

# St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

25th May 2017 Term 2 Week 5

**CEDP Attendance Benchmark Target Level = 90%**

**St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 90.1%**

*Dear Parents*

*Some of you may have heard on the news the terrible story of a young teen from northern Sydney who was lured overseas by a criminal. She made contact with him on social media and the result was both heartbreaking and distressing for her and her parents. How could such a shocking thing happen? - I can hear you say- but it did and it does happen to so many children around Australia.*

*As I have said before the dilemma for parents is that you recognise that the internet is an amazing tool for learning and for self motivated learners it opens up the 'treasures of the universe' in its potential to teach knowledge and skills on a myriad of topics.*

*One of the most alluring features of technology for all of us, but particularly for this generation, is its ability to connect them with others, at anytime, anywhere from any device. 11 and 12 year olds and young teens live for the ability to connect and being able to do this privately with whom they wish is a 'luxury' we did not have in our youth.*

*Understandably I hear parents explaining that they are very frightened of their children using technology. Issues such as that referred to above as well as cyberbullying, developing a negative internet reputation, e-security, excessive internet use, identity theft and scams, unwanted contact, and the complications of social networking, are real concerns and need to be addressed.*

*I put to you however that as a parent, the precautions and supports that you give to your children in the physical world are no different in essence from those in the 'cyberworld'. Children still need strict guidance and supervision when they are on and off the computer, phone or ipad and this begins from a very young age. Communication and supervision is key!*

*Over the years I have seen an increase in the number of children who have access to smart phones as it is a means to be able to keep in contact with the children after school. The message is clear however, children of primary school age must never use the internet unsupervised. As they get older they often pressure parents by complaining that everyone in their class has either access to certain social media sites or own computers for bedroom use. It is always up to the parents of course, however a good guiding question is, "Does my child have the necessary experience, knowledge and skills to make an informed decision, especially if they find themselves in a complex situation?" The answer to this question will determine your action. Talking to your children about what can happen and how to handle it is very important as children need to know if and when they need your support. It would be good if they feel comfortable telling you what is happening to them at all times, especially in the teenage years. Remaining calm, not jumping to conclusions and being a good listener and communicator when they do this, will encourage them to discuss worries with you.*

*Cybersafety continues to be an important community focus. Last year children in Kindergarten, Years One and Two, received a copy of the **Child Safety Handbook** produced by NSW Police Legacy in consultation with The Protective Behaviours Consultancy Group of NSW. Fully supported by former NSW Commissioner of Police Andrew Scipione, this resource aims to raise awareness about the risks to children and the steps that can be taken to protect them and keep them safe. Topics covered include a whole section on Internet Safety (Pg 22). Digital copies of this publication can be viewed on,*

<https://issuu.com/associatedmediagroup/docs/childsafetyhandbookweb?e=2934354/11137505>

*Another wonderful government website is <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au> This website addresses many topics and concerns parents have in an inactive, entertaining way. So let the message be, "Don't be frightened, be informed, be Cyberwise!" God Bless you and your family*

*Bernadette Fabri  
Principal*

**Ph: 02 9630 1421**

**Villiers Street, Parramatta NSW 2150**

**Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750**

**Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm**

**[stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)**

**[www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au)**




## Honour Award

The Honour Award is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding behaviour shown in the Student Charter

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| KA | Chloe Vella          |
| KM | Isaac Wehbe          |
| 1C | Sienna Moussa        |
| 1S | Cynthia Daher        |
| 2M | Amyllia Maneze       |
| 2Y | Christopher Mekdessi |

## st patrick's award



The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| KA | Panayioti Yannakis |
| KM | Juliette Khoury    |
| 1C | Laura Scanlon      |
| 1S | Richard Do         |
| 2M | Sophie Gahdmar     |
| 2Y | Clio Encarnacao    |

### ICAS - Science

A reminder that the ICAS Science Assessment is next Tuesday the 30th May. All students involved will need to be at school at 7:40 am and meet in the amphitheatre. Students will then move to the Year 6 classrooms to complete the assessment. Certificates will be issued as soon as the results are mailed to the school. This is most likely to be in Term 3. Children are asked to bring their own stationary.



**Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:**

Alex Layoun, Maria Vytingco, Chanel Nader, Sienna Moussa, Sara Jabbour ,  
Angelique Saliba

# 100%

## INTRODUCING NEW ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

Improving student attendance has been a focus for Term One with some pleasing results for many students. This term, commencing in Week 2 children who have been able to attain 100% attendance for 5 weeks will receive a (Silver Level) Attendance Certificate We have chosen 5 weeks as a benchmark as we know sometimes children will get sick and need to be absent from school for their wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. For those who are able to attain 100% attendance for the entire term however they will also get a Gold Level Attendance Certificate. We are into week 3 of our 1st 5 week block and we have 311 students headed for our 1st silver attendance certificates. 100% Attendance means no sick days, leave or unexplained absences. School business such as attending CEDP gala days and CAPTIVATE is always regarded as attendance.



## Athletics Carnival Permission & Volunteers

Thank you to all parents who have signed and returned permission slips for their child to attend the Athletics Carnival on Friday 9 June. It is **compulsory** for all primary students and those turning 8 in year 2 to attend. Permission slips need to be returned by the end of this week so that arrangements can be made for children who need to return to school by bus and events can be organised.

If you have already volunteered please be mindful that you are required to have your current Child Protection screening up to date. If you are not sure please contact the office early next week and they can check for you. If you have not done this yet please go to:

**Volunteers** – please access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on '[Volunteer Form](#)' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering. Please be aware there are 2 sections to be completed.

We are always happy to take on more volunteers, the more the merrier.

Volunteers will be notified closer to the day of the specific job allocated to them at the carnival.

Thank you all for your continued support  
Athletics Committee

### Religious Education News

Currently some of our students are preparing for their First Holy Communion. The parents and students have been attending sessions where they have enjoyed learning about their faith. The candidates will be receiving their First Holy Communion on 18th of June at the 9.30am Sunday Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate our faith. You are welcome to join the students and families on this special day. We are also looking for members of the choir to accompany Mrs Rodricks to lead the singing within the mass. If you are available please see Mrs Rodricks

**Oakhill College Gala Day**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**Oakhill College, Old Northern Road, Castle Hill**  
**9.00am – 4.00pm**  
**Rugby, Soccer, Tennis and**  
**Hats, Scarves, Candles,**  
**Jewellery, Food stalls & More**  
**Jumping Castle, Obstacle C**  
**Movies, Bucking Bull, Chocolate Wheel**  
**& Raffles prizes**  
**All welcome!**  
<http://www.galaday.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/>

# CHILD PROTECTION

Dear Parents,

On some occasions your child may come home or speak to you on the playground regarding an incident that may have occurred between them and another child(ren). This is not unusual in a school of 412 children as many boys and girls are still learning the skills of negotiation, conflict resolution, compromise, effective communication and emotional regulation. If this happens and you feel that this is beyond the capacity of your child to manage if it is of a nature that needs to be referred to the school, please contact your child's classroom teacher, Mrs Benkovich or myself.

**Under no circumstances is it appropriate or acceptable for you to approach a child, other than your own, to inquire about what happened - even in a manner you feel is non threatening.**

Adults can be unintentionally threatening to a little boy or girl of primary school age and children can become frightened or nervous. Child Protection legislation in a school is very strict regarding these issues. I am sure that no parents would wish another parent or member of another family to approach their child(ren). The school is committed to ensuring that all matters reported are followed up within a reasonable period of time and feedback communicated. Thanking you for your cooperation in this very important safety matter.

Bernadette Fabri

## ROAD SAFETY



Can all parents be mindful of following road and safety rules around the school. A number of neighbours have contacted the school office concerned that our parents are parking in their driveways, for an extended period of time, to drop off children. Living near a school must be frustrating for people, especially immediately before and after school hours, and it is important that we do what we can as a community to work well with those in our local area. I know the vast majority of our parents and family members always do the right thing and we appreciate your efforts on a daily basis. For further information you can go to <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/parking.html>

Can we also remind those families using the Ross St crossing in the afternoon to please follow the instructions, given by a staff member from OLMC, as this is assisting our school with the flow of traffic. We appreciate the support from OLMC.

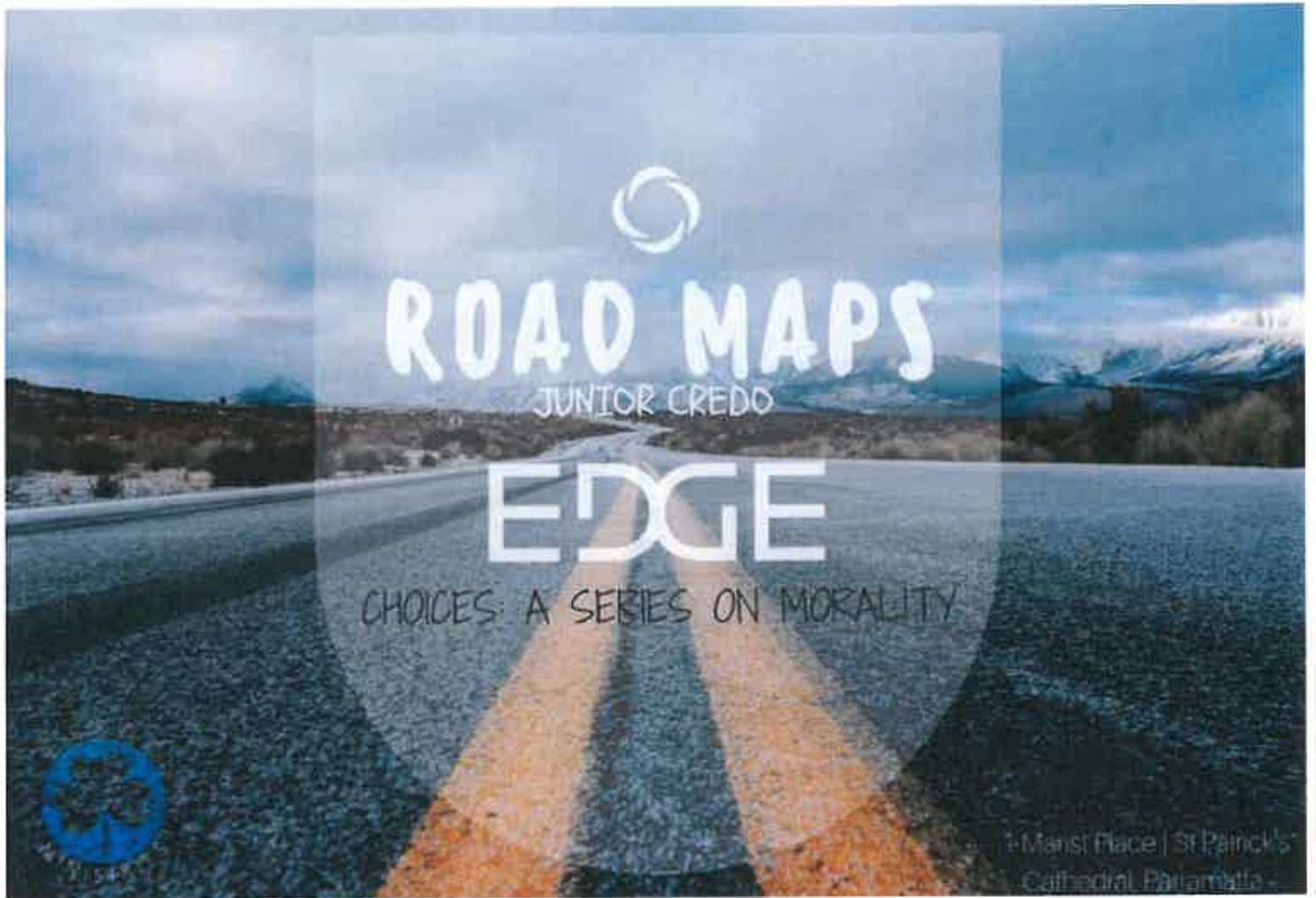
## RECENT CHANGES TO EXTENDED LEAVE (APPLICATIONS NEEDED FOR 5 DAYS OR MORE)

The Catholic Education Office have made recent changes to the application for extended leave from 10 days or more to **5 days or more**.

- Parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave during the school term. Extended leave is now considered to be 5 or more days.
- Parents/Carers must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave **prior** to commencing leave OR apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly.
- Please note that if the child does not return to school on the specified date in the application the school must be notified. If the family is not contactable the Department of Education and Training must be informed.
- On most occasions it is in the child's best interest for all holidays to be scheduled in gazetted holiday times.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.





# ROAD MAPS

JUNIOR CREDO

# EDGE

CHOICES: A SERIES ON MORALITY

1 Manist Place | St Patrick's  
Cathedral Parramatta

## School Banking 2017 is off to a flying start.

This year's School Banking adventure is well underway, as the new digital Currency Bank app is being downloaded by many parents from their favourite app stores.

### New reward items

Check out the new reward items for kids available during the 2017 School Banking Adventure. These include a new set of Fun, safe, reusable, and reusable 100% Cotton School Banking Rewards.

Must-have items to start your child with the Currency Bank Youth app. Through the School Banking program, Currency Bank has been offering amazing new items for parents and children. The value of banking and digital money management since 2012. In 2017, the introduction of the Currency Bank Youth app, an innovative digital banking tool, will help enhance the School Banking program.

### With the Currency Bank Youth app you can:

- Check the balance of their YouthBank account
- View detailed banking statements in their own words
- Track the number of transactions during the school year
- Set up a new bank and receive their program
- Check out of items they can use to purchase items

Get the Currency Bank Youth app, and how to get your child started, by visiting [www.currencybank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.currencybank.com.au/schoolbanking)

### Learning the value of digital money

With the Currency Bank Youth app, all the parents are trying to teach their children about digital money, how to use it, and how to manage it. Currency Bank's research shows parents are interested in teaching their children about digital money, how to use it, and how to manage it. Currency Bank's research shows parents are interested in teaching their children about digital money, how to use it, and how to manage it. Currency Bank's research shows parents are interested in teaching their children about digital money, how to use it, and how to manage it.



## DR JUSTIN COULSON RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN



**WHEN:** Monday, 29 May 2017 (Doors open 6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

**WHERE:** Catholic Learning Communities of St John XXIII – St Mark's College  
Meeting will be held in the staff room – entry via main school foyer,  
160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens (parking available)

The PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our seminar

### What others have to say:

"...an engaging and dynamic presenter..."

"...are we getting him back next year? He's fantastic!"



### FREE PARENT/CARER SEMINAR!

Registrations are open – visit:

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events)

One of the most frequent questions Parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson is asked is 'How can I help my child become resilient?' Friendship problems, bullying, anxiety changes and parenting styles are just some of the issues that can affect the children's ability to bounce back from difficulty and adapt to challenging situations. Helping our children develop resilience can have lifelong effects.

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)



[www.floralexpressions.com.au](http://www.floralexpressions.com.au)  
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# 2017 School Calendar

## Term 2

### Week 5

Friday 26th May                      Infants School Assembly 2.15pm  
(Due to unforeseen circumstances the Choir is unable to perform today)

### Week 6

Monday 29th May                      Captivate Rehearsal  
Tuesday 30th May                      ICAS—Science 7.40am  
Friday 2nd June                        Year 6 Excursion—State Parliament & St Patrick's Church  
Primary Assembly—2.15pm—Year 3

### Week 7

Friday 9th June                        NO ASSEMBLY  
Primary Athletics Carnival & 8yrs olds (Year 2)  
Barton Park, Parramatta

### Week 8

Monday 12th June                      **Public Holiday—No school for students**  
Tuesday 13th June                      ICAS—Writing 7.40am  
Captivate Rehearsal  
Friday 16th June                        Year 4 Excursion—Two Cultures  
Infants Assembly—2.15pm—Kinder  
Captivate Evening Performance

### Week 9

Thursday 22nd June                      Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day  
Friday 23rd June                        Primary Assembly—Year 6—2.15pm

### Week 10

Thursday 29th June                      Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day  
Friday 23rd June                        Infants Assembly—Year 2—2.15pm  
**Last day of Term 2**



*sub tuam praesidium*

Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –  
Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all Experience belonging.

#### **Opportunity for all**

#### **MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA**

##### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday            8.00am, 6.00pm (Vigil)  
Sunday             8.00am, 9.30am (Family)  
                                 11.00am (Solemn), 6.00pm

##### **Weekday Masses**

Mon to Fri        6.45am, 12.30pm  
Public Hol        8.00am

##### **Pastoral Team**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.  
Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini

Fr George Azhakath

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)



**Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta**

GBW:vt

23 May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Today (Tuesday), the Federal Government introduces into Parliament its new schools funding bill. In the past weeks, I have become disheartened by the ongoing war of words between the Catholic education sector and the Federal Government about what the new model will mean for Catholic systemic schools. It has become bitter with senior government ministers calling the Catholic leaders 'dishonest'. This kind of language achieves nothing.

The debate has become so hostile because despite it being three weeks since the new model was first announced, the Catholic sector, which educates 1 in 5 students across the country, still does not know what the new arrangements will mean for their schools, particularly in the long-term. This is giving rise to rumours of big fee increases as early as next year. When things are not clear, people become anxious. It does not need to be this way.

Government funding of Catholic schools does not mean that Catholic schools end up receiving more funding than government schools. When the funding provided by state and federal governments is combined with school fees and other sources of income like local fundraising, Catholic schools end up receiving around the same overall funding as government schools. Not more - around the same.

The main problem with the new model is the proposed change to how schools will be allocated funding. The government wants to fund each school according to its suburb's individual's Socio Economic Score (SES) rather than averaging out the SES scores for all Catholic schools. This is suggesting that everyone who sends their child to a Catholic school in a suburb that has a comparatively high SES can afford to pay high fees. This is wrong.

Bishop Vincent and I have no wish to place additional financial pressure on families, many of whom are already struggling to meet cost of living pressures. Regardless of where they live and the school they send their children to, parents should not be expected to absorb the kind of fee increases written about in newspapers in the past week.

Equity and fairness should sit at the heart of any funding model. The Catholic sector and the Federal Government should be able to sit down in a constructive and respectful environment to ensure that the new model is fair for all.

While I appreciate the challenges of arriving at a model that everyone can be happy with, I am hopeful that sensible debate will follow in the days ahead. Government funding should never be taken for granted, but neither should Catholic school families. I will continue to take up the issue of funding fairness with our elected representatives - local, state and national. I ask you to contact your local member and make your view very clearly known as well.

It is time to change the game. We need agreement on a model that provides clarity, fairness and certainty for all government and non-government schools.

Yours sincerely

**Gregory B Whitby**  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta