



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

11th February 2016

Term 1

Issue 2

Dear Parents

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday and this day marks the beginning of the Church season of Lent. For some of our Maronite community the commencement of Lent is celebrated on Ash Monday. The school began their preparations for Ash Wednesday with the burning of the palms ceremony on the playground, lead by the Dean of our Cathedral Father Bob Bossini. He was ably assisted by Michael Lilley and Chris Ohlsen from the parish. Fr Bob reminded us that on Ash Wednesday the blessed ashes will be placed on our foreheads, as a sign of God's unconditional love for us. On Ash Wednesday, Years 1 to 6 went to mass and they received the ashes on their foreheads. As part of Fr Bob's beautiful homily he spoke of the symbol of ash on our forehead as a sign that we are Jesus' ambassadors. He also spoke of the importance of three actions during this time of Lent; To fast and in doing so to remember all those, in our country and around the world, that do not have as much as we do, to give alms by being charitable, especially through Project Compassion and to Pray.

*In this year's Lenten Message from our Holy Father, **Pope Francis'** asks us to meditate on scripture and practise, with intensity, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. He warns us of getting distracted by knowledge, power and riches and asks that like Our Lady, Mary the Mother of God, we demonstrate, generosity, faithfulness and compassionate goodness, especially as shown in marriage and family relationships. He states:*

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God's word and by practising the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the "proud", the "powerful" and the "wealthy" spoken of in the Magnificat can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. ...Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God's mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Lk 1:48) and to call herself the Lord's humble servant (cf. Lk 1:38).

From the Vatican, 4 October 2015

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

For the full message go to: https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20151004_messaggio-quaresima2016.html

God Bless You and Your Families

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Honour Award

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

KA	Donnacha Ryan
KM	Phillip Ayoub
1C	Sophie Gahdmar
1S	Thomas Aguilera
2M	Jaden Dionisio
2Y	Renee Kougelis

st patrick's award

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

KA	Sienna Moussa
KM	Abbey Matta
1C	Noah Reyes-Mangabat
1S	Amariah Tamaro
2M	Elisa Daher
2Y	Frank Agostino

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.

KRAKOW WYD 2016

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Parramatta will be involved in a mission experience in the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Bohol, Philippines on their way to Poland for WYD 2016

Meet the challenge of Pope Francis in helping and caring for those in need.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Mt 27

As most of you would know Ms Chantal Azar is representing the school at World Youth Day in July. As part of her participation in this very important diocesan event Ms Azar will be going on a pilgrimage to the Philippines to assist various parishes and schools in the Diocese of Tagbilaran. This Mission Encounter, with other diocesan youth, will enable her to experience the needs of the people there and assist by doing works of charity planned by the organisers.

Schools in the diocese and in parishes have been asked to sell raffle tickets to enable young teachers to go to World Youth Day.

Earlier this week a booklet of raffle tickets was sent home to students who indicated on their consent forms they wish to sell raffle tickets. The tickets are \$2 per ticket or \$20 for the booklet. If you did not receive any tickets and would like a booklet sent home please either send a note or phone Mrs Jones on 9630 -1421.

This is the last fundraiser for Ms Azar. We appreciate any contribution and whether you are able to sell all tickets or just a few, all raffle tickets and money will be due back to school on 19th February.

On this day of raffle ticket return, there will be a Mufti Day. This means that the children will be able to wear any clothing in the colours of Poland ie Red and White; the country that World Youth Day will take place this year.

Birthdays at St Patrick's

This year at St Patrick's we are trialling a new way of acknowledging student birthdays. Each day any student who has a birthday will be entitled to sit on a special birthday bench for morning assembly. Mr Macintosh has painted one of our benches a different colour just for this purpose.

Once 'birthday children' are seated on the bench our student leaders will present them with their birthday sticker. When they attend their next Friday assembly the children will sing Happy Birthday to them.

Birthdays are also acknowledged in the weekly newsletter for the coming week.

Parents are reminded that we **do not** allow birthday treats or birthday cakes at school due to the fact that we have a large number of students with anaphylaxis and allergies. In this way we can be confident that all our children remain safe while at school. We appreciate your support in this matter.



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

Amelia Coles, Paul Khouri, Angelique Moujalli,
Adrian Sicurella, Jazmyne Drosos

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.

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



Condolences to the Maroun Family (Luke 5C & Caitlin 4G) on the passing of their Grandmother.

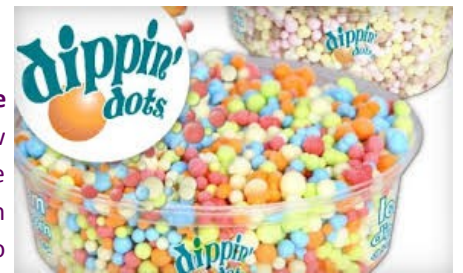


Thank you to our wonderful parents who helped the children enjoy a small treat of pikelets on Shrove Tuesday. We raised \$511.00 which will go towards Ms Azar World Youth Day Pilgrimage.

Thank you to Margaret Abdallah, Annette Romanos, Josie Romanos, Zana Rahme, Elizabeth Johnson, Shanika Joseph, Julie Sabat

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 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.

All children will need to be supervised as this is a parent/community function by an adult for the night.



The AFL will have representatives at our School Disco on Friday night with some fun activities. They look forward to chatting and interacting with the students and parents. If you are interested in your child playing AFL, I'm sure they will be able to offer some advice on how you can sign them up.

MORNING DROP OFF

Reminder to Parents that the morning drop off zone on Ross Street is for kiss and drop only. Should you park and come into the school you may be fined. Thank you to the many parents following the Kiss and Drop procedures.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Kyra Dpenha from Year 6 who was selected to represent the school and the diocese as part of the Basket Ball Mackillop Team. Kyra, and other selected children from across the Diocese of Parramatta, will be competing in Wollongong on the 4th March. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing all about this very exciting experience. Well Done Kyra



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.



2016 Opal Cards

School students

Tap into

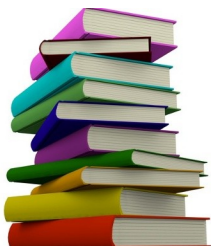
opal

The smarter way for students to travel to and from school.

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.



SCHOLASTIC

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.

There's a Playgroup near you!

Come to playgroup and meet others in a relaxed and friendly environment.

A playgroup is a place for you and your children aged 0-6 to have fun, make new friends and develop skills through play.

Parramatta St Pats Playgroup

St Patricks Hall

1 Marist Place, Parramatta

Wednesdays 10.30 – 12.30

1800 171 882

Have fun and make friends

New Members Welcome

You are welcome to visit 2 sessions before you become a Playgroup NSW member.

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Playgroup NSW



playgroupnsw.com.au

1800 171 882



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.



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

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.



Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to keep lunch foods fresh.

Food packed at home in the lunch box needs to stay fresh and safe to eat at school.

Meat, fish, poultry, eggs, noodles, rice, pasta, custard, yoghurt, cheese and milk need to be kept very cold to prevent food poisoning.

Pack lunches in a cooler bag with a cold brick.

Freeze items such as sandwiches, milk poppers, yoghurt, custard tubs, muffins, or fruit segments to pack on hot days.



For more information visit 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.



OLQP Bulldogs Rugby League

Play Rugby League on Sundays

Boys and girls aged from Under 6's to Under 11's who are interested in playing rugby league in a safe, family friendly environment are encouraged to come down and play for the OLQP Bulldogs. The Bulldogs play in the Parramatta Convents Competition and is your local club.

New Registrations this Sunday 14th February at Roberta Street Park, Greystanes – 10am – 12pm.

Existing Players can register online at www.olqpbulldogs.com

Spots are limited so be sure to register early.

Contact Trevor Bragg (President) on 0407 966 786 for more information.

2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 3

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**
WYD Red and White (Poland) mufti day
Please return your raffle tickets

Week 5

Friday 26th Feb Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Year 2 excursion to Elizabeth Farm
Year 6 excursion to Canberra
Infants Assembly 2.15pm—Year 1

Week 6

Friday 4th March **Primary Assembly 2.15pm—Year 5**



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>



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)