienne-Mae Matienzo

Religious Education Coordinator

Important Dates and Reminders!



Sunday Gospel Reading

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

[Jn 9:1-41](#)

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY
PARISH, BLACKTOWN

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 18th: Sophia Jug & Stanley Jug

March 24th: Mozamil Wahidi

March 30th: Carter Ashton



March 22nd: Ainsley-Jorge Gebran

March 27th: Ihieoma Oghor

March 31st: Kingsley Abraham & Leah Pavlek

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.



Borrowing:

The borrowing schedule for each class is as follows:

Monday: Year 3 and Year 1

Tuesday: Kindergarten and Year 4

Thursday: Year 6

Friday: Year 5 and Year 2

Counselling Corner

Triple P Free Parenting Program Online

Triple P are now offering their evidence-based parenting program for free Australia-wide.

Triple P is an online program for parents/carers of children under 12 years. It's backed by 35+ years of research studies here and around the world. More than a million Australian families have completed the program.

You can support your child's development, grow closer, and solve problems - positively. There are many simple strategies you can start using right now:

- Discover more ways to be an ongoing positive influence on your child and strengthen your relationship - now, and in the years to come
- Promote new skills and help emotional self-regulation
- Raise happier, more confident and capable kids
- Boost their emotional wellbeing and maintain a good relationship - now, and in the years to come
- Make family life less stressful and more enjoyable - even in tough times
- Set good habits early and prevent problems from getting worse with practical strategies

Testimonial: "It would have been easy to parent on 'auto-pilot' - doing what my parents had done. Instead I now pay attention, to see and understand what's going on in his mind." (Yoshi)

<https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/au/triple-p/>

You are welcome to contact me via the office or my mobile (0458 335 697) with any questions.

Take care, Caitlin (Wellbeing Counsellor, Mon-Wed)

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](#)

Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival

Last Wednesday, some of our talented students participated in the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival. In typical style, they represented our school with pride and displayed true determination when competing in their events. We are super proud of all their efforts and excited to announce Harry Nash came 4th in the 50 metre backstroke and made it to the Diocesan Swimming carnival. Thank you to Mrs O'Donoghue for attending on the day as our Team Manager and to parents and carers who transported their children to the carnival.

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.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents and carers should receive an email or SMS (for those parents without email) from Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) asking you to review and, where necessary, update important contact and student information.

The link closes on Sunday 19 March so if you haven't already done so, please complete the review/update as soon as possible to ensure that your family's details are up to date.

If you have any questions or did not receive the link, please contact the CSPD Community Liaison Team on 9840 5796.

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.***



Kindergarten Enrolments 2024

St Patrick's Primary School is now accepting enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2024.

Current St Patrick's Families who have a child commencing school in 2024 are encouraged to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Enrolment forms can be found on our website

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/How-to-enrol> or are available for collection in our school office.

Open Day Tours will be held on **Friday 31st of March 9:30am** and **Monday 8th May 9:30am**.

We hope you can join us.