

Dear Parents and Caregivers

No-one can deny that 2020 was a year filled with significant challenges and for many families real stress. Who can forget the weeks of lockdown when the children were unable to attend school. For many children the initial novelty of learning from home was soon replaced by a yearning to go back to school and be with their friends. They missed the discussions, problem solving and enjoying a laugh with their peers and teachers. Whilst attendance has always been a priority amongst parents I believe that attendance became a very important aspect for children too, who appeared very happy and content with the routines and joy of being back onsite.

I wish to congratulate all families for the level of attendance so far this year. It is very pleasing to report that most children are on 100% attendance and are well placed to be acknowledged at the end of the term for this optimum score.

Many studies have shown that good attendance will significantly improve your child's learning outcomes. Much has been said about attendance over the years but since schools have been able to track the impact of attendance through improved technology we can see how very important coming to school, every day, on time, will have on your child(s) education.

Below you will find some interesting reminders about daily attendance. Let us make this year the year we can achieve above 95% - 90% attendance regularly across all classes.

VIDEO: [School Attendance - Every Learner, Every Day - Primary](#)

God bless you
and your family

Bernadette
Fabri



WELCOMING CEREMONY -

Catholic Schools Week will commence in **week 7**. The theme for Catholic Schools Week at St. Patrick's Primary, Parramatta this year is '**Faith, Excellence and Service**'. It is hoped that we will focus on growing as learners, serving each other, leading by the example of Christ, as we strive to succeed in all that we do.

We will be having a Welcoming Ceremony to celebrate and welcome Kindergarten and new families that have joined the St. Patrick's community. Due to restrictions, this will be a school event only. Photos will be taken and shared with parents.

Welcome

ST PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS

- Wednesday 17th March: St Patrick's Day Mass at 9:15- Students wear a touch of green! Students will also have time in the middle of their day to play outside. The St. Patrick's Leprechaun will be back this Year!
- Thursday 18th March: **Infants Students** will be taking part in Kicks Tenpin Bowling (Parramatta Leagues Club). Students wear sports uniform.
- Friday 19th March: **Primary students** will be taking part in Kicks Tenpin Bowling (Parramatta Leagues Club) to wear sports uniform.



Important Survey

TRAFFIC SURVEY - We invite you to please put some effort into completing

The Diocese of Parramatta is conducting a questionnaire to understand how you travel to school. Parents and carers, please complete the questionnaire about your child(s) travel to school.

An external consultant is conducting this questionnaire. Your answers will be confidential, unless you specifically request a response from our transport team.

To take the survey, please click [this link](#). This should take 5 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey by **Friday 12th March**. *If you have transport feedback for our team, please contact rebecca@frankturquoise.com.au*

Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the next week: Max Barakat, Sean Feng, Hugh Perrett, Tiffany McCloskey, Hunter Morson, Lucas Pavlovic, Gabriella Sta Rosa



The St Patrick's Parramatta School community would like to welcome the Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

who has taken us his position as Dean & Administrator of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish

Welcome Father Robert!!

Sports Update - SWIMMING

Well done to all the children who participated in the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival. They all swam their best and had lots of fun!!

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the Mackillop Diocesan Swimming Carnival: Phillip Ayoub, Olivia Saab, Daniel Saleh, Gabriella Volante.

We wish you the best of luck.



St Patrick's Cross Country

It is once again time for our St Patrick's Cross Country event. This year our Cross Country will again be held for RUNNERS ONLY. Please refer to the skoolbag app/eform that was sent out on the 23rd February. If your child is **not participating**, you must also complete the skoolbag eform. **If you require a hard copy of the note please collect from the office.**

Event Details

Date 31st March, 2021

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am Cross Country for RUNNERS ONLY from 8yrs (2020) and above.

Venue: Cattle Paddock, Parramatta Park

Wear: School sports uniform, running shoes and hat

Distance: **8,9 & 10yr olds = 2km** **11,12 & 13yr olds = 3km**

Note: Please ensure your child is able to complete the required running distance without stopping for a break before deciding if they should enter this event. Some students may need to practise to get a better understanding of just how difficult this event can be.

2021 SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS - Wednesday 10th March, 2021

School Photographs will be taken on **Wednesday 10th March 2021**. Please ensure that your child is neatly dressed in **full Summer School Uniform** on that day.



If you wish to purchase photos, **we are asking that you pay online for both individual photos and sibling photos. This is a COVID safe practice as it limits the handling of goods.** This can be done in the convenience of your home and an email receipt will be mailed to you as confirmation. You can pay for all children or sibling photos in 1 easy payment. **The online code for our school St Patrick's Primary, Parramatta is MKW J3F KMB. This needs to be completed at least 48hrs prior to photo day.**

Please click on the link below to order
[Advanced Images](#)

Advanced Life school photography have supplied St Patrick's with their COVID 19 safe plan.

Sibling order envelopes can be collected from the school office

TERM 1 2021 SCHOOL INVOICES

Term 1 2021 Statements have now been mailed to all families. Due date for payment of Term 1 fees is on or before **Wednesday 17th March 2021**.

The Catholic Education Office Flexible Payment Plan Bpoint or Bpay is offered as a convenient option for payment of 2021 fees. The information required for the Flexible Payment Plan is included in the Instalment 1 statement.

Please note:

Flexible Payment Plans (DIRECT DEBIT) are offered as alternative payment options for your School Fees.

BPOINT & BPAY

If you would like to accept this offer please complete the Flexible Payment Direct Debit eForm (Bpoint) by visiting <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp>. If an eForm has not been received prior to the payment due date the Catholic Education Office will assume you do not wish to take up the flexible payment option plan and you will be paying the Term 1 school fees by the 17th March 2021. **BPAY** election requires you to set this up via your bank account by 16th March 2021 so the first payment occurs on 17th March 2021.

If you have not received your invoice, please email pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au to request a copy be emailed to you.

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

How to help your child manage their online time

Stay engaged and encourage balance

- Keep an eye on the games, apps and devices your child uses. Chat with your child regularly and help them stay aware of how much time they are spending on different online and offline activities.
- Include positive things outside the online world in your conversations, such as what they love in life, careers they are interested in and new hobbies.
- Join in. Play games together as a family, or explore some joint online projects. Rather than being just a solitary activity, online time can then become another way of strengthening connections as well as building social skills.
- Where possible, avoid limiting online time as a punishment as this approach may inflate its importance to children.

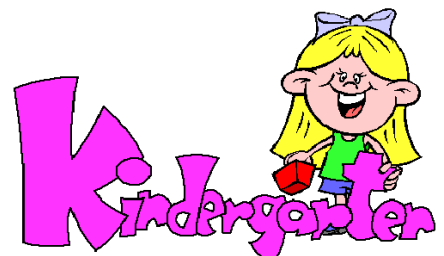
ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN

Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2022 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday or alternatively the enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website

<https://www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au>

As we are still working under COVID restrictions you are able to email the application through to us at stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au , along with any supporting documents. Please retain the original application form as you will be required to submit that at a later date.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2021.



Understanding School Talk ???

SDD

Staff Development Day

Children do not attend school on these days



Honour Award

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

KA	Aidan Murphy	Oskar Tudberry	KM	Oscar Do	Gabriel Saba
1C	Jude Rahme	Samuel Betros	1S	Michael Roumanus	Evie Grohs
2M	Sophia Khoury	George Rizk	2Y	Melinda Malkoun	Victoria Adaymy



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Audrey Abboud	Elena Sunwar	KM	Zoe Aguilera	Albie Soh
1C	Charlie Chua	Mila Moses	1S	Nathanael Jaitani	Amelia Sivashanmugan
2M	Mariette Wakim	Daniella Fayad	2Y	Sophia Zhang	Jaidyn Shehadie





Honour Award

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3L	Mia Golossian	Charbela Chedid	3T	Nour Kahwaji	Caroline Youssef
4B	Sara Lorenzo	Karabo Khama	4G	Joseph Norman	Alessandra De Guzman
5C	Alicia Remaili	Joseph Maroon	5T	Shavene Perera	Marie Rahme
6P	Zara Diuco	Louis Wehbe	6W	Noah Romanos	Aurora Broadbridge



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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3L	Catherine Kwa	Mariah Jreij	3T	Mika Liu	Jewel Sebastian
4B	Josephine Behan	Timana Gutierrez Caceres	4G	Marcus Moses	Antonia Romanos
5C	Lucas Pavlovic	April Soh	5T	Steven Abraham	Lara Samar
6P	Sam Abu-Ali	Nicholas Drosos	6W	Sean Feng	Clio Encarnacao



Let us never desire more than enough.



Catherine McAuley

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

St Patrick's Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Standing (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au, or through Skoolbag App. The school follows the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>

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.



sub tium
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, 7.15pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses

Mon to Fri 6.30am, 12.30pm Public Hol 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale