Dear Parents,

This year St Patrick’s Primary School will join Catholic schools across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from 9-15 March.

The theme for CSW 2014 is ‘more than a great education’ which encourages schools to communicate to their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness, and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

When I reflect on this year’s theme it brings to mind my own experience of education in Catholic Schools – St Anthony’s Girraween for Primary School, Catherine McAuley Westmead for Years 7 to 10 and Cerdon College Merrylands for Years 11 and 12, as Catherine McAuley did not have a senior campus then. I can continue this further with Tertiary Studies at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) North Sydney for my Teaching degree, and ACU Strathfield for my Masters in Educational Leadership. I can truly testify that my involvement with the Catholic Education System, combined with the influence of my family and parish, not only gave me a great education but helped shape the person I am today. My identity, my friendships, my attitudes, the values I hold, my spirituality, my love for learning, my faith and my country, including the country of my birth, is due to the confidence, skills and knowledge I gained through my involvement in Catholic Schools and Universities. I learned to see that the opportunities offered through education was not only going to benefit me as an individual but provide me with a myriad of opportunities to be of service to others in community. This opportunity is indeed more than that of a great education but a life long gift. For this I will always be deeply thankful!

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day. Our school has a supportive community who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

It is for this reason that I would like to again extend an invitation to you and your family to join us at St Patrick’s Parramatta on Monday, 10th March, to celebrate with our school and parish community Catholic Schools Week 2014.

This is an ideal opportunity to support our school community and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support, warmth, cooperation, generosity and positive vision for our school and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you not only this Monday but on every single day at St Patrick’s Parramatta.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal
**Student of the Week**

Student of the week is rewarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA - Sophia Paguia</th>
<th>KM - Jacob Manago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1C - George Draybi</td>
<td>1S - Katerina Yannakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2M - Aidan Vancuylenberg</td>
<td>2Y - Allen Soso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L - Arwen-Cady Firmeza</td>
<td>3T - Anna Janczewski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B - Pramuditha Wanigasinghe</td>
<td>4G - John Boutros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C - Mehaara Joseph</td>
<td>5T - Adriana Saab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6P - Mariejose Nakhle</td>
<td>6W - Olana Lal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

As I know that it is important for parents to be informed of dates as early as possible I will endeavour to make this year’s calendar available as soon as we can. In the meantime, the dates for the scheduled Staff Development Days are as follows:

- **Term One**: Friday, 11th April (Last day of Term One)
- **Term Two**: Friday, 6th June (Queen’s Birthday Holiday Weekend)
- **Term Three**: Friday 19th September (Last day of Term Three)
- **Term Four**: Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of December (last 2 days of the school year)

Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, the date for events will need to be changed. If this is ever the case we will try to give you plenty of notice.

**PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Dear Lord

Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our Catholic schools.

It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place each day in every classroom.

We acknowledge and thank all who work in the service of Catholic education to create the opportunities for students that allow them to grow and thrive.

We thank you for the wisdom and understanding of teachers the enthusiasm and energy of students the leadership of school Principals and executive staff the skill, care and commitment of administrative and support staff the guidance of our pastors and religious leaders the support and partnership of parents, carers and local communities.

We pray that each student’s learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth.

We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that we have all been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask that we use what we have learnt to create a better world for all people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

**SPORTING NEWS**

Congratulations to Emile Saab (6W) who has made the Parramatta Diocesan Swim Team and will be competing at the NSWCP Sportswear carnival on Friday 28th March.

Good luck to Amelia McGlinn (softball 6W) and Luis Medak (tennis 6P) who are both members of the Parramatta Diocesan team and are now trying out for the MacKillop teams.

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

- Harrison Chidiac, Caitlin Vilches
- Alexander Sicurella, Marybeth Abraham, Ashley Younis, Darcy Fraser, Catherine Said, Sienna Golossian
CATHOLIC SCHOOL’S WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Theme: ‘More than a Great Education’

Monday 10th March

9.00am - 10.30am**

Liturgy followed by Open Classrooms

10.30 – 11.30am

Morning tea with children in the playground
(Weather permitting)

(During this time parents and visitors may visit the art exhibition in the school hall.)

**Previously advertised as 9.30am start

SHROVE TUESDAY PIKELETS

Thank you to the following parents who helped organise and distribute the pikelets to the students on Tuesday.

A special thank you to Mrs Khalil for organising the helpers and to the mums for donating some pikelets on the day. They were thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Gloria Khalil, Claire Moujalli, Annette Romanos, Lorraine Takchi, Nina Wehbe, Jolane Achie, Denise Gebrael, Zeinab Takchi

ST PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

It is that exciting time of year again when we celebrate the patron Saint of our school Saint Patrick.

The children can wear GREEN mufti with joggers and make a gold coin donation to Project Compassion.

Parents are welcome to attend our Liturgy commencing at 9.00am.

The children will then return to their classrooms where the teachers have organised some exciting creative arts with an Irish theme.

The children will make their way to Parramatta Park at 12.00 noon for activities and a picnic lunch. Parents are welcome to watch the activities and have lunch with their children.

On completion of the activities the children will return to school for normal pickup.

CHILD PROTECTION MODULES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Parent helpers in a school are a vital resource. Any parent interested in assisting in reading groups, excursions etc need to complete the ‘child protection briefing for Volunteers’ found by following the website link below. Parents and other family members are unable to assist if this module is not completed and submitted. Looking forward to all of your assistance http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/module1/index.htm

2015 KINDERGARTEN APPLICATION for ENROLMENT PACKS

Application for Enrolment Packs for 2015 are available to be collected from the school office.

Please complete and sign the forms and return them with your child’s original birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport or citizenship papers if applicable. They will be photocopied and returned to you.

Applications must be received by Friday 31st May.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

Are you interested in finding out what is happening in the School/Parramatta Diocese, sharing ideas, fund raising or just chatting over some refreshments?

Come and join the

ST PATRICK’S PARENT GROUP

Meeting: Tuesday 25th March

Venue: School Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Hope to see you there!!!

LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK

Yrs 3 – 6 Cross Country
IT’S ACADEMIC
On Thursday 27th February Rachel Corpuz, Cassandra Holdaway, Angel Nasr, Mariejose Nakle, Tayla Van Cuylenberg, Narella Wakim, Josie Wehbe, Mabel Zekan, George Khoury, Oliver Wehbe, Ethan Hoang, Yvette Roque, Mariella Sonido, Jack Pellew, Miray Sakr, Emile Saab and Lea Barakat were lucky enough to be chosen to be on the 2014 season of the popular TV show ‘It’s Academic’.

It’s Academic is a TV show on Channel 7 Two where the host Simon Reeve questions Year 6 students on a variety of subjects as well as general knowledge.

A recount of the day from the students...

Over the last few weeks we were given the opportunity to practise for the competition in the library with Mrs Barclay and Mrs O’Dwyer. All the teams felt that this was very helpful as the teachers challenged us with questions to give us an idea of what we were to experience.

On the day of the competition we had an early start, arriving at school at 7am, and then catching a bus to Foxtel Studios at Macquarie Park where we were to be filmed for the show. It was around 9am when the first children started the quiz and by 3:30pm we had finally finished. So yes, it was a long day but it was really worth it and we are all glad we accepted the offer of being involved in this amazing opportunity. Some contestants were even given a chance to visit the Nickelodeon room where we had a ride on a giant slide!

We would like to thank all the teachers, parents and students for supporting us through this exciting journey and are grateful for this once in a lifetime experience one that we will remember for the rest of our lives.

Please note that our shows will be on television during the first week of November at 7:30am.

2014 SCHOOL FEES Term 1 School
Fee accounts have been sent out by the Catholic Education office. The due date for payment is Friday 7th March, 2014. Arrangements made in 2013 are now finished and any family having difficulty completing term payments on time and wish to make payments by instalments using cash, Centrelink or Bpay etc please contact the School Office for an appointment with Mrs Nutter to set up a new arrangement.

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 2-2014
Due Friday 21st March, 2014
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED
The preferred method of payment is to make the payment online directly to Scholar. If paying by cheque please make the CHEQUE out to Scholastic Australia.
Remember to fill out Order Forms correctly and place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with NAME - CLASS - BOOKCLUB
CORRECT MONEY (no change given)

PARENT HOSPITALITY GROUPS
At the parent information nights parents had the opportunity to put their names down to assist in upcoming events/morning teas. Please see the attached list for your name or if you would like to assist please contact the school office.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE
The newsletter is now online, should you need a hardcopy please inform the office staff.
To subscribe to the newsletter follow the instructions provided below:
Log onto www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au
On the right hand side click on the heading subscribe to our newsletter online. Please complete the pop up screen and submit. Our newsletter will be emailed to you approx. 3pm every Thursday. Occasionally it may be Friday morning if trouble arises.

Smartloving Workshop
Enhancing Marriage Relations
Sunday 23rd March, 2-5pm
Holy Family School Hall
32 Willowdene Ave, Luddenham
Donation at the door (afternoon Tea provided)
Bookings essential
Call Jess 02 9319 6280 info@smartloving.org
Spouses can attend on their own or as a couple.
## COMING EVENTS 2014

### TERM ONE  –  DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 2.20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week&lt;br&gt;9.00am – 10.30am Liturgy followed by open classrooms&lt;br&gt;Assembly Yr 2 School Hall 2.20pm&lt;br&gt;Year 3 excursion to Featherdale Farm&lt;br&gt;Year 5 excursion to Mt Tomah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>St Patricks Day Liturgy – 9.00am Parents Welcome&lt;br&gt;St Patricks Day Activities &amp; lunch – 12.00 noon&lt;br&gt;Parramatta Park Parents Welcome&lt;br&gt;Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.20pm&lt;br&gt;Yr 4 Excursion to Arabanoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>27th March</td>
<td>Year 2 excursion to Warragamba Dam&lt;br&gt;Primary Cross Country&lt;br&gt;Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>NO Assembly&lt;br&gt;Yr 6 excursion to Canberra&lt;br&gt;Primary Cross Country&lt;br&gt;Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleven</td>
<td>7th April</td>
<td>NO Assembly&lt;br&gt;Yr 6 excursion to Canberra&lt;br&gt;Primary Cross Country&lt;br&gt;Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

**Priests:** The Most Rev Bishop Anthony Fisher, The Very Rev Father John McSweeney, Rev Father Suresh & Rev Father Andrew Bass

**MASSES**

- **Saturday Vigil** 6:00 p.m.
- **Sunday** 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- **Children’s Liturgy** 9:30 a.m.

**WEEKDAY MASS**

- **Monday to Friday** 6:45am, 12:30 p.m.

**RECONCILIATION**

- **Monday to Friday** 11:45am to 12:30pm

- **Saturday** 8:00 am

- **Public Holidays** 8:00 am

- **Saturday** 8:30 to 9:00 am & 5:15 to 6:00 pm
Hello,

I’m Miss Fabri’s special friend and I came with her to St Patricks School

I’M SAD BECAUSE I DON’T HAVE A NAME

CAN YOU HELP ME?

Get your entries in by Friday 14th March
DIOCESEAN SWIM CARNIVAL

IT'S ACADEMIC TEAM
Catherine McAuley Westmead
Enrolments for Year 7 2015

Catherine McAuley Westmead holds a number of School Open Mornings throughout the year.

There are two Open Mornings remaining for Year 7 2015 enrolments on:
Tuesday 11th March and Thursday 3rd April 2014
9.15 – 11am

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.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week by coming to see our school!

---

**Parramatta Marist High School**

Information Evening

2 Darcy Road westmead NSW 2145
Phone: 9635 7055  www.Parramariat.nsw.edu.au
Parking is available via Gate 3, Darcy Road (opposite Westmead Private Hospital)

We offer top quality education with very affordable fees.
For the past 7 years, PMH’s HSC Results have seen us placed in the top 100 schools in NSW.
In 2013, we achieved the following HSC Results:
77th in the state overall, 28th in Mathematics
26 students with an ATAR above 90, First in the state in Mathematics 2 Unit
Parramatta Marist has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised as innovators in 21st Century education.
Diocesan News from the Bishops Office

Connect with the Diocese and find out the latest news and events on Social Media:
Facebook  https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic
Twitter  @parracatholic

St Patrick’s Cathedral Choir, Parramatta
Recruiting male and female singers in all voice parts. Develop vocal skills and learn more about the Catholic faith and liturgy. Scholarship payments available to singers aged 16-35 who demonstrate music leadership skills. To arrange an audition, contact the Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick tel 0430 431 884. For further information, visit www.stpatscathedral.com.au

Preparing Music for the Easter Triduum
These workshops organised by the Office for Worship include ministerial chants for clergy (priests and deacons), cantors and choir, with particular focus on the new translations and chants for the Unveiling of the Cross (Good Friday) and the Exsultet (Easter Vigil).
From 7.30pm-9pm on these dates:
13 March at St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. RSVP 10 March
20 March at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith. RSVP 17 March
27 March at St Patrick’s Parish, 51-55 Allawah St, Blacktown. RSVP 24 March
RSVP to the Office for Worship tel (02) 8838 3414, liturgysupport@parra.catholic.org.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 13 March
A forum for young people aged 18-35 to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney’s most famous pub. Speaker: Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College, Toongabbie. Topic: Theology of the Body – Answering the Deeper Questions; the Meaning of Sex and the Body. Time: 5pm-7pm. Venue: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta, sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au

Connecting Peace, Ecology and Justice: 14-15 March
This Culture of Peace Formation Program is suitable for parish social justice groups, young adult groups, parish workers, educators and interested participants. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta’s Social Justice Office, Institute for Mission and Columban Mission Institute. Cost $80 includes meals and materials. Friday 14 March from 4-8pm and Saturday 15 March from 9am-4pm. Venue: Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. For more information and registration contact Sr Louise McKeogh FMA, Social Justice Coordinator, Diocese of Parramatta tel (02) 8838 3429, LMckeogh@parra.catholic.org.au

Living Lent Daily Retreat Day: 15 March
The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer retreat opportunities for single Catholic women aged 18-35 who are seeking to deepen their spiritual life. Join the Sisters for a Retreat Day of Lent reflections and prayers followed by a social gathering. Lunch and dinner provided. Where: 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong. Cost: free but registration is essential. RSVP: 11 March to Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, margaretcsfn@gmail.com Visit www.csfn.org.au

Blackheath Reflection Morning: 15 March
A joint venture of Aquinas Academy and Catalyst for Renewal. This month, ‘An Imaginary Conversation between St Therese of Lisieux and Friedrich Nietzsche’ with Dominic Arcamone. Come and enjoy the reflection, silence and solitude in peaceful surrounds. From 10am-1pm. Entry by donation, morning tea provided. Sacred Heart Parish Hall, cnr Sturt and Wentworth Sts, Blackheath. Details: Carmen Vanny tel (02) 4787 8706.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 March
God in the Lodge: The religious beliefs of Australia’s Prime Ministers. Speaker: Roy Williams, lawyer and author of the international best-seller God, Actually. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks. Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 March
Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.
To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 21-23 March
A Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Invest in your most precious asset … your marriage! Venue: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Inquiries & bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel (02) 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au www.wwme.org.au Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit

DISCOVER Weekend: 21-23 March
Young women aged 18-35 years are invited to DISCOVER – a self-knowledge weekend on identity, personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission. Mount Schoenstatt Retreat Centre. Registration essential. For further information or to register contact Sister M Julie Brcar: juliebrcar@gmail.com

Bridging Sydney City Assembly: 26 March
Bridging Sydney will launch the Sydney Alliance agenda for the common good with specific asks for the NSW Government on the issues of public transport, affordable housing and supported job pathways. With a year to go before the next NSW election, the aim is to build a bridge between Sydney’s civil society and those who serve in elected office. The Diocese of Parramatta is a member of the Sydney Alliance. Doors open at 6pm, concludes 8.30pm. Venue: Sydney Town Hall, George Street. Register your attendance at: www.sydneyalliance.org.au

Central City of Parramatta Circle Dinner: 27 March
Members of the Catenian Association are Catholic men who meet once a month to join collectively in a friendly atmosphere in the practice of their faith, to enjoy each other's company and to support their local parishes and the Diocese. The City of Parramatta Circle meets for dinner on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Lachlan’s Restaurant in Old Government House in Parramatta Park. Commences at 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start. This month's guest speaker will be Christine Berrierre from St Lucy's School in Wahroonga. More information contact Ian Goldthorpe – Membership Officer, City of Parramatta Circle, tel 0408 169 941.

MGL Spiritual Association Healing Mass: 29 March
"I have come to bring fire to the earth” Luke 12:49.
The Missionaries of God’s Love Spiritual Association (Sydney) warmly invites you, your friends and acquaintances to a Healing Mass with Fr Ken Barker MGL. Mass at 1pm will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. The day concludes at 4pm. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. RSVP to Jenny: jennytscott25372@gmail.com or Missionaries of God’s Love Facebook page.

Central Coast tour with pelican feeding: 1 April
Enjoy a day out on the Central Coast with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Cost: $30 includes morning tea and pelican feeding. Lunch at Digger’s at The Entrance (own expense). Bus departs 8.30am at 20 Virgil St and 8.35am opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.

Book early to avoid disappointment – deposit of $20 required. Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Colloquium on The Francis Effect: 3 April
Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia are hosting a colloquium that will enlarge on the reflections contained in The Francis Effect: Living the Joy of the Gospel as well as further explore Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium. This event will bring together Catholic leaders for a day of formation and professional development for anyone who is living and leading mission and evangelisation. Keynote Address by Fr Noel Connolly SSC – The Francis Effect: A Theology of Leadership for Mission. From 8.30am to 4.30pm. Registration: $195 adult, $95 concession (registration includes a copy of The Francis Effect, morning tea and lunch). Venue: Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club. More information and to register: www.catholicmission.org.au

The Seven Last Words of Christ Lenten Retreat: 4-6 April

Grace & Silence Retreat Day: 12 April
Young women aged 17-30 years who are discerning their vocation to marriage, single or consecrated life or who would like to have a day of recollection are invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mulgoa. Grace & Silence commences with a short impulse followed by Eucharistic Adoration; silent prayer and reflection and concludes with a group rosary and afternoon tea. From 9.30am-4.30pm. Cost $20 includes lunch. The Schoenstatt Shrine is at 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For further information and registration contact: Sister M Julie 0408 738 334, uliebrcar@gmail.com