



St Patrick's News

Term 3, Issue 7 – 4th August, 2023



AUGUST

8th - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Mass
9am Yrs 5 & 6. K-4
Liturgy at 2:30pm
9th - Book Week
presentation 'Way to Cool' for Yrs K-4 only
9:15am MPA
10th - Lolly Day. Year 3
at 9am mass
11th - Yr 4 Excursion
to Hyde Park Barracks
14th - VOY Yr 6
15th - Feast of the
Assumption Mass 9am
17th Yr 4 Parish Mass
17th & 18th - Book
Fair Preview
18th - PRC student
entries close
20th - MQOF Parish
Celebration Mass &
Fiesta starts 10am
21st - Grandparents
Liturgy & Morning Tea
23rd Picnic and
Reading Afternoon.
21st-24th Book Week
25th - Diocesan
Athletics Carnival
28th - Staff
**Development Day NO
SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS**
30th - Fathers Day
Stall
31st Yr 6 Parish Mass

SEPTEMBER

1st - Fathers Day
Liturgy & BBQ
Breakfast
3rd - Fathers Day
5th - Girls & Boys
Netball Gala Day
7th - Year 1 Parish
Mass
7th & 8th Yr 6
Canberra Excursion

Welcome to our Week 3 Newsletter

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration:

***"When Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is."***

We have had an exciting start to Term 3, with celebrations to mark Australian women playing in the FIFA World Cup, students involved in Gala Days, a Football Clinic and 100 Days of Kindy! Being part of such a supportive, committed and positive community is such a blessing. Thank you for all that you do to support us each day at St. Patrick's.

Assembly/Prayer: It has been particularly lovely to see so many parents and carers at our Friday afternoon Assembly and Prayer. This Assembly is on every Friday at 2:30 pm and parents and carers are always welcome.

100 Days of Kindy: Can you believe that our youngest students have been at school for over 100 days? We are so proud of the learning journey they have been on and we thank Mrs Lupa and Miss Allegra for organising a wonderful day of celebrations for Kindergarten students.

Fundraising: We hope you have noticed the bright and colourful signage around school, paid for by last year's fundraising, through the Walkathon. We also purchased some extra technology. Further banners/signs will be arriving soon, particularly signage to take to Gala Days/Carnivals to identify our school. Thank you to Mrs Lupa for coordinating this. This year we will be holding a **COLOUR RUN**. We are so excited. We are calling for PRIZE DONATIONS for this event and we would love your business/workplace to consider making a donation. Special thanks to the DeSouza and Ata families for their generous donation of a Coffee Machine! Please call the School Office if you require a letter requesting donations for your workplace, or if you wish to make a donation.

Book Week: Wow! We have so many exciting events planned for Book Week. Special thanks to Mrs Pace for her creativity and time in organising events to help our children engage in the lifelong joy of reading.

Staffing: * We wish Miss Matienzo and Miss Fauni God's blessings as they continue their journey of faith on their World Youth Day travels. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

- We wish Mrs Gudaitis all the best as she takes on new adventures in her teaching journey. After 17 years at St. Patrick's, she is moving closer to her home to take on Casual work. She has been a special member of the St. Patrick's community for many years, supporting many students and their families and imparting her love of literature to all through her Library work. We wish Mrs Gudaitis and her family God's blessings and thank her for the work she has done for our beautiful community. We will farewell Mrs Gudaitis at the Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the year.

May God bless you and your precious family.

**Mrs Fitzalan
Principal**



Faith Community

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please keep Miss Matienzo, Miss Fauni, Fr. Rooney and Deacon Tom in your prayers as they attend World Youth Day.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PRAYER



Our Lady of the Visitation,
you who arose and went with haste
Into the hill country to meet Elizabeth,
lead us also to encounter all those who await us
to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your son and our Lord!

We, too, will go in haste, without distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy.
We will go with peace because those who bring Christ bring peace,
and well-being comes from being generous and loving in our deeds.

Our Lady of the Visitation,
through your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be a shared celebration of Christ,
whom we bring to others, just as you did.

Please make this time a time of testimony and sharing,
of fraternity and thanksgiving,
with each of us looking for opportunities to give to those who are waiting to receive.
With you, we will continue on this path of encounter so that our world will join us, too, in fraternity, justice, and peace.

Help us,
Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, in obedience to the Father and in the love of the Holy Spirit!

Sacramental Process

Registrations for the Sacrament of Confirmation are now open. In Year 5 the children will be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes Baptism, by which in the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism Oil, which first happened at Baptism, we are confirmed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded of our participation in the ministry and mission of Jesus, and strengthened to follow Jesus more closely.

For more information please see here:

https://www.mqofblacktown.org/files/ugd/f1ae77_487745da4be14958bd1929ec70c0275f.pdf

Registrations to be completed here: <https://www.mqofblacktown.org/confirmation-yr-5-6-registration>



Grandparents Day

The wonderful grandparents of our community are welcome to attend 'Grandparents Day' on Monday 21st August. A liturgy will commence at 9:30 am followed by Open Classrooms from 10:00am - 10:30am, then Morning Tea from 10:30am - 11am. For catering purposes, if Grandparents wish to stay for Morning Tea, please RSVP to the school no later than Wednesday 16th August, 2023. We are looking forward to celebrating the 'gift' of Grandparents.

"A grandparent has silver in their hair and gold in their heart" UNKNOWN

Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day invitation

The Parish Feast day is on Sunday 20th August at 10:00am followed by an International Food Festival, Entertainment and a Raffle draw. Please click on the following invitation link: [Parish Feast Day](#) for further information.

God bless!

Mrs Mary Leilua (Acting Religious Education Coordinator)

Happy Birthday to.....

August

3rd - Xinfu Xi
5th - Josh Carl Reyes
6th - Harvey Elisher & Reyansh Rachamalla
7th - Leeroy Ioane & Nia'Iani Mokoia
8th - Awut AngokDut
9th - Satori Saad
12th - Theodore Villena
13th - Alex Disano & Jacob Gumayagay
15th - Chadi Kashi




16th - Vladimir Wadea
17th - Archer Buguina
18th - Dhruv Kankani
21st - Ridaan Shah & Tyrese Takotohiwi
22nd - Iyana Hamid, Maribell Kashi & George Kashi
27th - Jasroop Kaur & Kasey Royeras
28th - Grace Ahomee & Akuol Athian
29th - Jasmine Kitcharoen
30th - Shivan Shah

Library and Literacy News

This term is all about **READING! Book Week** is a time to celebrate and read fabulous books, explore amazing authors and illustrators and have fun. This year's theme is Read, Grow, Inspire.

Leading up to Book Week, we would like all students to engage in some FUN around reading.

Week	Activities
Week 2	<p>Photo Challenge: Students are to take a photo reading their favourite book in a unique place. Eg: At the park, in a treehouse, in the car, reading to a pet etc. These photos can be emailed to the school at StPatsBlacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au by Friday 4th August.</p> <p>A prize will be given to the most creative reading photo per stage.</p>
Week 3	<p>St Patrick's Reading Challenge will be sent home. Students are encouraged to complete all of the reading activities and return it to school completed by Friday 25th August. Students will receive a small surprise upon completion.</p>
Week 4	<p>Wednesday 9th August Book Week presentation 'Way too Cool' Live performance K-4.</p> <p><i>Henry and Marley have been friends since they met at Kindergarten, a long time ago now. They've been on adventures, shared their hopes and dreams and generally always looked out for each other. But recently Henry has started to act differently. He has started avoiding Marley at school. He's too busy for their usual catch ups on the weekend. In fact – he's not acting like Henry at all. It turns out Henry has started thinking he's WAY TOO COOL for any of their usual stuff. Marley must embark on an adventure to find out what is going on and how, or even if, she can make things the way they used to be.</i></p> <p><i>Could the answers lie in the books they used to love to share?</i></p> <p><i>Join Marley, Henry and a selection of fantastic characters from the 2023 CBCA shortlisted books in WAY TOO COOL!, a new educational musical created to celebrate CBCA Children's Book Week 2023 and the theme: READ, GROW, INSPIRE</i></p>
Week 5	<p>Friday 18th August Premier's Reading Challenge closes for student entries.</p> 

Week 6



Book Fair Mon 21st August - Thursday 24th August. Parents and Carers are invited to purchase books from the Library from 8:30am-9am and in the afternoons from 3:00-3:30pm. Students 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.

You may make a purchase in two ways:

- In person in the library (Credit/debit card purchases only)
- Online (use the information on the Wish Lists to purchase the books online. Students will need to bring in their Wish Lists with the valid receipt number, provided when a successful purchase has been made, to the library to collect their books)

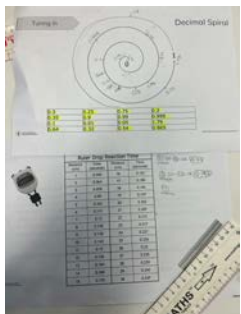
Book Fairs are an essential fundraising opportunity for our library to keep up with purchasing quality new books for our students to borrow and enjoy. We encourage and thank you for your anticipated support.

Picnic and Reading Afternoon Wednesday 23rd August. Come share a picnic lunch with your child from 1:30pm, then enjoy the afternoon reading together, followed by a surprise from the teachers to complete the day.

News from Mrs Preston

Learning Corner

Our journey into the new syllabus continues this term with our deep dive into mathematics. Our Staff Development Day on the 17th July was with a cluster of other schools from the diocese with a focus on Fractions and Decimals. The teachers have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to implement and trial the new teaching outcomes with challenging and engaging tasks.



We have some wonderful literacy activities happening over the next few weeks that you can join in with us so make sure you diarise the dates as outlined above.



Term 3, 2023

Free eSafety parent and carer webinars

Join eSafety's expert education team for a free live webinar designed for parents and carers.

Term 3 topics:

- **eSafety 101: How eSafety can help you (30 min)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **Online boundaries and consent (30 min)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary school.
- **Getting the most out of gaming (45 min)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.
- **Online relationships and consent: Sending nudes and sexting (30 min)**
For parents and carers of young people in secondary school.
- **Getting started with social media: TikTok, YouTube, Instagram (30min)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.

For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)

e-Safety

Technology is part of our children's world these days, however, we want them to use technology safely and responsibly. The e-Safety Commissioner has a wonderful website for parents, teachers and students to ensure your child is safe online. They are currently holding a range of webinars that may upskill you to ensure your child is accessing websites and social media responsibly. For more information and to register visit:

[eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)

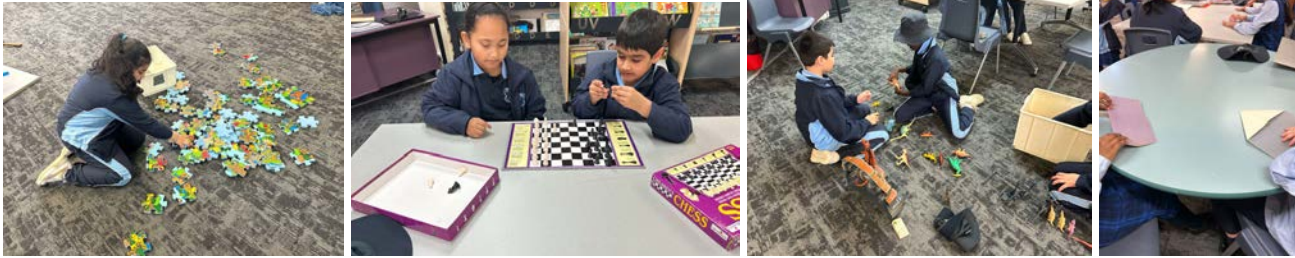


eSafety Commissioner

[eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)

Interest Groups

Our teachers have talent at St Patrick's and they wanted to share it with your children. This term we are running some 'Clubs' at lunch times. These are Lego/Chess, Dance, Italian, Gardening, paper making craft and Sewing. This provides another option for children who wish to have a bit of quiet time during breaks with their friends and do something enjoyable at the same time. Check out some of the fun activities.



Back Gate Departure

We have an increasing number of children that are being picked up by parents from Newton Road. Please remind your children that this is a busy road and that if they are waiting for you to pick them up, they are to wait safely near the entrance to the park. Supervision finishes at 3:20 pm so if your child is still waiting we will take them up to the office for pick up. Your child's safety is our concern. We won't leave a child on the side of the road by themselves. We ask for your assistance in picking them up prior to 3:20 pm or alternatively from the front office.

Attendance

MON TUE WED THU FRI

every learner every day ✓

ABSENCES ADD UP!

FEBRUARY **2 DAYS** A MONTH = NOVEMBER **4 WEEKS** A YEAR = MISSING MORE THAN **1 YEAR** OF LEARNING IN **12 YEARS**

DID YOU KNOW

1 IN 6 PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

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

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- ✓ **BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they
- ✓ Develop good sleep and morning routines
- ✓ Schedule appointments after school
- ✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time

GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY

Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

Just a reminder that attendance counts and our goal is **every learner every day!**

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please respond to the SMS notification.

Counselling Corner

Hi St Patrick's Community,

Below is some information on gratitude, its benefits and how to practise it.

Gratitude is the choice of noticing and appreciating things and people that we are grateful for. There has been lots of research showing the benefits of practising gratitude for both children and adults. Regularly practising gratitude makes us happier, more resilient and promotes positive relationships with others.

Some ways to practise gratitude are:

1. Sharing three things you are grateful for each night with your child and encouraging them to also share.
2. Using a gratitude journal where you write about why you are grateful for these things.

3. Model gratitude: expressing gratitude to your child and encouraging them to show their gratitude through their words and actions.
4. Acts of kindness: encouraging kind behaviours as a way of expressing gratitude, for example, donating to a charity to show appreciation for all you have.

Take care, Ruby (Wellbeing Counsellor Student).

School - Family - Students - Community

Office News

School Fees

Dear Parents, you should have 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

Pupil Free Days

As per previous communications, teaching staff have been given additional days to learn about the New Syllabus documents in English and Mathematics. There will be **NO** school for students on the following days:

Monday 28th August , Monday 9th October and Tuesday 10th October, 2023

We thank you for your support and understanding and advise that if care is required for your children, Ambrose are able to assist. Please call 0408 835 838 OR please refer below for AMBROSE 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.

AMBROSE - School Age Care news

AMBROSE is able to provide care for your child on **Monday 28th August for St Patrick's PUPIL FREE DAY**. Please refer to the following link on how to enrol: [AMBROSE 28th August, 2023](#) or pick up a form from AMBROSE or St Patrick's school office. Booking forms must be submitted by 11th August, 2023.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2024

St Patrick's Primary School is still accepting enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2024. Enrolment forms can be found on our website [How to enrol into Primary School | St Patrick's Blacktown](#) or are available for collection in our school office. If interested, please contact our school office staff as soon as possible as Orientation sessions will commence soon.

COMPASS Parent Portal app

The primary form of communication between parents and carers and school. Please contact the school office if you are still unable to download the app or are experiencing technical issues.



QKR! app (pronounced quicker)

St Patrick's is now a **cashless** school. This service is currently available for all payments **except for school fees**. Please ensure your child's **year and class name** are updated for 2023.



Facebook

Follow us on facebook for the latest news, updates and reminders.



Spriggy schools canteen

Joey's Canteen offers breakfast, lunch and snacks for students every day.

Cash can be used at Joey's canteen as it is a privately run canteen.

Online orders to be placed by 9:00am every day.

