



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

24th March 2016

Term 1 Issue 8

Dear Parents

Today is Holy Thursday. Throughout the week the children have had the opportunity to become immersed in the spirit of the Lenten Journey by visiting special stations all around the school. These prayer focuses have been arranged to highlight the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, the Agony in the Garden and Good Friday and to give the children time to reflect prayerfully on what happened during the days of Holy Week. All these events are commemorated by Christians all around the world in many and varied ways.

Holy Week is the culmination of Lent and is a time when we think of what we have achieved in terms of a change in mind and heart. In his Lenten address for 2016 Pope Francis asks us to think seriously about the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy. Pope Francis says:

God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that "the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy" (ibid., 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ "becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us" (ibid.). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. Ex 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR LENT 2016

May I encourage you to get involved in the Holy Week events in your local parish or at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please find below the times for St Patrick's Cathedral. I wish you and your family all the blessings of this very special Church season.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL 1 Marist Place Parramatta

Holy Week Timetable | 20 - 27 March 2016

Holy Thursday (24th March, 2016)

6:30am – Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
7:00pm – Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, with the 'Mandatum' (Washing of the Feet) Music led by St Patrick's Cathedral Choir.
11:00pm Compline (Night Prayer)
Adoration at the Altar of Repose in the Cathedral cloister until Midnight

Good Friday (25th March, 2016)

9:00am – Office of Readings
9:30am – Solemn Sung Lauds (Morning Prayer) led by Cathedral Cantors
10:00am – Stations of the Cross
10:30am – 12:00pm – 1st Rite of Reconciliation
3:00pm – Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, including the chanting of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Holy Saturday (26th March, 2016)

9:00am – Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer) with the Preparation Rites for the Elect
7:00pm – The Solemn Easter Vigil with music led by St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

Easter Sunday (27th March, 2016)

7:30am – Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
8:00am – Holy Mass – Said Mass
9:30am – Holy Mass – music led by Cathedral Cantor
11:00am – Solemn Holy Mass of the Resurrection with music led by St Patrick's Cathedral Choir
6:00pm – Holy Mass – music led by Cathedral Cantor

Ph: 02 9630 1421

Villiers Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm

stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Children are required by legislation to attend school each day, and we are required by law to keep records of each child's absences from school. For this reason if your child is unable to attend school, a note must be sent the day the child returns to school giving the reason for the absence. This can be done by letter or by using the school's Skoolbag App.

The absence needs to be explained within 7 days of the absence or it will be changed to unexplained and cannot be altered if the note is received after that time. All absences are shown on the child's report.



Information courtesy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day



Ok reasons to stay home from school



sick



natural disaster



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even **1 day** can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight

=

Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten
It's where good habits begin



ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

each
1%
increase
in student
attendance

may relate to
2-3
NAPLAN
scale score
points*

*based on historical data



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Get involved
in your child's
school

Promote the
importance
of school

Get to know
the teacher

Go to
school
events

Read the
school
newsletter

Be organised
at home

Supervise
homework

Ask about
your child's
day

Volunteer
to help
at school

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY -21st March to Friday 1st April

This week and next week a group of 60 randomly selected parents from Kindergarten to Year 6 have been invited to give the school feedback through the **Quality Catholic School's (QCS) Survey**. A package with instructions was sent home on Monday 21st March with the children. The children in Years 5 and 6 will be completing their survey at school online. Staff responses also form part of the data and when compiled gives the school an indication on how various members of our community think about aspects of:

1. cultural behaviour
2. relationships
3. learning community.

The topics within these aspects include;

- Social Justice
- Catholic Parish Involvement Learning Focus,
- Extra-Curricular activities such as Triskills, involvement of the choir in CAPTIVATE, Footsteps dance, Life Education, Moran Photographic Workshop for Primary Students etc
- Homework
- Social Skills
- Connectedness to School
- Opportunity for Parents
- Behaviour of Staff
- The extent to which parents believe their children are developing effective social skills.
- The extent to which parents believe their children have positive relationships with other students.
- School Improvement
- Approachability
- Teacher Morale
- Parent Input
- Stimulating Learning
- Behaviour Management
- Reporting
- Transitions
- Student Safety
- Classroom Behaviour
- Connectedness to Peers
- Student Motivation
- The extent to which parents see their children wanting to be at school. General Satisfaction

As you can imagine obtaining information/feedback on all of these topics is of great interest to the staff at St Patrick's as it can indicate to us what we are doing well and what areas of development need to have greater focus. **It is also important to reinforce that all responses are completely confidential and that individual responses will never be released to the school, CEDP or any other third party.**

I know that completing surveys can be time consuming but I do make a special appeal to any parents who received a package this week to participate in this survey, as your contributions are very important to us and are used to represent the wider parent community. A summary of the results of the survey will be communicated to all parents when they are collated and analyzed. All schools in the Parramatta Diocese are involved in the QCS Survey which will take place from Monday 21st^h March to Friday 1st April

ST PATRICK'S DAY LITURGY

It was so good to see so many parents attend out St Patrick Day liturgy on Friday 18th March. The children were particularly reverent and the story of St Patrick was brought to life in a variety of very creative ways thanks to the efforts of Mrs Kerr, Mrs Rodricks, Mrs Fardell, Mrs Carroll, Ms Takchi and Ms Hagi and their students. Thank you to Father Bob for spending this time with us.



Cross Country Diocesan Team 2016

Biaggio Volante

Michael Ayoub

Benjamin Aguilera

Charlie Romanos

Joseph Sassen

Jake Buxton

Diana Granados-Gavito

Renee Kougelis

Harrison Chidiac

Christian Sarkis

Luke Takchi

Julian Tanner

Jean-Paul Wehbe

Norman Shidiak

Arabella Gittany

Mikaela Saleh

Kyah Rahme

Elna Koikkara

Brooklyn Munro

Savannah Chiha

Prince Gyan

Jesse Sabat

Raymond Wehbe

Christopher Alarcon

Keenen Rosauero

Hamish McGlinn

Joseph Chedid

Angelina Aqabani

Pauline Said

Jessica Wehbe

Jade Takchi

Luke Maroun

Daniel Takchi

Andre Eltakchi

Isabella Loader

Angelique Moujalli

Adrian Stevanja

Thomas Degenhardt

Oscar Gray



CROSS COUNTRY/ST PATRICK'S DAY

I would like to thank all the parents who assisted at the Cross Country and the St Patrick's Day BBQ. So many parents expressed their delight at having had such a wonderful day watching their children race. Blessed with lovely weather, the children really enjoyed the time they spent in the open air with so much space to run around and play with their friends. The cross country run and novelty games were concluded with a delicious BBQ lunch, prepared by some very well organized parents. All this hard work raised the school the grand sum of \$ 1616.90 which will go towards purchasing new classroom equipment such as individual whiteboards. Thanks is also extended to Mr David Younis and Mrs Bernadette Carroll for their efforts in organizing the Cross Country and to Mrs Benkovich for her communication with the Parent Events Committee. A special thank you is extended to this year's PDHPE leaders and committee members (Colour captains semester one). These children were so helpful to Mr Younis all day and, assisted by some other Year 6 students, distributed the equipment, supervised some of the younger students, gave messages and helped clean up and pack away at the end of the day. It is important to acknowledge that events such as these cannot take place without the help and donations of generous volunteers. THANK YOU!



Last Thursday our school went to The Kings Oval in Parramatta Park to participate in cross country and St Patrick's Day fun. We would like to congratulate the people who made it to the next level. We would also like to thank the parent helpers for organising the BBQ and helping Mr Younis with timing and supervision of the children. We could not have had a successful day without all your help!

A big thank you to the Sydney BMX club and Sound Agents who supplied many of the shades and any other parents who helped shade our children. THANK YOU !!

To the children who made it to the Diocesan the carnival will take place on the Tuesday 3rd May at Eastern Creek Raceway.

Written by the Sports Captains



PARENT WORKSHOP

Helping to keep your child safe - Cyber Safety

Dear Parents

Following the Primary Parent Teacher evening, where the topic of unsupervised internet use was discussed, many parents expressed an interest to learn more about Cyber Safety. As a response to this interest I have approached Senior Constable Louise Conroy, Youth Liaison Officer Parramatta Local Area Command, to speak to you regarding what you can do at home about this increasingly important issue. A note will be sent out at a later date so keep this date and time free.

Date: Thursday 7th April

Place: School Library

Time: 2.00pm



PRC 2016 CALENDAR

Please find attached the 2016 PRC Calendar for your reference and addition in the upcoming school newsletters. The [PRC Website](#) is updated with this information, along with other valuable resources available to you and parents/friends in your community.

The next PRC meeting will be:

Date: Term 2 - Monday, 30 May 2016 at 7pm

Located at: Diocesan Assembly Centre (DAC), Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St (Ground Floor), Blacktown NSW 2148 ([View Map](#))

Topic: Special Needs Classes in our schools including ASPECT Western Sydney School Satellite classes

Presented by: ASPECT Western Sydney School

I warmly welcome all PRC Reps, School Leaders, Parents and Friends to attend and I look forward to meeting you there!

CCSP MARCH NEWSLETTER

The link to [CCSP March Newsletter](#) latest edition is available!.

The newsletters includes an introduction to our New Chairperson, Mrs Neisha Licitra, especially since the First Term Meeting is being held in our Diocese and as usual there is always some interesting information that you and your parents find useful.

More valuable information and resources can be found at [CCSP NSW](#).

Thank in advance for your support and have a great day!

Yours faithfully,

*Nicole Day
Parramatta/Holroyd Cluster Leader, PRC
Parramatta Diocese*

Support~Educate~Celebrate

AFTERNOON PICK UP

Dear Parents

I would like to thank you once again for your patience regarding our afternoon pick up procedures. As you may have noticed the promised new signs have not yet been installed. This has been a source of frustration for both the school and parent community however we know that some things take a little time. I have been in constant contact with the council and they have reassured me that the plans to change the signs are still on the agenda however the request is now at the traffic council. In the meantime can I ask you to continue to follow the guidelines below:

- **Please remember that school day concludes at 3.00pm and that the car pick up system runs from 3.00pm to 3.30pm. The teachers' duty concludes at 3.30pm. To assist staff to be able to attend to other commitments after school, if you arrive after 3.30pm, you will need to park and pick up the children from the school office or arrange for after school care.**
- Drive through car pick up is from Ross Street only. Villiers Street parking is for parents who wish to park and come into the school.
- Children will not be able to leave the Villiers Street gate unaccompanied by an adult. If you wish your child to walk home from school and you feel that they will be safe doing so on their own or with siblings only, please send in a letter of permission.
- Please be considerate of our neighbours by not blocking their driveways. Can I ask you to communicate these messages to all other members of the family that may be assisting with afternoon pick up.

With Appreciation
Bernadette Fabri



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

Phillip Boutros, Jeremy Moussa, Phillip Ayoub, Michelle Joseph, Christina Elzahoul,
Serene Mawad, Mikayla Urizar, Luke Maroun, Alanah Issa, Danielle Tannous



1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING PARENT COURSE

*Learn to manage difficult behavior in children
2-12 years old*

A three-session program for parents and carers.

Venue: St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School, Merrylands
7 Chetwynd Rd, Merrylands. Tel: 9637 4600

Learn:

- ✓ How to discipline without arguing, yelling or smacking
- ✓ How to sort behaviour
- ✓ How to handle challenging and testing behaviours
- ✓ Choosing your strategy, the three choices
- ✓ Using emotion coaching to encourage good behaviour
- ✓ 7 tactics for encouraging good behaviour

Parents will receive:

- A 1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Workbook

Registration Fee?

The course costs \$10 (per parent or per couple) which covers the cost of the Parent workbook
Register for this course contacting St Margaret Mary's School Office on 9637 4600

What people are saying...

What a relief to come across a program that preserves the dignity of the child, maintains the self control of both the parent and the child and is actually easy to remember when memory is the first thing to go!

I realized quickly that the 1-2-3 Magic can be a magnificent preventative measure that any parent can use to avoid raising a child, who later down the line, needs excessive discipline or grows out of control

Who is running it?

The presenter for this course is [presenters name] who completed Parentshop's 1-2-3 Magic® & Emotion Coaching practitioner training on [date trained].
[Describe your relevant experience]

• An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

This course is being run by a Parentshop® licensed practitioner. www.parentshop.com.au



1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING PARENT COURSE

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The Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta together with St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary at Merrylands, are pleased to offer parents and carers in our Diocese, the 1 2 3 Magic and Emotion Coaching course.

The course is 3 sessions and will be run on the following dates:

Session 1	6pm – 8pm	Tuesday 10 th May 2016
Session 2	6pm – 8pm	Tuesday 17 th May 2016
Session 3	6pm – 8pm	Tuesday 24 th May 2016

Course Facilitators: Tanya Cosgrave and Veronica Jarrett

Cost is \$10 per parent/couple/carer(s) to cover the cost of the parent workbook (only one required per family). This can be brought on the night

Register by calling St Margaret Mary's school office on 9637 4600

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2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 9

Friday 25th March **Good Friday—NO SCHOOL**

Week 10

Monday 28th March **Easter Monday—NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday 29th March Life Education Van commences

Wednesday 30th March Life Education Van continues

Thursday 31st March Life Education Van continues

Friday 1st April Life Education Van continues

Primary Assembly 2.15-Year 3

Week 11

Monday 4th April Life Education Van continues

Tuesday 5th April Life Education Van continues

Thursday 7th April Parent Workshop— Cyber Safety—2pm Library

Friday 8th April **Infants Assembly 2.15-Choir**

LAST DAY OF TERM

Term 2

Week 1

Monday 25th April **Anzac Day —NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday 26th April Return to school—1st day of Term 2

Friday 29th April ANZAC Day Assembly—Year 4

2016 School Fees

Thank you to the families who have begun to pay the 2016 school fees. Term 1 school fees are now overdue (7th March, 2016). Please contact Mrs Sharon Nutter if you have any queries or wish to discuss payment arrangements on 9630 1421.



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)