



Newsletter

21st October, 2021 Term 4 Week 3

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I write this newsletter article with a sense of joy at seeing the return of our beautiful Kindergarten and Year 1 students. Although we have been able to spend time with some of the students who attended school during the period of lockdown, they and the staff have very much missed the whole grade being together at school. In fact it has been such a long time since school communities have been able to gather together at all.

I recently read a very interesting article on the power and sacredness of connection. I think this is the one element that we have missed the most during the restrictions and although we cannot connect in the most optimum way yet e.g. requirements to wear masks, restrictions on visitors and physical distancing in general, the children and staff can at least be in the same space together and we can see you at a small distance.

In the article written by Susanne North who is the family educator at St Margaret Mary's Primary School in Randwick she reminds the reader that,

Humans are hardwired for connection. The two most powerful forms of connection are unconditional love and a sense of belonging. They are essential to the human experience. It is what makes us 'tick'.

She quotes another author Brené Brown who in her bestselling book 'Daring Greatly', defines connection between people as 'when they feel seen, heard and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement.'

This is such a true statement and I think the sadness of this pandemic is not only on the hardship caused by the health fears and deaths that have occurred but also the disconnect that people are feeling and the divide that this pandemic has caused.

I am sure everyone is feeling or has felt elements of this divide which have caused frustration and immense sadness. You may relate to some examples of these divides: state vs state, border vs border, city vs country areas, vaccinated vs unvaccinated people, one opinion vs another opinion, poor vs wealthy, employed vs unemployed, countries with good social systems vs countries whose people cannot get the help required, even remote learning vs children having to come to school has caused families and staff concern.

Some families and best friends are feeling division and although I know that when the stakes are high, emotion is heightened, I wonder whether there is a way we can all learn to live with our convictions but also respect that of others. It is definitely tough!

Prayer - I believe is our healing (Seeking to understand before being understood and then acting according to the wisdom that comes from our prayer filled and fuelled discernments.) Let us pray together for the health and wellbeing of our school community and the sacredness of our connection in whatever way we can.

God bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal



Loving God

As we yearn to be gathered in friendship and community, let us take a moment out of our busy lives,... to learn, share and reflect on the insights, experiences and wisdom of others, and to be reminded of how blessed we all are.

In the current world around us there are many who suffer and face grave challenges.

We stand in solidarity with them in compassion and by practising loving kindness to ourselves and all those around us.

Let us engage in the power of prayer that connects us - irrespective of what divides us - with our beliefs and ideals more deeply helping us to hold in our minds a yearning to understand and dialogue with the other in respectful conversation.

Let us pray the following in the name of our Heavenly Father and all that is good.

May we all be well, happy and peaceful,

May no harm come to us,

May we all also have patience, courage, understanding, and determination to meet and overcome inevitable difficulties, problems, and failures in life.

May our parents, our teachers and mentors, our friends and may all living beings across the world...be well, happy and peaceful,

May no harm come to them,

We ask this through your beloved son







Jesus Christ

Amen

- Adapted from

[An Invocation of Metta/Compassion](#)



2022	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	24/1/22	25/1/22	26/1/22	27/1/22	28/1/22
Week 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	31/1/22	1/2/22	2/2/22	3/2/22	4/2/22
Week 2	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments Years 1 to Years 6 commence the 2022 school year 	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments 	Kindergarten commence the 2022 school year  	 
<p>NOTE PLEASE: If On-Site Kindergarten Orientation is unable to be held this year due to restrictions, we will schedule them from Friday 28/1/22 to Wednesday 2/2/22. Children will only be required to attend one Orientation session and one Maths session.</p> <p>More information will be communicated when the situation becomes clearer next term.</p>					

UPDATE: Refurbishment of Kindergarten to Year 4 Classrooms

Refurbishment of the Kindergarten to Year 4 classrooms is continuing at a good pace. Kindergarten students are now in their learning spaces with Year 1 and Year 2 hopefully entering on Monday. We are working towards Years 3 and 4 returning to their learning spaces also on Monday 25th October.

I wish to continue to thank our builders SBS Secure Building Solutions, Architect - Leaf Architecture and Mr McIntosh - schools Site Manager for the efforts they have put in place to enable so much of the work to be ready despite the ever changing timeline.

We look forward to sharing these spaces with the school community in the future.

Thank you to Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta for their financial contribution to this project.

Uniforms/ Haircuts

Dear Parents,

As we return to school, we thought it was a perfect time to remind our school community about the school's protocols around hair cuts and appropriate hair attire. As is outlined below boys hair should be of an even and regular cut and girls hair ribbons should be green.

Please be mindful of this protocol when attending the hairdresser or barber shop. I know it is difficult to go against what is currently trending, however by enrolling in our school you have also agreed to the protocols outlined below.

Thanking you for your continued support regarding this area.

UNIFORM

- Full school uniform is to be worn at all times.
- Uniforms and shoes should be clean and neat.
- School hats are to be worn when outside buildings.
- Girls hair ribbons should be green.
- Girls long hair must be plaited or tied back.
- Boys are to have hair cut neatly, above the collar, and of an even and regular cut.
- The use of hair gel or hair dye is not permitted.
- No nail polish is to be worn.
- Jewellery is not permitted apart from a wristwatch, sleepers or small plain studs in pierced ears.

The children will return to school in Term 4, with their full summer uniform including their school hat.

SUMMER UNIFORM

All children are required to be in their Summer Uniform. Parents can you please note that as per school uniform guidelines, joggers for sport are to be mainly white.

Girls' Summer Uniform	Girls' Sports Uniform	Boys' Summer Uniform	Boys' Sports Uniform
Tartan School Dress	Green Shorts	Grey Shorts	Green Sports Shorts
Short White above ankle Socks	Sport Shirt with School Emblem	Grey Short Sleeve Shirt	Sports Shirt with School Emblem
Black Shoes	White above ankle Socks	Grey above ankle Socks	White above ankle Socks
Green Hair Ribbon	White Sports Shoes	Black Shoes	White Sports Shoes
Green School Hat	Track Suit with School Emblem	Green School Hat	Track Suit with School Emblem

All School Uniform items available from Oz Fashions 115-127 Parramatta Road Granville NSW 2142 Phone 9897 3121 www.ozfashions.com.au

Thanking you for your cooperation in ensuring that the school uniform code is upheld.
Remember to label ALL clothing and NO HAT PLAY IN THE SHADE ONLY

Compass Parent Portal

Thank you to the many parents who have logged onto our new Compass Parent Portal. We have over 50% logged in.

As of Monday 25th October if your child has been marked absent by their teacher you will receive an SMS alert stating your child is absent. Click on this link to explain their absence. It will automatically come through to me and will update on your child's profile. If you know your child will be absent on a certain day for example a doctors appointment you can enter the absence in advanced.

Compass will become our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. Skoolbag will be phased out over the coming months.

Using the Compass Parent Portal you will be able to:

- Be informed of important updates, events and reminders
- View your child's timetable
- Review your child's attendance
- Provide explanations for periods of absence
- Update your contact details
- Book Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Download Semester Reports

Medical Updates

As the children return to school it is very important that students with medical conditions such as Asthma and Anaphylaxis return with their medication.

Please check the expiry dates on your child's medication and ensure it is within the date. If your child requires Claratyne or Zyrtec as part of their anaphylaxis plan be aware the school does not stock this and you are responsible for including it in their bag.

It may be a timely reminder to also ensure their Asthma Plans and Anaphylaxis Plans have been updated in the previous 12 months.

Regards

Mrs Jones

Return to School Term 4 2021 - posted on Skoolbag App 14/10/2021

<p>Communication The school is currently operating with restricted activities and limited interactions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this stage, if the school can assist you by phone or email please use this as the preferred communication rather than coming into the school office.
<p>Break Times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE equipment will be limited and will be wiped down between use wherever practicable. Children will need to bring a drink bottle daily. Communal bubblers will be unavailable except to fill drink bottles.
<p>Pick up and Drop off</p> <p>COMMENCING 18TH OCTOBER</p> <p>All staff and visitors attending a school site must comply with school protocols and check in using the applicable Service NSW QR code.</p> <p>STAGGERED PICKUP ROSTER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish times will be staggered, with no mixing among student cohorts as far as practicable. Start times will be as usual i.e. 8.50am but children will be required to go straight to their usual grade assembly areas around the playground to sit. If it rains, adjustments to this procedure will be made. Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up by car, if possible, to limit interaction. Parents must remain outside school grounds and follow the physical distancing advice for our local area. Please avoid crowding closely outside school gates All adults must adhere to mask-wearing requirements in accordance with the Public Health Order when outside the school. PICK UP WILL BE ACCORDING TO the first letter of the family SURNAME and IN FAMILY GROUPS e.g. if your surname is Smith we ask you pick up your child at 2.55pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.40pm - surnames beginning with A, B, C, D 2.45pm - E, F, G, H, I, J, K 2.50pm - L, M, N, O, P, Q, R 2.55pm - S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z 3.00pm - 3.30pm - Normal pickup If children have to be picked up by walk please use the Villiers Street gate only. We will be sending out an alert for you to register the 'pick up by walk'. (<u>registration is only</u>
<p>Visitors Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory vaccination is in place for of all staff and visitors on and from 18 October No volunteers for reading groups or assistance in the library at this stage. Onsite Kindergarten Orientation will be on pause at this stage. This may change if the Level of Restrictions changes for schools. Essential visitors must sign in using the Service NSW QR code if entering the school as well as the school's registration system. Special requirements are in place for authorized visitors.

Return to School Term 4 2021 - posted on Skoolbag App 14/10/2021

<p>Masks</p> <p>Masks are strongly recommended for primary students.</p> <p>Required for all Year 7 and above students and staff in all indoor and outdoor school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks are strongly recommended for primary students.• Masks must be provided by the parent.• Some support for children wearing masks will be given e.g. monitoring of comfort level and guidance when eating or drinking.• If a child wears a mask to school, as directed by the parent, the school will encourage them to continue wearing them indoors and outdoors except for eating and exercising. (If you wish your child to wear a mask at school it is recommended that you practise this with your child at home so that they become
<p>Cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current cleaning regimes will continue at the school.• Targeted areas include: high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas.• Enhanced cleaning is delivered as part of the daily cleaning of schools.
<p>Ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows and doors will be left open to increase ventilation. Fans and Air Conditioning will also be used. Further information will be communicated with you regarding CO2 monitors and air filters in the near future.
<p>Hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No child should bring their mobile phone to school unless absolutely necessary. These will need to be kept in school bags for the day.• Children will be asked to wash their hands using soap on return to the classroom and after visiting the toilet• Children sanitize their hands on arrival at school and in between the use of equipment and when necessary eg before and after eating.
<p>Excursions and Camps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools operating under Levels 3, 3 plus, and 4 settings are not permitted to hold excursions, field trips or camps. It is anticipated that the school will be categorized from Level 4 to Level 3 plus from 18th October.• Refunds for excursions or camps have been organised and will be communicated in a separate notification.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As always we are so appreciative of your patience and understanding and in particular your support of the school staff and in following school protocols.

Kindest Regards

Bernadette Fabri



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:

Catherine Kwa, Emily Salloum, Alexandriya Izmestyeva, Cynthia Daher, Makayla Kalouch, Stephanie Jabbour, Weyata Lamin

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Supervised During supervised activities your child is the one controlling the screen, but they are talking to you about what they are watching or doing.

You may be nearby in the same room engaged in another activity, like cooking, as you talk with them. Supervised activities should involve content your child is familiar with.

- If a game or activity can be played offline, turn airplane mode on or disconnect from wi-fi.
- Ask lots of questions and encourage your child to show you things, so you can stay engaged in what they are doing.

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.

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>

STARTING SOON!

Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge 2021/2022

The competition starts on **1 November 2021** and ends on **25 February 2022.**

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:
[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)

Self-Compassion & Self Care for Parents - Online

Topics include

- What is self-compassion?
- Self compassion and parenting
- Self Care for parents-tips and strategies.
- Q & A with the presenters.

Tuesday 26 October

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Bookings essential

<https://parra.city/selfcompassion>



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA
LIBRARIES



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District



Mental health tips for parents of primary school children online

Thursday 28 October | 1.00pm

Bookings:

<https://parra.city/mentalhealthchildren>



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA
LIBRARIES

NEW TESTING CLINIC



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

COVID-19 Drive-through Testing Clinic at

Bankwest Stadium

🕒 Time: 8am - 6pm daily (9am start on 11 August)

🗓️ When: 7 days a week until further notice

📍 Where: Northern carpark, Enter at Gate 2
O'Connell Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150

Testing is FREE. All ages welcome.
No booking or GP referral required.

Check when you're eligible for COVID-19 vaccination using the
Australian Government Vaccine Eligibility Checker

To our valued Customers

Hope you and your families are safe and well in these uncertain times. We thank you for your ongoing support and appreciate your patience in these difficult times.

As Per Public Health Orders

From Monday 11th October our store will reopen to the **fully vaccinated** from 9am-5:30pm weekdays and 9am-4pm on Saturdays.

When you visit our store we ask for only one parent or guardian to be present during their child's uniform fitting and that you observe the NSW Public Health Orders: check-in with the QR code; **be fully vaccinated** & show staff your Covid-19 digital certificate; wear a face mask; and hand sanitise as you enter.

If you have any symptoms we ask that you not attend our store, stay home and go and get tested.

You can still do business with us online, by phone and email. Purchases are also encouraged to be made prior to the new year to avoid lengthy queues in January.

Best regards
OZ Fashions Team

"We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone,"

Pope Francis



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