

Dear Parents,

Over the last few weeks I have had the pleasure of undertaking phone interviews for Kindergarten for 2020. It has been wonderful speaking to so many new families who are very excited about becoming members of our community here at St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta.

When I asked them why they had chosen St Pat's for their children the overwhelming response I received was the importance placed on finding a school that can support and enrich the Catholic values that are important to the family. It was critical that the school taught about the Catholic faith and prayer, that the children had the opportunity to attend mass and receive the sacraments and that the school had a robust Religious Education Program. This year it was also a good opportunity to discuss with them the new Draft RE Curriculum and to answer any questions that they had about this new document.

Other commonly articulated reasons included; the outstanding reputation the school holds amongst the local and extended communities, the high standard of education, the good behaviour expected from and displayed by the students, the valued history and connection they may have had with the school and the friendly, hospitable and close community the school is renowned for. The comment was often, "We hear so many good things about the school and we want our child to be part of a school such as this." This comment has not changed over the many years I have been holding enrolment interviews.

As principal, it was gratifying to hear all these positives associated with the school from new parents and for this I thank the staff, children and you, the parents who have always been extremely supportive, give valuable feedback and suggestions and value education.

Although COVID 19 restrictions required a change in our usual practice of orientation it was still good to be able to meet the little ones who will form the Kindy cohort for 2021. I am always so impressed with how confident they appear and willing to leave their parents for a little while to spend time with the teachers.

Over the rest of the term I will be continuing my interviews with all parents of children commencing kindergarten next year and I look forward to speaking with our established parents about your children; their areas of strength and and any areas you wish brought to the school's attention.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

SPECIAL MEMORIAL MASS

You are all warmly invited to a special mass in memory of Mrs Lorraine Saab. This has been organised by some Year 5 parents.

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta Date: 14th November

Time: 6.00pm

ALL WELCOME



Mass Times

We are open for Mass with a congregation of 100 people.

Entry is on a first come first serve basis. Mass is celebrated at the usual times :

Monday to Friday - 6.30 am and 12.30 pm Saturday - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm Vigil

Sunday - 8 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am and 6pm

[Please click on link for the most up to date information](#)

[St Patrick's Cathedral](#)



St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021 DATES						
Week One 2021	Tuesday 26th January, 2021	Wednesday 27th January, 2021	Thursday 28th January, 2021	Friday 29th January, 2021	Monday 1st February, 2021	Tuesday 2nd February, 2021
	Public Holiday - Australia Day	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 Kindy Individual Maths Assessments	Kindy Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten 2021 to commence school (full day)
		Kindergarten - 6 - Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher.				

Last day of school for 2020 is Wednesday 16th December

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Friday 27th November 2020

Due to lockdown earlier this year the school had to postpone the scheduled Staff Development Day. This has now been rescheduled for Friday 27th November.

Children do not come to school on this day.

Traffic Update - Afternoons

Dear Parents

A number of weeks ago I contacted Parramatta Council regarding our concerns about the increased congestion around the school during the time of school pick up. I particularly asked for information around the Light Rail currently under construction. Counsellor Issa was particularly helpful in enabling a response and a meeting which will be held tomorrow, Friday 13th November, to discuss this further. In an email some of my questions were addressed and I have copied them in below for your information.

1. Are the road closures around the school going to be permanent or temporary?

A: Church Street, north of Victoria Road will return to being a two-way road albeit with reduced capacity. Ross Street will be reopened at Church Street. The other closures are permanent.

1. If they are temporary when will the community expect them to be reopened?

A: It is understood that reopenings will be towards the end of the construction period, in 2021, however this will be confirmed.

1. Does the council have any plans to construct a parking facility close to the area around the school which can be used by parents during the 2.45pm to 3.45pm pick up time and if so when will this be available?

A: Council may be able to assign some of the existing on-street parking to short stay for the afternoon peak period, subject to consultation. The option will be investigated.

1. Are there any other plans that can assist the traffic congestion around this section of Parramatta which serves 3 primary schools and a high school?

2. Do you have any other recommendations we can consider?

A: Council is gathering information and investigating options. In refining any options a meeting will then be arranged with you [the school] to discuss the issue and improvements that can be made.

I will keep you informed for further developments in this matter.

Regards

Bernadette Fabri

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your outstanding contribution! The St Vincent de Paul volunteers were astonished with the generosity from our community here at St. Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta. Once again, we thank you for your contribution and hope to receive some pictures from our families and communities that we have reached out to throughout this Appeal.



Vinnies



From the Learning Pit....

This week's update on Semester 2 reports will outline the comment sections of the reports. Comments are included to add to your understanding of the data supplied through the dot plots and overall achievement levels. They are a succinct way to communicate areas of success and areas of future growth for individual students. At St Patrick's we have decided to include dot points to clearly outline these areas in parent friendly language so you have a clear understanding of what your child can do at their current grade level and areas that they have yet to achieve.

Achievements and next steps will be included in the Key Learning Areas of Religious Education, English and Mathematics. These comments will express five 'can' statements that indicate to you (parents) what your child has achieved during the second half of the year. Two 'Next Steps' will also be included. They are short term goals that will be used to guide your child's continued academic growth and will be in line with appropriate syllabus outcomes.

A General Comment will also be included at the end of the report. In the general comment section the teacher will address areas of growth or next steps in some other Key Learning Areas eg Science, History/ Geography (H.S.I.E.), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) as well as Creative Art (Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts). As this comment highlights the areas of significant learning achieved by your child in particular areas, not all Key Learning Areas will be commented upon.

Tips for Parents starting Kindergarten in 2021

If you have some helpful tips and good ideas for the New families starting in 2021 we would love to hear from you. It will be a short video on starting school at St Patrick's Primary Parramatta. Please let the office know if you are interested. Thank you.





Remembrance Day

Remembrance day is a very important day in our country's history. It is a memorial day for the end of the First World War, focusing on all those who fought and died in the line of duty to keep us free. To help our students remember those who have died in war, we invited every student to participate and reflect in a Remembrance Day Liturgy. Students made their own poppies in class and each grade added their poppy to the wooden cross in our school memorial garden. At 11am students were part of the Last Post followed by a minute of silence.

NAIDOC week

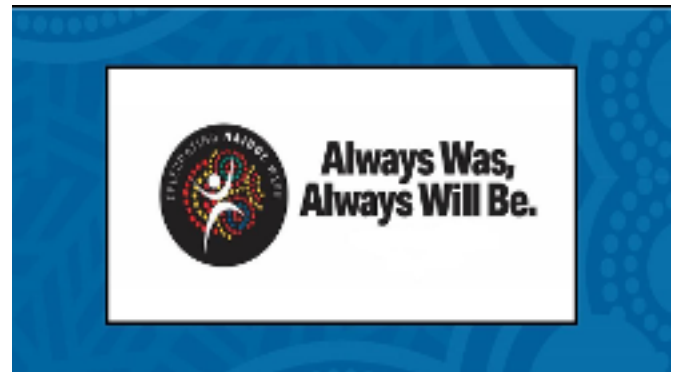
The students will gather in their classrooms on Friday 13th November to celebrate NAIDOC week. NAIDOC stands for 'National Aboriginal and Islanders Day of Observance Committee'.

Naidoc first began in the 1920's and was created by a pastor, William Cooper, who lead the movement to acknowledge indigenous people in Australia. NAIDOC first began as a day of mourning, however today it is a week-long celebration where we celebrate the achievements of our indigenous people. The week long celebration acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and communities and recognises the valuable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to our country.

Each year, there is a theme for NAIDOC week. This year the theme is; *Always Was, Always Will Be*. *recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.*

The Jarara team have been working closely with Indigenous Elders in our community to create an interactive way to celebrate NAIDOC as most cultural gatherings and celebrations have not been allowed to go ahead.

This year we are celebrating NAIDOC Week with a very special 'Deadly Moves' interactive event. Our school has been invited to join others schools in our Dioceses to a Livestream of Darren & Jacs Compton as seen on NITV (National Indigenous Television) 'Move it Mob Style' teaching some 'Deadly' moves for all ages. Students will have the opportunity to hear from Indigenous Leaders who explain the importance and significance of Dance to the Indigenous culture and be taught simple dance moves. This is a great way for students to learn about our Indigenous Culture and celebrate the culture of some of the students at St Patricks.





Honour Award

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

KA	Natanem Addisu	Genevieve Tannous	KM	George Dardas	Mila Moses
1C	Allen Elias	Michael Agostino	1S	Faith Daniel	Olivia Rizk
2M	Joshua Day	Georgia Rose Rizk	2Y	Frank Malkoun	Grace Talbot

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Luke Lahoud	Sebastian Malek	KM	Jayden Bounassif	Jessica Izmestyeva
1C	Marcella Abboud	Mary Roumanus	1S	Serena Semaan	Sophia Zhang
2M	Olivia Zhang	Araminta Jackson	2Y	John Bardetta	Mary Gilchrist





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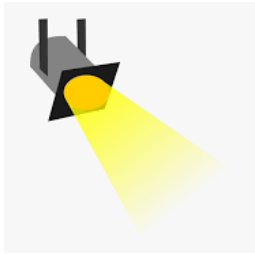
3L	Edan-Grace El-Chaar	Kaylani Elphinstone	3T	Phillip Said	Nathan Nguyen
4B	Paul Khouri	Stephanie Jabbour	4G	Maryam Thomas	April Soh
5C	Christopher Mekdessi	Estelle Perrett	5T	James Kerr	Alexa Izmestyeva
6P	Sharbel Georges	Joseph Sassen	6W	Christina Elzahoul	Frank Agostino

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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3L	Taran Dinesh Kumar	Marcus Moses	3T	Antonia Romanos	Eva Jakopovic
4B	Christian Donaldson	Roselle Ghostine	4G	Phillip Ayoub	Ava Lao
5C	Ysabel Daelo	Thomas Aguilera	5T	Tony Thomas	Amelia Coles
6P	James Fraser	Sheoni Perera	6W	Talia Kalouch	Biaggio Volante





Term 4 Week 5 Spotlights

This week our interviewed spotlights will be from
Year 6

Year 6 James Fraser:

If you could have any job, what would it be? Why?

I would be a Chef because I love the way that there are different cooking methods and I love to be unique.

If there was an emergency, apart from your family, what would be the thing you grab first to save?

I would grab my family photos because they are precious memories.

If you had \$1,000,000 to spend in a day, what would you spend it on?

I would buy a gaming setup and then donate the rest to my family.

If you could have any superpower what would it be?

I would love to have superspeed because I could eat as much as I wanted to and move around with so much speed and burn so much energy that my body would never put on weight from all of the food I eat.

How do you want to help the world become a better place?

I would clean the earth from rubbish and get rid of pollution.

Year 6 Tyler Morson:

What is your favourite movie and why?

My favourite movie is Divergent because I enjoy watching it because it has great action, characters and an interesting storyline.

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is being afraid because being afraid can stop you trying new things and stop the brain from thinking.

What are you looking forward to most in high school?

I am most looking forward to more challenging subjects to show my IQ.

Which 3 people would you invite to dinner and why?

I would take my cousin Noah, Bryan Bracks and Anthony Nakhoul because I get along with them really well.

If you could have a superpower, what would you want and why?

I would like flight because it would make things easier. I could travel the globe in seconds and see everything I want to see.

Year 6 Isabella Chivers:

If you could become a famous person, who would you like to be?

I would like to be Delta Goodrem because she is a fantastic Australian singer and everyone knows her and likes her.

What is your ideal career?

I would love to be an interior designer because I like designing rooms, making people feel happy with what I create.

What is your least favourite food?

My least favourite food is pumpkin pie because I don't like the taste of the pumpkin. Yuck!

If you could be an animal, what would you like to be and why?

I would like to be a lady bug because I can fly and won't be seen because I am so small.

If you could spend \$1000 in 5 minutes, what would you buy?

I would buy a new updated ipad for my learning.

Year 6 Rosemary Gonsalves:

If you could be an animal, what would you like to be and why?

I would like to be a tiger because they are strong and brave, unlike me.

If you could spend \$1 000 000, what would you buy?

I would buy a large swimming pool because I love to swim and a lifetime supply of chocolate biscuits.

What would your ideal job be?

My ideal job would be an environmental scientist because my passion is to help the environment.

Who is your most inspirational person and why?

My most inspirational person is my sister because she helps me learn and teaches me everything I need to know.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would like to go to Japan because they have beautiful and different landscapes which I would love to explore, like their mountains.

Year 6: Ethan-Jordan Firmeza

If you could be an animal, which animal would you be and why?

I would be a penguin because they are my favourite animal.

What would your ideal career be?

My ideal career would be a surgeon because I can handle seeing blood all day, it pays well and I will help save people's lives.

If you had \$1000 to spend in 10 minutes, what would you buy?

I would buy lots of KFC and a new computer.

If you could invite any 3 people to dinner, who would you invite and why?

1. Barack Obama because he seems like a nice guy with intelligence
2. The CEO of KFC to try and get the secret recipe out of him
3. Chris Pratt because he is one of my favourite actors

What is your favourite meal and least favourite meal?

My favourite meal is KFC and my least favourite is anything with mayonnaise.

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.



CATHOLIC MISSION - ICE BLOCKS - REMINDER

Ice-blocks will continue to be sold every **Friday** at \$1 each. The money raised will be used to donate to the families in need through **Catholic Mission**. The students were very giving and enjoyed being part of this great contribution last week. Thank you for your generosity. Together we can make a difference.

We raised \$380 last week, that's alot of ice-blocks !!!

Water Bottles

Just a reminder to check every morning that your child has their water bottle. With the hot weather coming up and the children not being able to use the bubblers, we do not want to see children dehydrated.



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the next week:- Benjamin Kalouche, Faith Daniel, Vittorio Lo Surdo, James Fraser, George Dardas

2021 PLANNING - IS YOUR CHILD RETURNING TO ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARRAMATTA IN 2021?

As we begin to make plans for 2021, we ask that if your child is not returning to St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta next year to please contact the school office. This does not apply to Year 6 students.

Celebration of Learning Year 3 : Term 4 Week 4

This week, Year Three is celebrating their learning in Geography. They are learning to evaluate natural and human features of Australia and its neighbours.

We interviewed some students about their learning:

Madeleine Talbot:

"We are learning about natural features of Australia and their neighbours. I find this learning fun because I can go on Google Earth and see different places I've never seen before. I found this a little confusing at first because I didn't know much about these countries."

Angelique Saliba:

"In Geography, we are learning about Australia and manmade and natural things. I am in the learning pit because I don't know much about this yet. I have learnt that some countries have the same weather and climate as each other."

Bailey Grohs:

"We are learning about landmarks in Australia. I have learnt that Uluru and the rainforests are landmarks. I enjoy this task but sometimes it can be hard reading all of the facts as sometimes there is difficult information."

Daniel Semaan:

"We are learning about climate change. I've learnt that in Australia there is more dry land. I think this learning is fun because we explore the different climates and how weather and climate changes in different countries."

Celebration of Learning Year 6 Term 4 Week 4

This week, Year 6 is celebrating their learning in Religious Education. They have been unpacking the life of Saint Mary and how she lived a virtuous life, displaying holiness and human dignity, and made contemplative and discerning choices. Year 6 are now exploring the life of other Saints to discover how they lived their earthly life, dedicated to God, and what made them canonised saints.

We interviewed some students about their learning.

Jiajie:

"In Religion, we are learning about the values of being a Saint. What I found interesting was the fact that a Saint has to perform miracles then be Canonised after they die to become a Saint. This learning is important because we need to live our lives striving to do what the Saints did so that we can live as God wants us to."

Talia. L

"We are learning about what a Saint is, different Saints and why and how people became Saints. What I found interesting was that a Saint is capable of anything and that they lived their lives modelling the teachings and ways of Jesus. This learning is important to me because we need to know how to apply the values and gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we can live a virtuous life displaying human dignity, just like the Saints did."

Alexandra

"In class we are learning about Saints and the values and teachings of Saints. What I found interesting is how Saints have impacted on our lives today. I also found it interesting learning about the ways Saints dedicated their life to God in order to become a Saint. This learning is important because learning about how the Saints lived impacts on my life today and how I should live my own life. It teaches us how to fulfill God's teachings and Will in our lives today and in the future."

Ashintha

"In Religion, we are learning about the core attributes of a Saint and how their lives impact the living on earth. What I found interesting is how the Saints' devotion allowed them to carry on their works of Mercy even after death by performing miracles. This learning is important because it allows us as Catholics to further model ourselves after Jesus and carry on his teachings, through the teachings of the saints and teaches us how to express and live a virtuous life."

Understanding School Talk ???

Public Speaking and Communication

Use An Adult Vocabulary

With my children, I have always tried to use an adult vocabulary. When you speak down to their level, you do not encourage their growth. At four years old, my daughter had an unusually large vocabulary for her age and a mother on the playground suggested I have her tested for the metro gifted program! My daughter always asked me what words meant and I encouraged her to do so explaining to her the only way to learn is to feel free to ask questions. My daughter naturally made use of new words she learned. Sometimes she tried words out inappropriately but I took advantage of those times to congratulate her on using new words and to let her know a more accurate definition and a way of using it for the next time.

Celebration of Learning Year 4: Term 4 Week 4

This week, Year 4 is celebrating their learning in Writing. They are looking at the purpose of poetry as an imaginative text. They are exploring how the rhythm and rhyme of poems changes the tone and mood. They can't wait to share their own poems with the students at St Patrick's.

We interviewed some of the students about their learning.

Zavier 4B:

"In Writing, we are creating narratives and at the moment we are editing what we have written. I'm finding this task easy and hard depending on what we are doing in Writing. I am enjoying our learning in Writing because I love to write and Literacy is one of my favourite subjects. Sometimes editing and recrafting is hard and thinking of what new ideas and challenging vocabulary to include. Analysing a text can be hard sometimes."

Jazmyne 4B:

"In Writing, we are learning about poems and what features poems have in them. We are now creating our own poems. This is a bit hard for me because it is hard to find lots of rhyming words. I like this task though because it is challenging my thinking and I am learning a lot of new information and skills about poems."

Phillip 4G

"In Writing, we have been looking at different imaginative texts. I am finding this task easy and hard because sometimes the writing is hard to put all my ideas together but we have a bump up wall we can use to help us assess our work and know our next steps to improve our writing. I am enjoying this task because I get to read a lot of interesting and fun texts."

Elio 4G:

"We are learning about poems and how to write them. We are also looking at the features of a poem. I find writing poems easy and enjoy exploring the different features that authors use to write poems. This learning is fun for me."

Celebration of Learning Year 5: Term 4 Week 4

This week, Year 5 is celebrating their learning in Religious Education.

We interviewed some students about their learning.

Samuel Navasardyn:

"We are learning about human flourishing and how to live a good life. We are learning how to give confidence to other people and making them feel equal. I have learnt that flourishing means to take care of people as well as yourself, just like flowers need people to take care of them, so we need to take care of each other and ourselves. I appreciate my parents."

Zara Diuco:

"In Religion, we are learning about human flourishing and how people should act so that all people can flourish. We are also learning about the rights people have. Something new that I learnt is that to have courage is to be in between being really scared and reckless. I also learnt that human flourishing is to evolve and to be noticed in a part of your life."

Alexa Izmestyeva:

"In Religion we have been learning about how people should have the right to flourish and participate both politically and economically. I learnt that to flourish means to grow or develop in a positive or healthy way. I also learnt that human dignity means that everyone should have the right to be treated with respect and equality. This means that everyone gets the same opportunities."

Max Barakat:

"We are learning about human flourishing and how the world should be based on equality, as some people need more help than others. In religion, I have learnt about many different ways to be a better person. I also learnt that life is all about choices and that the choices you make can impact your future and impact on other people."