

# St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

18th May 2017 Term 2 Week 4

CEDP Attendance Benchmark Target Level = 90%

**St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 90.1%**

Dear Parents

Last week, before the NAPLAN testing of Year 3 and 5 students, I had a very interesting conversation with one of our parents on contemporary methods of teaching and learning mathematics. The topic of why we don't teach and learn maths the way 'we learned it when we were at school' is always a hot debate especially when we hear that Australian students are reported to score poorly in the Program for International Student Assessments (PISA). In a recent article by renowned Stanford education professor Jo Boaler and Pablo Zoido, the Education Lead Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, it is maintained that students generally say they learn maths using 3 methods;

1. Memorizing algorithms (mainly comprising of repetitive practice and learning methods 'off by heart' - the traditional method)
2. Relating new topics to those already learned
3. Routinely evaluating learning and focusing on areas not yet learned

This information was gathered from the responses to specially formulated questions in the PISA tests on how students learn maths.

Boaler and Zoido came up with these conclusions:

"In every country, the **memorizers** turned out to be the **lowest achievers**, and countries with high numbers of them—the U.S. was in the top third—also had the highest proportion of teens doing poorly on the PISA math assessment. Further analysis showed that **memorizers were approximately half a year behind students who used relational and self-monitoring strategies**. In no country were memorizers in the highest-achieving group, and in some high-achieving economies, the differences between memorizers and other students were substantial. In France and Japan, for example, pupils who combined self-monitoring and relational strategies outscored students using memorization by more than a year's worth of schooling." (Scientific American Jo Boaler, Pablo Zoido November 1, 2016)

This information is both thought provoking and challenges old paradigms about Numeracy acquisition. The teaching of Maths at St Patrick's Parramatta reflects the most current national and international research. This year the staff are undergoing professional development in the teaching of Multiplicative Thinking and the strategies incorporated in lessons supports what the research is showing about how children learn maths best: as an open, conceptual, inquiry-based subject.

To support teachers, parents and students through communicating evidence-based practice such as the importance of 'number sense' a new centre at Stanford University called Youcubed was formed. For those of you interested in Maths and mathematical concepts youcubed can be accessed by following the link below:

<https://www.youcubed.org/>

Youcubed has interesting articles for parents and fun activities for children. Why not give it a view!

God bless you and your families

Bernadette Fabri

Do you remember how excited your children were about maths\* when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a "math person". This is because maths in many schools is all about procedures, memorization and deciding which children can and which cannot. Maths has become a performance subject and students of all ages are more likely to tell you that maths is all about answering questions correctly than tell you about the beauty of the subject or the way it piques their interest.

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed out students, what can parents do to transform maths for their children? Here are some steps to take:

**1**

Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with a dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

**2**

Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...

**3**

Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls. Don't use flashcards or other speed drills. Instead use visual activities such as <https://bhi61nm2cr3mkd9k1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FluencyWithoutFear-2015.pdf>

**4**

Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

**5**

Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out  $29 + 56$ , if you take one from the 56 and make it  $30 + 55$ , it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.

**6**

Perhaps most important of all – encourage a "growth mindset" let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not "a math person". One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are "smart" when they do something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as "it is great that you have learned that", "I really like your thinking about that". When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: "That's wonderful, your brain is growing!"



*\* I use maths, rather than math, partly because I am from the UK and we say maths there and partly because maths is short for mathematics, it is a plural noun. Mathematics was chosen to be plural to reflect all the many parts of mathematics - drawing, modeling, asking questions, communicating, etc. Math sounds more singular and narrow (Do the math, usually means do a calculation!), and I prefer to keep the idea that maths is a multidimensional and varied set of mathematical forms and ideas.*



## Honour Award

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

3L	Anthony Nakhoul
3T	James Fraser
4B	Anthony Ghostine Maaraoui
4G	Elias Nakhle
5C	Jesse Sabat
5T	Elna Koikkara
6P	Antonios Tannous
6W	Joya Barakat



## st patrick's award

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

3L	Elisa Daher
3T	Christine Kahwaji
4B	Scarlett Weaver
4G	Lucy Parkes
5C	Geshua Toledo
5T	Andre Elzahoul
6P	Isabella Ghostine Maaraoui
6W	Pierre Onano

### Changes to Sport Days for Week 5 only

Due to activities occurring next week sports days have been changed for the following classes: -

2M, 2Y, 1C & KM will wear their sport uniform on Thursday instead of Wednesday.

5C, 5T, 4B & 4G will wear their sport uniform on Wednesday.



**Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:**

Elna Koikkara, Isabella Younes, Angelina Wakim, Aurora Broadbridge, Marcus Moses, Christopher Mekdessi, Isabella Dang

### ICAS - Digital Technologies

A reminder that the ICAS Digital Technologies Assessment is Tuesday the 30th May. All students involved will need to be at school at 7:40 am and meet in the amphitheatre. Students will then move to the Year 6 classrooms to complete the assessment. Certificates will be issued as soon as the results are mailed to the school. This is most likely to be in Term 3.

100%

### INTRODUCING NEW ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES



Improving student attendance has been a focus for Term One with some pleasing results for many students. This term, commencing in Week 2 children who have been able to attain 100% attendance for 5 weeks will receive a (Silver Level) Attendance Certificate. We have chosen 5 weeks as a benchmark as we know sometimes children will get sick and need to be absent from school for their wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. For those who are able to attain 100% attendance for the entire term however they will also get a Gold Level Attendance Certificate. We are into week 3 of our 1st 5 week block and we have 311 students headed for our 1st silver attendance certificates. 100% Attendance means no sick days, leave or unexplained absences. School business such as attending CEDP gala days and CAPTIVATE is always regarded as attendance.



# CHILD PROTECTION

Dear Parents,

On some occasions your child may come home or speak to you on the playground regarding an incident that may have occurred between them and another child(ren). This is not unusual in a school of 412 children as many boys and girls are still learning the skills of negotiation, conflict resolution, compromise, effective communication and emotional regulation. If this happens and you feel that this is beyond the capacity of your child to manage if it is of a nature that needs to be referred to the school, please contact your child's classroom teacher, Mrs Benkovich or myself.

**Under no circumstances is it appropriate or acceptable for you to approach a child, other than your own, to inquire about what happened - even in a manner you feel is non threatening.**

Adults can be unintentionally threatening to a little boy or girl of primary school age and children can become frightened or nervous. Child Protection legislation in a school is very strict regarding these issues. I am sure that no parents would wish another parent or member of another family to approach their child(ren). The school is committed to ensuring that all matters reported are followed up within a reasonable period of time and feedback communicated. Thanking you for your cooperation in this very important safety matter.

Bernadette Fabri

## ROAD SAFETY



Can all parents be mindful of following road and safety rules around the school. A number of neighbours have contacted the school office concerned that our parents are parking in their driveways, for an extended period of time, to drop off children. Living near a school must be frustrating for people, especially immediately before and after school hours, and it is important that we do what we can as a community to work well with those in our local area. I know the vast majority of our parents and family members always do the right thing and we appreciate your efforts on a daily basis. For further information you can go to <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/parking.html>

Can we also remind those families using the Ross St crossing in the afternoon to please follow the instructions, given by a staff member from OLMC, as this is assisting our school with the flow of traffic. We appreciate the support from OLMC.

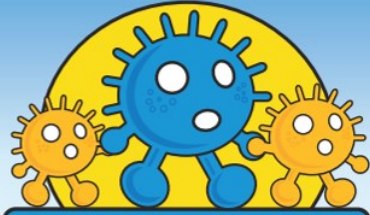
## RECENT CHANGES TO EXTENDED LEAVE (APPLICATIONS NEEDED FOR 5 DAYS OR MORE)

The Catholic Education Office have made recent changes to the application for extended leave from 10 days or more to **5 days or more**.

- Parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave during the school term. Extended leave is now considered to be 5 or more days.
- Parents/Carers must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave **prior** to commencing leave OR apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly.
- Please note that if the child does not return to school on the specified date in the application the school must be notified. If the family is not contactable the Department of Education and Training must be informed.
- On most occasions it is in the child's best interest for all holidays to be scheduled in gazetted holiday times.

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

# ACTIVE KIDS ARE SMARTER KIDS



**WALK SAFELY  
TO SCHOOL DAY**

**FRIDAY 19 MAY 2017**



**Until they're ten, children must always hold  
an adult's hand when crossing the road**

**WALK.COM.AU**



SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL STATE, TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

## Winter Uniform Changeover

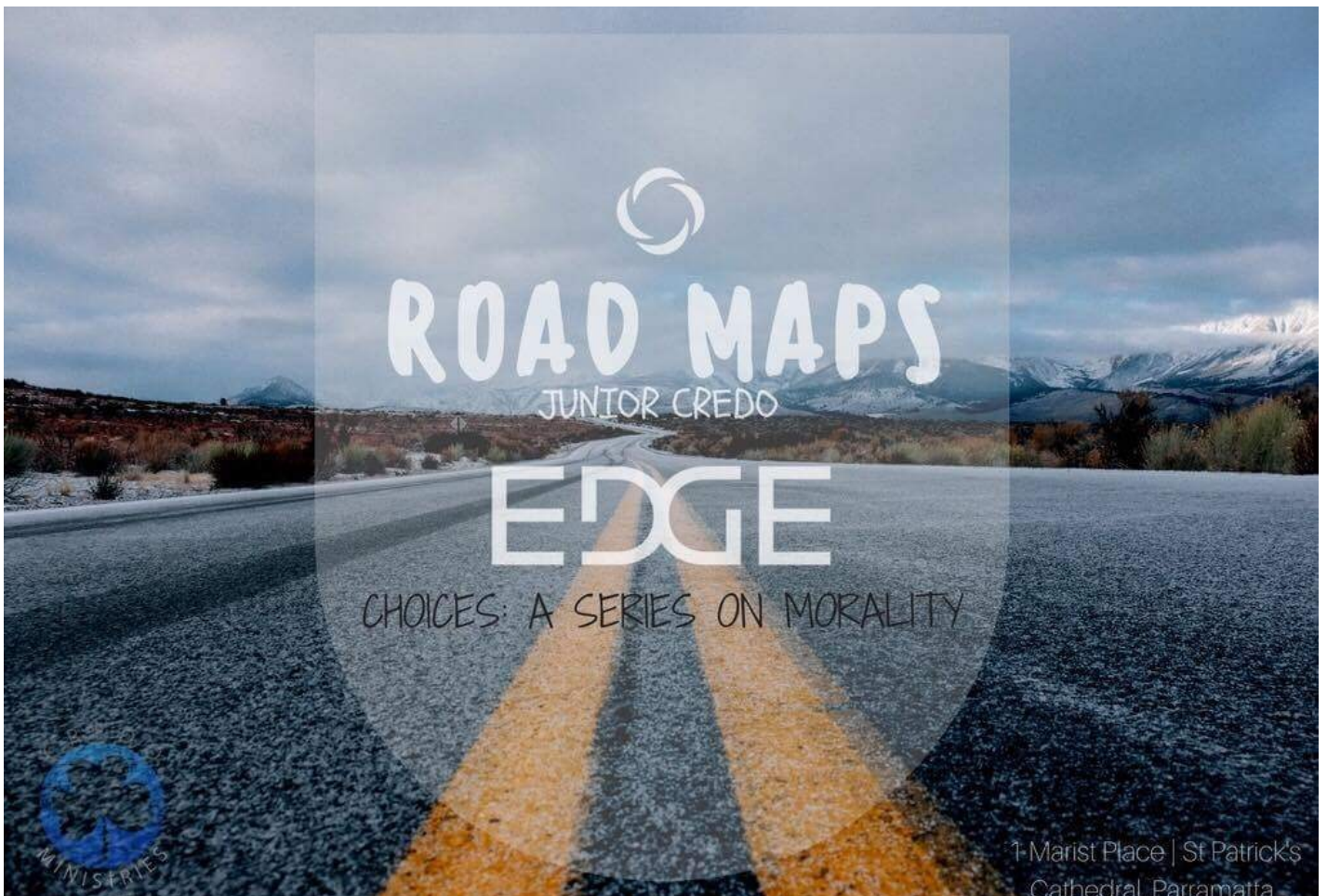
Dear Parents,

We have extended the uniform changeover to the beginning of Week 5 (Monday 23rd May). We ask all parents to use their discretion regarding what uniform they dress their children in. **All children must be in winter uniform by Monday 23rd May**

If you have any questions please contact the school office.

## **Religious Education News**

Currently some of our students are preparing for their First Holy Communion. The parents and students have been attending sessions where they have enjoyed learning about their faith. The candidates will be receiving their First Holy Communion on 18th of June at the 9.30am Sunday Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate our faith. You are welcome to join the students and families on this special day. We are also looking for members of the choir to accompany Mrs Rodricks to lead the singing within the mass. If you are available please see Mrs Rodricks





# MOTHER'S DAYS CELEBRATIONS

Dear Parents,

I hope all the mothers had a wonderful Mother's Day last Sunday. I hope the family continue to demonstrate the spirit of Mother's Day, every day of the year and that you are made to feel much valued and appreciated. Speaking about appreciation I would like to sincerely thank all the parents who played an active part in ensuring that the Mother's Day Stall, morning tea and raffle were so successful. As there are so many parents to thank it would be

impossible to do so without the danger of missing someone out. In light of this I will thank the coordinators of the various events; Mrs Zeinab Takchi for the stall, Mrs Belinda Barakat for the raffle and beautiful flowers at the end of mass and Mrs Monique Wehbe for the Mother's Day Morning Tea. I know that these coordinators had many helpers and even though the morning tea was a 'Year 2' event there were helpers from across grades assisting.

Can I also thank all the parents and companies who donated to the raffle, the mothers who assisted with the setting up of the gifts for the staff and the selling on the day, the mothers who supervised the selling of the tickets, the mothers who assisted with the clean up after the morning tea, and all the parents who attended any of the celebrations on Friday 12th May. Thank you so much to Mrs Benkovich for the coordination of the parents for these events and Mrs Standing and her committee for the organisation of the beautiful Mother's Day mass. Great teamwork all round!

Bernadette Fabri





# Mothers Day Raffle

	Prize	Won By		Prize	Won By
1ST	12 mnth Gym Membership	Isaac Bechara 4G	22nd	Xcentrik Hair Vouchers	Alex El Khoury 2M
2nd	12 mnth Gym Membership	Ben Aguilera 4G	23rd	Xcentrik Hair Vouchers	Eliza El Bayeh 5C
3rd	Oceanout Watch	Scarlett Weaver 4B	24th	Tupperware Pack	Ray Wehbe 6W
4th	Revolution X - 1 mnth voucher	Sean Feng 2M	25th	Tupperware Pack	Gabrielle Vella 1C
5th	Escapadehfd Cut & Blowdry Products	Amelia Coles 2M	26th	Michael Buble Perfume/Nail polish	Natalie Draybi 6W
6th	Bracelet	Tharuki Randeniya 5T	27th	Maie Claire Platter	Joshua Romanos 6P
7th	Minx Hair products	Abbey Matta 1S	28th	Single Rosetta Espresso Bar	Adrian Pangan 6W
8th	Wooden Jewellery Box	Michael Farah 6W	29th	Single Rosetta Espresso Bar	Anna Janczewski 6P
9th	Schwarzkopf Hair Treatment Pack	Dunya Grudic 4G	30th	Villers Street Café	Angelique Saliba KM
10th	Schwarzkopf Hair Treatment Pack	Tahlia Kalouch 3T	31st	Villers Street Café	Isaac Bechara 4G
11th	Pizza Crate Voucher	Celine Joachim KA	32nd	Earrings	Zoe Samar 3L
12th	SPAR supermarket	Jeremy Saliba	33rd	Nutrimetics Hand Cream, Cosmetic Bag, Body Lotion	Tahlia Kalouch 3T
13th	Soda Stream	Josephine Behan KA	34th	Beauty Pack	Ysabel Daelo 2Y
14th	Gina Perume Pack	Rosa Rizk KA	35th	Coffee & Dough Voucher	Thomas Kougellis 4G
15th	Champagne	Finn Giron 3T	36th	Coffee & Dough Voucher	Andrew Doumit 3T
16th	Cheese Platter	Zara Fong 6W	37th	Coffee & Dough Voucher	Jazmyne Drosos 1C
17th	Cheese Platter	Shanelli Perera KM	38th	Coffee & Dough Voucher	Mary Jo El-Sabbagh 4B
18th	Kim Kardashion Gold Body Lotion, Body Wash & Perfume	Tharuki Randeniya 5T	39th	Coffee & Dough Voucher	Lucienne Tolentino 6P
19th	Cannister Set	Adrian Pangan 6W	40th	Fragrance Oil	Arabella Gittany 5T
20th	Xcentrik Hair Vouchers	Finn Giron 3T	41st	Fragrance Oil	Olivia Saab 2M
21st	Xcentrik Hair Vouchers	Charlie Romanos 4G			



# 2017 School Calendar

## Term 2

### Week 4

Friday 19th May Primary Assembly—2.15pm—Year 5

### Week 5

Tuesday 23rd May ICAS—Digital Tech 7.40am

Thursday 25th May Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day  
Moran Photographic Workshop selected Year 5

Friday 26th May Whole School Assembly—Choir—2.15pm

### Week 6

Monday 29th May Captivate Rehearsal

Tuesday 30th May ICAS—Science 7.40am

Friday 2nd June Year 6 Excursion—State Parliament & St Patrick's Church  
Primary Assembly—2.15pm—Year 3

### Week 7

Friday 9th June NO ASSEMBLY  
Primary Athletics Carnival & 8yrs olds (Year 2)  
Barton Park, Parramatta

### Week 8

**Monday 12th June Public Holiday—No school for students**

Tuesday 14th June ICAS—Writing 7.40am

Captivate Rehearsal

Friday 16th June Year 4 Excursion—Two Cultures  
Infants Assembly—2.15pm—Kinder  
Captivate Evening Performance

### Week 9

Thursday 22nd June Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

Friday 23rd June Primary Assembly—Year 6—2.15pm

### Week 10

Thursday 29th June Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day

Friday 23rd June Infants Assembly—Year 2—2.15pm

**Last day of Term 2**



*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

##### **Weekday Masses**

Mon to Fri 6.45am, 12.30pm  
Public Hol 8.00am

##### **Pastoral Team**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.  
Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini

Fr George Azhakath

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)



## Catherine McAuley Westmead

### Enrolments for Year 7 2019

There are three Open Mornings specifically for Year 7 2019 enrolments to be held on:

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October and  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**9.15 – 11am**

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2019. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on one of our upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2019 applicants but open to any year group.

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these tour mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

**Annulment Information Seminar** - Solo Parent Services will be holding our annual seminar on Annulments in the Catholic Church for anyone interested in learning more about this process.

**Date:** Tuesday 23rd May **Time:** 6.45pm for 7pm start to 9pm. **Venue:** 38 Prince St, Blacktown (cnr First Ave) **Cost:** \$7.00. **Registration Essential:** Contact Rita Chater Ph: 8822 2222 or email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

**Oakhill College Gala Day**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**Oakhill College, Old Northern Road, Castle Hill**  
**9.00am – 4.00pm**  
**Rugby, Soccer, Tennis and  
Hats, Scarves, Candles,  
Jewellery, Food stalls & More  
Jumping Castle, Obstacle C  
Movies, Bucking Bull, Chocolate Wheel  
& Raffles prizes**  
**All welcome!**  
**<http://www.galaday.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/>**

## School Banking 2017 is off to a flying start.

This year's School Banking adventure is well underway, as the new-look Dollarsmites lead the journey up towards the amazing Savings Hover Park. Students are demonstrating a remarkable saving behaviour.

### New reward items

There are two new reward items to keep students saving in Term 2: the 3D Chalk Set and Tablet Case. Your child can redeem one of these, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

### Modern ways to teach money skills with the CommBank Youth app

Through the School Banking program, CommBank has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and smart money management since 1931. In 2017, the introduction of the CommBank Youth app, an innovative digital banking tool, will help enhance the School Banking program.

With the CommBank Youth app, your child can:

- Check the balance of their Youthsaver account.
- View School Banking deposits in their transaction history.
- Track the number of Dollarsmites tokens they collect.
- Set up savings goals and monitor their progress.
- Create a list of chores they can do to earn pocket money.

Explore more about the CommBank Youth app, and how to get your child started, by visiting [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)

### Learning the value of digital money

Did you know that approximately one in five parents are trying to teach their children about cashless transactions and digital money management? CommBank research shows parents are alternating between cash and online bank transfers when giving their children pocket money, and actively demonstrating 'tap and go', online banking, mobile applications and how ATMs work. For more information and tips on financial education for kids, visit The Beanstalk on [commbank.com.au/beanstalk](http://commbank.com.au/beanstalk)



Things you should know: The Commonwealth Bank School Banking Study is an online survey of 1,040 parents across Australia undertaken by ICF Research in December 2016. This article is provided to provide general information of an educational nature only. It does not have regard to the financial situation or needs of any reader and must not be relied upon as financial product advice. Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124.



## DR JUSTIN COULSON RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN



**WHEN:** Monday, 29 May 2017 (Doors open 6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

**WHERE:** Catholic Learning Communities of St John XXIII – St Mark's College,  
Meeting will be held in the staff room – entry via main school foyer.  
160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens (parking available)

*The PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our seminar.*

### What others have to say:

"...an engaging and dynamic presenter..."

"...are we getting him back next year? He's fantastic!..."

### FREE PARENT/CARER SEMINAR!

Registrations are open – visit:

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events)



*One of the most frequent questions Kidspot parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson is asked is 'How can I help my child become resilient?' Friendship problems, bullying, physical changes and parenting styles are just some of the issues that can affect our children's ability to bounce back from difficulty and adapt to challenging situations.*

*Helping our children develop resilience can have lifelong effects.*

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)

[@prcparra](https://www.facebook.com/prcparra)

[@prcparra](https://twitter.com/prcparra)



[www.floralexpressions.com.au](http://www.floralexpressions.com.au)  
Thank you to our sponsors!

