



# Newsletter

12th December, 2019 Term 4 Week 9

## 2019 Dates to Remember

### Term 4

#### Week 9

**Friday 13th December**

Whole School Assembly—  
2pm

#### Week 10

**Monday 16th December**

9.15am Year 6 Graduation &  
Thanksgiving Mass—  
St Patricks Cathedral

**Tuesday 17th December**

Meet the Teacher Afternoon

**Wednesday 18th Dec**

**LAST DAY FOR 2019**

The last day to make payments EFT & Cash at the school office will be Monday 16th December 2019.

School banking has ceased for 2019. It will return in Week 2 of 2020.

**Ice blocks will not be sold tomorrow. We thank you for your generosity over the past few weeks. All monies have been donated to St Vincent De Paul.**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Friday night the children in Year 6 and their parents and siblings gathered in the hall at St Monica's Parramatta for their Year 6 Farewell Party. The children had such fun, dressing up, eating, laughing, dancing, signing autographs, taking photos in the photo booth, chatting with each other and cutting their cake. This very well organised event - thank you so much organising committee! - was designed to make the children the focus of the evening and they definitely succeeded.

During the course of the night I had the opportunity to say hello to most of the parents and the common theme of these conversations echoed the question; Where did the time go? I could not help but wonder at how hard it must be for parents to watch their little ones travel along the journey of growing up, knowing that if they have done their job at parenting well, there will come a time when their children will not need them as much.

Coincidentally the other day I heard a very moving reflection from radio commentator Amanda Keller about her role as a mother of a son, and one which left me very touched. She described the very difficult journey for parents as they slowly watch their children becoming independent adults, referring to the description of slowly 'breaking up' with them.

In my time in education I often see signs of this strain as parents experience significant moments in the lives of their children. These include; their first day at school, their first excursion by themselves, watching and listening to their original thoughts, all the way to the day they go to high school. Of course the path of growing up continues way past primary school and before you know it these children are enrolling their children back into the school they went to.

The life of a parent is certainly a life of sacrifice; you do what is best for your children even though at times it must break your heart. My respect and honour goes to each and every one of you and I pray that your good example, will be returned to you a hundred fold, through your children's respect and love for you always, especially in your elderly years - God willing!

This season of Advent, may I ask you to please keep in your prayers the families of children about to leave St Patrick's to journey on to high school and those that are preparing for their children to start school in 2020.

For those who wish to hear the commentary follow this link

<https://www.wsfm.com.au/lifestyle/its-like-a-break-up-amanda-kellers-heartbreaking-reflection-on-motherhood/>

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri  
Principal

# St Patrick's Parramatta

## STAFF 2020



### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal	Ms Bernadette Fabri
Assistant Principal	Mrs Leanda Standing
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Chantal Tuetue
Coordinator 2 (Mathematics/Science)	Mrs Jenny Barclay
Coordinator 2	TBC
Acting Coordinator 1	TBC
Sports Coordinator	Mrs Bernadette Carroll

### CLASS TEACHERS

K Matilda	Ms Desiree Macaraeg
K Alexander	Ms Claire Stephenson
1 Clancy	Mrs Jennifer Warn
1 Sebastian	Mrs Eva Youssef
2 Young	Ms Cara-Lyn Kelly
2 Mackellar	Ms Julia Hagi/Mrs Bernadette Stojanovski (Friday)
3 Lindsay	Mrs Chantal Tuetue/Sam Pope (Fri weekly, Tues/ft)
3 Thiele	Ms Ivy Chan
4 Brinsmead	Ms Stephanie Barton
4 Greenwood	Ms Alyssa Onorato
5 Coorong	Ms Yasmin Tabone
5 Timara	Mrs Viviana Williams
6 Park	Mrs Anne Fardell
6 Wrightson	Mrs Bernadette Carroll (Sport Coordinator)

### SPECIALIST AND SUPPORT STAFF

Teacher Librarian	Mrs Debra O'Dwyer
Music Specialist	Mrs Venitia Rodricks
Physical Education Specialist	Mr David Younis
Reading Recovery	Mrs Lorraine Veljkovic
Numeracy Specialist and Lead Teacher	Mrs Jenny Barclay
Literacy/Learning support	Mrs Michelle Mannino
Literacy/Numeracy and Inquiry supp	Mrs Angela Allison
Leadership Team Release	Mrs Samantha Pope
Leadership Team Release.	Mrs Bernadette Stojanovski
School Counsellor	Mrs Trudy Ricketts
Teacher Assistant/Admin	Mrs Elaine Yuen
	Mrs Dianne Attard
	Mrs Chris Cadman
	Mrs Rachel Scuderi
	Mrs Genevieve Smith
	Mrs Samantha Baaini

### ADMINISTRATION

Senior Finance Secretary	Mrs Fiona Mitterer
Administration Officer (Front Office)	Mrs Jenny Jones
Site Manager and Maintenance	Mr Sean McIntosh

## FAREWELLS AND WELCOME

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

### FAREWELL

#### **Mrs Elly Benkovich**

Good bye and Good Luck is extended to Mrs Elly Benkovich. It is very hard to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs Benkovich for all that she has contributed to St Patrick's Parramatta. Mrs Benkovich commenced her position as Assistant Principal in April 2012. She has undertaken her role with much generosity and in her usual thorough manner. During this time she has undertaken many roles including: student management - a real passion for Mrs Benkovich, has been well known for her support of all parent organised functions, a leader in catering for children with additional needs and in recent years has implemented a special reading program for senior students. She has shared her significant teaching experience with many an early career teacher and her extraordinary ability to create and manage rosters and schedules will be hard to replicate. Mrs Benkovich attended all evening school and parish functions and over her many years in education has touched the hearts of children and families across many schools. The staff will dearly miss Mrs Benkovich and I know you join me in wishing her all the very best as she journeys towards retirement from full time work. Let's hope our paths will cross again soon Mrs Benkovich!

#### **Mr Mark Baird**

Good bye and Good Luck to Mr Mark Baird who has decided to accept a permanent position at St Michael's Blacktown from 2020. Mr Baird has been at St Patrick's since 2013 and has had a number of secondments during that time. Over his time at St Patrick's Parramatta Mr Baird has undertaken a number of roles including that of class teacher of Years 6, 4 and 3. He has also had a number of leadership positions. I would like to thank Mr Baird for his many years of service to the students and families at the school and wish him all the very best for the future.

#### **Mr Mitchell Gale**

This year we say goodbye to the IT trainee Mr Mitchell Gale. Mitchell is employed as part of the CEDP support for schools program and has assisted the staff and students in ensuring that all devices are secure and in optimum working condition for learning. Mitchell has come to the end of his tenure and will pursue his career in the corporate world. Best Wishes Mitchell with thanks for all you have contributed to our students and staff.

#### **Mrs Tanya Masefield**

Farewell is extended to Mrs Masefield as she leaves on parental leave at the end of this year. Mrs Masefield and her husband Shane and little boy Curtis are expecting their second baby in January and we look forward to announcing and welcoming the new Masefield bubba when the time comes. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Masefield for all she has done for her Year 4 students in 2019 and for all you have contributed to the St Patrick's community over many years. God Bless you!

#### **Mrs Louisa Daou**

Farewell and best wishes to Mrs Louisa Daou and her husband Elias who are expecting their first baby in February. We thank Mrs Daou for all she has contributed to the education of many children at St Patrick's Parramatta. She is an exceptional teacher who is known for her application of a high standard within her classrooms. We look forward to announcing her 'soon to arrive, little one' when the time comes. God Bless You!

#### **Mrs Elizabeth Higgins (nee Brown)**

Farewell and best wishes is extended to Mrs Higgins who leaves us this year to return to her home state of Queensland with her husband Ed. Mrs Higgins has been instrumental in transitioning many young children to 'big school' in her capacity as a Kindergarten teacher at St Patrick's Parramatta since 2017. All the best Mrs Higgins!

#### **Mrs Jude Kerr**

Farewell to Mrs Kerr! Mrs Kerr has been working in a Literacy Support capacity for 2019. She has really enjoyed working with the little ones, as reading is one of her passions. In 2020, she has decided to spend more time with her family, especially her beautiful little grand daughter Stella. I wish to thank Mrs Kerr for her dedication to the children in her care and for her continuing association with the school. Best Wishes Mrs Kerr!

### THANK YOU

#### **Ms Nicole Alphonse**

I would like to sincerely thank Ms Nicole Alphonse for the great work she has accomplished with 3T this year. Ms Alphonse stepped in for Ms Kelly after she was injured in March. Nicole has been committed to ensuring that the children had a happy and successful year and will be returning to St Patrick's as a casual teacher in 2020. She is looking forward to the variety of teaching Kindy to Year 6. Thank you Nicole!

## WELCOME

### **Ms Claire Stephenson**

Congratulations to Ms Claire Stephenson who has been appointed to a permanent position at St Patrick's Parramatta. Ms Stephenson has worked with the school for 2 years - year 1 in a casual capacity with her main role as a classroom teacher for Kindergarten. We look forward to a long and fruitful association with Ms Stephenson over the years ahead.

### **Mrs Eva Youssef**

We welcome Mrs Eva Youssef to the permanent staff of St Patrick's commencing in 2020. Mrs Youssef has returned to the school after a number of years overseas. She is a very experienced and talented teacher and we look forward to reconnecting with her on a permanent basis next year.

### **Ms Cara-Lyn Kelly**

We welcome the return of Ms Kelly after some time recuperating from an injury which has prevented her from fulfilling her full time role. Ms Kelly has been working with small groups of children this term and I know really looks forward to returning to her substantial position of full time class teacher. Welcome Back Ms Kelly! We missed you!

### **Mrs Bernadette Stojanovski**

We welcome back to St Patrick's Parramatta Mrs Stojanovski after her time away having a baby. During that time Mrs Stojanovski and her husband Chris had a little boy Eli and we look forward to her return in a part-time capacity of 2 days a week. It is wonderful that she will be able to continue to share her expertise with us.

### **Mrs Angela Allison**

In 2020 we welcome teacher Mrs Allison who will be supporting the learning in Kindergarten and Year 1 in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Mrs Allison is a very experienced teacher and will be an asset to the St Patrick's Community. This is a temporary appointment.

## **New Teachers starting in 2020**

We welcome to the teaching staff for 2020, new teachers to our school: Ms Desiree Macaraeg, Ms Yasmine Tabone, Ms Stephanie Barton and Ms Ivy Chan. Ms Tabone and Ms Chan are familiar to the children through their capacity as relief teachers this year. We welcome all these teachers and send them best wishes for an enjoyable and fulfilling experience at our school.

### **Mr Jack Dawson**

We welcome to the school the CEDP appointed IT trainee, Mr Jack Dawson. We look forward to working with Jack in his role to enable all devices in the school to be operational and functional and in assisting all things IT.

***In order to assist with the transition of all children for 2019 we will be having a "MEET OUR NEW TEACHER" afternoon on **Tuesday 17th December at 2.15pm**. Children will spend some time getting to know their new teacher(s) and the children in their class.***

***Just a reminder that a special assembly has been organised to farewell Mrs Benkovich on **Wednesday 18th December at 9.15am**. Looking forward to seeing you there.***

## **Meet the Teacher Afternoon**

Children will have the opportunity to meet their 2020  
Class Teacher on

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

From

**2.15 pm – 2.45pm**

### ASSEMBLY TOMORROW - 13TH DECEMBER

Tomorrows assembly will be dedicated to the presentation of thank you certificates for the students who have undertaken leadership roles this year including the Student Representative Council members for Semester 2, Colour captains, School Leaders and Altar Servers . The assembly will have an early start of 2.00 pm All welcome!

### **GRADUATION AND THANKSGIVING MASS - MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 2019**

The school community is invited to attend the Graduation and Thanksgiving Mass for 2019 . After mass the children in Year 6 will receive their graduation certificates and we will be farewelling families who are leaving St Patrick's Parramatta. At the conclusion of these presentations the children in Year 6 and their guests will be invited to gather in the parish hall for a morning tea organised by Year 5 parents.

### **YEAR 6 END OF YEAR GOODBYE**

The Year 6 end of year goodbye will be taking place in the playground - weather permitting - on Wednesday 18th December at 2.15 pm. This will involve the traditional guard of honour from their Kindergarten Buddies and a few special surprises including a mystery presentation. All welcome!!!

### 100% Yearly Attendance

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who are on track for 100% attendance for the year. This is an enormous feat as it requires the student to have no absences or partial absences. Looking forward to presenting these students with a special medallion at the first assembly next year. Keep it up!

## Art Showcase

The SRC invited all students to participate in the St Patrick's Art Showcase on Wednesday the 11th of December. Students created an artistic piece around the theme - '*The Hope of Christmas*'. *There were over 60 entries from K to Year 6 and all the artwork was displayed along the staircase from the Library through to the Villiers Street foyer.*

All students had the opportunity to vote for the 'People's Choice Award' .  
Winners will be announced next week.  
From the Year 5 SRC members



### PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this years Premiers Reading Challenge. All children were presented with their certificates this week.



## Christmas Hampers

Thank you so much for your generous spirit. The response to this year's appeal has been overwhelming. You have truly modelled to your children the meaning of being 'the body of Christ on earth'. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus and living the mission of being the hands of Jesus on earth.

The Stage 3 students will be moving the items to the parish hall tomorrow morning so the St Vincent de Paul volunteers can organise them for a Christmas delivery to members of our community in need.



Here is a sample of the items donated

*OZ Fashions your uniform supplier is now selling all uniforms required for 2020. OZ Fashions are open 6 days a week Monday-Friday 9.00-5.30pm and Saturday 9.00-4.00pm. We are closed from the 25<sup>th</sup> December till the 5<sup>th</sup> January. We do not trade on Public holidays nor Sundays. Please purchase your uniforms before the New Year to avoid long queues and to guarantee we have all the sizes you require. We also sell CLARKS black leather school shoes and CLARKS white leather sports shoes at very competitive prices.*

## *Advent Lessons & Carols*

*Led by:*

- St Patrick's Cathedral Choir
- St Patrick's Primary School Choir,
- Credo Youth

**Saturday December 14, 2019**

**7.30pm**

Followed by Hospitality in the Cloister  
(BBQ, Jumping Castle & visit from Santa )

*Everyone is Welcome*

www.stpatrickscathedral.com.au | 02 8833 6411



**Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week:**

John Paul Wehbe, Ava Boutros  
Noah Romanos, Elie Wehbe,  
Nathan Romanos, Annabella Remaili,  
Kalim Azar, Ian Mason, Donnacha Ryan,  
Steven Abraham, Christian Sarkis



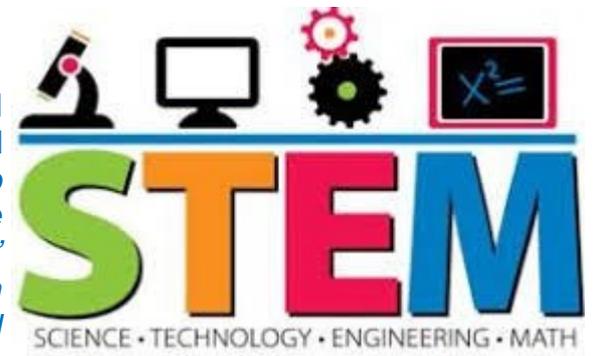
**Children's Mass  
on Christmas  
Eve, 6.00pm**

Each year we invite the children to take part in this Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to experience this special time of the year by being involved in the 'Christmas Story'.

A practice session has been scheduled for **Friday 20th December at 4pm**. We will meet in the cloister at St Patrick's Cathedral church. No need to book, just turn up.

## STEAM WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday the 11th of December the STEM leaders and committee hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths **Marketplace** in the Library. Each class was given time to come to the library and explore our student's Makerspace constructions, build with Lego and use robots in the 'Battlebot' challenge. The result was a day filled with fun combined with learning. Everyone participated in all the activities and contributed to the St Patrick's Lego creation.



We thank our STEM committee for their hard work yesterday in hosting each group of students at the different activities. We are grateful for \$5000 grant from the Federal Government that enabled us to provide exciting days like this for all St Patrick's students.

The STEM Leaders  
Scarlett Khoury and Jacob Tamaro



## SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

The wellbeing of children and young people in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools is of paramount importance. A sense of well-being and connectedness in schools promotes optimal development of the person and contributes to academic success.

Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

### NEXT LEVEL SPORTS SUMMER CLINIC DATES CONFIRMED:



Christmas Clinic  
- 2019: Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of December  
(Christmas Eve pending numbers)

### January Clinic

- 2020: Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th of January.

Location: St Patrick's PS, Parramatta.

To book or for further enquiries: [nextlevelsports@live.com.au](mailto:nextlevelsports@live.com.au)

### St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2020 DATES

Week One 2020	Monday 27th January 2020	Tuesday 28th January 2020	Wednesday 29th January 2020	Thursday 30th January 2020	Friday 31st January 2020	Week 2 Monday 3rd February 2020
	Public Holiday	Staff Development Day –  Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Staff Development Day –  Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Years 1 to Year 6 Commence school		Kindergarten commence school (full day)
		Year 1 to 6—Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher on any of these 2 days.				
		Kindergarten Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher on any of these 4 days.				

# EXPLORING NUMERACY WITH YOUR CHILD

## YEAR 3 TO YEAR 6 – Understanding Fractions, Decimals, Ratios and Percentages

Your child also begins to develop an understanding of the relationship between fractions, decimals, ratios and percentages.

Decimals – a fraction that is made by dividing a whole into ten equal parts (tenths) or one hundred equal parts (hundredths). For example, 75 red pens of 100 total pens can be rewritten as 0.75 or .75

Ratio – a comparison of two or more amounts. For example, in a fruit bowl there are 3 apples and 4 pears. This ratio of apples to pears is represented as 3:4.

Percentage – is the number of parts out of 100. For example, in a collection of 100 buttons, 75 are red. This can be represented as 75 per cent or 75%.

Talk positively about how you use fractions in everyday life. Making models of fractions for your child will support their understanding of fractions. Try some of these ideas by making use of everyday objects:

- Can you show me halves and quarters as you cut the orange?
- Can you cut up the apple to make six equal pieces? What fraction of the whole apple is one piece? Four pieces? How else could you say that?
- What percentage of the glass is filled with water? What is the ratio of water to air in the glass?
- How do the hands on the clock face show the time quarter past? Why do we use the word 'quarter' when telling the time?
- If you fold a towel three times equally, what fraction does it show?

### Connecting online

Here are some other useful websites you can access from home or the local library. Some are also available to download as apps on various devices:

- » <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au> (select Primary Students tab)
- » <https://education.abc.net.au>
- » <https://www.wolframalpha.com/> (start with the Elementary Maths link)
- » <http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>
- » <https://www.scratchjr.org/>
- » <https://www.kodable.com/parents>



Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.



*sub tuum  
praesidium*

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 6.30am, 12.30pm  
Public Hol 8.00am

#### **Pastoral Team**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.**

**Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini

Fr Christopher Del Rosario Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Meg Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst) Mindy Mercado (Youth Co-ord)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary) Donna Missio (Receptionist)

# Read & win

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a  
**GOOGLE  
CHROMEBOOK**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **two Google Chromebooks** or one of **thirty gift vouchers** valued at **\$30**.

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

Enter online  
[www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Competition opens  
on 2 December 2019 and  
closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020**

Terms and conditions apply.

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