



Dear Parents

Next week we will be celebrating Book Week. As previously advertised the theme of this year's Book Week is **"Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect"** and we will be highlighting this theme by acknowledging the important role letters and sounds play in the reading process. The idea of 'connection' is a very powerful one and can be explored in so many ways. An important aspect of comprehension is the ability of the reader to make connections as they are reading. There are 3 main areas we teach; Text to Self, Text to Text and Text to World. Text to Self is one's ability to connect the story to your own life experience and feelings. Text to Text is being able to connect the character, settings and events from one story to another and Text to World is being able to connect to world history, events or real life. Good readers are able to make these connections in very profound ways. We can help our children develop their skills in being able to make these connections by asking them questions about what they are reading and as they are reading and in demonstrating what good readers do when we read. Some of the responses could include:

TEXT TO SELF

What I just read reminds me of the time when I....

I agree with/understand what I just read because in my own life...

I don't agree with what I just read because in my own life...

TEXT TO TEXT

What I just read reminds me of _____ (story/book/movie/song) because...

The ideas in this text are similar to the ideas in _____ because....

The ideas in this text are different than the ideas in _____ because....

TEXT TO WORLD

What I just read makes me think about _____ (event from the past) because.....

What I just read makes me think about _____ (event from today related to my own community, nation or world) because....

What I just read makes me wonder about the future because....

These connections can be made by even the youngest of readers who will easily tell us the names of stories that include, bears, for example or who can remember a time when they were lost in the shopping centre – just like the main character. The theme of 'connection' can even be developed further by increasing the range of texts we are presenting to our children. Some of these include; connecting to other generations through emails or letters, connecting to other formats eg visual media, connecting to diversity through other languages, connecting to classics, connecting to others through blogging, connecting to our faith through scripture, connecting to family through oral stories and photos and connecting to covers by visiting the local library. All these connections help us to deepen our understandings and in turn to construct perhaps new ways of perceiving ourselves, each other and the world. In her book, "The Book Whisperer", Donalyn Miller, talks about the importance of building a reading culture at home. She identifies five characteristics of "wild" readers - those for whom reading is a part of who they are...

They make time to read and dedicate part of each day to doing so.

They have the confidence, experience and skills to self-select reading materials

They share their books and reading experiences with other readers

They have a reading plan - they know what they will read next.

They show and share preferences for particular authors, genres and topics.

Is your child a "wild" reader?

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

KA	Sofia Lorenzo
KM	Cedric Guino
1C	Jayden Farah
1S	Angelina Wakim
2M	Jessica Wehbe
2Y	Matthew Khreich

KA	Jiajie Weng
KM	Mia Assagby
1C	Sheridan Achie
1S	Elias Nakhle
2M	Eliza El Bayeh
2Y	Wytske Lubbers

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

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan
Rev Fr Steven Hyun
Rev Robertus Kim
Sr Susan Ward rsj

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

This Friday, 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. Take some time with your family to say the following prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Father in heaven,
All creation rightly gives you praise
For all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom
She who bore the Christ in her womb
Was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
And join in her hymn of endless love and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

(Resource: Catholic Online, <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=1160>)

CHANGE of MASS TIME

Unfortunately the school Mass @ 9.30am for the Feast of the Assumption has been cancelled as Fr John Paul has a commitment with the Bishop. Children from Years 1 to 6 will attend the Parish Mass at 12.30.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral, last Sunday. They are now fully initiated members of the Catholic Church, filled with gifts of the Holy Spirit and ready to live their faith as adult Christians.

Sophia Allida, Erin Bautista, Zachary Bond, Francesca Davino, Emmaline Didic, Meanelli Erive, Clark Guatlo, Ashleigh Grubba, Clarissa Guino, Jessica Liang, Angeleena Loto'aniu, Gabriella Nimmo, Nicholas Parkes, Abigail Sarangaya, Amelia Tannous, Caitlin Vilches



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

Chiara Banzato, Joshua Santos, Wytske Lubbers, Crista-Nicole Gahdmar, Andre Elzahoul, Christian Moujalli, Jazmyne Grech

PARENT GROUP MEETING

Date: Tuesday 19th, August **Time:** 1.30pm **Topic:** Anxiety and Resilience in Children **Venue:** School Hall

Alison Kaylinger from the Behaviour and Wellbeing team at Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will present an informative discussion for parents on strategies they can use to support their child to manage their worries.

Alison is a Social Worker who has worked with children and families for many years in both Health and Educational settings. The presentation will be skills focused and there will be time for questions.

All parents are welcome.

AFTERNOON PICK UP – SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Once again thank you to all the parents who are assisting the staff during afternoon dismissal. Just a few reminders to all parents when picking up their children by car;

- Please follow the road rules
- Please display your family name clearly on the dashboard - not all teachers know all the families, especially our new teachers.
- Please cross only at the zebra crossing – your children are watching and learning from you
- Please keep the round-a-bout clear to allow cars to flow through
- Please show patience and courtesy – we understand that the level of traffic can be very frustrating and annoying.

The school really appreciates all your efforts in helping to keep our children safe.

The safety of our children is paramount.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Several children at our school suffer from food allergies – **some very severe**. Action plans are currently in place to administer medication to these children if it is required. To assist the staff and to help safeguard the health of these children I ask that you impress upon your own children the dangers of sharing their lunches with other students. In line with this policy we ask that you do not send gift items such as lollies, Easter eggs, Christmas candy canes etc for your child to give to other students. We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own lunches and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Afternoon Dismissal

At present we are reviewing our dismissal arrangements in the afternoon. We apologise if this has caused some inconvenience to parents. As the number of students being picked up at 'drive through' increases it brings with it issues around the safest and most efficient way to move the volume of students.



Children will be organized as follows:

- Children going to after school care will be seated in the section under the hall, (the cave)
- Children getting picked up by parents and other family members from the playground will be seated in the amphitheatre. We ask that these parents and children leave from the Ross St gate opposite OLMC to help eliminate congestion.
- Children in Kinder to Year 3 who are using 'drive through' will be waiting under the cola as usual. Students from Year 4 – 6 will be called from their classrooms.

It is really important that children know how they are going to be picked up so that they are waiting for you in the correct area. If any child is unsure how they are getting home they will be seated under the cola with the 'drive through' children.

We ask you to be patient while we work through this and if you have any suggestions we have not already tried we would be most willing to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Elly Benkovich

Book Week parade—Week 6

Where: School Playground **Date:** Tuesday 19th August

Time: 11.30am

After the parade you are invited to share a picnic lunch with your child. Feel free to bring a foldup chair and blanket.

At 1.30pm the Parent Forum will commence in the School hall.



Premiers Reading Challenge

Next Friday 22nd August the Premier's Reading Challenge will come to an end. Could you please assist your child to upload data onto the site before this date. Many thanks for your support.

Mrs O'Dwyer

Book Dedications

Next week from Monday to Wednesday before and after school (8.30am-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm) the library will have on display a collection of books we would like to purchase. Please come with your child and buy and donate a book. Books range in prices from \$7.00 - \$27.00. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Mrs O'Dwyer

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Change of Date

Term Three Has been postponed until Monday 24th November

Term Four Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of December (last 2 days of the school year)

Dear Parents,

Please be advised that **Youth Group on Thursday afternoons** has been **cancelled until further notice as from this week Thursday 14th August 2014**. Unfortunately Fr John Paul has a lot of commitments at the Cathedral and with Bishop Anthony over the coming few weeks and is unable to continue leading Youth Group. Fr John Paul sends his apologies and will notify the school when Youth Group is able to resume.

Thank you for your understanding.

St Patrick's Movie Night

Dear Parents,

St Patrick's will be holding our first annual movie night on Friday the 19th of September to encourage community building within our school. It will be a great opportunity for families to meet, relax and socialise for a couple of hours and allow new families to the school to build relationships.

Whilst we have a wonderful Movie Night Committee who are assisting with the organisation of the screen hire and catering, we would appreciate if some families could kindly assist with supplying soft drinks for the night.

If you **are able to donate cans of soft drinks for the event** can you **please contact the school and inform Mrs Fardell in regards to the quantity you are able to donate**. We appreciate any support you can provide. A variety of flavoured soft drinks, including some diet would be appreciated.

If possible can you please inform Mrs Fardell by Friday the 5th September and have your donations in by Friday 12th September so that we are able to check numbers and purchase more if required.

Thank you for your ongoing support and assistance. The planning of these events would not be as successful without your help.

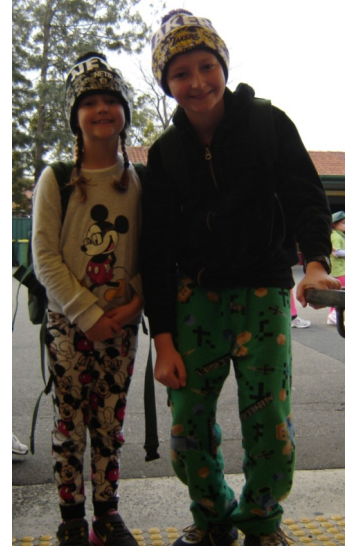
Movie Night Committee

PYJAMA DAY

Last Friday, students and teachers came to school in their pyjamas, making for a very colourful scene in classrooms and the playground. Students were encouraged to remember the words of St Mary MacKillop, 'Never see a need without doing something about it' and to think of those less fortunate.

In the previous two weeks the student leaders had lead the school in reflections on St Mary MacKillop's dedication to the poor and marginalised. On Friday we had the opportunity to reach out to the poor and raised \$702.85 in gold coin donations for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.





PRC Presentation: Anxiety & Children
Term 3 Mon (1 September 2014)

Venue: St Patrick's Primary School,
51 Allawah Rd, Blacktown

Topic: Anxiety and Children

Dr Andrew Martin is a well respected and experienced presenter who was very popular at the recent Catholic Schools Parents Conference held in Parramatta in 2013.

An important area of interest for many parents and families.

The presentation commences at 7pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

Contact: Parents Representative Council,
Parramatta Diocese

Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

Book Now!

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL,
Parramatta Diocese (PRC)
Term 3, 2014 (Mon 18 Aug 2014)
General Meeting

Venue: Diocesan Assembly

**Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St,
Blacktown**

**Topic: Learning Difficulties: How Do I Know?
What Do I Do? What Support Can I Get?**

Presenters Sue Walsh & Mary Creenaune are Leaders in Systems Learning at the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta

This presentation leads into our Term 3 General Meeting and will be valuable for all parents who have children with learning difficulties or who suspects that to be the case.

Contact: Parents, Representative Council,
Parramatta Diocese

Email: prcparrasecretary@gmail.com



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

TERM THREE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Five

Friday 15th August

Feast of the Assumption Mass
Yr 1—Yr 6 12.30pm Parish Mass
St Patrick's Cathedral
Infants Assembly Kindergarten

Week Six

Monday 18th August

Tuesday 19th August

Friday 22nd August

Book Week commences
Alphabet Parade 11.30am
Parent Group Meeting 1.30pm
Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Kinder Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm
Primary Assembly Year 4

Week Seven

Tuesday 26th August

Friday 29th August

Parent First Aid course 11am—3pm
Whole School Assembly

Week Eight

Tuesday 2nd Sept

Friday 5th Sept

Father's Day stall
Father's Day Mass
Primary Assembly Year 3

Week Nine

Friday 12th Sept

No Assembly

Week Ten

Friday 19th Sept

Movie Night
Last day of Term

VISION SCREENING CLINICS

It is important to identify eye problems early before children start school.

If your child is 4 - 5 years old you can make an appointment for a free vision test in your area.

Bookings are being taken until Friday 19th December 2014 or from Monday 12th January 2015 (M-F 8.30am – 12.30pm)

Clinics will be held up until December 2014 and will be available in the last week of school holidays in January and again in April 2015.

For further information and/or details of clinics held please phone 9881 1213.

What is StEPS?

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 year old children free vision screening.

Why would my child need their vision screened?

- Children rarely complain of eye problems
- Children may not realise they can't see well
- Some children can see well with one eye but have very poor vision in the other eye
- Children's eyes may look OK and parents/carers might think that their child can see well but some children might still have a vision problem
- The only way to tell if a child has a vision problem is to have the child's vision tested one eye at a time.



Did you know?

- If a child has a 'lazy eye' it may lead to severe vision loss or blindness in that eye if not treated
- If a child has a vision problem, the earlier the problem is detected and treated the better the vision outcome
- If parents wear glasses or had vision problems as a child their children are more likely to have vision problems too
- After a certain age some childhood vision problems cannot be treated and the child will have poor vision for the rest of their life - glasses won't help
- Low birth weight babies and children with neurological problems are at a greater risk of developing eye problems

Does my child need their vision screened?

NSW Health advises all children to have their vision screened before they start school and strongly recommends that all 4 year old children participate in the vision screening program.

How can my child access the StEPS program?

Your Local Health District will target preschools and child care centres to offer all four year old children a free vision screening. To have your child's vision screened you will need to complete a consent form and return it to your child's preschool/childcare centre. You can also have your four year old child's vision screened for free through your local Child & Family Health Service. Contact details for your local Child & Family Health Service are on the back of this pamphlet.



How will I know if my child has a vision problem?

Every parent/carer of children who have a vision screening will be informed of the results of their child's vision screening assessment. Should a vision problem be detected you will be contacted by your Local Health District and asked to have your child's eyes fully tested by an eye health professional.

It is important to ensure every child's vision develops normally throughout childhood.

The StEPS program is a vision screening program and does not offer a full diagnostic assessment. If you have any concerns about your child's vision you are recommended to have your child's vision tested fully by an eye health professional.



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta

Institute for Mission
1-5 Marion Street, BLACKTOWN 2148

P: (02) 9831 4911

F: (02) 9622 7469

E: mlwalsh@parra.catholic.org.au

June 2014

RE: ADULT CONFIRMATION

**BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP
WILL CELEBRATE ADULT CONFIRMATION
at ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL on
Tuesday 9th September at 7.30pm**

This is a community celebration for those who have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. This is not a celebration for those who would normally take part in the RCIA process.

We request that parishes publish this information in their newsletter for those who may wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

This celebration of Adult Confirmation is **for those who are over 16 years of age**, provided they have received Holy Communion.

The Office for Worship will hold an evening of catechesis and formation for all candidates. This will be on Friday 5th September, between 7 – 9 pm in the Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta. There will be a light supper available on arrival.

Parishes should forward both the names of candidates and a copy of their **Baptismal Certificate** to me by Tuesday 19 August 2014. On the attached form include name chosen for confirmation and name of Sponsor.

The directive concerning Confirmation names is as follows:

- Confirmation names should be those of recognised saints. If the given name of the candidate is a saint's name, there is no need to choose another. However, if the given name is not a saint's name then a saint's name should be chosen.

Please ensure that each candidate has a sponsor who is fully initiated (that is, has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), over sixteen years of age and aware of the responsibility for this role.

Sr Mary Louise Walsh
Liturgy Educator

Institute for Mission
1-5 Marion Street, BLACKTOWN 2148