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Dear Parents

Last week Mrs O'Dwyer and I had the pleasure of judging the school final of the Year 6 Voice of Youth competition. I say pleasure, with some reservation, as the quality of the 10 speeches was so high that this was not an easy task. In saying this, however, we loved listening to our seniors express their ideas on a range of interesting topics of importance to them.

To judge public speaking 3 main areas are considered; matter, method and manner. Matter involves the speech content; What is said. Method is the speech structure; How it is organized and Manner is speech presentation; How it is said. All these factors combine to assist the speaker to engage, entertain or inform the audience or persuade them to think about issues in a particular way. This year the three school finalists chosen certainly challenged our thinking in very positive ways. Antonia Behan spoke about the importance of choices with her speech about a road less travelled. Claudia Yaghi encouraged us to think positively about life, especially how we view ourselves and Kayleigh Figueredo challenged us to work together to fight against the scourge of racism.

The Voice of Youth is an annual competition which has been held in the Parramatta Diocese for the past 30 years. It involves all Year 6 students across the 54 western Sydney Catholic schools. Our three school finalists will now compete on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at our cluster final involving St Oliver's Harris Park, Mother Theresa Westmead and Sacred Heart Westmead. The winner of this round will then move on to the semi final for the eastern division and the winners of the semi final will compete at final level.

We would like to congratulate all Year 6 students on the achievement of presenting speeches, especially the 10 students who got to the grade final level. Congratulations and in no particular order: Jake El-Sabbagh – The best things in life are free, Sophie Morgan – Society is socially challenged, An Le – The essence of time, Isabella Loader – A home for the homeless in your heart, Emmaline Didic – Deception, Alana Michael – What's the difference and Caitlin Polintan – Homeless. A very special thank you is extended to Ms Kelly and Mrs Pope for their efforts in preparing the students so very well.

We would like to wish Antonia, Claudia and Kayleigh all the very best on Monday.

If you are interested in assisting your child with the very important skill of Public Speaking please find more information at the following link: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/public-speaking-in-primary-school>

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

## Staff Development Day—19th August 2016—TOMORROW

Friday 19th August has been set as our Term Three Staff Development Day. There will be no school for children on this day. Please arrange for alternative care for your child.



## Father's Day Celebrations

This year, St Patrick's will be celebrating **Father's Day** on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**. As in previous years, we will be celebrating our wonderful fathers and grandfathers at **Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral at 9:15am**. Prior to the Mass the Year 4 parent members from the St Patrick's Parent Events Committee will be organising and preparing a **delicious breakfast** and **fun activities** to commence at **7:30am** for our dads and grandads to enjoy. We believe it will be a great way to allow our fathers and grandfathers to catch up, bond and feel loved and appreciated by our school community.

In order to assist the Committee with preparing the Father's Day Breakfast and ensuring that we have an adequate amount of food and minimal wastage, could you **please fill in the RSVP** slip sent home earlier this week and return to your child's teacher **by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016** if you are intending on attending the breakfast. Please indicate the amount of **family members (parents and children)** that will be attending.

We look forward to seeing as many of our fantastic dads and grandfathers attending the breakfast as possible.

### Father's Day Stall

The Father's Day stall will take place on **Tuesday 30th August**. The gifts have been chosen and organised by some of our Parent Event Committee members. The gifts will range from \$1.00 up to \$10.00. There is a lot of variety this year and I am sure there will be a gift especially for your Dad, Grandpa or the other special men in your life. Don't forget to bring your money on the day.



### Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday 9th August, some students from Primary and Year 2 represented St Patrick's at the Cumberland Zone Athletics carnival. We all tried our hardest to run as fast as we could and did an amazing job. Thank you to Mr Younis for organising and arranging this special event. Thank you to Mrs Attard and the parent helpers who supported us as we ran our races. Congratulations to all the students who have made it to the next level, Diocesan Zone carnival. We hope you can run as fast as you did for zone. Congratulations everyone!!

Kristiana Stevanja 6P



# Pyjama Day—25th August

On Thursday 25 August we are having a Gold Coin Pyjama Day to raise money for an Aboriginal group in Mt Druitt. The money we raise will help this group continue their day to day work.



Judith Kerr

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## Feast of the Assumption

On the Feast of the Assumption Father Bob invited students to share their reflections on our Blessed Mother, Mary. These are the thoughts of Chloe, John and Michaela.

### Mother Mary by Chloe Abou-Hamad 6P

Jesus asked Mary to become the Mother of all the disciples, including us, when he was dying on the cross.

Mary took on the responsibility because whenever Jesus spoke it was the truth and she always did what God asked her to do.

Our mothers do so much for us but think about what Mary does. Mary answers our prayers by sending them to God. We know she loves us which is why people pray to Mother Mary.

### Mary by John Azizi 6P

Mary is an essential part of my life because I look up to her and trust her. When I am in doubt I talk to Mary and I see that my struggles are nowhere near what she went through.

One of her struggles was when she became pregnant with baby Jesus and had to have him in a stable in Bethlehem. Another struggle was when the Holy Family went to Jerusalem for a festival and on their way home, after two days of travelling, she and Joseph realised that Jesus was not with them. Mary and Joseph were very worried. They looked everywhere until they found him in the Temple in Jerusalem.

I can relate this incident to many things in my life. I often lose things and when I lose something that is valuable to me, I pray to Mary to help me find it. Every morning when I wake up and every night before I go to sleep I say the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*. I dedicate these prayers to Mother Mary, Jesus Christ and all the saints.

### Mary by Alana Michael 6W

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.*

Mary, Mother of God, shows mercy, compassion and faith in everything she says and does. She watched her son die on the cross for all our sins and she had the courage to forgive what these people did to her son. By Mary showing this mercy, she has become a role model to me. Mary is truly a woman of faith.

As Pope Francis once said, *hope is what Mary, Mother of God, sheltered in her heart during the darkest time in her life: Friday until Sunday morning!*

That is hope . Mary had it. And that hope has renewed everything.

May God grant us that grace.

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

Andre Elzahoul, Christian Moujalli, James Morson, Sophie Salloum, Jazmyne Grech, Lorenzo De Guzman, Stephanie Saab, Amariah Tamaro, Amyllia Maneze

## Condolences

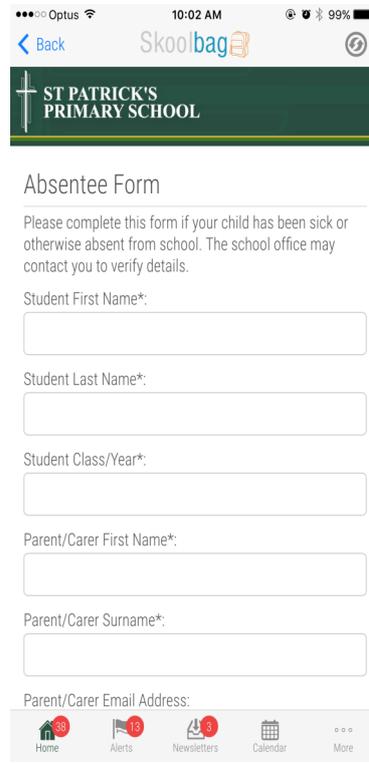
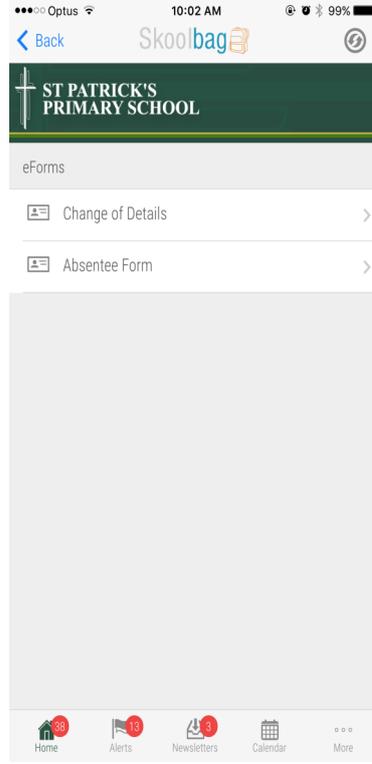
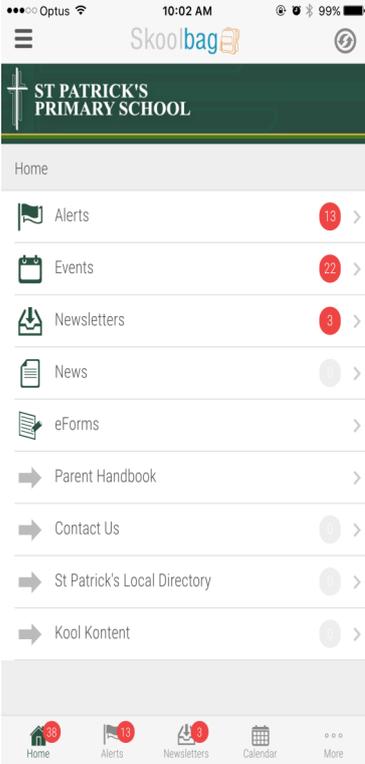


We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the **Remaili Family** (Alicia KM) on the passing of her grandmother. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## 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 (please see instructions below).

**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.**



**Step 1**—Open your skoolbag app

**Step 2**—From home page (picture 1) select eforms

**Step 3**—Select Absentee form (picture 2)

**Step 4**—Complete the absentee form with your child's details. (picture 3)

**Step 5**—Submit the form which will then be emailed to St Patricks to enable the office to mark the absent as explained.

**NB:** The dates should show the first day of absent and the last day the child is absent.

**During the past 2 weeks we have had many children absent with sickness. We would very much appreciate if your child is still unwell they do not return to school until they are feeling much better. This will alleviate the passing on of illnesses to the other students.**

During the last few week the STEM Team have held a paper plane making competition. Thank you to everyone who made this possible and took part. Everyone did very well. Our 3 finalists from Infants were Jake Buxton, Tyler Morson and Carl Cauan. Our Primary finalists were Jethro Cauan, Keenen Rosauro and Siwoo Kim. Our overall winners were 1st = Keenen 2nd = Siwoo 3rd = Jake. Over 70 people took part!! All funds raised will go towards school resources.

Emmaline Didic 6P



## Australian Bush Day – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

You are invited to join us on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September for the following celebrations:

12.40pm – 1.10pm – Open classrooms

1.15pm – 2.45pm – Australian Bush Dances

- ◆ We ask that the students come dressed as a pioneering Australian.
- ◆ This could be a convict, explorer, drover, gold miner, stockman, bushranger, farmer, pioneering women, outback settlers or soldiers.
- ◆ These people within our Australian history are directly linked to student learning in the classrooms about Australia's past.
- ◆ Costumes could be made with your child from items around the home.



### Book Donations for purchase for the Library

The children and I have selected some books that we would like in our library collection. If you would like to purchase a book for our library, it would be greatly appreciated. From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September the library will be open before and after school for you to visit and select a book with your child. They will be the first to borrow this book. Many thanks for your generosity.

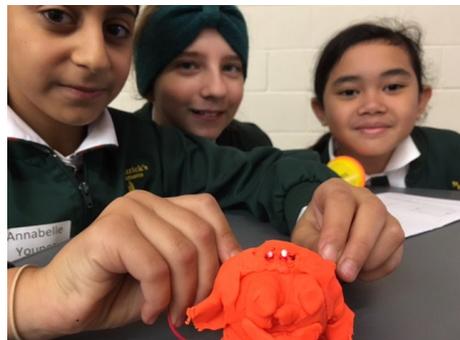
Mrs O'Dwyer

Teacher / Librarian



### Kids Hack Day

On Tuesday 16th August the STEM Team and students from Year 5 were invited to Marist High School to participate in Kids Hack Day. We experimented with activities such as programming, LED lights with circuits, building F1 cars, making bridges, Makey Mackey and Quirkbots. We had great fun and are appreciative that we were invited to go to Kids Hack Day. We would also like to thank Ms Fabri and Mrs Barclay for taking time out of school and experiencing the day with us.



## St Patrick's Advertising—Local Directory

Dear Parents,

Please find uploaded with this newsletter the St Patrick's local directory. You will find the names & contact details of some companies associated with our community or local area that maybe of some service to you. May I take this opportunity to **sincerely thank these families for their support of the school** through their involvement in our advertising program. Monies from the advertising will go towards continuing to increase our bank of devices for learning, in particular K—4. If any family or friend is still interested in putting in an Expression of Interest please contact the office on 96301421.

Kindest Regards

Bernadette Fabri

### **AFTERNOON PICK UP**

I would like to thank you once again for your patience regarding our afternoon pick up procedures.

- **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.**
- **Please remember there is no lining up in Trott Street prior to 3pm. This may incur a fine.**
- 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.

## Fed Up with Children's Behaviour

🕒 Wednesday, 24 August 2016 | 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

Bestselling author Sue Dengate is coming to the Hills for one of her only NSW talks this year. Focusing on the effects of food chemicals on children's behaviour, health and learning ability including:

- Tantrums, arguments, oppositional defiant behaviour
- Asthma, itchy skin, rashes, migraines
- Difficulty falling asleep, frequent night waking
- Depression, unexplained tiredness, difficulty concentrating
- Hidden and new food additives

Suitable for adults

Cost: \$15PP | [Bookings essential online](#)

### When

24 August 2016 | 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

### Location

Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, 29 Main Street, Rouse Hill 2155 [View Map](#)

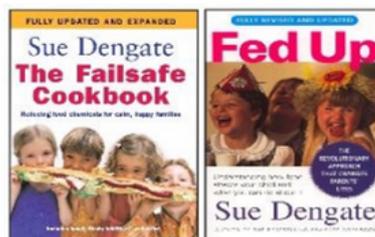
Add to calendar

### Event Snapshot

Cost  
\$15 per person

Contact  
Vinegar Hill Memorial Library  
8889 5200

[Bookings essential online](#)



## Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2018

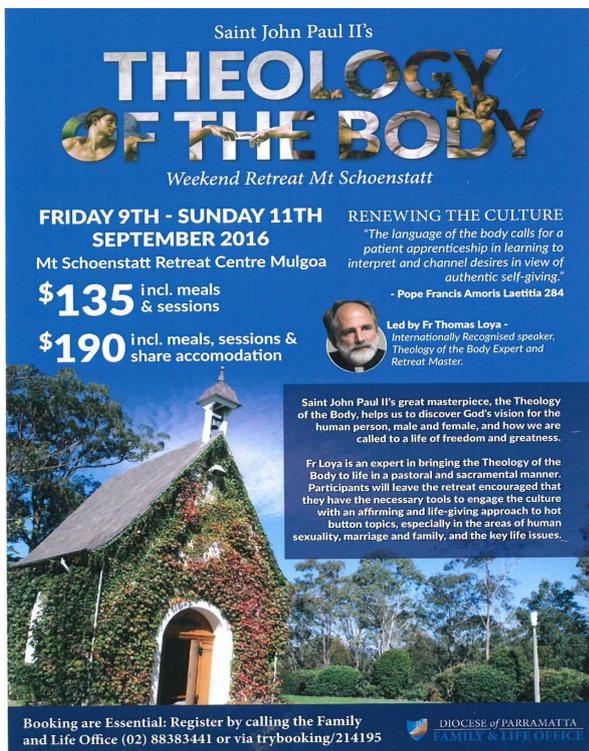
There will be three Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2018 enrolments on:

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October and  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
9.15 – 11am**

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2018. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on one of our three upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2018 applicants but open to any year group.

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.



Saint John Paul II's  
**THEOLOGY OF THE BODY**  
Weekend Retreat Mt Schoenstatt

**FRIDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 11TH  
SEPTEMBER 2016**  
Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre Mulgoa

**\$135** incl. meals & sessions  
**\$190** incl. meals, sessions & share accommodation

RENEWING THE CULTURE  
*"The language of the body calls for a patient apprenticeship in learning to interpret and channel desires in view of authentic self-giving."*  
- Pope Francis Amoris Laetitia 284

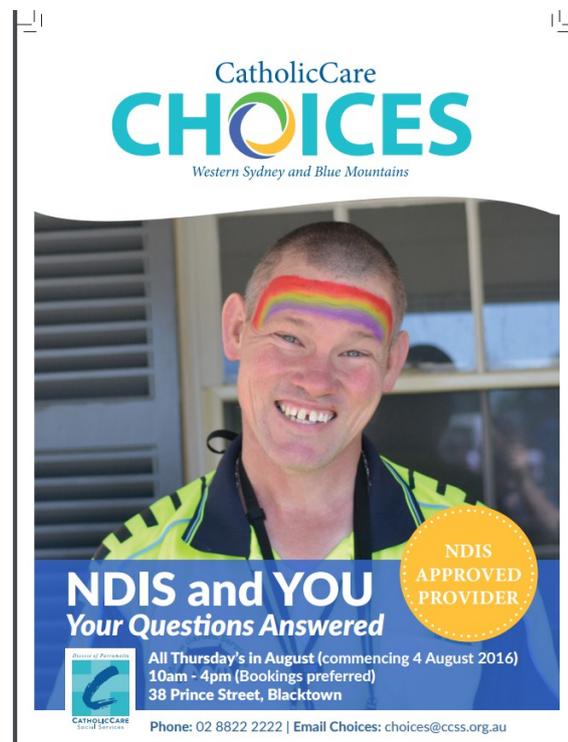
Led by Fr Thomas Loya -  
Internationally Recognised speaker,  
Theology of the Body Expert and  
Retreat Master.

Saint John Paul II's great masterpiece, the Theology of the Body, helps us to discover God's vision for the human person, male and female, and how we are called to a life of freedom and greatness.

Fr Loya is an expert in bringing the Theology of the Body to life in a pastoral and sacramental manner. Participants will leave the retreat encouraged that they have the necessary tools to engage the culture with an affirming and life-giving approach to hot button topics, especially in the areas of human sexuality, marriage and family, and the key life issues.

Booking are Essential: Register by calling the Family and Life Office (02) 88383441 or via trybooking/214195

DIocese of Parramatta  
FAMILY & LIFE OFFICE



CatholicCare  
**CHOICES**  
Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

NDIS APPROVED PROVIDER

**NDIS and YOU**  
Your Questions Answered

All Thursday's in August (commencing 4 August 2016)  
10am - 4pm (Bookings preferred)  
38 Prince Street, Blacktown

Phone: 02 8822 2222 | Email Choices: choices@ccss.org.au

# 2016 Important Dates

## Term 3

### Week 5

**Friday 19th August**      **Staff Development Day— No school for students**

### Week 6

Monday 22nd August      Voice of Youth Cluster Final—Year 6 Marist

Author visit for K—Yr 2

Thursday 25th August      Pyjama Day— Gold coin donation

Friday 26th August      Author visit for Yr 3—Yr 6

NO ASSEMBLY

### Week 7

Tuesday 30th August      Father's Day stall

Friday 2nd September      Father's Day Breakfast—School Hall 7.30am

Father's Day Mass—St Patrick's Cathedral—9.15am

Infants Assembly—Year 2—2.15pm

### Week 8

Wednesday 7th Sept      Australia Story: Country Day—More details to come

Friday 9th September      Primary Assembly—Year 6—2.15pm

### Week 9

Friday 16th September      Stage 2 Boys & Girls Touch Gala Day

Infants Assembly—Year 1—2.15pm

Movie Night—More details to come

### Week 10

Friday 23rd September      Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch Gala Day

Primary Assembly—Year 4—2.15pm

Last day of Term 3



Parents Representative Council  
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



### **Term 3, 2016 General Meeting - Mon 22 Aug 2016: Topic Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety**

College Library, Nagle Girls' Catholic College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Sth

### **Term 4, 2016 General Meeting - Mon 14 Nov 2016: Topic Future Directions/Where we're heading in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta**

Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St, Blacktown



*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**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.  
Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini

Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)