



sub tuum praesidium

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARRAMATTA PATER

27.03.14

TERM ONE

No 9

Dear Parents

As we head toward the last few weeks of Term 1 it is timely for us to review with our children their learning journey so far. In an earlier newsletter I wrote about the concept of being the 'driver or the passenger' of the learning. I wonder how our children have fared in their learning vehicle?

As I implied in this article sometimes children get the idea that their learning and behaviour is the responsibility of someone other than themselves. For example, when questioned by the teacher about homework, children can take to shifting the responsibility of this task to their parents; complaints such as "mum or dad forgot to put it in my bag" are quite common. They are also tempted to blame their peers and in these cases responding with "I couldn't finish my work because he or she was disturbing me."

Of course, it is not only children who are guilty of shifting responsibility; we can all do it. Statements such as "other people were doing it too so that's why I did it" or "everyone does it!" are classic examples of excuses for failing to accept responsibility for our own actions. A wise colleague once compared the responsibility for learning, to trying to lose weight. A person may have access to a skilled dietician, a gym membership and books full of healthy recipes but until that person realises that they have to take responsibility for implementing their weight loss program, not a kilo will be lost. Likewise, once children realise that they have a responsibility to contribute to their own learning and behaviour, great results can be achieved!

Reflective Questions that may be helpful to encourage your children to think about their learning include:

What did I learn this term?

How do I learn best?

What questions do I have about my learning?

What can I do with this learning?

Where do I go now with this learning?"

In what new contexts can my learning be applied?

It is well worth remembering that some of our most significant learning experiences can take place in the context of errors and mistakes. Learning what to never do again is as valuable as learning what to do. Keeping this in mind helps us to try to value all life experiences as learning opportunities

God Bless You and Your family

Bernadette Fabri

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**CROSS COUNTRY - HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL
MONDAY 31ST MARCH**

student of the week



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

KA - Josh Pangan	KM - Michael Aboumelhem
1C - Lorenzo De Guzman	1S - Christian Sarkis
2M - Jethro Cauan	2Y - Stephanie Saab
3L - Claire Gualto	3T - Daniel Takchi
4B - Adrian Stevanja	4G - Ruben Orozco
5C - Simone Kalathil	5T - Erin Bautista
6P - Josie Wehbe	6W - Yvette Roque



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:
Jeremy Moussa, Serene Mawad
Michelle Joseph, Luke Maroun
Christina Elzahoul,

Mikayla Urizar, Alanah Issa, Isabella Maaraoui,
Lucy Parkes

ST PATRICK'S PARENT GROUP 'A GREAT SUCCESS!'

Thank you to all the parents who came to our first St Patrick's Parent Group Meeting and to all those who could not make it Tuesday Night but pledged their assistance. The leadership team and I were delighted to see so many parents giving up their time to attend and to share their ideas. I must say the atmosphere felt celebratory. Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of the minutes from the meeting, the Principal's Report and a summary of all the ideas put forward for consideration. These ideas will be discussed and prioritized by the fundraising committee formed by parents who volunteered on the night and through the tear off slip. A meeting will be set up before the end of the term or early next term to start sifting through the ideas. A meeting, some time next term, will also be set with the social events committee so that plans can be started. Happy reading!

DONATED DISNEY BOOKS

Mr & Mrs Faddoul have generously donated a number of novels for **Primary Aged** children. The titles of the books are Disney's Hannah Montana, High School Musical and High School Musical 3. If you would like your child to receive one of these free novels please write a permission note to the class teacher or write a message in your child's diary. Please note: Parent discretion is required regarding the suitability of these books for your child.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Please return the photo envelopes by the 2nd April. Should you wish to have a sibling photo taken please collect a separate envelope from the office.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Thank you to all the parents who offered to assist with the organization of the Mother's Day Stall. These parents will be meeting to sort, count, price and organize the gifts in preparation for the 'Big Sale' on Wednesday 7th May.

Thank you to Mrs Belinda Barakat who has been working hard behind the scenes to collect items for a Mother's Day Raffle. If you have any items you can contribute to the raffle please contact the school office. Tickets will be 50c or 3 for \$1. More information with regard to the Mother's Day Gifts and prices will be advertised well before the day of the stall.

BOOK COVERING

Thank you to the many parents who have donated their gift of time to assist with the stamping and covering of home readers for Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two. Thank you is also extended to Mrs Maggie Abdallah and Mrs Jenny Jones for resorting, counting, and distributing the readers once covered and returned. We look forward to receiving all covered readers and left over contact from volunteers in readiness for use by the children in Term Two.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Term One	Friday, 11 th April (Last day of Term One)
Term Two	Friday, 6 th June (Queen's Birthday Holiday Weekend)
Term Three	Friday 19 th September (Last day of Term Three)
Term Four	Thursday 18 th and Friday 19 th 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.

EASTER CLINIC 2014

Next Level Sports Clinic provides an active school holiday experience for primary school aged students (5-13 years), run by PE teacher Mr David Younis.

With the help of other qualified PE teachers, they make it a fun week with lots of activities, games and exercises for the kids.

After a successful introduction in January, Mr Younis will be running 2 more clinics in the Easter holidays.

Act now, as spots are limited! Are you ready for the Next Level experience?

Contact nextlevelsports@live.com.au for dates, locations and other enquiries.

"like us on Facebook! Next Level Sports Clinic"

Medical Alert

Please be aware that there is a tummy bug around the school. Ensure you discuss with your child the importance of washing your hands and general cleanliness. Should your child be ill please keep them at home until all symptoms have ceased.

LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK

Yr 2 - Yr 6 Cross Country Postponed

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY (QCS)

Thank you to all the parents who have already completed the Quality Catholic school survey. Can we please remind you that the deadline for completion is tomorrow morning 28th March. It would be great if we had 100% completion rate. At this stage 50% of our parents have completed the survey. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

SACRAMENT PROCESS TIMETABLE

Penance Session 4

29/3/14 - 4.30pm (hall) and attendance at Mass

Reception of the Sacrament of Penance

1/4/14 - 7pm

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.

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.

Year 4 Excursion: Arabanoo National Park

On Friday 21st March Year 4 teachers, students and parent helpers went on an excursion to Arabanoo National Park. There we met Ranger Jess and Ranger Guy. Before our bush walk we all sat down and talked about Aboriginal music, food, clothing and weapons. Ranger Jess painted our faces with a type of clay ready for our bushwalk. On the way we saw lots of banksias and even a blue tongue lizard. We got to taste an edible leaf that was used for medicine and had the flavour of toothpaste, it was disgusting! When we reached the beach we found pretty shells and rocks. On the way back we stopped a few times with Ranger Guy to talk about the natural environment around us and to listen for birds. Ranger Guy showed us a way to attract little birds by blowing a whistle. We had a great time on our excursion and we are looking forward to our next one. **By Nicole, Kaitlyn and Kyra (4B)**

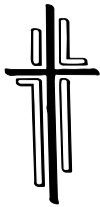


Year 5 Excursion: The Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens Mt Tomah

On Friday the 14th of March Year 5 teachers, students and parent helpers went on an excursion to Mt Tomah in the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens. We travelled for about an hour by bus and on the way saw some beautiful green farms with lots of trees, fruits and even horses and cows. When we arrived we were amazed at the wonderful mountains, valleys and forest areas that we could see from high up on Mt Tomah. We even saw steam evaporating from the rivers below. Our guides then took us for a walk through the Mt Tomah gardens and rainforest. We got to see and explore different plant species and they told us about the history of the Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens and how they came to be. We saw many beautiful and interesting flora and learnt many new facts such as what basalt looks like and names of special trees such as Eucalyptus Fastigata and Wollemia Nobilis and how they got their names. All of the students enjoyed taking photos as we walked along. We then got to explore the herb and flower gardens. The fresh herbs smelt delicious. After our tour we got to sit in the garden and eat our lunch while listening to the beautiful sounds of the birds and looking out over the forest from the top lookout. It was a fantastic day and a wonderful and fun experience.

Ashley Younis & Harrie Christopher 5C





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

COMING EVENTS 2014

TERM ONE - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Nine

Friday 28th March

Primary Cross Country - **POSTPONED**
Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.20pm

Week Ten

Monday 31st March
Friday 4th April

Primary Cross Country
NO Assembly
School Photos

Week Eleven

Monday 7th April
Thursday 10th April
Friday 11th April

Yr 6 excursion to Canberra
Last Day for Students
Pupil Free Day

TERM TWO - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

Monday 28th April
Tuesday 29th April
Wednesday 30th April
Thursday 1st May
Friday 2nd May

1st Day of Term 2
Life Education
Life Education
Life Education
Life Education
No assembly

Week Two

Monday 5th May
Tuesday 6th May

Wednesday 7th May
Friday 9th May

Life Education
Life Education
Diocesan Cross Country
Mother's Day Stall
Mother's Day Mass
Assembly Yr 6 School Hall 2.20pm

*May we obtain the grace of your blessing, O Lord,
through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God,
that from her, whose holy Name we venerate,
we may obtain help in our every need.
Through Christ our Lord.*

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.

Saturday 8.00am
Public Holidays 8.00am

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday 11.45am to 12.30pm

Saturday 8.30 to 9.00am & 5.15 to 6.00pm

St Patrick's Parent Group Meeting

Date: 25 March 2014

Time: 7.30pm

Minutes: Mrs Elly Benkovich

Introductions & Welcome: Principal: Miss Bernadette Fabri

Acknowledgement of Country: Mrs Jude Kerr

Prayer: Mrs Jude Kerr

Introduction and Welcome

Miss Fabri introduced members of the leadership team and welcomed parents

Discussion re purpose of the parent group

- Possibly meet once a term. Will include a termly Principal's Report, feedback from Fundraising Committee, School Social Committee, possibly working bee and school representative for attendance to Parent Representative Council and Educational Input
- Talk about fundraising, social activities, Educational input, Working Bees
- It is an opportunity for our parents to have a voice
- Questions are always welcome as we have an 'open door policy,'
- Need to use our funds are to be used for the students here & now
- We will be transparent with funds and give feedback to parents on all of the above
- Any matters involving individuals (parents, staff and students) or decisions which fall under the educational or running of the school need to be brought to Miss Fabri direct by making an appointment at the school office or through a phone call.

Principal's Report:

- Attached

Group Sharing

- Parents gathered in groups to share ideas on Fundraising, Social, Educational Input.

Parent nominations

- to be part of a core group that organise and liaise with Miss Fabri & parent body on all of the above

Examples of School Goals re funding (Miss Fabri on behalf of staff)

- ipads – work towards having a bank of about 8 in each class
- Banks of Laptops from Kindergarten to Year 6
- Update interactive white boards
- Science Equipment
- More readers across the school including sets of novels for older students
- Resources to support an effective Literacy Block eg Modern Big Books, Big Book Stands
- Sport Equipment that allows students to play on the playground eg Nerf balls. All play to be SAFE & APPROPRIATE
- Activity Hub – lego, chess, computers etc where children who find the playground challenging/overwhelming can go for some quiet time with a friend.

Mrs Benkovich
25/3/2014

St Patrick's Parramatta

Principal's Report

25/03/2014

Bernadette Fabri

- Special welcome to the school year for 2014. Welcome to all our new families and staff. I am particularly enjoying being here with you all. You are such a passionate community and it is such a pleasure to be here at St Patrick's Parramatta. This year we welcome Ms Sara Toman (Yr2) and Ms Nicole Dunseath (Yr2), Mr David Younis (PE), Mrs Trudy Ricketts (School Counsellor – Wednesday), and Mrs Jaunita Gray (Mon) and Mrs Belinda Hamilton (Tues) in the office.
- Children have settled very well into their new classes and new class teachers. We are particularly happy with how quickly Kindergarten has settled in.
- A special thank you to the parents for their cooperation with regard to morning routine. Comments from teachers indicate that they feel that children are more settled entering in class and I feel satisfied that the safety aspect of the morning has been addressed.
- Teachers are very happy with how the children are progressing and they are well into their units of work.
- Assemblies have this year been changed to 2.20pm in the afternoon to allow teachers to optimize prime learning time in the morning.
- The school gathered for the Opening School Mass on Wednesday 14th February after which we had the commissioning of badges for our school leaders and myself. Fr Chris D'Souza said that he was delighted with how beautifully the children sang. The primary children have commenced going to parish masses every Friday. After mass many parents gathered at the school hall for a lovely morning tea and we decided to invite the school leaders to attend. We are looking to make this an annual event.
- Some of the Year 6 children had the great experience of being part of the TV Program, Its Academic. The programs will be shown in November and the school will remind parents about these dates closer to the time.
- The Parent Information Nights were very well attended and the teachers at which the teachers were able to present some guidelines for the grade that they are teaching. We wish to reiterate that if at any time you wish to speak to your child's class teacher or me please ring and make an appointment. Communication is extremely important and we are more than happy to assist if we can.
- All staff have now commenced programming from the National Curriculum for English. We are continuing to get Professional Development support its implementation
- All children have now been tested using the Mathematical Assessment Instrument as part of the Extending Mathematical Understanding approach to teaching Mathematics. The National Curriculum for Maths will be implemented in 2015. This information has been used to inform the teaching program. Teachers are still receiving Professional Development in refining practice to improve learning outcomes in this very important Key Learning Area.
- Thank you to all the parent volunteers who have already completed the child protection module. We now have access to all the information regarding who has completed it and when. The school has now commenced a register of parent helpers for excursions so that we can see who has had a turn over the years.
- Congratulations to all the boys and girls who represented the school at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival and to all those children who made it through to the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Special mention is made of Emile Saab 11yrs Age Champion and George Khoury 12yrs Boys Runner Up. Thank you to all the parents who assisted Mrs Fardell who has done an absolutely fabulous job in her role as Acting Coordinator 1.
- On Thursday 6th March many of the staff attended the Annual Diocesan Mass at St Patrick's Blacktown. Our young teachers were commissioned and so was I in a group of around 12 new principals in our Diocese. This year they had a parade of banners from all schools in the diocese and our representative was Yvette Roque.
- Our second hand uniform sale was very successful with thanks to a number of mothers who helped organise and sell the items. We are looking towards outsourcing the Uniform Shop and are currently gathering together information with regard to the procedures we need to follow through the Catholic Education Office. We hope to have this in place by 2015.
- Shrove Tuesday was a great success once again due to the assistance from the parent helpers. We have also been very fortunate to be able to use the Cathedral overflow thanks to the Dean of the Cathedral the Very Reverend Father John McSweeney. Father is still recovering from a slight stroke from earlier in the year. We thank him very much and hope that this is helpful. A permit will be available to indicate to office staff that your car has been authorized.
- Ash Wednesday was also another beautiful liturgy and the children behaved very well. A prayer liturgy was also held at school for the infants and their parents at which teachers distributed the ashes.

- We have had a number of excursions this term and one two more to go>Yr Three went to Featherdale farm to support their unit on Australian Fauna and Flora, Yr 4 went to Arabanoo, Yr 5 went to Mt Tomah and this Thursday Yr 2 will be going to Warragambah Dam. Our last excursion for the term will be Yr 6s excursion to Canberra. Yr One had an Incursion with a visit from the local Fire Brigade. This added very valuable learning opportunities for their unit on Community Helpers.
- May I encourage all parents to collect from the Cathedral 'the Faith in our Future' booklet which speaks of the Diocesan Five Year Plan; 'to grow in our faith' and 'to share our faith'.
- The Staff Development Days for the year have now been advertised in the newsletter. There will be one on the last day of this term, Friday, 11th April. The staff will be learning about the Mindset Theory (Dr Carol Dweck), will be continuing to work on developing a rich Literacy Block as part of the diocesan Focus 160 project and will be learning more about Classm8 and the use of Google Docs and how they can be used to improve learning outcomes for children.
- The staff have also had an opportunity to visit other schools in the diocese to gather ideas and to reflect on current practice. They have really enjoyed this aspect of their learning.
- Enrolments for 2015 are currently being taken and this period will finish Friday 31st May.
- On Monday 10th March the school held an open day as part of Catholic School's Week. A beautiful liturgy was held in the morning and an art exhibition.
- St Patrick's Day was a great success commencing with a beautiful liturgy and picnic at the park. Thank you to the St Patrick's Day committee.
- Thank you to all the parents who have already completed the Quality Catholic School's Survey organised by the Catholic Education Office through the company Insight. All schools in the Parramatta Diocese are part of this survey and all staff and this year all of Yrs 5 and 6 students and older are included. Parents are selected at random from the CEDP.
- I hope everyone is accessing the school newsletter. We are currently investigating a new app which will enable you to access information and alerts from the school in a much easier way. We will keep you posted.

Bernadette Fabri
25/3/2014

Diocesan News



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!

DISCOVER WHAT A MERCY EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER – Year 7, 2016 Enrolment Information Evening

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites prospective families to the Year 7, 2016 Enrolment Information Evening at 4.45pm on **April 1**. Tour the College, collect an Enrolment pack, attend an information session, meet the Principal and College staff and enjoy a BBQ with the OLMC P&F. For enquiries, please contact the Registrar on 8838 1222 or email registrar@olmc.nsw.edu.au. Limited places available for Year 7 2015