



St Patrick's News

Term 4, Issue 9 – 24th November, 2023



NOVEMBER

28th - 'Bake a Cake day' Yr 6 Fundraiser
30th - Yr 3 Parish Mass 9am & Kindy 2024 Orientation Session 3

DECEMBER

1st - Kindergarten Liturgy at 1pm & Teddy Bears Picnic at 1:30pm-2:15pm
3rd - ADVENT begins
4th - School Captain/Leader speeches 9:15am & Yr 6 Leaders Lunch with Mrs Fitzalan & Mrs Preston
5th - Yr 6 Motiv8 Fun Day & Yr 2 Grade Liturgy 9:15am
6th - Christmas Concert Night from 5:30pm
7th - Yr 2 Parish Mass at 9am & Principal's Morning Tea
8th End of Year School Mass 10am-11am
10th - Second Sunday of Advent
11th - Academic Reports published on Compass
12th - Yr 6 Graduation Mass 7pm & Christmas Raffle 2:30pm
13th - Yr 2 Priest visit 'Meet the Teacher 2024' for students
14th - Yr 6 Parish Mass 9am
Yr 6 'Guard of Honour' 2:45pm & Yr 6 Parent Social event
15th - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Week 7 Newsletter.

It has been a wonderful term of learning and laughter so far. Thank you for keeping a close eye on COMPASS as we near the end of the school year and all of the celebrations/ceremonies that go with it! Our very exciting CAROLS evening is to be celebrated on Wednesday 6th December and we can't wait to see you there!

Staff Updates: Over recent weeks I have shared staffing updates with you. This week I share the news that Mrs Dunn has relocated down south. In 2024 she will teach in Buxton, near Picton. Mrs Harkin and Mrs Thoms who also have part time positions at St. Patrick's are taking on new roles too. Mrs Harkin will cover RFF at St. Bernadette's in Castle Hill and Mrs Thoms is taking on a full time role at St. Luke's in Marsden Park. Mrs Borg, who has been in Catholic Education for over 42 years has made the decision to retire. We wish them all the best and thank them for their wonderful contributions to our community. Staff leaving will be farewelled at our Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 8th December. God bless these wonderful staff members.



Christmas Carols WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6th

Picnic 5:30-6pm. Carols 6 - 7pm.

Christmas Raffle: I hope you have your tickets, purchased through QKR. There are fabulous prizes, including MANY vouchers which would be a wonderful treat at Christmas time! The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday December 12th at 2:30pm. [2023 Christmas Raffle.pdf](#)

Reports: Student Learning Reports will be available on COMPASS on Monday 11th December. Please remember that hard copies are no longer given. You must access the Reports via Compass. Congratulations to all of our students for their efforts and achievement throughout the year.

2024 - Start Dates: Students in Years 1-6 will return to school on Thursday, February 1st. Our Kindergarten students will begin on Monday February 5th. Thank you for booking holidays in during holiday time, as 'Attendance at School Matters'. **Every day counts and every absence impacts student learning.** We are always delighted to present so many 100% Attendance certificates!

Demountable: We are very fortunate to have been allocated a new demountable classroom, which will be used as a Creative Arts classroom from 2024 onwards. It is brand new inside, with lovely new furniture coming too! Our Aspect class (Primary Blue) is also being totally refitted and we have new accessibility facilities nearly ready to go! What an exciting end to the year!

MAI's Year 1 and 2: At the beginning of each school year, students always book in for their MAI's. From 2024 on, this will only apply to Year 1 and 2 students. Correspondence around booking in for these will be sent home later in the term. Our new Kindy students will still need to book in for their testing session too. Keep your eye out for dates.

Canteen/Spriggy: We are sad to announce that Mrs Nakhoul, Joey's Canteen, will no longer operate with us in the new year. We went to Tender recently but will need to move forward as per previous years, with lunches being delivered by an outside company, and parents selling iceblocks on specific days. Please do not 'top up' your Spriggy account too much, as money will not roll over.



As we near the end of the year, I again thank you all for your continued support and commitment to our community. I hope you will be able to join us for a lovely night of Carols on December 6th.

Kind regards,
Mrs Fitzalan

Faith Community

Dear Parents/Carers,

Advent marks a time of preparation and anticipation, a period of four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It's a time where we not only eagerly await the birth of Jesus Christ but also reflect on the virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love that this season embodies.

Here at St Patrick's, we believe that Advent offers a precious opportunity for families to come together and embrace these values. Through various activities, discussions, and practices, we encourage you to create meaningful experiences at home that deepen your connection to the true essence of this season.

Here are a few suggestions to enrich your family's Advent journey:

Advent Wreath Lighting: Consider creating an Advent wreath and lighting a candle each Sunday leading up to Christmas. Use this time for prayers, reflections, and discussions about the significance of each candle and its corresponding theme.

Daily Reflections: Incorporate a few moments each day for quiet reflection or reading of Advent prayers as a family. Encourage discussions about what the season means to each family member.

Create a Jesse tree: A symbolic tree or vine with spreading branches on which there are images depicting the genealogy of Jesus. There are several variations of the Jesse tree. In one variation, each ornament has a picture on one side and a Scripture passage on the other. An ornament is hung on the tree every day during Advent.

Acts of Kindness: Engage in acts of kindness and giving as a family. This could be volunteering at a local charity, donating to those in need, or simply offering gestures of kindness to neighbours or friends.

Together, let's embark on this journey of anticipation, reflection, and preparation. May this Season of Advent bring you and your family moments of peace, hope, and joy as we eagerly await the celebration of Christmas.



Socktober

Your generosity and enthusiasm have made a profound impact on our social outreach efforts, particularly in collaboration with Caritas Australia. Through your contributions and dedication, we've been able to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

During World Mission Month, your unwavering support allowed us to raise awareness and funds for vital global missions. Your contributions have helped empower communities worldwide, offering hope, sustenance, and opportunities for a brighter future.

Together as a community we managed to raise a total of: \$596. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Upcoming Events

Picnic and Christmas Carols - On Wednesday 6th December you and your family are invited to join our school community for a picnic and carols. The picnic will start at 5:30pm, followed by carols at 6pm. Please bring a picnic rug for your family to sit on.

Mary's Pantry food drive- A note will be sent home shortly regarding the 'Christmas food drive' which will support our local community through Mary's Pantry. We thank you again for your support for helping those in need.

God bless!

Miss Cecillienne-Mae Matienzo (Religious Education Coordinator)

Happy Birthday to.....

November

27th - Jessica Gill

28th - Obinna Chineke

29th - Ayaan Dhruv



December

1st - Larissa Hamed & Gabriel Menczel

2nd - Jacob Israel

4th - Jayden Robalino

6th - Biong Aguek

7th - Erianne Datorin

8th - Meera Pillay

12th - KMannat Gill

14th - Amelia Deng & Noah Velasco

15th - Jeremiah Pelayo

16th - Isabel Abulail & Kingston Webber

17th - Saayun Gauchan

19th - Hayley Marie Horne, Bhavnoor Singh & Jayda Revollar

22nd - Harman SinghBrar, Emmanuel Thammadi & Elijah Yumol

24th - Eliana Banga-an

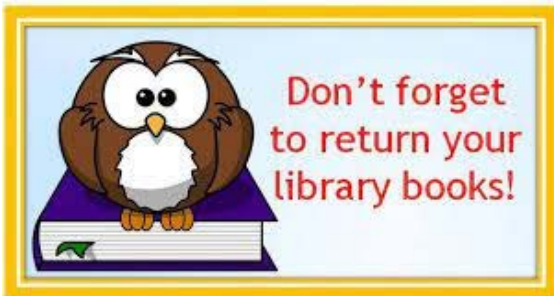
25th - Malek Mijak

26th - Richa Ranade

27th - Juben Manchanda

30th - Benjamin Ioane

Literacy News



This is a reminder for students and parents to check around your homes, in your desks, on shelves and under beds to see if you have any library or classroom readers and to please return them to school by Week 9, Friday 8th Dec. It is essential for our school library books and readers to be returned before the end of the school year so other students can benefit from reading them next year.

News from Mrs Preston

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs). Next year the MAI will **ONLY** be conducted for students in Years 1 and 2. These will be held on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January. Bookings will open in Week 9 and information on how to book these will be forwarded shortly.

Kindergarten Best Start interviews. For all our new Kindy students in 2024, the Best Start interviews will be conducted on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February. Information on how to book these interviews will be forwarded to those families shortly.

School returns for [grades 1-6 on Thursday 1st February](#) and [Kindergarten on Monday 5th February](#).



Have you heard of the 'Summer Slide?'

"Summer slide" refers to the well-documented decline in children's reading achievement that occurs during summer holidays. Summer slide has been shown to be cumulative, in that after years of experiencing summer slide, children may be 2 or more years behind their peers in reading skills.

Why reading for pleasure during the holidays is important

Children who don't read much over the summer holidays can lose gains they've made in their reading levels and fluency over the year. This is true for all children, but especially for children who are already struggling readers. Children who keep reading over the summer holidays can avoid the 'summer slide' and may even make reading gains for the start of the next school year.

Combatting the Summer Slide

So, we know it happens, but what can we do to combat the slide?

- **Visit the local library.** Many libraries run holiday reading programs and activities for children to participate in. Encourage children to borrow books they enjoy reading.
- **Read at home for enjoyment with your child.** If you engage in reading with your child, the more they will participate and enjoy reading themselves! If they see you reading, they will too. Please see a list of [reading activities](#) that you can do at home and engage in with your child.
- View the [Stop the Summer Slide](#) youtube clip.

Pets onsite. To ensure the safety of our whole school community, a reminder that we have a No Animal Policy. Morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups are very busy times with lots of movement. We ask that you keep your pets at home when bringing your children to and from school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Counselling Corner

Hi St Patrick's,

As the summer holidays approach, I'd love to draw your attention to some additional supports outside of school that may be beneficial for you and your family.

Kids Helpline have a fantastic webchat counselling service which kids can access 24/7 at <https://kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling>

Reach Out also offer some brilliant online resources, including calming strategies and peer support <https://au.reachout.com/>

Westmead Safe Haven is a safe place for adults and children as an alternative to emergency departments, if experiencing distress suicidal thoughts. You can be connected to mental health clinicians or peer workers if you're not sure where else to go to stay safe - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/towardszerosuicides/Pages/safe-haven.aspx>

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about support services, particularly for the holiday break.

Take care,

Caitlin (Wellbeing Counsellor, Mon-Wed)

School - Family - Students - Community

Office News

End of Year Processing for School Fees and any other Payments

School Fees - All school fee accounts should be finalised by now. If you are experiencing financial difficulties and you do not have an arrangement plan in place, please contact Mrs Browne on 8869 6000. Due to our end of year processing, all payments including QKR! **will cease as of Tuesday 12th December, 2023.**

Uniform and Second hand items - last date of purchase is **Friday 8th December at 2:30pm.**

Phones and Smartwatches at school

St Patrick's acknowledges the need for parents and carers to provide their child a mobile phone or smartwatch. Students who use public transport OR are required to walk home without an adult are the **only** students permitted to bring these devices to school. Students are required to sign their devices in at the school office (before and end of each day). NO devices are to be kept in their bags or in their classrooms. If you need to contact your child, please contact the school office on 8869 6000.

Is your child leaving St Patrick's? - 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.*

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.

In school Program - Kids on Keyboard 2024

Kids on Keyboard is a program open for students in **Years 2 through to Year 6**. Class runs **Tuesdays in first break**. Instruments 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 for next year or wish to know more please contact Christine Dieckmann on 0409 247 424.

After school Program - Robotics & Coding 2024

Robotics & Coding (after school program) will continue to run for Term 1, 2024. If you would like your child to take part in this program please contact Mike on 0493 669 984 or please refer to following flyer [Robotics & Coding 2024.pdf](#)

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.

Communication and Essential Apps



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.



St Patrick's is now a **cashless** school. The QKR! app is currently available for all payments except for school fees. Please ensure your child's **year and class name are updated at the start of each year**.



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