

Dear Parents

If you are reading this newsletter on your mobile device through the new school App **Skoolbag**, you are currently enjoying the benefits and convenience of modern day technology. It is hard to believe that we ever lived a life without technology. Technology has impacted every facet of our lives and for our children they have never known a life without it. Technology allows us to do so many amazing activities such as seeing and speaking to loved ones across the other side of the world through a variety of platforms such as Skype and Facebook, to the creation of amazing products using the latest ground breaking 3D Printers. Because of technology we are unable to describe the jobs our Kindergarten children will be engaged in because they have not been invented yet. Perhaps even those of our Year One and Two students are hard for us to describe accurately. For learners, the 'sky is the limit' as they say and one is only limited by the number and quality of questions they are able to generate. The implications for schools are dynamic and will be the subject for further discussion in another newsletter.

One of the most alluring features of technology for all of us but particularly for this generation is its ability to connect us with others, at anytime, anywhere from any device. Sometimes I hear parents explaining that they are very frightened of their children using technology. Issues such 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 and need to be addressed.

I put to you however that as a parent, the precautions that you enforce with 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. Take the following example. If a stranger came and knocked on your front door one night and asked if he or she could come in to spend the evening with you and your family, I am sure you would be very cautious because you would have no knowledge of this person or their values. If the stranger was carrying weapons or the like I know you would not even open the door, yet every night strangers can and do enter our homes via our television sets and the internet!

Sometimes we do not know who our children are being influenced by as we are unaware of what movies they are watching and even more importantly those that they maybe meeting in chat rooms. Part of the role of a parent is to teach and guide children to be kind, courteous and respectful to others that they meet and this is reinforced at school, in the classroom and on the playground. The same is expected when children are communicating with others on the internet. Cyber bullying is as unacceptable as real physical bullying. This needs to be made very clear to children and there are many supporting resources that parents can use to engage in discussions with their children.

A wonderful government website is <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au> This websites addresses many topics and concerns parents have in an interactive, entertaining way. So let the message be,

**"Don't be frightened, be informed, be Cyberwise!"**

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri



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



### st patrick's award

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

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| KA | Alexandra Elphinstone |
| KM | Madison Younes        |
| 1C | Julian Tanna          |
| 1S | Lacey Bond            |
| 2M | Jessica Bechara       |
| 2Y | Michaella Chidiac     |

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| KA | Christina Elzahoul   |
| KM | Caitlin Dunn         |
| 1C | Neha Bonigala        |
| 1S | Jeremy Saliba        |
| 2M | Joshua Lorenzo       |
| 2Y | Christian Stojkovski |

| MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Weekend Masses</b>  |   |
| Saturday   | 8.00am<br>6.00pm (Vigil)                                |
| Sunday   | 8.00am<br>9.30am (Family)<br>11.00am (Solemn)<br>6.00pm |
| <b>Weekday Masses</b>  |   |
| Monday to Friday   | 6.45am<br>12.30pm                                       |
| Public Holidays  | 8.00am  |
| <b>Pastoral Team</b>   |   |
| Bishop Anthony Fisher OP<br>Rev Fr Andrew Bass<br>Rev Fr Robert William<br>Rev Robertus Kim<br>Sr Susan Ward rsj |   |

### ST PATRICK'S SKOOL BAG APP

Thank you to the many parents who have already downloaded the new skoolbag app. Thank you to the parents that are notifying us through the app that your child will be absent from school, this enables us to let the teacher know in a timely manner of their absence.

#### 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.

### 2014 COMPETITION NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES (YRS 3 TO 6)

Calling all good writers in Yrs 3 to 6. The 9th annual Sydney Youth Writing Competition 2014 is now open for entries. The signature words for 2014 are: **Drop. Wind. Keep.** Each entry must contain one signature word. Entries do not need to be about these words and they can be used in any form ie plural, noun/adjective/verb etc . All entries will need to be submitted online from home. For more information go to <http://www.sydneyyouthwriting.com> Closing date for entries is Friday 6 June 2014.



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

Mathew Kassis, Abigail Sarangaya, Zayden Weaver, Priscilla Nimmo, Kyra Dpenha, Clarissa Guino

## ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

This week the boys In Years 5 and 6 received an invitation from Father Andrew Bass to attend a Junior Youth Group. The gathering will commence today Thursday 22nd May.

As made explicit in the letter handed out, this is a Parish organized program so thus staff will not be supervising the children. The school does however encourage any parent who can spare some time to assist Father Andrew with the supervision of the children down at the cathedral. Children will be expected to display their very best behaviour and to remember that this expectation will be monitored and communicated with Father regularly.



## ST PATRICK'S PARENT MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR

**Term 2:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm  
School Library Educational Input (Dr Carol Dweck's 'Mindset' theory)

**Term 3:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August  
1.30pm School Library Educational Input (TBC)

**Term 4:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm  
School Hall Educational Input (TBC)

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Just a reminder, that the next **Staff Development Day** will be on **Friday 6th June**. On this day the staff will be analyzing data recently released from the Quality Catholic Schools Survey, continuing to work on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act on the Teaching and learning in the classroom and will be further exploring strategies that better cater for the diverse needs of students. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

## DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL (DWF)- MAY 2014

Last Monday, 19th May each family received a gift envelope for the Diocesan Funds Work Appeal. The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no single parish or school can offer. It is Faith at Work! Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Diocesan Works Fund .

Please read the story of one of the many ways funds generated from this appeal supports services and ministries.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) provides Special Religious Educators (catechists) in Government schools with training programs, personal support and ongoing faith formation and education. At the parish level, the CCD provides the service of evangelisation through the religious education and pastoral care of Catholic students attending State Schools.



Grace went to a primary public school in the Blue Mountains and looked forward each week to the religion class on Tuesday morning.

When she went on to a Catholic High School and in Year 11 Grace was invited to be a catechist in the local public school once a fortnight. Grace remembered her early years and volunteered to be trained as a Special Religious Educator. Grace deepened her faith through the sacraments, study, fellowship and leadership development and found that this assisted her in her teaching.

Grace went on to University to train as a school teacher and reflected on the valuable experience as a catechist. She now has the confidence and skills to live out her faith, and is excited about what people her age can do to help make the world a better place.

Your gift to the Diocesan Works Fund will make a big difference to other young people like Grace and older SRE teachers working in public schools as part of Catholic Catechists (CCD)

**Please show you care about sharing faith with children in public schools with a gift to the Diocesan Works Fund via gift envelope or online at [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)**

## National Simultaneous Story Time



### Parramatta Eels Story time

Today I was fortunate enough to take a group of 35 lucky students from our school to the Eels Educate Centre at Pirtek Stadium to participate in the National Simultaneous Story time. This is a national initiative to encourage young children to read. We were privileged to have the Parramatta Eels players on board as children, especially young boys, often look up to their idols.

The players read the book "Too Many Elephants in the House" to the children and discussed with them the importance of reading. The children got to ask the players questions about reading and their life as a football player. The players were kind enough to sign the merchandise the children brought along and gave the children a Parramatta Eels water bottle. The children were taken on a tour of the stadium and the player's dressing rooms. We even got to walk through the player's tunnel!

The children had a wonderful experience and represented our school honourably. They were respectful and immersed themselves enthusiastically throughout the experience. The players and staff complimented the children on their wonderful behaviour. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Parramatta Eels Club in the near future.

**Mr David Younis — PE Teacher**



## National Simultaneous Story Time with Miss Fabri

May is National Simultaneous Story time. At 11am all classes read the story "Too many Elephants in this house" by Ursula Dubosarsky. Year 4 were really fortunate to have the story read to them by Miss Fabri in the library.

It was really fun, exciting and challenging. Miss Fabri asked very challenging questions for eg we have to find out if elephants snore. The author challenged us to use our imagination. We had a great time. We LOVE to read, it is FUN.

By Naomi & Chanel (4B)



### Win a share of the sunken Treasure from the Lost City Of savings

**Here's how to win.** If you have a Youthsaver account and are aged between 5-13 years, simply make three or more School Banking deposits between 21 April and 4 July 2014 and you'll be automatically entered into the competition. See the website for a list of prizes



### Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta 125 Years Anniversary Concert – June 5 & 6, 2014

You are invited to join with the OLMC Parramatta community in celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a special concert at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta, on Thursday June 5 and Friday June 6, 2014. Visit [olmc.nsw.edu.au/125years](http://olmc.nsw.edu.au/125years) for details and to book your tickets.

### STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm! You are very likely to be supported and helped through the sharing of experiences on matters such as "How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?" Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: [soloparentministry@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentministry@ccss.org.au) or Ph. 99330205

**"Remember we are but travellers here"**

**(1873) St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**



*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**

### TERM TWO – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Week Four

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Youth Group commences for Yr 5 & 6  
**Infants** Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.15pm

#### Week Five

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Youth Group Yr 5 & 6  
**Primary** Assembly Yr 5 School Hall 2.15pm

#### Week Six

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

ICAS Science skills – **7.50am**  
Youth Group Yr 5 & 6  
Pupil Free day – **NO school for students**

#### Week Seven

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June

**Queen's Birthday – Public Holiday NO SCHOOL**  
Youth Group Yr 5 & 6  
**Parent Meeting School Library 1.30pm**  
Primary Athletics carnival  
Infants to join sausage sizzle at 1.00pm  
No assembly

#### Week Eight

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Reports home to parents  
Youth Group Yr 5 & 6  
Infants Fun day  
**Infants** Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.15pm

#### Week Nine

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Youth Group Yr 5 & 6  
Last day of Term 2  
**Whole School** Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 1.30pm