

St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

11th May 2017 Term 2 Week 3

CEDP Attendance Benchmark Target Level = 90%

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 91.3%

Dear Parents

This week I had the opportunity to see a post from a young man in his 30s speaking about his birth mother. You may have seen it too. The man speaks about the fact that every Mother's Day he thinks about the woman that gave birth to him and although he was given up for adoption he feels a deep sense of gratitude to her for giving him life. He speaks about his happiness and about the happiness of his adoptive parents to have been able to have a son. When listening to him I could not help feel enormous admiration for this person whom I don't even know. He passed no judgement on his birth mother but rather just acknowledged her sacrifice and courage for making the choice which enabled him to have had a better life than she felt she could provide under her circumstances - whatever they may have been.

I think sometimes it is easy for us to take for granted how lucky we are that our mothers had the courage to be mothers. I am always in awe of these special women - mothers - and I am blessed to witness on a daily basis the enormous capacity for love and sacrifice shown by the mothers in our St Patrick's community. Some say it is only when one has their own children that they fully understand the love and sacrifice a parent feels and shows. I am sure that this is true. The fact that our society has chosen to dedicate a day to remember mothers is an indicator that people all around the world share the same respect for the vocation of motherhood.

The gift of life that a mother provides her children is reason enough to earn our respect. It is that simple.

This Sunday let us rejoice and take pleasure in this realization where ever our mothers may be.

God our Creator, we pray:

For new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibilities

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who are tired, stressed or depressed;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who raise children on their own;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who have lost a child;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who care for the children of others;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose children have left home;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers, who for various reasons, have not been able to fulfil their role as mothers.

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

God bless you and your family - especially our mothers

Bernadette Fabri

Ph: 02 9630 1421

Villiers Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm

stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au

parenting * ideas

insights



Celebrate the marvel of motherhood, not parenthood!

By Michael Grose

As Mother's Day approaches it's worth remembering that it's mothers and fathers, real women and men, who raise kids. Parenting is a managerial, twentieth century construct.

It's an interesting time for me to write about motherhood. In the last eighteen months both my daughters have become first time mums.

Watching them has refreshed my perspective on motherhood. It's not the techniques and strategies they use that are important rather their desire to connect to their children and fully embrace being a mum that is paramount. All their subsequent parenting springs from the willingness to fully give themselves over to motherhood.

My close encounters with my daughters as mothers has reminded me how emotion-charged being a mum can be. Besotted-ness, fatigue, joy, fulfilment and doubt are just some of the feelings I have witnessed in my daughters. No doubt any mothers reading this can easily add a few more.

Over the last few months I've conducted a series of parenting seminars on the topic of raising independent children. The main message of raising children to be self-sufficient, rather than to overprotect

and spoil them, has been in some ways at odds with what is seen as good mothering. That's because the notion of protectiveness aligns more with mothering than fathering.

However you can be a protective mum and raise really self-sufficient independent kids - you just need to know when kids need protecting and when they need to work things out for themselves. Mothers attuned to their kids and who are confident in their own abilities and instincts generally get the balance right. In a way, they know when to be a mum and when to be a parent.

Mothering is emotional and instinctive

Being a mother is not always rational, as parenting is often made out to be. The emotion attached to motherhood drives you to fight hard to protect your children, work assiduously to right any wrongs on their behalf, and exhaust yourself looking after their physical and psychological well-being.

As I've been reminded watching my daughters raise their own children - mothering is relational rather than rational. You may grow out of parenting by making yourself redundant, but mothering is something you never grow out of. You are a mum for life.

Kids want their mothers, not their parents

Kids of all ages say, "That's my mum!" They don't say, "That's my parent!" (They may say that when they are annoyed or embarrassed by you, but that's another story.)

Boys and girls of all ages generally love their mothers unconditionally, whereas they merely put up with their parents, particularly during adolescence. They can live without their parents, or so they think, but deep down they know they can't live without the one person who has a blind spot for them, overlooking all their faults. That person, of course, is their mother.

When kids of all ages get into emotional difficulty or their life becomes too hard, they generally go looking for their mums. They only look for their 'parent' when they want some money, or want someone to get them out of a jam!

As Mother's Day approaches it's worth remembering that it's mothers and fathers, real women and men, who raise kids. Parenting is a managerial, twentieth century construct. That's why we have Mother's Day (and Father's Day) rather than Parent's Day.

I hope you have a good one!



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)

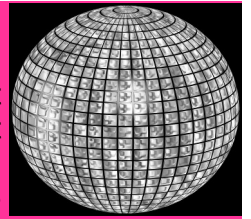
The Catholic Education Office have made recent changes to the application for extended leave from 10 days or more to **5 days or more**.

- 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.

DANCE UNDER THE STARS DISCO - THANK YOU

Last Friday night was our annual 'Dance Under the Stars Disco' Can I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Marietta Maroun and her committee of parents for an outstandingly run event. It was so well attended and numerous parents commented to me what a wonderful night it was. From the children's perspective they had such a great time, some saying to me, 'Miss Fabri this is the best night of my life!' That says it all! Of course it is always encouraging when children are well behaved and well supervised, so 'well done children!' If you did anything to assist on or before the night or if you donated drinks and other items - Thank you!, Thank you!, Thank you! Thank you also to Mrs Elly Benkovich for the time and efforts in liaising with the parent committee. Can I also thank all the members of staff that were able to make it on Friday night.



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.



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

Louis Wehbe, Brandon Roque, Owen Abraham, Chloe Vella



**UN Global Road Safety Week
(8-14 May 2017)**
is focussing on speed.

**Especially in school zones, keep
our students safe and #slowdown.**



Our school participates in the **RYDA** road safety program to give our students the best possible start as drivers & passengers.



Healthy Harold's tips for keeping kids safe near the road

Making young children aware of road safety is essential for keeping them safe in today's world. National Walk Safely to School Day (Friday, 19 May) is an annual event encouraging all Primary School children to walk and commute safely to school. When we talk about road safety a few things probably come to mind immediately – crossing at pedestrian crossings, looking left and right before you cross, wearing a helmet when riding a bike –

but there are a lot of other things we can talk to our kids about. For a list of road safety tips for pre-school and primary school children, visit Life Education's online parent resources: <http://www.lifeeducation.org.au/parents/safety>

World No Tobacco Day – Healthy Harold on the Case

Rates of smoking among young people have never been lower, thanks to initiatives such as World No Tobacco Day (May 31) and Life Education's preventative drug and health program. The most recent data finds that 5.1 per cent of 12 to 17 year olds in Australia are current smokers (Australian Secondary School Students' Use of Tobacco in 2014 report). You can help teach your child about the dangers of smoking with Life Education's free Smoky Case app. Users will join time travelling detective, Mac McHardy and his faithful sidekick, Conan as they set out on a quest to discover why smoking is unhealthy. This app teaches children about the harmful ingredients in cigarettes, as well as the effects of smoking and benefits of avoiding tobacco, through interactive activities expanding on the teachings from the Life Education programs. <https://www.lifeeducation.org.au/teachers/item/50-the-smoky-case-article-in-for-teachers-section>



OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ABOUT NAPLAN

“This week students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake NAPLAN tests over three days. The assessments are a snapshot of how each student is progressing in the foundational areas of literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN provides parents with individual data about their children, and over time, it also provides schools and authorities with important trend data on what is working and not working when it comes to literacy and numeracy. It helps schools identify and plan the targeted intervention programs that might be required to assist students with their learning.

Like coaching clinics, NAPLAN has become big business with whole sections of bookstores dedicated to testing and preparation strategies. This is counterproductive and not what NAPLAN was supposed to be about. It's understandable that some parents are concerned by the additional pressure that surrounds preparing for and sitting NAPLAN. Although this is the eighth year of NAPLAN testing, there are still parents who refuse to allow their child to sit the exams on the grounds that feel it is too stressful or not relevant to their child's learning.

It is important that parents and schools are able to put NAPLAN into context. It is only one measure of a child's progress in literacy and numeracy. It is also important that we are mindful when it comes to our own responses and reactions to NAPLAN. If we allow ourselves to get caught up in the emotion of it, there's a good chance students will as well and become stressed at the prospect of not doing well.

The best preparation for NAPLAN this week is to stay calm and keep things in perspective. I say again: NAPLAN is just one measure of progress at a particular period of time. My advice for parents is to trust what the school is doing when it comes to preparing students for the week. Teachers are skilled at knowing how much support and preparation each child needs. Above everything else, keep in mind that NAPLAN isn't the be-all or end-all of schooling. It's also not a measure of your child's intelligence. There are many ways to measure student progress in literacy and numeracy at a particular stage of their learning journey – NAPLAN is just one of those ways.”

Greg Whitby

Executive Director of Schools – Diocese of Parramatta
<http://catholicoutlook.org/stay-calm-keep-learning/>

Winter Uniform Changeover

Dear Parents,

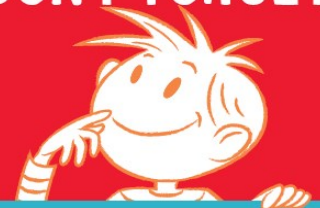
We have extended the uniform changeover to the beginning of Week 5 (Monday 23rd May). We ask all parents to use their discretion regarding what uniform they dress their children in. **All children must be in winter uniform by Monday 23rd May**

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

DON'T FORGET!



SCHOLASTIC
Book Club

orders are due:

15th May 2017

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Mother's Day Raffle

Children will have an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for 50 cents each or 3 for a \$1.00 in our Mother's Day Raffle. The raffle tickets will be sold before school in the playground up until tomorrow morning. The raffle will be drawn after the Mother's Day Morning Tea on Friday 12th May 2017.

Mother's Day Mass and Morning Tea

There will be a Mother's Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 12th May commencing at 9.15am. Following Mass there will be a Morning Tea in the school hall organised by our Year 2 families. All families welcome !!

Year 5 Hyde Park Barracks & Art Gallery of NSW

On Friday the 5th May Year 5 went to visit the Art Gallery of NSW and Hyde Park Barracks, the home of the male convicts and female immigrants. As we walked through the Art Gallery we viewed the historical paintings of how people lived in the early 19th century. We saw a variety of themes such as what people called home, different cultures and the landscape of the 1800s. We were also lucky enough to walk past and have a look at a gigantic statue of Captain Cook. The group leaders gave us different craft products to create postcards using inspiration from the paintings.

After a great look around the gallery we enjoyed a nice lunch in the park nearby.

We then entered Hyde Park Barracks where we got the privilege to learn about the primary and secondary resources the convicts used in their daily lives. We learnt that the governor played a very harsh punishment on the convicts like clipping chains around their ankles everywhere they went. We had a fun time dressing up as convicts and building a room using foam bricks. Our grade learnt a lot about the history of convicts and immigrants and we got to lie down in replica convict hammocks. It was really fun and educational.

Written by Jade Takchi and Erica Jurisic



2017 School Calendar

Term 2

Week 3

Friday 12th May

Mother's Day Mass and Morning Tea

St Patrick's Cathedral 9.15am

Following Mass Morning tea will be served in the school hall

NO ASSEMBLY

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—More details to come

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



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)

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHEDRAL

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROCESSION

Come celebrate 100 years since the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima with a huge procession from Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral, Harris Park to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. The celebration is on Saturday 13 May 2017, coinciding with Pope Francis' visit to Fatima, Portugal and the canonisation of Francisco and Jacinta, two of the children to whom the Mother of God appeared that fateful day in rural Portugal. Pope Francis has a strong devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and was reported to be a frequent visitor to a shrine to Our Lady of Fatima in Buenos Aires.

The Feast and Procession are the day before Mother's Day in Australia. Families are encouraged to bring their mothers to celebrate the greatest Mother of all time.

9am Liturgy of Our Lady – Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral, Harris Park

9.30am Procession to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

11am Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

12pm BBQ Lunch in the Cathedral cloister area

Full detail and live updates: www.facebook.com/OurLadyofFatima100Years

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

Younger Widowed Support Group - This monthly support group is for men and women aged approx. 55 years or younger, who are facing life after the death of a spouse or partner to come together for support and sharing. **Date:** Third Tuesday of each month - next gathering 16th May. **Time:** 7pm - 9pm **Venue:** 38 Prince St, Blacktown (cnr First Ave) **Cost:** \$5.00. For details and registrations please contact Rita Chater Ph: 8822 2222 or Email soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

School Banking 2017 is off to a flying start.

This year's School Banking adventure is well underway, as the new-look Dollarmites 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 Dollarmites 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

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



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

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

@prcparra

@prcparra



www.floralexpressions.com.au
Thank you to our sponsors!



Things you should know: The Commonwealth Bank School Banking Study is an online survey of 1,040 parents across Australia undertaken by ACA Research in December 2016. This article is intended 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 48 125 123 124.