

# st patrick's primary school parramatta patter

5th February 2015   Term 1   No.1

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year for 2015. May I warmly acknowledge all the established families who have contributed so much to our community over the years and look forward to continuing our partnership, school and home, in the pursuit of excellence in education and in building the kingdom of God, here at St Patrick's. May I warmly welcome all our new children and their families and our new staff as we begin 2015 together with enthusiasm and energy. The children and their teachers have settled in extremely well and units of learning have commenced. Almost all initial Mathematics Assessments have been completed and this individual time with their teachers has served to help alleviate children's beginning year nerves. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the parents for taking the trouble to bring their children in for this assessment time.

As part of this first newsletter I would like to share with you a section of my 'Message to Parents' as printed in the Parent Information Booklet for 2014/2015. It explains a little about the history of our school, our vision and belief statements and reflects the importance of 'Student Voice' in the learning process.

**"St Patrick's Parramatta belongs to a system of schools within Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. (CEDP) As a member of this system the school adheres to the policies and procedures set down by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.**

**Steeped in history, St Patrick's Parramatta is one of the oldest catholic schools in the diocese. The school was established by an Irish order of nuns, the Sisters of Mercy and it is our aim that the charism of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the sisters, is clear and present in all aspects of the school. Respect, Compassion and Resilience are all qualities Catherine McAuley demonstrated towards the poor and vulnerable of her time and are personal attributes we strive to gain and display in our community.**

**Our vision is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment. We endeavour to celebrate each other's uniqueness by providing "Opportunity for All" and to develop a culture that identifies that the journey towards excellence is often paved with trial and error, risk taking, learning from mistakes, flexibility and adaptability. We believe that encouraging students to take ownership of the learning is critical in achieving the best learning outcomes and that implicit in this concept is that students learn their own areas of strength and areas of development through useful and explicit feedback.**

**It is important to us at St Patrick's that we work as a community and together with the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish and local parishes we endeavour to support the family in enriching the faith journey of our students."**

On behalf of all the staff at St Patrick's Parramatta I look forward to working with each and every one of you and your children, as we travel together to support their educational and personal journey this year.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri  
Principal

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## Upcoming Events

**6th Feb: Opening School Mass  
9.15am St Pat's Cathedral**

**Followed by morning tea**

**13th Feb: Infants Assembly and  
Presentation of SRC  
badges**

**2.00pm School Hall**



**Year 5—1908**

## ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES



Several children at our school suffer from food allergies – **some very severe**. Action plans are currently in place to administer medication to these children if it is required. To assist the staff and to help safeguard the health of these children I ask that you impress upon your own children the dangers of sharing their lunches with other students. In line with this policy we ask that you do not send gift items such as lollies, Easter eggs, Christmas candy canes etc for your child to give to other students. At times, teachers may give food treats to the children but they always check the suitability of these treats with the parents of allergy sufferers. **St Patrick's has a "no nut or nut products" policy, due to the number of children who are allergic to nut products. We ask for your co-operation in not sending nut products (especially Nutella, peanut butter and foods containing sesame seeds).** We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own lunches and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place. Thank you for your co operation.

**Thank you to the parents who have returned the medical needs form. If you have not done so please return to the school office as soon as possible as we require this information updated annually. If you need another copy please do not hesitate to contact the school.**

**If your child suffers from allergies or requires an epiPen please inform the Administration Office before your child starts school so that the correct action plan is implemented.**

## CONCERNS



The school values communication with parents about any concerns they may have. For classroom concerns, initial contact with the class teacher often clarifies issues which may have occurred. Problems arising from the broader school environment are best referred to the Assistant Principal or Principal for attention.

**No problem is too small or trivial if it is causing you or your child concern.**

To contact teachers, please make an appointment through the school office. Except in an emergency, teachers are only available outside class teaching time.

## CHILD PROTECTION MODULES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Parent helpers in a school are a vital resource. Any parent interested in assisting in reading groups, excursions etc need to complete the 'child protection briefing for Volunteers' found by following the website link below. Parents and other family members are unable to assist if this module is not completed and submitted. Parents only need to complete this module once every two years. Looking forward to welcoming you as volunteers as you share your gifts with our school community.

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check>

### Sports Day Term 1 2015

Sports uniforms to be worn on the following days:-

**Wednesday** 6P, 6W, KA, 1S, 5T

**Thursday** 4B, 4G, KM, 1C, 5C

**Friday** 3L, 3T, 2M, 2Y



### Bookclub Issue 1 2015

**Due Friday 13th February, 2015**

NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

**The preferred method of payment is to make the payment online directly to scholastic.** If paying by cheque please make the CHEQUE out to Scholastic Australia.

Remember to fill out Order Forms correctly and place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with NAME - CLASS - BOOKCLUB - CORRECT MONEY (no change given)



Student of the week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning area



### st patrick's award

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

Faith in Action



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

JiaJie Weng & Olivia Wehbe

3L	Laurice Behan
3T	Elliana Coles
4B	Matthew Kahwaji
4G	Luca Gittany
5C	Alana Michael
5T	Isabella Loader
6P	Clarissa Guino
6W	Brooklyn Griffiths

3L	Aaron Macadangdang
3T	Deo Cerillo
4B	Joanna Davino
4G	Andrew Barakat
5C	Chloe Abou-Hamad
5T	Serene Mawad
6P	Abigail Sarangaya
6W	Paul Romanos

### 2015 School Terms

#### Term 1

29th January to 2nd April

#### Term 2

20th April to 26th June

#### Term 3

13th July to 18th September

#### Term 4

6th October to 16th December

\*\* Please note Staff Development days may affect commencement & concluding dates. Please refer to our weekly newsletter in 2015.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Over the next few weeks the children will be nominating their student representative council members. The Student Representative Council (SRC) comprises of two students from each class who are elected each semester. Semester One (Terms 1 & 2) Semester Two (Terms 3 & 4)

A special presentation ceremony will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February as part of a whole school assembly. Ms Joan Coyle, former principal of St Patrick's Parramatta, and well known by many of the grandparents of our school, will be presenting the badges. To allow enough time for the presentation of badges, this Assembly will commence at 2.00pm instead of the usual 2.15pm. Classes are currently working through the nomination process for these Positions.

**Opening School Mass commences at 9.15am NOT 9.30am**

**Morning Bell will ring at 8.45am NOT 8.50am**

On Friday we are gathering as a school community to ask God's blessing on our year and to welcome all those new to St Patrick's.

Kindergarten children will be attending mass with their year 6 buddies.

At the conclusion of Mass there will be a commissioning ceremony of Student leaders and ne staff members.

Following this you are invited to morning tea in the school hall.

### Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- Leave of 10 or more school days will require a formal application for leave in writing. This letter of request should be addressed to the Principal prior to commencing the leave period indicating the specific reason or purpose for the request of leave.

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "L" and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday issued.

- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as "A". A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued.

- If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education See [Distance Education - Revised Enrolment Procedures 2014](#)

For that period the student's enrolment transfers to the distance education school.

## ST PATRICK'S SKOOL BAG APP

Thank you to the many parents who have already downloaded the new skoolbag app. **The newsletter will be uploaded to both our Skoolbag app and St Patrick's school website every Thursday. Should you require a paper copy please notify the school office in writing.**

**An exciting enhancement** has been made to the app this year linking it to our school calendar. This will enable you to view at a glance the upcoming events in Term 1. (All other terms will be updated shortly). Remember to check the calendar regular as events/times may change from time to time.

One of the best features that the Skoolbag app has given us, is the ability to notify your child's class teacher of their absence. It is mandatory that every absence is explained and this is a great way to ensure the class teacher is notified in a timely manner. Thank you to the many parents already using this feature.

To download the app please follow the instructions below:-

### iPhone & iPad users

1. Click on the "App Store" icon on your Apple device
2. Type in " St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta"
3. If iPhone, you will see our school appear, click "Free" then "install"
4. If iPad, change the drop down list to "iPhone Apps", our school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install"
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "Ok" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
8. Toggle on the push categories that are applicable to your child/ren.

### Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click on the "App Store" icon on your Apple device
2. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android device.
3. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in "St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta"
4. Click on the school name when it appears in the search
5. Click the "Install" button
6. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device)
7. Click "Open" when installed.
8. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
9. Toggle on the push categories that are applicable to your child/ren.

**Once downloaded the main screen will look like this:-**

**Alerts:-** will contain ALL new alerts that have been sent out ie messages from teachers, sports alerts etc.

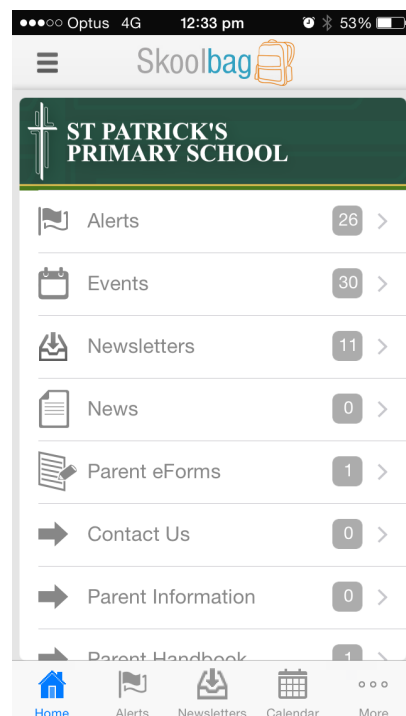
**Events:-** This tab is now linked to our Parent Calendar showing all upcoming events.

**Newsletters:-** The weekly newsletters are contained in this tab.

**Parent eForms;-** This has 2 sections:- **Absence notes/change of address** which will be emailed directly to the school. **Complete the fields it as easy as that!!**

**Contact Us:-** All of St Patrick's contact details ph/fax number, address and email address.

**If you are having any problems with downloading or using the app just pop into the office where I will be happy to help—Mrs Jones**



## \$2000 GRANT

Thank you to Mrs Anne Fardell who was successful in obtaining a \$2000 Live Life Well @ School grant as part of a joint initiative between NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

The NSW Ministry of Health is working with schools participating in Live Life Well @ School to adopt the 10 Desirable Practices that promote healthy living in the community. Some of these practices include:

- Providing curriculum learning experiences regarding healthy eating, physical activity and sedentary behaviour.
- Addressing fundamental movement skill development as part of the PDHPE programs.
- Providing the opportunity for classes to eat vegetable and fruit and drink water
- Encouraging physical activity during recess and lunch.
- Providing a supportive environment for healthy eating.
- Providing information to families on healthy eating, healthy lunchboxes, physical activity and limiting small screen recreation.
- Part of this initiative is to provide a 90 min parent education and information session run by the Cancer Council of Australia on how they can save time and money making healthy meals the whole family will enjoy, and give them clever ways to entice fussy eaters.

Please see below flyer for more information.



# The simplest way

to improve the health of your family and save money

## Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop



**Date: Monday, 16 March 2015**  
**Time: 1:30pm until 3pm**  
**Venue: St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta**

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This **free workshop** run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

- 🔪 **Save time and money making healthy meals**
- 🍏 **Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters**
- 🔪 **Get a free recipe book simply by attending**

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.



**Health**  
Western Sydney  
Local Health District



**Don't miss out – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than 12/3/15 by:**

**Completing and returning this slip to the school front office.**

**Your name:**  
**Your contact number or email:**



*sub tuum 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**

Monday to Friday 6.45am, 12.30pm  
Public Holidays 8.00am

**Pastoral Team**

Fr Peter Williams elected Diocesan Administrator  
Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini  
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan  
Rev Fr Steven Hyun  
Rev Fr Michael Gitau  
Rev Robertus Kim  
Sr Susan Ward rsj



Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolments for Year 7 2016

Closing Date for Year 7 2016 Applications 1<sup>st</sup> Round Offers is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

There will be two Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2016 enrolments on:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**9.15 – 11am**

**Cancer Council NSW** Nutrition Snippet

# The simplest way

...to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks ...



Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like:  
mango, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, rockmelon, kiwifruit, drained canned peaches, apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp. Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid – at least 4 hours, or overnight.

For more information visit [www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au) or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.

**NSW Health** Western Sydney Local Health District

**Eat It To Beat It**

**breakfast important?**

- children who miss breakfast are often reported as having poor behaviour and poor concentration
- children who miss breakfast are often unable to meet their daily nutrient requirements
- children who miss breakfast are more likely to have a greater risk of being overweight or obese

Why is