



**st patrick's
primary school
parramatter
patter**

10th December 2015

Term 4 No.10

Dear Parents

As this is the last newsletter for the year I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our parent community for your generosity, your cooperation, your feedback, your time, and particularly your partnership in the education of your children. Thank you to those who volunteered at morning teas, excursions, reading groups, masses, sports events, in the library and the many other school appeals. Thank you for your donation of money or goods, gifts for raffles and other contributions; it is very much appreciated. As I mentioned in my Principal's Address at the Graduation Mass it is also with particular sadness that we say goodbye to some of our families who will be leaving St Patrick's either with their youngest now going to high school or those who will moving to other schools for various reasons. I have loved getting to know you and our association feels longer than simply two years. We wish you well and hope to see you again often.

I particularly wish our Year 6 students all the very best for high school. They have been a wonderful grade of children and a real testimony to their families. By way of saying 'Goodbye', in a truly St Patrick's way, we will be gathering together as a school community under the COLA on the last day, Wednesday 16th December at 2.45pm. Weather permitting Years 1 to 5 will circle the playground and await Year 6 to come down the stairs from the hall. We will then watch them ring the bell for the last time as St Patrick's students. Parents are most welcome to join us on the playground.

With the holidays soon to commence I would like to encourage the children to keep up their learning in creative ways. I am hoping that the children will continue their daily reading and that they are beginning to find reading relaxing and enjoyable. I recently came across this list for 'Summer Homework'. Perhaps some of these items may appeal to them.

- *Conquer a fear and discover a new one by getting out of your comfort zone.*
- *Walk through sand, through fields and over hills*
- *SPLASH*
- *Dance like no one's watching*
- *Go fly a kite*
- *Make a new friend and make them smile*
- *Try five foods you supposedly don't like*
- *Skim a stone*
- *Build an epic playhouse*
- *Start an art journal*
- *Make a film with some friends*
- *Learn Origami*
- *Create a family artwork on a large canvas*
- *Make sock puppets*
- *Have a picnic in the backyard*
- *HAVE FUN AND LAUGH!*

Holiday Safety alert

With holidays, right around the corner, I would like to recommend that all parents have a 'Stranger Danger' talk with their children. The importance of not speaking with strangers is not exclusive to the school terms. 'Stranger Danger' messages are just as important for when they are in shopping centres, playgrounds, parks, walking to neighbours houses or out with teenage family members.

It is very important that children stay alert and know what to do if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

For 'Stranger Danger' resources and activities go to http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/113822/keeping_me_safe.pdf

May I thank all the parents and children for their kind and generous expressions of thanks and good will to the staff and myself over the past 2 weeks. It is certainly not expected by very much appreciated. Finally I would like to wish all children and families all the very best for a Happy and Holy Christmas filled with the blessing of the peace and joy of the Christ Child.

God bless you and your families and see you in 2016

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

School Captains Address

Nicholas Parkes

“Give it a Go” That was a quote by me, in 2014, when standing in the kitchen with my mum and dad, talking about trying out for school captain 2015.

When I gave my speech, one of the things I said was “that if I was chosen for school captain, I would be as excited and as nervous as Jarryd Hayne is – leaving the Parramatta Eels for the San Francisco 49ers

Well Jarryd hasn't scored all the touchdowns he wanted and I have probably stumbled a little along the way as well, but I have definitely tried my hardest to be the best I could be.

I have tried to serve St Patricks as a good leader and I don't think I could be a good leader without the help and support of all the Year 6 students. It is not only myself and Clarissa, but all of Year 6 have been given the opportunity to show their leadership skills.

We have been able to be examples to the whole school, in the way we behave, show kindness, be responsible and respectful and have confidence in our work and act in the way Jesus wants us to. Loving one another.

We have done this in many ways.

- In working with our Kindergarten buddies
- In participating in the Voice of Youth
- In our athletic skills at the Touch Football and Oz Tag Gala days
- In the way we can blog really well
- In the way we have worked, played, studied and prayed together
- In a spirit of friendship
- And in the saying of the morning, afternoon and Angelus prayers.

One of our biggest jobs is the Friday assemblies. This includes all the roles from running the assembly, doing IT and photography and of course the way we dance so well to - I Am Australian.

I remember being very shaky at the beginning of the year, but with guidance from Mrs Kerr and all the teachers, my confidence has grown.

For me, the most important part of my role has been to set a good example and help others with their problems.

I am proud to have been School Captain 2015 – it was an honour to be trusted by my fellow mates to take on such a responsible position.

My Grandma and Pa are proud of me as I am the first of their 18 grandchildren to have this role. So far....

I thank you for this opportunity and also thank Miss Fabri, Mrs Benkovich, Mr Baird and Ms Kelly for helping me and guiding me.

I thank all of our teachers too, from kindergarten up. What great role models they have been. You have made our learning fun and taught us so much.

I am proud of our school St Patricks and can only hope as the years go by that I will always have the “Give it a Go” attitude. And will remember my kitchen conversation with mum and dad– that if you want anything badly enough – you can achieve it



Graduation Dinner Photos

The images from the graduation dinner are now up in a closed group on Facebook.
To view photos please type the following link:

[Year 6 Graduation 2015 - St Patricks Primary Parramatta](#)

Thank you to Mr Gittany for your generous gift of photography.

School Captains Address

Clarissa Guino

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

This quote, by former president John Quincy Adams, is what Leaders live by. This is what good leaders, around the world, and in our own school live by.

The whole of Year 6, have been leaders of example, compassion, respect and kindness - our school Mascots. Of course, at times, we may not...exactly be the best at doing things. Hey, we're only human, after all. Right? However, I am sure everyone has put effort into being the best person they can, trying to follow in 'The Path of Jesus'.

2015 has brought us so many new opportunities, that we are proud to have experienced. Perhaps, we are Pioneers of introducing so many new things to our school. With the help of Ms Fabri and Mrs Benkovich, the Year 6 of this year were given many, many new opportunities. We could compete in the Voice of Youth public speaking competition among the whole Diocese and farther, and we are proud to have our own students to represent us. There were various sport gala days throughout the year for the athletics. Movie night was introduced, so we could spend time with family and friends while watching a movie classic. The leaders were given opportunities to represent our school and attend special events. These were all to the work of Ms Fabri, Mrs Benkovich and all the other countless, hardworking staff of our school. Thank you dearly.

We mustn't forget about Mrs Bryant, either. She was a wonderful principal who ran the school splendidly for many years. She was the one who helped me in my first years, when I was but a young Kindergarten girl who migrated from the Philippines. In this way, I had a new opportunity for learning and education.

Then it came to Year 5, to the leadership speeches. Everyone participated, and the nominated captains were so honoured to be trusted by everyone. Each captain has put in so much work into the school by attending weekly meetings, running assembly, leading prayer, raising the flag and many other tasks. Of course, our main task is to be leaders by example and help the students of our school. We couldn't have done it alone. A huge thank you to our Vice Captains, Adriana Saab and Clark Guatlo. We wouldn't be who we are without you. Thank you to our Representative Councils: Rachel Mekari, Alanah Maroon, Paul Romanos and Harrie Cristopher. Thank you for your undying support. We have formed more than a team of students, but a bond of both leadership and friendship. Thank you to all the Sports captains, for making all of our Sports Days super fun and possible. Honestly, what would we do without our lolly-giver-out-er-ers? And of course, thank you to the Library Monitors. Though we're sure Mrs O'Dwyer is amazing herself, we're sure the Library was much easier to manage with our Monitors. ...but we all know everyone's there mostly for that scanner. Of course, thanks also to the choir. You bring such a beautiful fullness to Mrs Rodrick's already-beautiful music. Thank you to our Year 6 teachers, for guiding us throughout the year. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for you: Ms Kelly and Mr Baird. And of course, thank you to Year 6. Though you may not be all named a Leader, you are a leader in your own way.

Look at the kindergarten students. It was year 6 who taught them along side their teachers. Look at the Year 5 Leaders. It was Year 6 who inspired and led them to be the new leaders. Look at the whole school. It was year 6 who helped lead the students into Christ and kindness, resilience and compassion. Every, single student made year 6...year 6. Our thanks wouldn't be enough for the memories we've made together. We'll never forget you all. Thank you to all the Teachers, through every year. You were the amazing people who taught us we knowledge, wisdom, compassion and thoughtfulness. You all made us who we are today. There are so many teachers who have helped me through our educational life, i wouldn't be able to count you on both my hands. And of course, thank you to our parents for unconditional love and support. Our parents have been there every step of the way: teaching us, nurturing us, helping us and cleaning our room when we're sick. Honestly, we wouldn't even be here without you.

St Patrick's has done so much for us, and has left us with so many memories. It breaks our hearts to leave, but we know that this amazing school will continue to give education to all and lead children into following the path of God.

May God bless you all on your Journeys in life. Walk forth in the Path of God.

Sub tuum praesadium.



Honour Award

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

3L	Erica Jursic
3T	Jade Takchi
4B	Joanna Davino
4G	Pierre Onano
5C	Kayla Teklic
5T	Stacie Touche
6P	Clarissa Guino
6W	Jordan Moubarak



st patrick's award

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

3L	Clyde Guatlo
3T	Joshua Lorenzo
4B	Jarrod Kassis
4G	Gabriella Cruz
5C	Chanel Archie
5T	Kaitlyn Chiha
6P	Alan Mansour
6W	Caitlin Vilches



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

Christian Barakat, Mehaara Joseph, Syrus Dig, Christina Batti, John Paul Wehbe, Kasey Lao, Jessica Wehbe, Tahlia Rizk, Noah Romanos,

Nathan Romanos, Clark Guatlo, Christian Sarkis, Elie Wehbe and to the many children over the school holidays.

Congratulations to Kyra Dpenha who will represent Parramatta Diocese at the MacKillop Basketball Trials in Wollongong on 4th March, 2016. We are very proud to see St Patrick's name in the diocesan basketball team.

School Office - Closed for Financial transactions

Thursday 10th December 2pm until Tuesday 15th December 9am

Parents, please note that the school office will be unavailable to process any financial transactions for the above dates/times. This is due to end of year financial rollover. We apologise for any inconvenience and ask for your consideration at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

Congratulations and thanks you to the parents on the Year 6 Farewell Committee. This year the farewell was held at St Monica's Hall and once again it was a night I believe the children will never forget. Food, fashion, fabulous dancing, flowers, friends and family; this seems to sum it up! At the commencement of the night the Year 6 children entered to the sound of applause from the guests and took their place at specially marked tables. Before long the buffet of scrumptious food delighted even the fussiest of eaters. As soon as the dancing commenced I knew that all the 'boxes had been ticked' as the children seemed to be lost in the moment together. A lollies bar and photo facilities was available and even young siblings and older ex-students joined in the fun. . From all accounts holding this party on the same day as the Graduation Mass and morning tea seemed to gain approval from everyone and will certainly be considered for next year.

Thank you to the following parents who commenced preparations for this event early in the year. Congratulations!
Ms T Dooley, Mrs J Romanos, Mrs S Joseph, Mrs L Saab, Mrs S Mekari, Mrs E Vilches, Mrs M Gittany, Mrs L Tarabay, Mrs C Mansour, Mrs M Dagostino and to the many other parents who helped on the day. Can I also thank the many year five parents, headed by Mrs Michaels, who did a splendid job with the Graduation Morning Tea. Thank You.

ST PATRICK'S PARENT EVENTS COMMITTEE 2016

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the school? Would you like to get to know other parents? Do you have some spare time during the day? Why not consider becoming a member of the St Patrick's Parent Events Committee for 2016. We need your help! Next year, at the Parent Teacher Information night names of interested parents will be collected from each grade. After consideration of responses regarding evaluation from this year's committee there will be no restriction on the number of members per grade. There will be some recommendations and reminders they may assist you in your consideration to join early in 2016.

Afternoon Pickup

Dear Parents,

We have been asked by Parramatta City Council to request that drivers do not line up in Trott Street until 3.00pm.

The response from the school's neighbours is that they are fully supportive of the new system in that it is assisting the children to be picked up safely, however when the line is at a stand still because pick up has not commenced, they cannot leave or enter their premises. This is causing them significant inconvenience and one which I believe we can assist them with.

As per traffic rules you are not to leave your vehicle or block this street until the designated time or you will be fined.

Thank you so much to those parents who have already made a significant difference in the afternoon by following these guidelines.

Ms Fabri

CONGRATULATIONS *extra curricula*

Recently a number of primary children entered the 2015 Schools Writing Competition 'Write4Fun.com'

Write4Fun is proud to announce that St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta had 10 or more students successfully progress past the initial judging. This year the competition was held through primary and secondary schools within Australia and they received over 5,100 entries. St Patrick's Parramatta has been recognised for outstanding writing, as less than 5% of the schools showed this level of achievement. Children through to the next round received their own finalist certificate in the post. The winners of the competition will be announced on Wednesday 20th January 2016 and can be viewed on www.writ4fun.net. Best of Luck to all these students.

To the best of our knowledge, as the school was not notified, the following children progress to the next stage:

Jonah Freifer	Joshua Romanos	Alanah Issa	Pauline Said	Arwen-Cady Firmeza	Chanel Nader
Gabriella Cruz	Alissa Banzato	Joanna Davino	Joshua Santos	Claire Guatlo	

Mercy Music and Performance Academy OLMC

Applications are now open for the parents who wish to enrol their children in the OLMC Music and Performance Academy for instrument tuition. Please follow the link below that will take you to an online enrolment page.

<http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/St-Patricks-School-Instrument-and-Band-Program>

Should you wish to hire the instruments for your child to participate in the program please come to the office to pick up a brochure.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy began on Tuesday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. On that day *The Door of Mercy* at St Peter's Basilica in Rome was opened by the Pope as a symbolic door to God's mercy.

The themes of the Jubilee call people to be merciful like the Father, to rediscover works of mercy, to receive sacramental healing and strength, to dialogue with those in our world who are different from us and to truly participate in God's merciful love.

All around the world specially designated Holy Doors will be opened this Sunday 13 December. *The Door of Mercy* at St Patrick's Cathedral will be opened during the 11am Mass, to which you are all warmly invited. There is another Door of Mercy in our Diocese: the Shrine at Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.

Next Thursday, the staff will celebrate mass and then spend time reflecting what the message of the Year of Mercy means to us and our school community.

World Youth Day - Help the Philippines

Thank you to all that purchased raffle tickets.

\$100 Lachlan's Old Govt House	Caitlin Polintan (5T)
\$100 Oatlands Village Fresh Produce	Alexandriya Izmestyeva (KM)
\$50 Parramatta Park Café	Bethany Issa (6P)
\$50 Parramatta Park Café	Zoe Berger (3L)
\$50 City Extra	Mia Kerr (3T)
\$50 Blacktown Workers Club	Christian Sta Rosa (1C)
VIP Bondi Pizza Voucher	Matthew Khreich (3T)
\$50 Parramatta Leagues Club	Clyde Guatlo (3L)
\$50 Parramatta Leagues Club	Meanelli Erive (6W)
\$50 Parramatta Leagues Club	Aireen Kwa (KM)

St Patrick's Parramatta

STAFF

2016

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal	Ms Bernadette Fabri
Assistant Principal	Mrs Elly Benkovich
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Jude Kerr
Acting Coordinator 2 (Literacy/History)	Ms Sasha Nederpelt
Acting Coordinator 2 (Mathematics/Science)	Ms Jenny Barclay
Special Projects Teacher	To be confirmed

CLASS TEACHERS

K Matilda	Ms Sasha Nederpelt
K Alexander	Mrs Jennifer Warn
1 Clancy	Ms Lydia Moscovis
1 Sebastian	Ms Jemma Dimarco
2 Mackellar	Mrs Sue Jadrabieb
2 Young	Ms Chantal Azar
3 Lindsay	Mrs Felicity Wallace
3 Thiele	Ms Julia Hagi
4 Brinsmead	Mrs Anne Fardell
4 Greenwood	Ms Louisa Takchi
5 Coorong	Mrs Bernadette Carroll
5 Timara	Ms Alyssa Onorato
6 Park	Ms Cara-Lyn Kelly
6 Wrightson	Mrs Samantha Pope

SPECIALIST AND SUPPORT STAFF

Teacher Librarian	Mrs Debra O'Dwyer
Music Specialist	Mrs Venitia Rodricks
Physical Education Specialist	Mr David Younis
Reading Recovery and Literacy Support	Mrs Jude Kerr
Numeracy Specialist and Lead Teacher	Mrs Jenny Barclay
	Mrs Elly Benkovich
Literacy/Learning support	Mrs Viviana Williams (Primary)
	Mrs Lorraine Veljkovic (Infants)
Leadership Team Release	Mrs Michelle Mannino
Teacher Assistant/Admin	Mrs Elaine Yuen
	Mrs Dianne Attard

ADMINISTRATION

Senior Finance Secretary	Mrs Sharon Nutter
Administration Officer (Front Office)	Mrs Jenny Jones
Maintenance	Mr Sean McIntosh

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

May I take this opportunity to update you on the following staff:

Mrs Tanya Masefield

12 months parental leave

Mrs Rosemary Flatley

After 35 years in education Mrs Flatley has decided to retire. 35 years is a very significant time in any one career and she has touched to hearts and minds of hundreds of students. A very hard working and dedicated teacher, Mrs Flatley will long be remembered for her exceptional organisation and her dry sense of humour. In recent years Mrs Flatley has dedicated herself to assisting children with reading. She takes pride having helped many children learn this very important skills. St Patrick's Parramatta would like to wish her many years of good health and much happiness. Mrs Flatley plans to do more travelling with her husband Bill. Her last day will be Wednesday, 9th December. Bon Voyage Mrs Flatley!

Mrs Catherine Bourne

After 15 years connected to St Patrick's Parramatta, Mrs Bourne has decided to continue as Co-ordinator/Educator - Natural Fertility Services (Catholic Care Social Services - Diocese of Parramatta) She has formally resigned from St Patrick's Parramatta. We would like to thank her sincerely for all her years of service at the school. Her calm and practical approach with children will always be remembered and we hope that she will continue to visit the school often.

Mrs Mary Tondini

This year we are saying goodbye to Mrs Tondini in her role as class teacher. Mrs Tondini has had a long association with the school in a variety of different roles both part time and full time. Mrs Tondini would like to continue her career in a part time capacity. We hope to see Mrs Tondini next year as a visiting teacher on a casual basis.

Ms Tiffany Perry

Although our association with Ms Perry has been a relatively short one, being only one year, we are saying goodbye and good luck to this hardworking, enthusiastic teacher. Ms Perry has decided to accept a position at St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, Holsworthy, which is much closer to home. We wish her all the very best for this new stage in her career.

Mrs Belinda Hamilton

Good bye and good luck to Mrs Belinda Hamilton. Mrs Hamilton has been working in the office on Thursdays and many children have been lucky enough to be looked after by her during their visits to sick bay. Mrs Hamilton has secured a permanent position at the Hills School at which she also works. We have been very lucky to have Mrs Hamilton working with us even for such a short while. We wish her all the very best!

Mr Mark Baird

Goodbye and good luck to Mr Mark Baird who will be on leave from St Patrick's Parramatta for 12 months. Mr Baird is taking up the position of Acting Religious Education Coordinator at St Joseph's Kingswood. We wish him well for this secondment and look forward to hearing how he is going with a new community of students and teachers in 2016.

Mrs Linda Graham

We wish Mrs Graham all the very best for 2016 as she takes a year's leave to focus on family duties. Mrs Graham plans to return to St Patrick's Parramatta in 2017. All the best Mrs Graham!

Mrs Felicity Wallace

St Patrick's welcomes back Mrs Felicity Wallace who is returning as a classroom teacher after 2 years maternity and parental leave. Mrs Wallace will be teaching Year 3.

The school community will be officially thanking and farewelling these teachers throughout the next few weeks.

In order to assist with the transition of all children for 2016 we will be having a "MEET OUR NEW TEACHER" afternoon on Monday 14th December at 2.15pm. Children will spend some time getting to know their new teacher(s) and the children in their class.



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 Deacon Willy Limjap
Margaret Gale (Sacramental Coord)

2015

TERM FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Ten

Friday 11th December Whole School Farewell Assembly -
Year 6 - 2.00pm

Week Eleven

Monday 14th December Footsteps Dance continues
Footsteps dance presentation
11.30am—1.00pm - COLA area
(weather permitting)

Tuesday 15th December Year 6 Fun day at Arcadia

Wednesday 16th December Last Day for students for Term 4
2.45pm Farewell to Year 6

2016

TERM ONE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

Wednesday 27th January MAI Testing days

Thursday 28th January MAI Testing days

Friday 29th January Students Yr 1—6 return to school

Week Two

Monday 1st February 2016 Kindergarten commences



World Youth Day

At lunch time on Friday our generous band of mothers are selling zooper doopers to raise money to help Miss Azar attend World Youth Day. Ice blocks cost \$1.00 each and each child may buy one ice block.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kerr (REC)

Footsteps Dance Demonstration

Due to popular demand, the children have requested an opportunity to show the 'hip moves' that they have been learning this term with Michelle from FOOTSTEPS.

Although our 'Dancing Under the Stars' disco has been postponed to 12th February next year, we will be holding a short dance display at 11.30 to 1.00 on Monday, 14th December to which you are warmly invited. This event will be somewhat informal and hopefully a lot of fun. If in the case of inclement or extremely hot weather we will holding the display in the school hall, however due to seating restriction visitors will be unable to attend.

We apologise for this condition imposed, if necessary and will notify you by a skoolbag alert.