

# Newsletter

2nd December, 2021  
Term 4 Week 9



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of the season of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus, on Christmas Day. Pope Francis describes Advent as 'the period that every year introduces us to Christmas and its Mystery.'

This year, in his [address to participants in the Christmas Contest initiative](#), His Holy Father muses that the Christmas lights have been somewhat dimmed due to the sadness and challenge of the pandemic. He calls all people, especially the youth to not lose hope. He explains that, 'The feast of the Birth of Christ is not out of tune with the trial we are going through, because it is the quintessential feast of compassion, the feast of tenderness. Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth.' What beautiful words, ones that remind us that there have always been challenges, right throughout human history and that people have an enormous capacity to rise above them if we work together in unity and not division.

Pope Francis also quotes the words of [Saint Paul VI](#): "This world in which we live needs beauty in order not to sink into despair" [3]. Which beauty? Not the false one, made of appearances and earthly riches, which is hollow and a generator of emptiness. No. But that of a God made flesh, the one of faces- the beauty of faces, the beauty of stories; that of the creatures that make up our common home and which – as Saint Francis teaches us – participate in the praise of the Most High.

This Advent 2021 let us rise to the challenge set by Pope Francis by continuing to extend to other little acts of kindness. These do not have to be elaborate, but small and genuine. Let us see the faces of others first before we judge them. Let us try to understand their stories and show patience and human warmth.

'The beauty of Christmas shines through in the sharing of small gestures of genuine love. It is not alienating, it is not superficial, it is not evasive; on the contrary, it expands the heart, opening it up to gratuitousness – gratuitousness, a word artists understand well! – to the giving of self, and can also generate cultural, social and educational dynamics.'

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

## Upcoming Events -

**Refer to our Compass Parent Portal - School Calendar for up to date events, sports days and special events.**

**Tuesday 7th December - Christmas Dance Display (Students only)**

**Friday 10th December - Meet the Teacher Afternoon (K - Year 5)**

**\*\* Please refer to later in this newsletter for events related to Year 6 only.**

## Last Day of Term 4

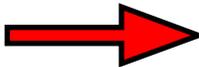
**The last of Term 4 2021 will be Wednesday 15th  
December, 2021**

### 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	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>					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:** Children will only be required to attend one Maths session.  
More information will be communicated for Individual Maths Assessments at a  
later time.

# Timeline for Student Leader Process

Date	Day	Process
17 Nov	Wed	Ms Fabri & Mrs Standing to talk to Year 5
17 Nov	Wed	Current Student Leaders to talk to Year 5 According to COVID Safe practices this will occur outside with one Year 6 leader at a time speaking while socially distanced
22 - 23 Nov	Mon Tues	School Captain Nominations to be lodged at the office.
25 Nov	Thurs	4 top nominees announced (Ms Fabri to announce)
30 Nov	Tues	4 Nominees present speeches to 5 in COLA. Yr 4 will watch a recording of the speeches
		Yr 5 & teachers vote
1-2 Dec		Nominations for Portfolios of Arts, STEM & PDHPE
3 Dec	Fri	Top 6 (3 boys & 3 girls) for each portfolio are announced and voted for by Yr 5 students & teachers
6 Dec	Mon	School Leaders for 2021 announced.

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

## NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Depending on their age, you could suggest they search for different things or help them type different search terms, or you could turn to trusted providers of safe and high quality children's programming and online content.



**We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Malkoun Family (Frank 3T & Melinda 2Y) on the passing of their Grandfather. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.**

## YEAR 6 CELEBRATIONS WEEK 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The school is very conscious that over the last few years families have been unable to celebrate Christmas with their family in the usual ways. This has been largely due to restrictions in place by NSW health and possible isolation requirements because of exposure to positive cases of COVID 19.

With this utmost in our minds all graduation and farewell events will be held on or before December 10th.

In order to make the end of year as special as possible for the Year 6 students the following events will take place in Week 10.

As always I appreciate that you know that all decisions made in the school are driven by the importance the school places on the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

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

Thank you so much for your continued support and cooperation.

Bernadette Fabri

Monday 6th December:	Year 6 Reflection Day (onsite - MUFTI for Year 6 students)
Tuesday 7th December	Christmas Dance Concert
Wednesday 8th December	Year 6 Pizza Lunch
Thursday 9th December	Year 6 STEM Day
Friday 10th December:	The events below will all be taking place <b>on Friday 10th December</b> .
	<u>GRADUATION MASS</u> , will be held outside in the school COLA for Year 6 students. Father Robert will be presiding. Certificates and candles to be presented.
	<b>NB: The school will be able to invite two fully vaccinated Year 6 family members or friends onsite to participate in the Graduation Mass. Registration will be compulsory. Schools are required to see the vaccination status of all visitors. Please organise a time to show the school your vaccination status before the 10th if possible. Drive bys will be accommodated - please phone when you are outside the school.</b>
	<b>The school is committed to support all families by making accommodations for unvaccinated parents by live streaming the event if possible.</b>
	<u>YEAR 6 PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO THE SCHOOL</u> will be held in front of Kindergarten to Year 5 students. Students in K-5 will be seated in their cohorts and socially distanced according to guidelines provided by NSW Health and CSNSW.
<u>FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR YEAR 6</u> , including the final bell and traditional throwing of school hats, will take place at the end of the presentation of the gift, in front of the whole school and parent visitors. This will <b>replace</b> the last day of school celebrations (15th December) to minimize risk for all families.	
	Dismissal as usual with no visitors on site will take place on December 15th.
	Students and their siblings will be permitted to leave to continue their celebrations in a hospitality venue of their choice. (This is optional as school is opened)

## **COVID SAFE REMINDERS**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our sincere gratitude for your continued support and cooperation.

Just a few reminders to continue to keep the children and staff safe whilst at school.

- Please do not send children to school if they are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms. They must stay home and get tested immediately.
- The purpose of the staggered finish at 2.40pm is to avoid the overcrowding on the footpath outside the school grounds. If possible can you please keep to your scheduled time and if not possible remember to physically distance from other parents.

<b>Car Pick Up Time</b>	<b>Alphabetical</b>
2:40 - 2:45	A - D
2:45 - 2:50	E - K
2:50 - 2:55	L - R
2:55 - 3:00	S - Z
3:00 - 3:30	Normal Procedure

- Thank you for your cooperation by not entering the school grounds
- NSW Health highly recommends that primary aged students wear masks when at school.

*Masks are required indoors for all staff, visitors and students in Year 7 or above, and strongly recommended indoors for primary students.*

*(Catholic Schools NSW, CSNSW)*

### **Sacraments of Initiation Information Evening - Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

Unfortunately, due to the most recent COVID lockdown, the regular schedule for the sacramental program at St Patrick's Cathedral had to be postponed but we are pleased to inform everyone that a new calendar has now been formulated and the next program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for children already baptised will commence in Term 1, 2022.

In preparation for this, there will be an **INFORMATION EVENING on Tuesday 07 December at 7:30pm in the Cathedral hall** for parents who are interested in registering their child/ren for the upcoming program and would like to learn more about the process. Please note that children must be 7 years of age or older to be eligible for the program. For more information regarding the upcoming program for Reconciliation and Eucharist or any other enquires about the Sacraments of Initiation at St Patrick's Cathedral please contact Meg Gale: [sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au)



## Christmas Dance Display 2021



Our Annual Christmas Concert for the year will be held in week 10, on Tuesday 7 December at 9am.

Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in Christmas colours.

A video will be shared with all parents, capturing this beautiful celebration.

Thank you for your support.

Religious Education Committee



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

Roselle Ghostine, Evie Grohs, Magdalena Gilchrist, Beth Roumanus, Anthony Malek, Joseph Norman



DATES 

Christmas clinic:

Monday 20th to Friday 24th December

January Clinic:

Monday 17th to Friday 21st January

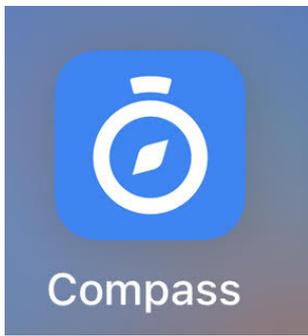
Location: St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta.

Email [nextlevelsports@live.com.au](mailto:nextlevelsports@live.com.au)

If you are interested in sending your child to the school holiday clinic send us an email or contact us on Facebook.

Happy Holidays.

Mr Younis 🍷



## Compass Parent Portal

**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 17th November with your username and password.**

### Downloading the Compass App

#### iOS

For iPhone and iPad users

Click on the "Download on the App Store, search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass app. Search for **St Patrick's Primary - Parramatta** and you're ready to go!



#### Android

For Google Android users

Click on the "Get is on Google play" button, or go to the Google Play Store, search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass app. Search for **St Patrick's Primary - Parramatta** and you're ready to go!



## Dashboard

### Chronicle

Swipe left from the Student Dashboard to view the **Chronicle** section.

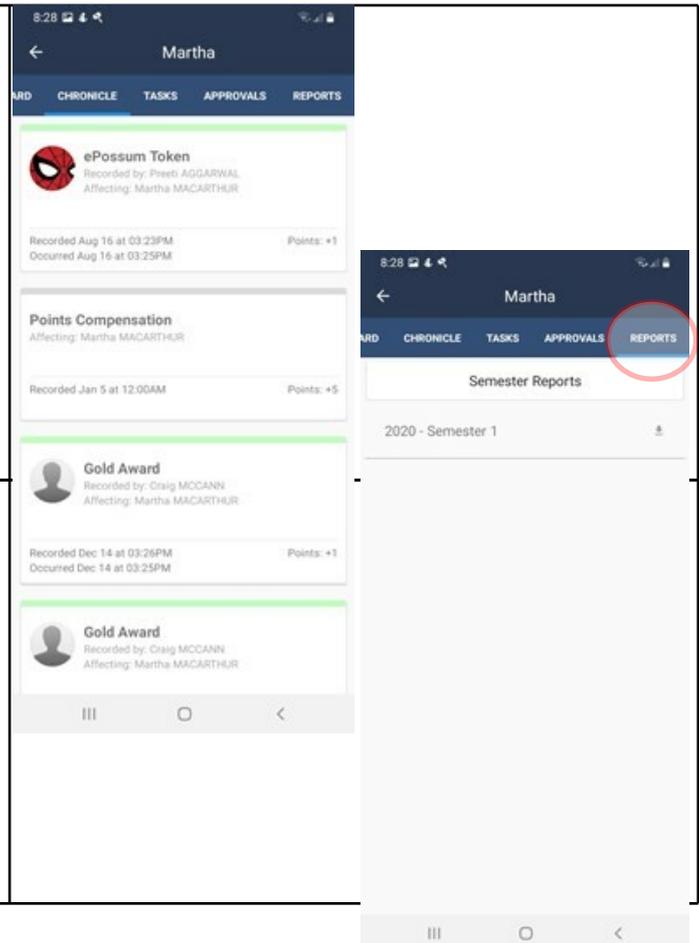
Information displayed here will depend on the settings the school has applied.

You can tap on an entry to view details of the chronicle entry.

### Reports

Swipe left from the Chronicles section to access the **Reports** section.

**We have enabled Semester 1 reports are available now. Semester 2 reports will be available next week.** From here, you can click on the download button to download a pdf copy of the semester report to your device.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
*Summer*  
READING  
*Challenge*

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!

Entry closes at 5:00pm on 25 February 2022.  
Terms and Conditions apply.



## Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge



Please following the link for Terms & Conditions

[Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge](#)

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Please find the latest News from Parramatta Light Rail Project

[Parramatta Light Rail Newsletter](#)

Get Reading!  
**SUMMER READING CLUB**  
For all ages

This summer why not escape into a book!  
1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022  
Find out more!  
<https://parra.city/SRC2021>

CITY OF PARRAMATTA LIBRARIES

**MERCY SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are now open for Year 7, 2022 Mercy Scholarships for:  
Academic Excellence  
Music Excellence  
OLMC Parramatta Alumnae

[www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)

Currently reading Year 7, 2022

HOME | COUNSELLOR | JOBS | LIBRARY | INCLUSION | HOSPITALITY | DONATIONS | SERVICE

"From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us."



*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.

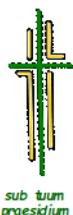
### **FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS**

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](mailto: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>

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:

[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)



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