



St Patrick's News

Term 3, Issue 7 – 1st September, 2023

School Calendar



SEPTEMBER

3rd - Fathers Day
5th - Girls & Boys Netball Gala Day
7th - Year 1 Parish Mass 9am
7th & 8th Yr 6 Canberra Excursion
8th - Yr 1 Grade Liturgy 9:10am
11th - Yr 5 & 6 Write a Book in a Day & [Students can return in Summer uniform](#)
14th - Kindy Parish Mass 9am
14th - Education Mass: School Captains
15th - Stg 2 Touch Football Gala Day
15th - Kindy Grade Liturgy 9:10am
19th - Pizza Day Fundraiser
21st - Year 2 Parish Mass 9am
22nd - **LAST DAY OF TERM 3**

OCTOBER

9th **PUPIL FREE DAY**
10th **PUPIL FREE DAY**
11th - **STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL in full Summer uniform** & Stg 3 Girls & Boys Basketball Gala Day
12th - Year 3 Parish Mass 9am
19th - **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**
20th - Colour Run Fundraiser Day
26th - Year 4 Parish Mass 9am
27th - Year 2 Grade Liturgy

Welcome to our Week 7 Newsletter

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called children of God.**

As we end Week 7, I thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school. Term 3 has been so successful, in terms of celebrating community, sport and academics. We were delighted to welcome parents/carers to many events, including our Book Week picnic and reading afternoon, Grandparents Day celebrations and today, our Fathers Day BBQ brekki and Liturgy.

NAPLAN: We were particularly delighted with our Year 5 NAPLAN results which saw students achieve above the National Average in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy was also extremely strong. In Year 3, writing showed great consistency. Our girls achieved above the National Average in Writing. Well done to all of our girls and boys and particular thanks to their teachers.

Father's Day: This Sunday we will remember our own fathers, the dads from our community, the fathers who now live in Heaven and our Priests who represent God our Father, on Earth. Special thanks to Bob Egan (Year 6 parent) who generously donated the bread, sauce, onions and a cash donation for our breakfast. It was lovely to see excited children and their dads wearing their favourite footy jerseys! May God bless you all on this special day.

Kitchen Garden: St. Patrick's has a wonderful garden in which the students are growing fresh produce: carrots, strawberries and lettuce. Special thanks to Diana, Eddie and Austin Lampson's Nan, who comes in each Friday to do some gardening. Would you like to join her? Please call the Office if you are free for an hour or so.

Summer Uniform: As the weather warms up, we will begin to transition to our Summer uniforms. From Monday September 11th, Week 9, students are able to wear their Summer uniform if they choose. From Day 1 of Term 4 (Wednesday October 11th), all students are to be wearing the Summer uniform.

Diocesan Athletics: Congratulations to our superstar athletes who participated at the Diocesan level last week: Johnethan Angolo, Achala Athum, Achol Madour, Jarwyn Quartey, Adam Kirton, George Hontas, Saviour Saliba and Akuol Athian. Achol and Jarwyn will now go on to represent at the MacKillop level. All the best!

Mr Stagnitta: Congratulations to Mr Stagnitta who will marry his beautiful fiancée during the school holidays. He will be on his honeymoon for the first 2 weeks of Term 4. We wish Anthony and Gemma God's blessings and great happiness as they begin their married life together.

My absence: On Wednesday September 6th, I am due to have surgery on a skin cancer. I will be away until Friday September 15th and I know I will be greatly looking forward to seeing you all then!

May God bless you and your precious family.

**Mrs Fitzalan
Principal**



Faith Community

Dear Parents/Carers,

How wonderful it has been to be back and to see so many of you all join our celebrations of Grandparents day and Book Week. I missed you all dearly and please know that I kept each and every one of you in my prayers. World Youth Day is definitely an experience that I will forever cherish. I feel nourished and refreshed to come back and share my experiences with the students, staff and community. Pope Francis' message to the youth of today is to "Not be afraid... The world needs you" and that Jesus Himself is looking for you. "He knows your heart, he knows your joys, your sorrows, successes, failures. He knows your heart. So take heart and do not be afraid". Let us ask Jesus to instil within our hearts a fire to not be afraid and to trust in the plans He has installed for us. Amen!

Ordination of Deacon Tom Green

On behalf of the St Patrick's school community I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Deacon Tom Green who will celebrate his ordination to the presbyterate. The school community is invited to join him on this special occasion. Please find information regarding the Ordination Mass and the Thanksgiving Mass on the document attached [Ordination Invitation.pdf](#). God bless you on your journey to priesthood Deacon Tom!

Sacramental Process

In Year 3, the children will be prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is a Sacrament of forgiveness and celebrates God's love and mercy towards us. It is about acknowledging and naming those times when we know we have done wrong, and then making peace and restoring the relationships with those who have been affected by our poor choices. For more information please see here:

https://www.mqofblacktown.org/files/ugd/f1ae77_90c70386f696495f854a7f2e65a07dd1.pdf

Registrations to be completed here: <https://www.mqofblacktown.org/first-reconciliation-yr-3-rego>

Registrations close 17th September 2023. For any further information please contact: Ged Oblea (Sacramental Coordinator) 9622 1125

God bless!

Miss Cecillienne-Mae Matienzo (Religious Education Coordinator)

Happy Birthday to.....

September

2nd - Leon Blackler & Alia Juanga
3rd - Hateni Kalu
5th - Akur Aguek
6th - Julie Collins
7th - Arianne Bautista
8th - Rav Cea
9th - Timothy Medina
10th - Arel Erkol
11th - Melody Mir & Helen Zhao
12th - Salesi Ma'afu & Sofia Vitetta
14th - Kai Adamson & Annabella Zaghtiti
15th - Kateleen Cruz
16th - David Varghese
17th - Lucas Ocampo
19th - Ranon Duggal & Arieta Ma'afu
20th - Aydin Kumar & CJ Oghor
22nd - Yenuja Wichramanayake & Richard Zheng
23rd - Sasha Amosa & Ahmed Hanin
25th - Faez Oulabi
27th - Lucas Israel
29th - Viona Ahmadi

October

1st - Aaron Sahota
2nd - Matthew Garcia, Danny Malouf & Ariya Sen
3rd - Ravrinjot Kaur & Abbie Singh
6th - Merrick Gerado
7th - Ravleen Kahlon, Adam Kirton & Senetali Lilomaiva-Smith
8th - Rae Juanga, Angel Sharma, Marcus Valenzuela & Jaskaran Virk
10th - Zahria Bradley-Wilkinson
11th - Jewel Calderon
15th - Hannah Pascual
17th - Jay Refalo
18th - Valentine Dahdal, Biraj Dhanoa & Amyah Sisikefu
20th - Eddie Lampson
21st - Ardine Bautista, Silan Genc & Ryan Pasnin



Library and Literacy News

In Weeks 3 and 6 of this term, Library Overdue notes were sent home to some children.

Please take the time to ask your child if they received this note. If so, kindly complete the note and return it to the school office as soon as possible OR email to: stpatblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au. If your child has a library book at home and has not yet returned it, please ask them to hand it in to the library as soon as possible.

It is very important that the library regularly maintains their records to ensure students can borrow at all times. If these books are not returned, parents and carers will incur a 'Lost Book' payment fee of \$15.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Library Team



Q: I want my child to do well in reading. How can I set high expectations without nagging?

A: It's important to keep a positive attitude about reading. You want to encourage it without making it seem like a chore. Replace any negative words ("You have to read well or you'll fail.") with positive talk and daily activities ("Reading can help us learn about almost anything! Let's think of something really cool to read about this week.").

Three ways to encourage your reader

The more exciting reading is, the more your child may be encouraged to keep reading! To motivate your child to read:

1. **Play board games** that involve reading.
2. **Build activities** around what your child is reading. Act out the story or do crafts that relate to it, for example.
3. **Keep a reading calendar.** Mark the days that he starts and finishes a book.



Q: My child is learning to read, but it's hard for her. She doesn't want to pick up books at home. How can I help?

A: Make books around the house as appealing as possible. Choose stories that include mostly familiar words. Look for subjects she loves or new topics she might embrace. Also consider books with short items to read, such as jokes or rhymes. Books with appealing pictures are great, too!

Ask questions to get your child thinking and talking about reading

It is critical that your child read over the summer. Help her reflect on what she reads and improve her comprehension by asking a lot of questions! You might ask:

- **Who were the main characters?**
What did you like or dislike about them? Do they remind you of people you know? How?
- **What happened in the story?**
How did it start? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Were you happy with the way the book ended?
- **Have you ever experienced**
something that happened to the characters in the story?
- **What would you change** about the book if you were the author?
What plot would make a good sequel?



"Books are a uniquely portable magic."

—Stephen King

News from Mrs Preston

Wellbeing for Learning

We are taking part in a new and exciting project at St Patrick's aimed at student wellbeing. The evidence between learning and a child's wellbeing is strong. The more a child feels safe and supported at school the better their learning outcomes. This project will involve a series of surveys completed on a weekly basis that capture how a child is feeling at school. This data will provide us with ways to support children and their learning. Please see the linked [parent letter](#) for further information.

School Departure changes

Has your child changed the way that they are leaving school in the afternoon? If so, please advise us by completing this form ["Going Home Procedures"](#). 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 school gate until a teacher sees a parent/carers. 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.



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)



eSafety Commissioner

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

e-Safety

We are having an increasing number of children coming to school reporting incidents that are happening online during gaming or through social media outside of school. We are very appreciative that children are asking teachers for help and support. We urge you to have these conversations with your child about what they are doing and experiencing online. In today's society we know that cyberbullying is on the rise and it is happening at very young ages. There are still some upcoming webinars available for you to support your child's safety online through the eSafety Commissioner. In particular, there is a recorded video and some fact sheets around children being safe whilst gaming and how to protect themselves. There are a number of fact sheets available in other languages as

well. For more information and to register visit: eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars

Resources and videos

If you would like to refer to our Bullying of Students, Prevention and Response Procedure, please visit our school website under the 'About Us' tab.

Holiday Football Clinic

Earlier in the term we had Blacktown City Football Club join us to run some skills training with our students. They are holding a football clinic during the school holidays that you may be interested in. Please see the [linked](#) flyer.



Colour Run Fundraiser - Friday 20th October 2023

This exciting event has never occurred at St. Patrick's Blacktown before! It's sure to bring great excitement to our community! Coming home soon, will be a note explaining the event, a Sponsor card and extra information. As this is our major FUNDRAISER for the year, we thank you for encouraging your child/children to obtain sponsors. I wonder can anyone beat the Abraham family's total of \$1000.00 from 2022?

We are still looking for donations of prizes. If you are able to contribute a voucher, movie tickets, dinner out, Petrol voucher, hairdressing voucher or electrical item, please contact our School Office.



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 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 AMBROSE School Age care on 0408 835 838.

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.

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.

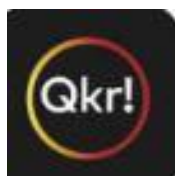
Communication and Essential Apps

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.