

st patrick's primary school parramatta patter



26th February 2015 Term 1 No.4

Dear Parents

Last week the school held Parent Information sessions for Yr 1 to Yr 6 and I would like to thank all those parents who were able to attend. It was so good to see you all there and we appreciate the many interesting questions and positive feedback about your children's learning that you gave us. As I said on the various nights, for those of you who could attend, it speaks volumes about how you value education and demonstrates to them your interest in what your children are doing at school. Of course I do understand that sometimes the family circumstances and or commitments on the scheduled evenings prevent you from attending. If this was the case we will attach a copy of the handouts or power point for your convenience, over the next few weeks.

Over the course of the evenings the topic of reading comprehension, particularly children's difficulty with comprehension was discussed. The process of reading involves a very complex set of skills and comprehension is key to the act of reading. If comprehension, ie understanding, is not present the reader is not reading. There are many aspects to discuss when speaking about learning to read however one element which is often forgotten is the skill of Visualization and Verbalization. Educationalist Nanci Bell maintains that "The brain uses imagery to comprehend and interpret oral and written language." She also says that if this skill is weak, "this weakness often undermines the reading process...It is weakness, based in the sensory system, in creating an imaged gestalt." This idea is supported by a quote from Albert Einstein who is known to have said that "If I can't picture it, I can't understand it".

In my experience children who 'hate' reading or who find reading difficult often tell me that they do not visualize, they cannot visualize; they do not 'paint pictures in their mind' as they are reading or create 'movies in their head'. Adults who hate reading have also expressed this realization. Sometimes these people, including children, also have difficulty with critical, logical, abstract thinking and problem solving, written language comprehension, oral language comprehension, following directions, expressing language orally, expressing language in writing, grasping humor, interpreting social situations, cause and effect, attention and focus, mental mapping. The interesting fact is that visualizing and then talking about what is being visualized can be taught. Here are some easy tips to try with your child. These strategies are for readers of **all** ages who may be having difficulty reading:

- **Picture Imaging** Ask your child to describe a simple picture that you have shown them. Ask him or her questions about; what they are seeing, the Size, Color, Number, Shape, Place, Movement, Mood, Background, Perspective, Time and Sound. They can look at the picture as you ask them questions however it is best that you do not see the picture so as to give them a reason for answering – like a barrier game.
- **Word Imaging** Do the same for simple nouns but this time use words; written or said eg cat, dog, tower, circus, skyscraper, vehicle etc
- **Sentence Imaging** Do the same for simple sentences
- **Story Imaging** Do the same for simple stories. Use picture books and play a game by covering the pictures. Ask children to describe what the picture may look like, then reveal the picture and compare the mind image to that of the illustrators. **(Please note, that beginning readers need to use the pictures to assist them when reading. This is to be encouraged until they no longer need the pictures to read. Do not cover the pictures when the children are reading. Only cover the pictures when encouraging the skill of visualization)**
- **Visualization** by drawing pictures. Talk about details of the drawing and help the child to add detail to the picture.

Visualize Song (to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

When my teacher reads a book
Then my brain begins to look!
Seeing Pictures in my head
As the story's being read,
Making pictures, me and you.
You can THINK some pictures too!
(Diane Martin, Spul'ukwuks School)

Looking forward to getting some feedback on this topic from you.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal

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Telephone: 9630 1421



Student of the week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning area



st patrick's award

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

Faith in Action



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

Ava Salloum, Nathan Rizk, Caitlin Polintan, Scarlett Weaver, Anthony Khouri, Aireen Kwa, Amelia Beacroft, Jonathon Sarkis, Samuel Navasardyan, Karanvir Sidhu, Jackson Wehbe, Lacey Bond

KA	Ethan Xue
KM	Alexander Markovic
1C	Ethan Bechara
1S	Liam Jocson
2M	Elias Nakhle
2Y	Katerina Yannakis

KA	Louis Wehbe
KM	Meagan Erive
1C	Tahlia Kalouch
1S	Josh Pangan
2M	Scarlett Khoury
2Y	Daniel Pinto



PEDICULOSIS - HEAD LICE

To avoid incidences of head lice in the school we ask that you regularly check your child's hair, taking particular care in children from K-2. Various treatments are available from the Chemist. Covering the hair with a thick layer of conditioner and leaving for approximately 5 minutes then combing out the lice can also be effective. Wash hair after combing.

If your child has contracted Head Lice please inform the teacher and commence treatment immediately. Please do not send your child to school with **live head lice** as this will increase the chances of other children contracting them. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kindergarten Information Night

Thank you for your patience re the rescheduling of the Kindergarten Information night. The new date is Monday 2nd March at 7.00pm in the Kindergarten rooms.

ST PATRICK'S PARENT EVENT COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to be part of the St Patrick's Parent Event Committee for 2015. There will be a committee meeting organized in the next few weeks so as to discuss community events for the year. Thank you is also extended to all the parents who volunteered as helpers to the committee. Your generosity is very much appreciated by the staff and families at our school. If you were unable to come to the Parent/Information Night and you would like to volunteer to assist please ring the office and leave your name. All events organized will be communicated to the whole school community over time.

PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

This term there will be a number of Parent Education Opportunities at the school. The education of your child is indeed a partnership and we welcome and encourage all parents to attend if interested in the topic presented.

- Meeting for Parent Helpers (Kindergarten to Year 2) Wednesday 4th March 9.00am to 10.00
- Helping your child to Read (Kindergarten to Year 2) Wednesday 11th March 7.00 for 7.15 start
- 'Eat it to Beat it' Presentation 16th March 1.30pm to 3.00pm
- Student Management Forum for Parents 25th March 7.00pm

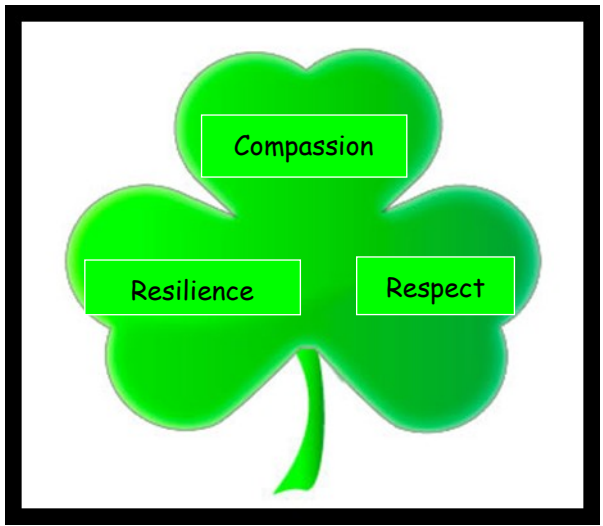
This State Election – vote 1 for Catholic education

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

WHAT'S NEW AT ST PATRICK'S

Over the next five weeks we will be communicating and implementing a new Whole School student Management Program.

The initial stage of this program will focus on the Student Reward Section and this will be followed by the Framework for Consequences Section. Much work has been and will continue to be done with the children in unpacking these systems, what they include and what they will look like in our school. There will also be a Parent Meeting to further communicate what the Framework for Consequences Section entails.



FIRST STAGE - WHOLE SCHOOL STUDENT MANAGEMENT REWARD SYSTEM

Last year the teachers at St Patrick's explored our school's heritage and its connection to Mercy Traditions and Values. As a staff, we researched the life of Catherine McAuley, who she was, what she stood for and how we could incorporate the values she displayed in her life, into our school community.

We developed three Mascots; Ricky Respect, who promotes fairness and encourages us to be welcoming. Coolio Compassion who endorses care and thoughtfulness and Rocky Resilience, who advocates to students to be determined and positive. These Mascots were introduced to our students and can be seen all around our school. Children also met the Super Shamrock Reward Cards.

Children will start to receive these Reward Cards as of next week. They will be awarded to students, when teachers see the desirable behaviours our Mascots promote being modelled. When a grade collects enough of these Super Shamrocks, special rewards will be given. The rewards will be dependent on what the children and teachers in each grade decide.

As parents and teachers we are extremely important role models and it would be great for the children to see us all exhibiting these core values.

Kindergarten Afternoon Pick-up

If you are personally picking up your child from the school at 3.00pm, children can be collected from the Amphitheatre, where they will be seated and waiting with the teacher on duty. If your child has not been collected from the Amphitheatre by 3.15pm, they will return to their classroom where they can be collected.

If you are using our car drive-thru service, your child's name will be called and they will promptly walk down to the car pick-up gate. Where they will be assisted into their car.

Any children remaining after 3.30pm can be collected from the school Office.

Catholic Schools Week

St Patrick's Primary school is celebrating Catholic Schools week on Tuesday 10th March. We will begin with a liturgy at 9am followed by open classrooms till 10.15am. More Information to come next week.

World Youth Day Fundraiser

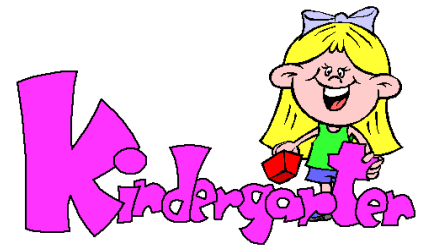
Thank you to all the children who bought ice blocks this week. We raised \$298. A very special thank you to the wonderful mums who have been helping.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN

Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2016 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.

When you return the enrolment you will need to bring your child's original Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parent's and child's if born overseas), Immunization Certificates and proof of address (council rates, drivers licence). We will photo copy these and return them to you at this time.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2015.



CHANGES TO ENROMENT CRITERIA

The Catholic Education Diocese Office has made changes to the enrolment criteria for all children applying for places in a Catholic school.

ENROLMENT CRITERIA

Who can enrol in a Catholic school?

Children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before 31 July are eligible for enrolment for Kindergarten that year. By law, all children must be enrolled in school by their sixth birthday.

A new Enrolment Policy for Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools has been introduced which offers Catholic families greater choice by allowing them to apply for enrolment at a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese. Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faith

Catholic schools have a strong religious dimension and people of other faiths who wish to enrol in Catholic schools should be willing to participate in the religious activities of the school. Check with the principal of the school you are applying to.

Siblings

Siblings of children already enrolled in the school are considered by the same criteria above. However, within each of these categories, a sibling of a child already enrolled will have preference over an applicant who does not have a sibling enrolled in the school.

What if my child already attends a Catholic primary school in the Diocese?

A child who has completed primary education in a Catholic parish-based primary school will usually be offered continuity of enrolment in a Catholic secondary school. If no places exist at the chosen school, Catholic Education's Director System Performance will assist families to enrol in another Catholic secondary school in the Diocese.

Attention Volunteers: Please note that both requirements below need to be completed.

CHILD PROTECTION FOR VOLUNTEERS– WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

All volunteers must register for a Working with Children Check. Please see link below for instructions.

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check>

Child Protection Module For Volunteers

Parent helpers in a school are a vital resource. Any parent interested in assisting in reading groups, excursions etc needs 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. Parents only need to complete this module once every two years. Looking forward to welcoming you as volunteers as you share your gifts with our school community.

It is a system requirement that child protection training be completed by all volunteers commencing work in our school and a briefing every second year for existing volunteers.

An online training module for use by volunteers is available. To use the module:

1. Open the module by clicking the **Start** link below.
2. Read through the presentation.
3. Complete and submit quiz questions. This will take approximately 45 minutes.
4. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing your name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school you intend to volunteer at.
5. A notification of your successful completion of the module will be sent via e-mail to the school and also to your email address.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>



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

Monday to Friday 6.45am, 12.30pm
Public Holidays 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Fr Peter Williams elected Diocesan Administrator
Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan
Rev Fr Steven Hyun
Rev Fr Michael Gitau
Rev Robertus Kim
Sr Susan Ward rsj

2015

TERM ONE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Five

Friday 27th Feb Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Year 6 Excursion to Canberra
Infants Assembly—Yr 1 2.15pm

Week Six

Monday 2nd March Kindy Information Night—7pm
Wednesday 4th March Meeting for Parent Helpers
Kindy to Year 2—9am to 10am
Friday 6th March Primary Assembly—Yr 4 2.15pm

Week Seven

Tuesday 10th March Catholic Schools Week Celebrations
Liturgy 9am followed by open classrooms
Wednesday 11th March Helping your child to Read
Kindy to Year 2—7pm
Friday 13th March Infants Assembly—Kindy 2.15pm

Week Eight

Monday 16th March Parent Workshop “Eat it to Beat it”
1.30pm—3.00pm.
Tuesday 17th March St Patrick’s Day celebrations
TBA
Friday 20th March Year 4 Excursion to Arabanoo
Primary Assembly—Yr 3 2.15pm

Week Nine

Wednesday 25th March Parent Student Management Forum
7.00pm
Thursday 26th March Life Education van commences
Friday 27th March Primary Cross Country
Whole School Assembly
Choir 2.15pm

Week Ten

Wednesday 1st April Yr 6 Nursing home visit
Thursday 2nd April LAST DAY OF TERM

The Parent Calendar is now available under events on the Skoolbag app. From the home screen go into events and all Term 1 events are available to view. Should you have any issues please contact the office who can guide you through it.

CAPTIVATE



St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba Campus

The **CAPTIVATE Masterclass - Dance Intensive** will take place at from **Friday 20th March to Sunday 22nd March** at St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba Campus.

Dance Intensive is a three day program run in Term 1 - Week 8 for Years 5 to 12 dance students of all abilities. Led by a number of professional dancers and choreographers, the workshop exposes students to a wide variety of dance styles including Classical Ballet, Cheerleading, Contemporary, Jazz, JFH, Lyrical, HipHop, Tap, Urban Jazz Fusion and more. Not to be missed, it is a great way to extend students technical skills and appreciation of dance, meet professional dancers and choreographers.

This is a user pays program and is:

- **Primary Students:** \$80 for the 2 day program (Sat, Sun)
- **Secondary Students:** \$120 for the full 3 day program (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Starting times each day are:

- **Friday:** Secondary Only 8:00am - 5:00pm
- **Saturday:** Secondary 8:15am - 5:00pm/ Primary 8:30am - 5:00pm
- **Sunday:** 8:45am - 5:50pm (primary and secondary)

Sunday Performance: 6:30am - 8:00pm

If you would like to be part of this program, students can enrol online. Please go to:

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/event-details/captivate-masterclass-dance-intensive>

Contact: CAPTIVATE Team

Tel: 9840 5649

Email: captivate@parra.catholic.edu.au

CAPTIVATE

Last Tuesday the members of St Patrick's choir joined other schools, at Holy Family, Granville, to be part of the Captivate Choir. Mr Russell, the conductor, taught us many beautiful songs. Anna in 4B had the special job of controlling the slide show using the remote. We would like to thank Mrs Rodricks and Ms Silvia for taking care of us.

Raymond Wehbe 4B

School Based Fees for 2015

As you are aware we have decreased our resource fee from \$250 to \$200 dollars this year. The **Resource Fee - Year K-6** is charged in Term 1 with the **Resource Fee – Specialist Programs Yr K – 6** charged over 3 terms

ITEM	AMOUNT
Resource Fee – Year K-6	\$116.00 per child
Resource Fee – Special Programs Yr K-6	\$ 84.00 per child
TOTAL	\$200.00 per child

SCHOOL RESOURCE FEES

The fee covers a range of activities and resources such as a Report and Portfolio Folder, folders, exercise books, Library & computers, class reading books and some craft materials.

SCHOOL SPECIALIST PROGRAMS FEES

The fee covers a range of activities and resources such as Life Education, TriSkills (Gymnastics), Dance and local excursions (Parramatta Park, Swimming Pool)

Please note Kindergarten have paid the Resource Fee when they accepted their enrolment in 2014 and it will not be listed on their statements. School fees have been mailed out this week, due date is the 6th March. If you are having any difficulty in making the payments please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Mrs Nutter.



The simplest way

to improve the health of your family and save money

Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop






Date: Monday, 16 March 2015

Time: 1:30pm until 3pm

Venue: St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This **free workshop** run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

-  **Save time and money making healthy meals**
-  **Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters**
-  **Get a free recipe book simply by attending**

The *Eat It To Beat It* program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District



Don't miss out – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than **12/3/15** by:

Completing and returning this slip to the school front office.

Your name:

Your contact number or email:

Water

Tap water makes the best drink!

Not only is it thirst quenching, but also contains fluoride which helps make teeth stronger. Here's what water has to offer:

- it is cheap and readily available
- it doesn't contain any kilojoules or sugar
- it encourages optimal function of the body

We should all aim to drink between five to eight cups of water a day. In the warmer months it is important to keep well hydrated. Always have water available when children are active.

Encourage them to drink water regularly, even in cooler months.



Tuesday, 3 March 2015 ✦ 5.30pm School Tours & BBQ
 6.30-7.15pm Principal's Address and Information Session
 Bookings Essential: www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au
 Enrolment packages will be available during the evening.
 Enrolments Open: 11 March 2015 ✦ Close: 2 April 2015
 Enrolments received after the closing date will be placed on a waiting list




2 Darcy Road Westmead NSW 2145
 Phone: 9635 7066 ✦ www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au
 Parking is available via Gate 3, Darcy Road
 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital)



We offer top quality affordable Catholic education for boys.
 For the past 8 years, PMH's HSC Results have seen us placed in the top 100 schools in NSW.
 In 2014, we achieved the following HSC Results:
 42nd in the state overall, 8th in Mathematics
 State places in Industrial Technology and Studies of Religion
 96 Distinguished students, 7 Premier all-rounder awards
 Parramatta Marist has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised as innovators in 21st Century education.



Catherine McAuley  Catherine McAuley is a Catholic girls' secondary school, located at Westmead. Our broad curriculum encourages young women to pursue independent lifelong learning.

OPEN NIGHT Tuesday 17 March 2015
 4.00 - 6.30pm
 Tour our school grounds, visit classrooms and view displays. A Year 7 2016 Information Night will be held following at 7.00pm with presentations from the school leadership team.



CONTACT OUR SCHOOL ON 9849 9100 FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK. APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27TH MARCH 2015



Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



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 1, 2015 10am – 2pm

Principal's Welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

A Mercy Education is treasured for life

To reserve your place or obtain further information visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300.