



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

4th February 2016

Term 1

Issue 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year for 2016. With the first week nearly over it is good to see that all children seem very happy meeting up with their friends and new teachers and as usual displaying such warm, friendly and courteous natures. Thank you children! I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families; those with children in Kindergarten and those across the school. It is wonderful that you have joined our school community of St Patrick's Parramatta and we hope and pray that your time with us will be happy, fulfilling and nourishing. We look forward to you sharing your gifts with us. Welcome back to all the staff of St Patrick's with sincere gratitude for all the work they have already done to be ready for your children. We have two new teachers this year and a returning teacher. Welcome is extended to Ms Lydia Moscovic (1C), Ms Louisa Takchi (4G) and Mrs Felicity Wallace (3L) returning to St Pats after parental leave. It is great having you with us!

This week I have had the opportunity to visit a number of classes all of whom have commenced their units of work. In these early weeks the teachers spend time establishing the classroom culture, in particular organizational routines, learning mindsets, behavioural expectations and timetables. It is so impressive that even the little ones in kindergarten are already learning to focus, take turns, volunteer answers and ask questions and manage their possessions. They have settled in so very well and the teachers are very impressed with their level of independence and interest in learning. Parents, please remember that some children display some separation anxiety when first starting school. Leaving your little one crying can be heart wrenching but I can assure you that by the time they get into class their tears have disappeared and they soon become distracted by wonderful stories and new experiences. A member of staff will often ring you to let you know how they are going so that you are not spending the day fretting about them. Children will often easily tell when we are upset and as much as it is difficult it is important that they sense that school is a safe place and that you trust that they are in good hands and will enjoy the experience. Smiles and confidence is the key. For children who get upset, experienced parents often say that just like when removing a band aid it is often best to drop off the children quickly without lingering. Not all children need this approach of course as some will separate happily.

THANK YOU to some of our wonderful Yr One mothers who organized a lovely morning tea for our new parents on the first kindy day. Thank you to Mrs Monique Wehbe, Mrs Bernadette Moussa, Mrs Annette Romanos, Mrs Sonia Banzato, Mrs Josephine Romanos and Mrs Noha Draybi.

In a few weeks time parents will be given the opportunity to join their child's classroom teacher for the annual Parent/Teacher Information Night. On this evening the teachers will explain to parents what topics and skills are to be covered this year, in particular this term, details on particular activities for their grade, special expectations and teaching approaches. It will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions. More information can be found in the Dates to Remember, next week's newsletter and on the school calendar available through Skoolbag.

I love our St Patrick's Parramatta community and I look forward to continuing our partnership, the school and the home, in the pursuit of excellence in education and in building the kingdom of God here together.

God bless you and your family;

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

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Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm

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www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au

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.



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.

Opening School Mass Year 1 to Year 6

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. Due to Mass being early in the term Kindergarten children will NOT be joining us.

At the conclusion of Mass there will be a commissioning ceremony of Student leaders and new staff members. There will be a small morning tea in the Library following Mass for the Student Leaders, their parents and guests.

Sports Days for Term 1

Sports uniforms will be worn on the following days for Term 1:-

Wednesday Year 6, Year 5 and 2Y

Thursday Year 4, KM, 1S, 2M

Friday Year 3, KA, 1C

2016 School Terms

Term 1 29th January to 8th April

Term 2 26th April to 1st July

Term 3 18th July to 23rd September

Term 4 10th October to 16th December

**** Please note Staff Development days may affect commencement & concluding dates. Please refer to our weekly newsletter in 2016.**



Condolences to the Doumit Family (Grace 6W & Andrew 2M) on the passing of their Grandfather.

Condolences to the Drosos Family (Nicholas 1C & Jazmyne KA) on the passing of their Grandfather.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AFTERNOON PICKUP AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN TERM 1

PICK UP AFTER SCHOOL

Kindergarten will be collected in the afternoon for Term 1 from their classrooms

Afterschool Care: At 3.00pm children going to afterschool care will assemble in the space under the hall (the cave) where they will be counted and organised by the after school care personnel.

Children being picked up by parents from the playground: Children being picked up by parents, family members etc. from the playground will be seated in the amphitheatre until 3.15pm. If not collected by this time then they will go back to their classroom to await pick up.

Children being picked up by car (Ross Street): Children who are being picked up by car will remain in their classrooms so that they can effectively hear their names being called out by the teacher on duty. They will then walk to the Ross Street gate and wait with the teacher who will assist them to enter their car.

Children who are unsure: Children who are unsure of how they are getting home will wait in their classrooms just in case their names are called out. They can be picked up from the classrooms if necessary.

Car pick up: The pick up area in Ross Street in front of the school is used for parents to stop for afternoon pick up. Parents are asked not to leave the car in this section to pick up children. **A large sign with your family name displayed on the dashboard of the car is necessary to enable teachers to easily identify you and call your child to the car (last name then children's name). Please co-operate by moving to where the teacher on car duty directs you.**

ROAD SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Please advise your child how they will be getting home so as to minimise their distress. If you are unsure, remind them to stay in their classrooms.
- Cars are not permitted to stop at anytime in the red "No Stopping Zone"
- Please ensure that you cross at the safety crossing (yellow lines). It is very dangerous to cross busy streets in between cars.
- Please be careful when driving near the crossing as we have had some concerns from pedestrians placed in potentially dangerous situations with cars not stopping.
- Please do not drop off and pick up from the Ross Street driveway. Reversing back is very dangerous with so many children about.
- Parents must display on the dash board of their car, a large sign clearly marked with the student's family name and christian name to avoid delays
- Drivers are not permitted to leave the car while in the restricted parking zone
- Cars are not to block traffic on the round-a-bout
- Parents are requested to proceed in the queue to the teacher on duty who will direct your child/children to your car
- For safety reasons the child/children should enter the car from the footpath side. Entry into the car should not be obscured by any items including infants car seat/ baby capsule.
- Please notify the school if you are running late to pick up your child. Children become distressed if they think they have been forgotten.
- To try to alleviate congestion the pick up time from school is between 3.00pm to 3.30pm. Please try to stagger your arrival. The children are fully supervised.
- To assist in the smooth running of the pick up routine, police and parking ranger patrols regularly to monitor drivers and will fine those who are breaching road rules.



Burning of the Palms for Ashes

Next week we begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. On Tuesday when we gather at 8.50 am for assembly, Fr Bob will burn some of the palms left over from Palm Sunday. These ashes will be used the next day at Mass to mark the cross on our foreheads. On Ash Wednesday Father Bob will visit the Kindergarten children for a very simple liturgy and their teachers will mark them with the cross.

LENT

During Lent the Church asks that we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. At school we will highlight prayer, and almsgiving through Project Compassion, reminding the children that it is most meaningful if the money we give to Project Compassion is the result of us going without something. You may choose as a family to give up a treat from time to time and to give that money to Project Compassion. Lent provides a wonderful opportunity for us to model our faith in action.

UNDERSTANDING FAITH WEBSITE <http://understandingfaith.edu.au/>

As parents and educators of children attending St Patrick's, educating our children in the Catholic faith is a priority. This is happening as we go about our daily tasks, as we show by our words and actions Christ's message of love and mercy. Sometimes we need more and the facts are not at our fingertips!

CEO has provided all members of our school community with access to a wonderful website: **UNDERSTANDING FAITH**. The sections for students make interesting reading for adults too and there are sections for adults.

Students, parents and teachers all have the same login.

User name: ceo.parra.1924 Login: 2016.ceo.parra

Please make use of this wonderful resource as you journey in faith! If you have any questions or problems navigating about the site please let me know.

God bless

Jude Kerr REC

'Welcome to 2016' Family Disco

On **Friday 12th February, 2016** St Patrick's will be holding our postponed **'Dancing under the Stars' Family Disco**, weather permitting. It is a great opportunity to welcome our new kindergarten families and the new families who have joined St Patrick's this year. The evening will be led by one of the FOOTSTEPS Dance Instructors that has been working with the students last year, teaching them dance and movement throughout the Term. The disco will begin at 6pm and conclude at 8pm. Gates will be open from 5pm.



Why not have a night off cooking and grab dinner at the disco. Food will be available from 5pm. We will have **pizza, dippin' dots ice-cream, water and drinks for sale on the night**. Parents are more than welcome to bring their own picnic supper. Students will also be able to purchase glo-sticks from the canteen to help light up the dance floor.

If you purchased tickets for the disco last year that was postponed, please bring your tickets with you. If you have lost your tickets we will have a list at the gate to mark off.

If you were unable to attend last year or you are a new family to St Patrick's and would like to purchase tickets, please complete the permission note sent home yesterday. **Pre-school aged children will have free entry**, however adults and older siblings will have to pay admission. Please remember that **no alcohol is to be consumed on the premises and the school site is a smoke free zone**. N.B The children do not need to know the dance steps to come along.



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.**



The school calendar 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.

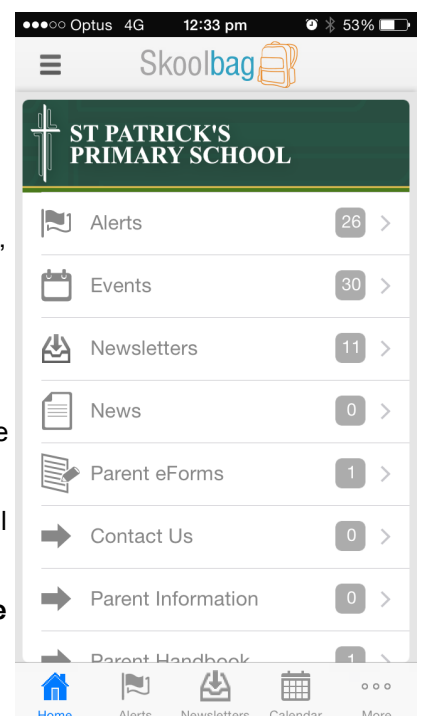
Events:- This tab is now linked to our Parent Calendar showing all upcoming events.

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





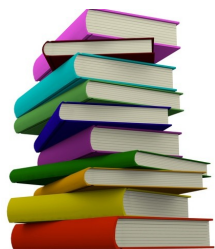
2016 Opal Cards

The Opal cards (travel passes) have been distributed to the children earlier this week, if you had previously held a travel pass.

If your child moved from year 2 to 3 this year you were required to complete a new application and you would not have been automatically reissued a new pass.

It is not too late to apply for a travel pass, go to <https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/> for all the information. Once you have completed an application print it off and return to school for endorsement.

For all new applications including the children that moved from year 2 to 3 your opal cards will be posted to your home address within the first 2 weeks of term.



Bookclub Issue 1 2016—Closing Date 17/02/2016

Please follow below instructions to order online

- Log into www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our new iPhone or iPad app from the App store.
- Select State: NSW
- Select School Name: St Patricks School : Parramatta
- Once you click on our school you will get the following message:
- St Patricks School : PARRAMATTA is now offering our Linked Online Ordering & Payments (LOOP) for Parents. You will be redirected to that web site where you can easily enter your order and pay via our secure Westpac payment gateway – no need to return anything to the school."
- You will then be redirected to the Scholastic Home Page
- Select Order
- Select state: NSW
- Select School Name: St Patricks School : Parramatta
- From the right side click on St Patricks School (Parramatta)
- The select "START ORDER"
- Select which issue we are ordering from ie "ISSUE 1, 2016"
- Select Children + and add your children's names/class
- Input which books you wish to order and follow the prompts for payment.



- No need to send anything back to the school as the order automatically comes into the office.

Should you have any problems ordering online please call Mrs Jones in the office on 9630 1421.



Congratulations

to the Layoun family on the birth of their

baby boy Chris, a brother for Alex (3T) and Elio (KA)



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ms Louisa Tackhi who recently got engaged to her boyfriend Elias.

Congratulations to Ms Tiffany Perry who recently got engaged to her boyfriend Ryan.

On behalf of everyone I would like to wish both ladies and their new fiancé all the very best as they commence their wedding preparations.



Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child's birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is **Tuesday**. Each week you need to place your Dollarmites deposit wallet in the office bag and it will be returned to you the following day.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

The rewards available during 2016 are:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm



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

Luke Takchi, Elaria Fayad, Olivia Wehbe,
Olivia Sicurella, Alicia Remaili, Chloe Geagea,
Kiara Haddad, Mia Wehbe

Mobile Phones in School

Whilst we understand that some children are required to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons ie walking to or from school, no phones are needed during school hours. All mobile phones are to be dropped into the office prior to the morning bell and collected in the afternoon.

In an emergency, where the children need to be contacted, please call the office on 9630 1421 where a message will be passed on.



Open Day
Sunday
28 February 2016
10am-2pm

OLMC Parramatta Open Day

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2016 Open Day on Sunday, February 28 from 10am – 2.00pm. Principal's welcome at 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300 to obtain further information.

2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 2

Friday 5th Feb Opening School Mass and Student Leader
Commissioning (Yr 1 to 6 only)
St Patricks Cathedral

Primary Assembly 2.15pm—Year 6

Week 3

Monday 8th Feb Year 6 incursion 'CSI Lab Forensic Workshop'

Tuesday 9th Feb Year 5 incursion 'What's the Matter'
Shrove Tuesday—Pikelets for morning tea

Wednesday 10th Feb Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am (Yr 1 to 6 only)

Thursday 11th Feb Parent Information Evening—Kinder—7pm

Friday 12th Feb **Infants Assembly 2.15pm—Year 2**

Welcome to 2016 Family Disco

Gates open 5pm

Week 4

Monday 15th Feb Parent Information Evening—Year 1—7pm

Parent Information Evening—Year 2—8pm

Tuesday 16th Feb Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

Parent Information Evening—Year 5—7pm

Parent Information Evening—Year 4—8pm

Thursday 18th Feb Parent Information Evening—Year 3—7pm

Parent Information Evening—Year 6—8pm

Friday 19th Feb **Primary Assembly 2.15pm—Year 4**



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

Mon to Fri 6.45am, 12.30pm
Public Hol 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)



The St. Pat's Band Program

Thank you to all those parents and students who have signed up for group lessons at the Mercy Music and Performance Academy.

We still have space for more students, particularly in the areas of drums, flute and saxophone!

If you would like your child to start learning an instrument, there is still time for term 1. Please go to:

<http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/the-academy/st-patricks-concert-band-program>