

st patrick's primary school parramatta patter



19th March 2015 Term 1 No.7

Dear Parents

Last Tuesday, 17th March we celebrated the feast of our school's patron saint, St Patrick. For those who were unable to join us, the day commenced with a liturgy in the amphitheatre where the children and parents heard about the life of St Patrick, as enacted by Year 5, along with a litany of prayers reminding us of the message of the all encompassing presence of our God in every aspect of our lives.

The life of St Patrick is such an interesting one and his association with the Irish people, combined with the enormous contribution the Irish convicts and settlers had on the establishment of the first colony, particularly Parramatta, makes him very significant to us.

One of the symbols that was heavily featured this St Patrick's Day was the shamrock. Children used cardboard shamrocks as a base on which to write prayers to St Patrick for the impact he has had on spreading the word of God. Symbolically St Patrick used a common place clover, found on the hills of Ireland, to teach the people of the time about the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The shamrock is also used to symbolize Faith, Hope and Love.

After a short time in the classroom the children and their teachers then travelled to the Old Kings Oval for an afternoon of games, lunch and play. I can truly say what a lovely gathering we had under a somewhat cloudy sky, just perfect for a picnic. It was so good to see our children have the opportunity to run and play freely in the open air and combined with many visitors from our school community who came down to join in the fun, the day was extremely successful.

As always, days like this do not just happen. I would firstly like to thank Mrs Jude Kerr (Religious Education Coordinator) and her committee (Mrs Barclay, Mrs Carroll, Mrs Flatley and Mrs Jadrabieb) for organizing the liturgy and to Mr Mark Baird and his committee of teachers (Ms Kelly, Ms Hagi, Mrs Fardell, Ms Pope, Ms Onorato, Mrs Jadrabieb) for organizing the picnic activities. Thank you to Mrs Jenny Jones for her expertise in the First Aide tent and to Mrs Benkovich and Mrs Barclay who kept the day running smoothly. A very special thank you to all the teachers who had a very busy day organizing activities and looking after the children and to Mrs Veljkovich and Mrs Flatley for taking the leaders down to help set up. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Kindergarten parents, Mr and Mrs Tannous from the company 'Sound Agents', for the loan and setting up of shade marquees for the children and to the Tarabay and Romanos families for providing all the children with cooling ice blocks at the end of the day. Thank you to Mrs Ryan for providing us with Irish music to help set the scene and to all the many parents who helped pack up and clean at the end of the afternoon. This was so appreciated as it made the finish of what can be a very tiring day so much easier. A special thank you is also extended to the Parramatta Park Trust, Anna Vukojevic for their assistance in ensuring that the oval was available, although a booking was already in place and to Mrs Sharon Nutter for the endless emails necessary to bring this about.

As we read the St Patrick's prayer below and remember St Patrick's Day let us always seek to rise to the challenge of being Christ-like people with and for each other and in this regard, continue to demonstrate the qualities we wish our children to aspire to.

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ in breadth, Christ in length, Christ in height,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.**

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal



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:

Crystella Geagea, Jacob Semann, Mikayla Saleh, Noah Reyes-Mangabat, Chanel Achie, Carl Cauan,

3L	Jennifer Mekdessi
3T	Joshua Lorenzo
4B	Joshua Santos
4G	Kalysta Livia Maharani
5C	Kayla Teklic
5T	Stacie Touche
6P	Mark Sassine
6W	Rachel Mekari

3L	Darcy Fraser
3T	Elna Koikkara
4B	Jarrood Kassis
4G	Xavier Dagostino
5C	John Azizi
5T	John Boutros
6P	Adriana Saab
6W	Karanvir Sidhu



WORKING BEE
Sean McIntosh is currently organizing our first working bee. This will take place in Term 2. Watch this Space!

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SURVEY — HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOURS YET?

Last Monday 60 families received the invitation to be part of the Quality Catholic Schools Survey. The selection of these families was a random process managed by Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. May I encourage all families selected to take the time to complete the survey, which can be done online or using the paper copy and placing it in the confidential envelope supplied in the package. To date we have only received 27 out of 60 responses. In order for our data to give a true indication of how parents see St Patrick's school we require as many responses as possible.

It would be wonderful to have a 100% completion rate so as to provide a wide range in the feedback. We do appreciate all those who have already returned surveys or have completed the survey online. Parents have up to Friday 20th March to submit their responses. If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all the parents who attended the 'Eat it to Beat it' and 'How to help your child/ren with Reading' workshops. The facilitators from the Cancer Council were overwhelmed with the level of response from our parent community and Ms Nederpelt and I were very pleased with the turn out on Wednesday night. As sited last week at the Parent Helper Workshop;

"Parents play a crucial role in both the home and school environments. In general parental involvement is associated with children's higher achievement in language and mathematics, enrolment in more challenging programs, greater academic persistence, better behaviour, better social skills and adaptation to school, better attendance and lower drop out rates (Henderson & Mapp,2002)."

Our next parent meeting will be held on 25th March at 7.00pm and will be an opportunity for the school to present the new Student Management Procedures. More opportunities for Parent Education will be organized for future terms including a Mathematics workshop in Term 2.

Term 1 School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have paid their Term 1 school fees. Fees are now overdue, should you be having any difficulties please contact Sharon Nutter in the office on 9630 1421.

St Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday March 21 7.00pm

You are all invited to join in the Parish celebration at St Pat's Cathedral Hall.

Dinner, dance and festive activities are all part of the night. BYO drinks and a dessert to share. Hope to see you there



Staff Development Day Term 2

Term 2—Staff development day will be on Tuesday 9th June. Children do not attend school on this day.



In late February, 15 Catholic schools and their communities in the Rockhampton Diocese were affected in some way by Cyclone Marcia and the resultant severe flooding.

Many staff and families of our Catholic schools face extreme hardship and financial pressure as a result of the Cyclone. Countless homes were unroofed and some suffered severe damage during the cyclone. The emotional impacts of the natural disaster are also being experienced by many in our Catholic schools.

Catholic schools in the Parramatta Diocese have been asked to support the “Catholic Schools Cyclone Appeal” and so the proceeds of our ice block sales next Tuesday will go the Cyclone Appeal. As well as buying an ice block, donations may be made through the office or at the canteen on Tuesday

Christ calls us to reach out to those in need. Thank you for answering that call.

Bookclub Issue 2 2015—Closing Date TOMORROW

New procedures for ordering books—please follow below instructions

- Log into www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our new iPhone or iPad app from the App store.
- Select State: NSW
- Select School Name: St Patricks School : Parramatta
- Once you click on our school you will get the following message:
- St Patricks School : PARRAMATTA is now offering our Linked Online Ordering & Payments (LOOP) for Parents. You will be redirected to that web site where you can easily enter your order and pay via our secure Westpac payment gateway – no need to return anything to the school."
- You will then be redirected to the Scholastic Home Page
- Select Order
- Select state: NSW
- Select School Name: St Patricks School : Parramatta
- From the right side click on St Patricks School (Parramatta)
- The select “START ORDER”
- Select which issue we are ordering from ie “ISSUE 2, 2015”
- Select Children + and add your children’s names/class
- Input which books you wish to order and follow the prompts for payment.
- No need to send anything back to the school as the order automatically comes into the office.



St Patrick's Day 2015

Our liturgy in honour of St Patrick was the culmination of the efforts of many.
Thank you to All the children who read so well
Year 5 for their presentation of the life of St Patrick
Year 3 who led the beautiful Blessing
Mrs Jadrabieb who coordinated prayers on the shamrocks
Year 6 who do such a wonderful job displaying the shamrocks
Mrs Rodricks who led the singing
And to everyone else who helped in any way.

Judith Kerr REC



Our celebrations continued, on Tuesday, with some games and a picnic in Parramatta Park. The children seemed to enjoy their organised games and were exceptionally well behaved for these and their free time that followed. St Patrick would have been proud. Thanks to anyone who helped to make this event such a success.





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 Eight

Friday 20th March

Year 4 Excursion to Arabanoo

Primary Assembly—Yr 3 2.15pm

Week Nine

Tuesday 24th March

Cyclone Appeal Ice blocks

Wednesday 25th March

Year 5 Excursion to Mt Tomah

Parent Student Management Forum

7.00pm

Thursday 26th March

Life Education 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

TERM TWO – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

Monday 20th April

Return to school—1st day of Term 2

Friday 24th April

Whole School Assembly—Yr 5 2.15pm

Anzac Assembly

Week Two

Friday 1st May

School Photos

No assembly

Week Three

Tuesday 5th May

Diocesan Cross Country

Wednesday 6th May

Nursing Home visit—Year 4

Thursday 7th May

Mother's Day Mass & Morning Tea
(Details to be confirmed)

Friday 8th May

Infants Assembly—Yr 1 2.15pm

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.

UPCOMING ELECTION – Capital Works Funding

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in western Sydney. Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the tax payer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE member, Mr Geoff Lee, and STATE opposition candidate, Mr James Shaw, to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election.

Every vote counts because every child counts

DID YOU KNOW? According to the most recent figures available (2012), the average net cost of educating a student in a NSW Catholic school was \$11,532 per year. This is less than the cost of educating a student in a government school (\$12,118) or in an independent, non-government school (\$16,654). Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs. 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.

DID YOU KNOW? Catholic schools support increased Government funding for ALL schools – government and nongovernment – because each school is an integral part of NSW's economic and social infrastructure. Every student is entitled to receive the best education possible, regardless of the school they attend. This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

**Cancer Council
NSW**

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make lunch healthy.

It takes no more time to pack a healthy lunch than an unhealthy one – and lunch boxes are a great time to give your kids fruit and veg!



- add veggie sticks - like carrot, capsicum and celery - every day
- cut fruit into small pieces, kids are more likely to eat small pieces of food
- squeeze lemon juice over cut apple to prevent it from going brown
- pack a wholegrain sandwich and a reduced-fat yoghurt
- choose water over juice – it's healthier and cheaper
- always add an ice brick in summer to keep your kids' lunch cool.

Remember: pack fruit + veg every day!

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

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**

**Eat It To Beat It**

**Cancer Council
NSW**

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make Blueberry + Banana bread

Ingredients
olive or canola oil spray
3 ripe bananas, peeled
¾ cup raw sugar (60g)
½ cup reduced-fat milk
2 eggs
2 cups self-raising flour
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 cup frozen blueberries

Method
Preheat oven to 220°C and spray a 20 x 10cm loaf tin with oil - line base and sides with non-stick baking paper. Mash bananas in a large bowl. Add sugar, milk and eggs and mix with a fork until well combined. Sift flours and cinnamon on top of mixture. Mix ingredients together until just combined, taking care not to over-mix, then gently fold through blueberries. Spoon mixture into prepared loaf tin and smooth the surface. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean from the middle.



For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

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**Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District**

**Eat It To Beat It**

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:

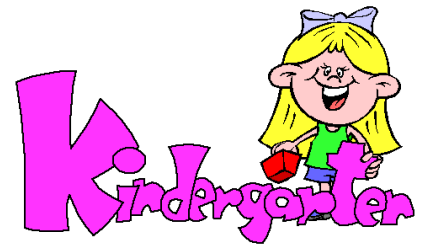
<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/event-details/captivate-masterclass-dance-intensive>

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.