

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Next Monday, November 1st will be the feast of All Saints Day. In his homily on All Saints Day in 2013 Pope Francis stressed that the saints are not “supermen” or women, who are “born perfect,” but rather are ordinary people who followed God “with all their heart.” He said, “They are like us, they are like each of us, they are people who before reaching the glory of heaven lived a normal life, with joys and griefs, struggles and hopes.”

Pope Francis reminds us that “They spent their lives in the service of others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace,” When reading his sermon to the pilgrims on this feast day I was very impressed with the wisdom of our Holy Father’s words. I think that when we think of saints we think of extraordinary people whom we could not possibly emulate, but Pope Francis dismisses this assumption by encouraging us with an alternative view.

When I think about our recent experiences of Lockdown and the pandemic in general - which I must admit still seem surreal at times - I cannot help but think of all the people that I have come across that would fit into the description above; spending their lives in service of others without hatred and responding with good actions. Having family members and friends myself, who work in hospitals, I hear the stress that they have been under, seeing the increase in admissions at the height of lockdown. What courage to keep going to work every day not knowing what they will face. Like you, I am sure, I have friends whose children work in retail whilst studying and again facing up to the public, every shift, to provide essential services to people. I also know that you yourselves have made many many sacrifices either for your family or for an elderly relative in ways that only you know. You have just soldiered on with, ‘all your heart’.

I love reading the words of our Holy Father and today I share his thoughts with you.

- Each saint changed his or her life “when they recognized the love of God, they followed him with all their heart, without conditions and hypocrisies.”
- “The saints give us a message. They tell us: be faithful to the Lord, because the Lord does not disappoint! He does not disappoint ever, and he is a good friend always at our side.”
- “To be a saint is not a privilege of a few... all of us in baptism have the inheritance of being able to become saints. Sanctity is a vocation for everyone.” “All of us are called to walk in the way of sanctity, and this way has a name, a face: the face of Jesus Christ.”
- “The saints are men and women who have joy in their hearts and spread it to others. Never hating, but serving the other, is the greatest need. To pray and to live in joy: this is the way of sanctity!”
- “The saints encourage us with their witness not to have fear of going against the current or fear of being misunderstood and derided when we speak of the Lord and of the Gospel,”
- “They show us with their lives that the one who remains faithful to God and to his words experiences now on this earth the comfort of his love and then experiences it a ‘hundredfold’ in eternity.”

St Patrick - Pray for Us

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - Pray for Us

May God bless you and your families
Bernadette Fabri

Last Day of Term 4







**The last of Term 4 2021 will be Wednesday 15th
December, 2021**

RECESS TIMES FOR TERM 4

K,1,2 Fruit Break 10.10 am Recess 11.10 am Lunch 1.30pm

3,4 Recess 10.00 am Lunch 12.20 pm

5,6 Recess 10.35 am Lunch 12.55 pm

<u>2022</u>	<u>Monday</u> 24/1/22	<u>Tuesday</u> 25/1/22	<u>Wednesday</u> 26/1/22	<u>Thursday</u> 27/1/22	<u>Friday</u> 28/1/22	
Week 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments
	<u>Monday</u> 31/1/22	<u>Tuesday</u> 1/2/22	<u>Wednesday</u> 2/2/22	<u>Thursday</u> 3/2/22	<u>Friday</u> 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 		
						

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.

More information will be communicated when the situation becomes clearer next term.

Thank you SBS Secure Building Solutions, Leaf Architecture, CEDP and Mr McIntosh for our new learning spaces!



Year 1 & 2



Year 3 & 4



Kindergarten



Sports News

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the following events have been cancelled for this term:

- The St Patrick's Primary Swimming Carnival
- All Gala Days for boys and girls soccer and touch football

I understand the disappointment that may follow this announcement, however, as always, the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community is our first consideration.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Bernadette Carroll
Sports Coordinator

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

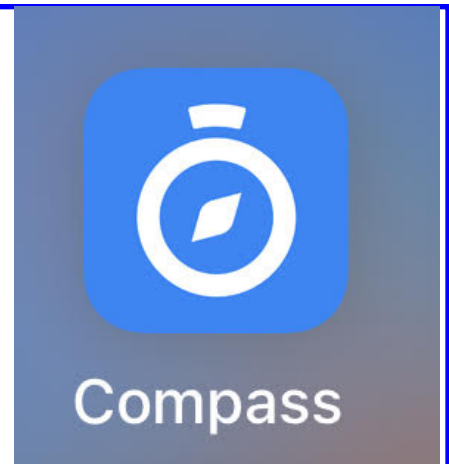


Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:

Alex El Khoury, Germain Toledo, Alessandra De Guzman, Christian Chivers, Sophia Zhang, James Said, Natalya Wakim

Have you had a chance to download our new Compass Parent Portal App?

Thank you to the many parents who have logged onto our new Compass Parent Portal. **For the parents who have not logged on yet an email was sent from St Patrick's Primary School on the 15th October with your username and password.** If you require this to be resent or you need your username please email the school at stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.



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. It would be appreciated if all absences are now explained either through the sms link or the Compass Parent Portal.

Compass will become our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. **Skoolbag will be discontinued in 2022.** 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

Regards

Mrs Jones

Recess Treats

Children are finding it difficult to open certain treats that they are given for recess.

Yoghurts - break the seal for the child then screw top back on

Oreos/Chips/Tiny teddies/Rollups - cut a notch in the top packaging and show your child how to open it or open the packet and place in a zip lock bag.

In keeping with our Covid safety practices teachers try to avoid touching children's food items.



NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Independent

When your child is engaged in independent activities, they are watching and exploring online by themselves. You are still nearby in the same room. Independent activities should only include games, apps, websites and programs you and your child know really well.

- Make sure your child knows they can come to you if they are unsure about anything or they see or experience something that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Check in with your child every so often and ask what they are doing or watching.

Heading back to school?

Don't take COVID-19 with you.

If your child is feeling unwell, keep them at home. It'll keep them and their classmates safe.

Get tested immediately and isolate until they get a negative result.



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](#)

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

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

Pope Francis



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>



sub tuum
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