

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Term 3! This time last year we found ourselves trying to manage the first CoronaVirus lockdown and sadly we are experiencing the second strict lockdown, due to the existence of a more virulent strain of COVID 19. We have learned much from our previous experience of Remote Learning and I am hoping that families are finding the learning tasks easier to manage from home. May I thank you so much for your expressions of encouragement and support.

Due to the stressful nature of the current situation you may wish to avail of the school's counselling services especially if you feel your child is showing signs of anxiety. Under the circumstances this is not unusual, as times - especially at the moment - are very unsettling. Adults have been impacted in extreme ways and the current infections have not helped.

There is much we can do to assist children with their worries and the ideas included in this newsletter, have been sourced by our School Counsellor for your interest. If there is anything the school can do to assist in any way please let us know. We would like to assure you that the school continues to follow all NSW Health advice and is regularly advised and updated by the Catholic Education Office - Diocese of Parramatta to ensure that the school practices are COVID safe.

May God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal



Year 6 Boys Soccer Team
receiving their medals for last
terms Gala Day.
Congratulations!

Parent Support

Below are some general strategies, adapted from kidshealth.org, highlighting that kids' worries are normal, and have an important function in life. Parents can support their children to cope with stress or worries:

1. Find out what's on their minds: Be available and take an interest in what's happening at school, on the team, and with your kids' friends. Take casual opportunities to ask how it's going. As you listen to stories of the day's events, be sure to ask about what your kids think and feel about what happened.

If your child seems to be worried about something, ask about it. Encourage kids to put what's bothering them into words. Ask for key details and listen. Sometimes just sharing the story with you can help lighten their load.

2. Show you care and understand. Being interested in your child's concerns shows they're important to you, too, and helps kids feel supported and understood. Reassuring comments can help — but usually only after you've heard your child out. Say that you understand your child's feelings and the problem.

3. Guide kids to solutions. You can help reduce worries by helping kids learn to deal with challenging situations. When your child tells you about a problem, offer to help come up with a solution together. If your son is worried about an upcoming math test, for example, offering to help him study will lessen his concern about it.

In most situations, resist the urge to jump in and fix a problem for your child — instead, think it through and come up with possible solutions together. Problem-solve with kids, rather than for them. By taking an active role, kids learn how to tackle a problem on their own.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Now for some lovely news!

Congratulations is extended to Ms Alyssa Onorato on her recent engagement to her fiancé Max. I am sure you join me in wishing the lovely couple all the very best for their future together.





Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the next week: Jacinta Azizi, Wren Chua, Flynn Davis, Alexander Markovic, Matilda Miranda, Ethan Zaiter

GALA DAYS - Postponed

Dear Players, Parents/Caregivers and Officials,

Following the recent announcements from the NSW Government about continued measures in response to COVID-19, the following Gala days will not go ahead:

Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer - 21st July

Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch - 23rd July

These events will be postponed. I will update you with any new information regarding these events when it comes to hand.

Regards,

Bernadette Carroll



Art Exhibition

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27)

Here are some prompts to help guide your thinking;

Head - What does being Baptised mean ?

Heart - How does it make you feel ?

Hand - What is God asking of us today ?

We invite you to express your ideas/ thoughts in a visual art form.

Guidelines

- No larger than A4 sheet
- Any medium

Due Date

- TBC



Term 3 SCHOOL FEES

There will be a delay with the mail out of our Parent Fee 2021 Statement Instalment 3 Tax Invoice.

Expected date of issue will be communicated to families.

Fiona Mitterer

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

How to set up a device with safety in mind

Before young children begin to explore online, it is a good idea to activate safety features, filters and parental controls on the devices they use. No parental control or safe search filter is 100% effective. Helping your child build good online safety habits is just as important.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Further information and an update will be provided.

Term Dates

Term 3 - Monday 12th July - 17th September

Term 4 - Tuesday 5th Oct - Friday 17th Dec

** Please note: Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. These can be used for the gathering of essential data on students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Children do not attend school on these days.

Term 3 - 17th September, 2021

Term 4 - 16th & 17th December, 2021

BOOK WEEK 2021 August 23rd to August 27th

(Please be mindful that this event may need to be rescheduled or modified depending on COVID 19 conditions)

This year's Children's Book Week theme is **"OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS"**

The staff are currently organising some exciting activities that will assist the children to focus on the wonderful world of Literature. Some of these activities include:

- Presentations by guest authors and illustrators
- Book Week Parade WEDNESDAY 25TH AUGUST 2021
- Parents welcome pending COVID Safe restrictions at the time. Further information pending closer to the date.
- Fun Rotational Literacy Activities

So start having a think about what your children can wear. For

- New worlds: NASA Astronaut (PRESS FOR LINK)
- Old worlds: A mystery in Ancient Egypt
- Other worlds: Bilbo Baggins – The Hobbit
- Very old world: Dinosaurs
- Other worlds: Under the Sea
- Other worlds: Monsters!
- Other worlds: the world of wizardry and magic!
- Other worlds: Where the Wild Things Are
- New worlds: A dystopian future in How to Bee
- "Imaginary" other worlds: Pokemon
- Old worlds: Voyage with the Vikings
- Other worlds: Dragons!
- Other worlds: Ranger's Apprentice
- Explorers of other worlds: Dora the Explorer and Diego
- Old worlds: Anne of Green Gables



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE:

The challenge will finish for students and close on **Friday, August 20, 2021**. Please make sure all your books are entered by this date.

If you need assistance please contact Mrs O'Dwyer or Mrs Attard via the school email address:

stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.



"Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts."

Pope Francis

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>



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 CATHEDRALPARRAMATTA

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