



Dear Parents

Australia has one of the very best education systems anywhere in the world. Each day, our young people are provided with opportunities to learn more about the world they live in through their experiences in and out of the classroom. Schools teach children about themselves, their relationships with others and about life beyond school. This includes preparing them for the workforce.

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves. When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much. Without the knowledge, the skills or the support that schools are so good at providing, young people can get left behind and find themselves underprepared for a fast-paced and often very challenging world.

In 2017, St Patrick's Parramatta will be lending our support to a campaign called 'Every Learner, Every Day', an initiative designed to remind students and parents why regular school attendance is so important. As part of this campaign, a range of resources and strategies will be made available to help parents, if help is needed. A poster that explains simply the benefits of being at school regularly is included in this newsletter. I encourage you to think about the ideas suggested on the poster and to speak to your child about these messages. A dedicated website that will provide easy access to support resources will be launched soon.

I appreciate that this is not a matter that may impact on a large number of our families; however, if the 'Every learner, every day' campaign can assist even just a few students to be at school more regularly, with all the benefits that come with that, it is a terrific outcome.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me for an appointment.

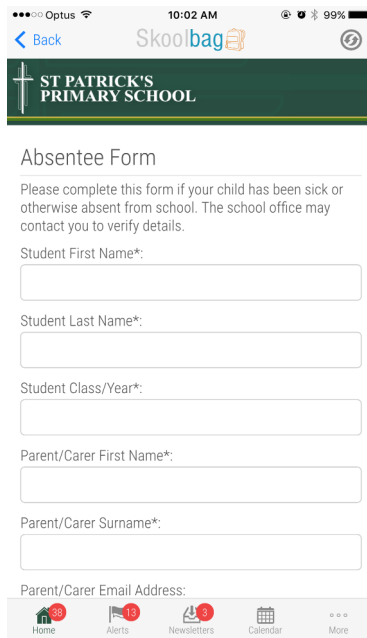
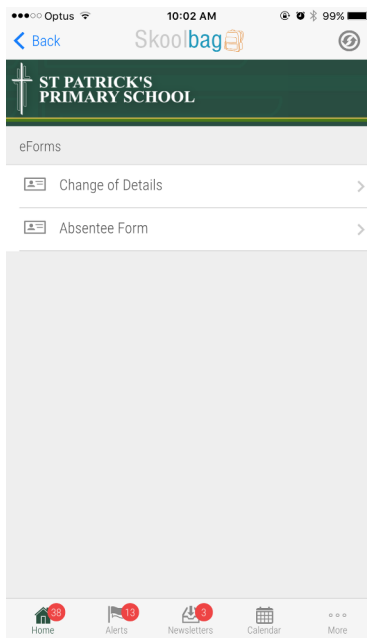
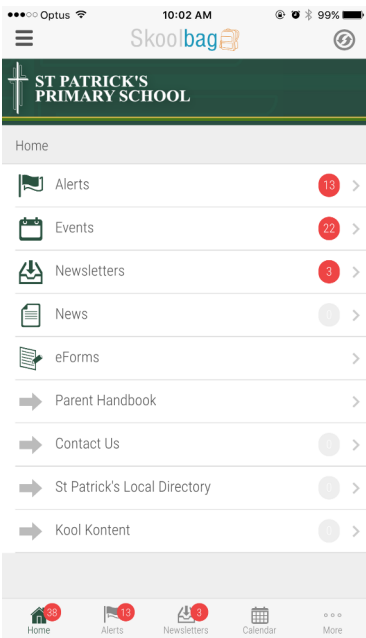
Thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative.

God bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Children are required by legislation to attend school each day, and we are required by law to keep records of each child's absences from school. For this reason if your child is unable to attend school, a note must be sent the day the child returns to school giving the reason for the absence. This can be done by letter or by using the school's Skoolbag App (please see instructions below).

The absence needs to be explained within 7 days of the absence or it will be changed to unexplained and cannot be altered if the note is received after that time. All absences are shown on the child's report.



Step 1—Open your skoolbag app

Step 2—From home page (picture 1) select eforms

Step 3—Select Absentee form (picture 2)

Step 4—Complete the absentee form with your child's details. (picture 3)

Step 5—Submit the form which will then be emailed to St Patricks to enable the office to mark the absent as explained.

NB: The dates should show the first day of absent and the last day the child is absent.

MON

TUE

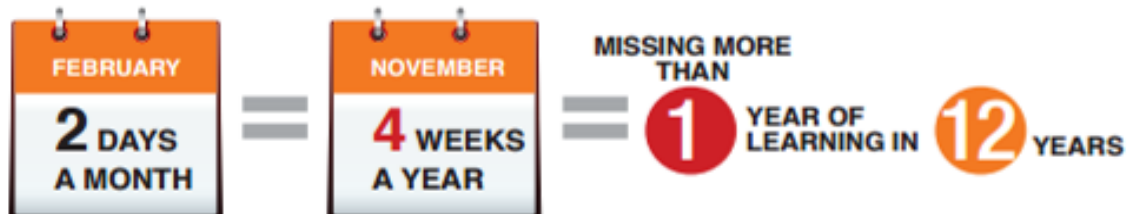
WED

THU

FRI

every learner every day

ABSENCES ADD UP!



DID YOU KNOW



1 IN 6

PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT
ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP



If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner
every day 



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

Mia Wehbe, Hannah Scanlon, Amelia Coles, Paul Khouri, Jonah Shehadie, Adrian Sicurella





Honour Award

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

3L	Jake Buxton
3T	Olivia Wehbe
4B	Jacob Sayegh
4G	Katerina Yannakis
5C	Jade Takchi
5T	Sienna Volante
6P	Anna Janczewski
6W	Joanna Davino

st patrick's award

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



3L	Christina Elzahoul
3T	Alexandra Elphinstone
4B	Kiara Haddad
4G	Julian Tanna
5C	Matthew Khreich
5T	Clyde Guatlo
6P	Jonah Freifer
6W	Luke Maroun

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who have been chosen by their peers to be this Semesters' Student Representative Council members. Each class from Kindergarten to Year 5 have considered the question, "Who would you like to represent your class?" They nominated and then voted. No adult nominates or votes in this process. This is an opportunity for children to have a 'voice'. Children see things differently to adults and can often assist us to see their perspective on what is happening in a school. Having a voice can assist children to feel listened to and respected. It is also an opportunity for the adults in the school to explain why things happen a particular way. It is often wonderful how children are open to choosing a variety of personalities and abilities for these roles. They enjoy giving other children a go in leadership. One child commented on her nomination by saying, "I thought ____ would do a really good job as our rep and I wanted to give him a go" Thank you to all the children for their role in creating the SRC for Semester 1. 2017. The SRC will receive their badges at tomorrow's assembly, 2.00pm in the school hall.

Class	Semester 1—SRC's	
KM	Girl: Hannah Scanlon	Boy: Joseph Norman
KA	Girl: Celine Joachim	Boy: Zachary Aguilera
1C	Girl: Laura Scanlon	Boy: Joshua Manago
1S	Girl: Sophie Salloum	Boy: Paul Khouri
2Y	Girl: Maria Khoury	Boy: Thomas Aguilera
2M	Girl: Meagan Erive	Boy: Elie Wehbe
3L	Girl: Elisa Daher	Boy: Anthony Nakhoul
3T	Girl: Olivia Takchi	Boy: Finn Giron
4B	Girl: Chiara Banzato	Boy: John Paul Wehbe
4G	Girl: Dunya Grudic	Boy: Dante Dagostino
5C	Girl: Laurice Behan	Boy: Joshua Lorenzo
5T	Girl: Sandra Moussa	Boy: Noah Gebrael

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Congratulations to the following children for their appointment as Sport's Captains for Semester 1 2017. These children were chosen by a panel of teachers, for their sporting ability and their potential for leadership. We wish them well in their new roles. These children will be presented with their badges at tomorrow's assembly.

Semester 1—House Captains		
<u>Melaleuca</u>	Girl: Arwen-Cady Firmeza	Boy: Prince Gyan
<u>Boronia</u>	Girl: Nicole Aboumelhem	Boy: Luke Maroun
<u>Wattle</u>	Girl: Annabelle Younes	Boy: Andre Eltakchi
<u>Waratah</u>	Girl: Zara Fong	Boy: Ray Wehbe



ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES

Several children at our school suffer from food allergies –**some very severe**. Action plans are currently in place to administer medication to these children if it is required. To assist the staff and to help safeguard the health of these children I ask that you impress upon your own children the dangers of sharing their lunches with other students. In line with this policy we ask that you do not send birthday gift items such as lollies, cakes, easter eggs, etc for your child to give to other students. At times, teachers may give food treats to the children but they always check the suitability of these treats with the parents of allergy sufferers. **St Patrick's has a "no nut or nut products" policy, due to the number of children who are allergic to nut products. We ask for your co-operation in not sending nut products (especially Nutella , peanut butter and foods containing sesame seeds.** We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own lunches and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place. Thank you for your co operation.

Thank you to the parents who have returned the medical needs form. If your child has a medical condition and you have not informed the school office please do so as soon as possible.

If your child suffers from allergies or requires an epiPen please inform the Administration Office before your child starts school so that the correct action plan is implemented.

Opening School Mass Year 1 to Year 6

Tomorrow, 10th February we are gathering as a school community (1-6) to ask God's blessing on our year and to welcome all those new to St Patrick's. The Mass will commence at 9.30am in the school hall.

At the conclusion of Mass there will be a commissioning ceremony of Student leaders. There will be a small morning tea in the Library following Mass for the Student Leaders, their parents and guests.

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ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Parramatta is required to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 50. This public hearing is expected to begin on Monday 6 February 2017.

For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website

www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings/case-studies

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3470.

The Child Protection Information Line 1300 661 015 is available for families who would like more information about protocols or support services in Catholic schools run by the Diocese of Parramatta.

Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au

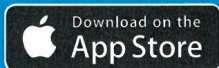
Book Club LOOP

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club **Linked Online Ordering & Payment** platform.

It's easy to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order using your credit card. If your school is not yet in the **LOOP**, speak with your school's Book Club Organiser.

Head to scholastic.com.au/LOOP

or



Follow these **easy** steps!

1 Simply grab your child's Book Club catalogue and either **SIGN-IN** or **REGISTER** your account.

2 Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for), then select your **SCHOOL** and your **CHILD'S CLASS**.

Note: You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school.

Looking for **MORE** product information? Additional content such as videos and downloads are available for select titles. Select your issue and enter the item number to view information on titles and some great resources, such as videos and reviews.

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [REGISTER](#) | [HELP](#)



LOOKING FOR MORE PRODUCT INFORMATION?

7

Item No.

FIND

3 Click on **ORDER** and enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue.

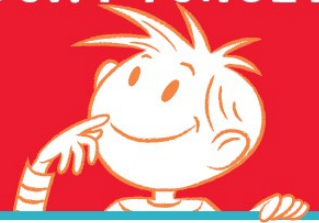
4 All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date.

That's it! There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school.



SCHOLASTIC

DON'T FORGET!



SCHOLASTIC
Book Club

orders are due:

15th February, 2017

If you need any help with ordering online please drop into the office or call Mrs Jones on 9630 1421.

Spare Clothes Reminder

A kindly reminder to all parents of Infant students, please pack a spare change of underwear, socks and boys pants inside your child's bag. Whilst we do have spare clothes it is not always possible to find sizes for every child. Little accidents do happen and if we can keep the child at school it is in the best interest of the child.

Sports Days for Term 1

Children will be participating in gymnastics in Term 1, so will be required to wear their sports uniforms on the following days for Term 1:-

KA	Monday & Thursday	3L	Monday & Thursday	6P	Tuesday & Wednesday
KM	Tuesday & Wednesday	3T	Tuesday & Thursday	6W	Tuesday & Wednesday
1C	Monday & Thursday	4B	Tuesday & Friday		
1S	Tuesday & Wednesday	4G	Tuesday & Friday		
2M	Monday & Friday	5C	Monday & Thursday		

FREE SEMINAR FOR PARENTS



THE CYBER SAFETY LADY RAISING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS

- Social Media safety/privacy - Maintaining a spotless social media profile
- Keeping your child safe online - Protecting your child from adult content
- Strangers online - Cyber bullying - Online stalking - Balancing your child's screen time
- Managing kids digital devices - parental controls

GUEST SPEAKER:

Leonie Smith
'The Cyber Safety Lady'

FREE REGISTRATION (ESSENTIAL):
[CLICK HERE](#)

WHEN: Monday, 27 February 2017

(6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

WHERE: Gilroy College, Marie St,
Castle Hill (parking available)

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

Light supper and refreshments will be provided and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

www.prc.catholic.edu.au



@prcparra



@prcparra



Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



TUCKSHOP2U

HEALTHY - AFFORDABLE - CONVENIENT



TUCKSHOP2U NOW AVAILABLE!

Tuckshop2U is an easy-to-use school lunch ordering service that delivers healthy, affordable and convenient lunches directly to schools.

Our mission is to prepare and deliver fresh and nutritious lunches that your child will look forward to eating!

WELCOME BACK OFFER!

During Week 2, Tuckshop2U would like to offer 15% off all orders placed.

Please use the following discount code at checkout

B2S2017

Discount code available for use from 05/02/2017 till 10/02/2017.

Now serving
Hot Food

on Tuesday and Thursday ONLY.

Tuckshop2U makes a second delivery for hot food on these days.

Returning Customers: Thank you for your business in 2016. Please don't forget to update your child's classes for this year!

Please note: Internet Explorer is not compatible with changing 'Your Account'

Different Appetites. Different Packs.

With over 80 menu items to choose from, we're certain we can provide nutritious lunches that your child will look forward to eating!



1300 TUCKER (1300 882 537)

info@tuckshop2u.com.au tuckshop2u.com.au



To celebrate the school's 50th anniversary Catherine McAuley Westmead has produced a commemorative book full of memories and photographs from students, parents and staff who have had a connection with the school over the past 50 years.

The Catherine McAuley Book of Memories is a 178 page full colour book looking at each decade in the school's history as well as the early days when the school was first being established. Photographs and memories were sent in by former students and staff so as to tell their memories of their time at the school.

Topic areas covered include school uniform, school grounds, school curriculum, sport, staff, excursions and many more. The book is available for \$30.

50 years
1966-2016

CATHERINE MCAULEY
A BOOK OF
Memories
1966 - 2016

Visit the School website under Our Community / Alumni to view sample pages and to organise purchase.

www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

Copies available from School Reception (2 Darcy Rd, Westmead via Gate 1 or 2) or to organise postage telephone School Reception on 9849 9100.

2017 School Terms

Term 1	30th January to 7th April
Term 2	24th April to 30th June
Term 3	17th July to 22nd September
Term 4	9th October to 15th December

** Please note Staff Development days may affect commencement & concluding dates. Please refer to our weekly newsletter in 2017.



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Open Day

Discover what a Mercy education can do for your daughter at the OLMC Parramatta Open Day on

Sunday March 12, 2017 10am - 2pm

Principal's welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

Expanding beyond what we know we can be

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au



MERCY | COMPASSION | JUSTICE | DIGNITY | EXCELLENCE | HOSPITALITY | STEWARDSHIP | SERVICE



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Open Day

2017 School Calendar

Term 1

Week 3

Friday 10th February Opening School Mass K-6
9.30am School Hall
Whole School Assembly—Year 6

***Special time of 2.00pm for the presentation of SRC badges and Sports captain badges

Week 4

Monday 13th February Tri-skills—Gymnastics
Parent Information Night
Year 1 7pm
Year 5 8pm
Tuesday 14th February Tri-skills—Gymnastics
Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 15th February Parent Information Night
Year 3 7pm
Year 6 8pm

Thursday 16th February Parent Information Night
Kinder 7pm
Year 2 pm

Friday 17th February Infants Assembly - Year 2 — 2.15pm

Week 5

Monday 20th February Tri-skills—Gymnastics
Parent Information Night
Year 4 7pm
Tuesday 21st February Tri-skills—Gymnastics
Friday 24th February Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Primary Assembly - Year 5 — 2.15pm

2017 SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fee accounts have been sent out by the Catholic Education office this week. The due date for payment is Friday 10th March, 2017. Arrangements made in 2016 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. Catholic Education Office is also offering a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2017 School Fees details are included with your school fee statement. Please ensure you return the included forms by the due date.



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
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan
Rev Deacon Willy Limjap
Margaret Gale (Sacramental Coord)
Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)
Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)