

st patrick's primary school parramatter patter

Nurse Reading to a Little Girl (1895), by
Mary Cassatt



8th October 2015 Term 4 No.1

Dear Parents

On behalf of the staff I wish to welcome you and the children back to Term Four. Term Four is traditionally a very exciting term for schools with much to celebrate in terms of learning, friendships and achievements. We have travelled well together as a community so far this year and over the next 10 weeks we will continue to work to help the children consolidate the good work and learning habits they have developed, as well as assisting them to plan small goals for the future. For some of you who have children that are currently preparing for their Higher School Certificate (HSC) you must be wondering where all that time has gone. Many parents comment to me, how they remember when these young men and women started school. HSC time for senior students can sometimes be a very stressful time so may I ask you to keep all these children and their families in your prayers.

For many children and parents the return to school is a time when the family routines get back to usual. This can be comforting for some children who enjoy predictability and consistency. One routine, which I hope has been maintained, or which I hope will be restarted, is daily reading. The focus of our Staff Development Day last Tuesday was looking at the Reading Process including the importance of Prereading, Responding, Exploring and Applying strategies. Part of this process is children being able to read in a phrased and fluent manner. This skill of fluency is a key factor in readers being able to comprehend what they read, and practice is essential to developing this skill. Feedback regarding access to readers and activities through Pearsons Bug Club has been extremely positive. Monies raised from various fundraisers this last term has enabled the school to purchase whole school teacher access and special individual licenses for Kindy to Year 2 students. Thank you for all your hard work everyone. Over the holidays I read an article titled Is Something as Simple as Reading With My Child Worth It? written by by Terry Doherty, Executive Director of the Reading Tub. Although the author is from the United States using associated data, it is written from a parent's perspective and thought was worth sharing with you. Please find this article in this newsletter.

May I wish you and your children a happy and successful Term Four and encourage you to contact the school, through phone or email, if you have any feedback, questions or concerns.

God Bless You and Your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Is Something as Simple as Reading With My Child Worth It?

A picture by Gustave Doré of Mother Goose reading written (literary) fairy tales



In a word: Yes!

As a parent, I see how the unexpected turns of everyday life can creep in and take over my life. Sometimes, I just want to find a quiet space and disappear. But, if I look at the glass as half full, rather than half empty, I can have it all. Sitting with my daughter to read a book IS like having a quiet space. Even with 15 minutes, I am getting myself back on track AND making a crucial investment in my daughter's success.

We can never forget that children are creatures of pleasure, just like us. If they enjoy something and have positive experiences with it, they tend to continue to do that activity. If they don't like it, they will avoid it. In fact, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2000 national reading assessment of fourth-grade students found that reading for fun had a positive relationship to performance on the NAEP reading scores. The 87% of students who reported reading for fun on their own time once a month or more performed at the Proficient level, while students who never or hardly ever read for fun performed at the Basic level. **Students who read for fun every day scored the highest.**

There was another longer-term study, published in the spring of 2000, that had similar results. This U.S. Department of Education analysis found that **children who were read to at least three times a week by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading than children who were read to less than three times a week.** Just like physical exercise, there are cumulative benefits when you do something regularly.

The Reading Tub®, a Virginia nonprofit organization dedicated to literacy and reading, shares additional critical facts on the impact reading or not reading with your child can have:

Children who have been read to several times a day as a young child, did substantially better in kindergarten than youngsters whose parents read to them a few times a week or less often. The group of children who were read to on a daily basis were 1.6 times as likely to be rated by their teachers as being near the top of their kindergarten class in learning skills, and 2.3 times as likely to be near the top of their class in communication skills. These relationships hold true regardless of the income of the child's household and the education of the child's mother.

2. The **average kindergarten student has seen more than 5,000 hours of television**, having spent more time in front of the TV than it takes to earn a bachelor's degree. [Our children need balance.]
3. **Eighty percent of college faculty members report that entering freshman cannot read well enough to do college work.** Only 37 percent of high school students score high enough on reading achievement tests to handle adequately college level material—yet almost 70 percent attempt college-level work.
4. **According to the US Department of Education, a functionally illiterate adult earns 42% less than a high school graduate.** It is estimated that \$5 billion a year in taxes goes to support people receiving public assistance who are unemployable due to illiteracy.

It IS Worth It!

With so many ideas on ways to build reading aloud into your routine, there is surely one to fit your lifestyle and busy schedule. There is no greater reward than reading with your children. You've carved out that very important time for connecting with your child AND given them the opportunity to excel in whatever they choose to do later in life. Read every day with your children – you'll be glad you did.



CONDOLENCES

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Benkovich and her family after the passing of her Mother during the school holidays. May she Rest in Peace.

NEW PICK UP PROCEDURES LATE OCTOBER

In an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion on Villiers St and facilitate better safety for our students after 3.00pm, the school has applied to Parramatta Council to trial a new pick up procedure from Ross Street instead of Villiers Street. (See diagram) The council will take the school's request to their next meeting and hopefully, if all goes to plan, the council will swap over the signs in late October. The reasoning behind the new proposed pick up location is to enable parents to be able to pick up their children with less congestion. Parents will be required to drive around the block, hopefully only once. Pick up on Ross St will also enable traffic used by the commercial premises, to flow more freely, as they will not get caught behind cars making the loop between round-a-bouts. Parramatta Councils Senior Traffic Engineer was fully supportive of the idea which she felt was the best option under the current conditions. We are also hoping that the flow of traffic will be less affected by illegally parked cars who often park in the way of the traffic line up, to access shops on Villiers Street. We will keep you posted on the progress of this proposed change.



EXTRA CURRICULA NEWS!

Yesterday information was sent out regarding an opportunity for your child to receive instrument and band tuition provided by the Music and Performance Academy at OLMC. This program will commence in 2016 and will involve after school lessons. A cost will be incurred for those families interested in taking up tuition. If you are interested and would like to put forward an expression of interest please complete the form attached to the note sent home and return to either St Patricks school office or scan and email to music@olmc.nsw.edu.au

New Student Leadership Structure

Parents of Year 5 students are invited to a special meeting in the library to hear about the new student leadership structure to be trialled in 2016. This meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd October at 2.30pm.

The Pope Francis 'To Do' List

Put an end to 'mental pollution'. Think deeply, live wisely, love generously. (47)



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

following week:

Zach Gebrael, Daniel Moussa, Meagan Erive, Gabriel Rashada, Emma Barrientos Salazar, Alana Medak, Feima Koima, Talia Kalouch, Erin Bautista



Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to use frozen fruit and veg.

Did you know that frozen and canned fruit and veg count towards your recommended daily intake of fruit and vegetables?

The facts:

- We all need to aim for two serves of fruit and five serves of veg, every day
- Frozen/canned fruit or vegies are great alternatives when fresh varieties are out of season, unavailable or more expensive
- Frozen and canned vegies are usually packed shortly after picking, so very few nutrients are lost
- For canned vegetables look for labels that feature "no added salt" or "salt reduced"
- Choose canned fruit in natural juice, rather than syrup
- Health Star Ratings are on many packaged foods now – the more stars, the healthier the choice!



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.



Term 4 Dance and Sports Timetable

The children will be wearing their sports uniforms on the following days for Term 4

Term 4	Sports Day	Dance	Sports Day	Dance	Sports Day	Dance	Sports Day	Dance			
KA	Wednesday	Tuesday	2M	Friday	Tuesday	4B	Thursday	Tuesday	6P	Wednesday	Tuesday
KM	Thursday	Tuesday	2Y	Friday	Tuesday	4G	Thursday	Tuesday	6W	Wednesday	Tuesday
1C	Thursday	Tuesday	3L	Friday	Tuesday	5C	Wednesday	Tuesday			
1S	Wednesday	Tuesday	3T	Friday	Tuesday	5T	Thursday	Tuesday			

SUMMER UNIFORM

The children are now wearing their summer uniforms. Parents can you please note that as per school uniform guidelines, joggers for sport are to be mainly white.

<u>Girls' Summer Uniform</u>	<u>Boys' Summer Uniform</u>
Tartan School Dress	Grey Shorts
Short White above ankle Socks	Grey Short Sleeve Shirt
Black Shoes	Grey above ankle Socks
Green Hair Ribbon	Black Shoes
Green School Hat	Green School Hat
<u>Girls' Sports Uniform</u>	<u>Boys' Sports Uniform</u>
Green Shorts	Green Sports Shorts
Sport Shirt with School Emblem	Sports Shirt with School Emblem
White above ankle Socks	White above ankle Socks
White Sports Shoes	White Sports Shoes
Track Suit with School Emblem	Track Suit with School Emblem

- Full school uniform is to be worn at all times.
- Uniforms and shoes should be clean and neat.
- School hats are to be worn when outside buildings.
- Girls hair ribbons should be green.
- Girls long hair must be plaited or tied back.
- Boys are to have hair cut neatly, above the collar, and of an even and regular cut.
- The use of hair gel or hair dye is not permitted.
- No nail polish is to be worn.
- Jewellery is not permitted apart from a wristwatch, sleepers or small plain studs in pierced ears.

All School Uniform items available from

Oz Fashions

115-127 Parramatta Road Granville NSW 2142

Phone 9897 3121 www.ozfashions.com.au

Thanking you for your cooperation in ensuring that the school uniform code is upheld. Remember to label ALL clothing and NO HAT NO PLAY.

From the SRC

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The aim of the Student Charter is to encourage a climate of respect and justice where children feel safe and happy in a learning environment. The Student Charter is to promote positive behaviour practices through the communication of clearly set desirable behaviours. The children will learn to take responsibility of their own actions based on their right to be part of our school community.

In order to promote an understanding of rights and responsibilities as a student of our learning community, teachers will:

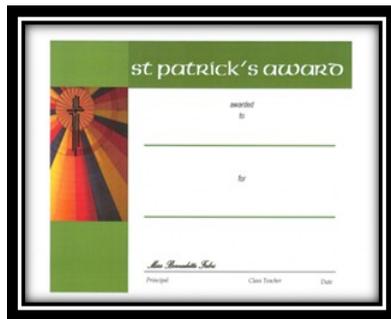
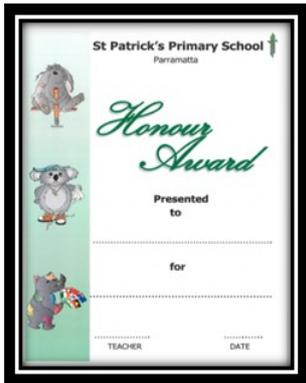
- ◆ endeavour to acknowledge, communicate and celebrate the uniqueness of each and every individual.
- ◆ be mindful and cater for the diversity of learning styles and abilities in their classrooms.
- ◆ develop with students a shared understanding of their rights and responsibilities through the Student Charter.
- ◆ integrate the Student Charter with school and classroom rules.
- ◆ link positive behaviour choices to the Student Charter and our School Values Mascots; Respect, Resilience, Compassion.
- ◆ promote positive behaviour demonstrated from the Student Charter through rewarding Super Shamrocks.

Please note

The teachers will develop with their students an understanding of the consequences associated with breaching their responsibilities outlined in the Student Charter. (*Student Behaviour Management Scheme*)

From the SRC

This term, teachers will acknowledge and celebrate positive behaviour choices from the Student Charter through the St. Patrick's Honour Award and the St. Patrick's Award.



SPORTS REPORT STAGE 3 TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY

On the last day of term 3, stage 3 boys and girls touch football teams participated in a touch football gala day at Penrith. Each team had to play a total of 5-6 games and both teams were undefeated the whole day.

Congratulations to the girls team for coming first overall in their pool, and the boys for coming a close third overall in their pool, they were one try away from first place! Each team showed great sportsmanship to their opposing team and referees. They showed their great touch football skills and proved to Mr Younis that our school should enter this gala day again!

On behalf of Mr Younis and the 2 teams we would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Attard for helping out and keeping our teams on schedule, to Mr Louie Rizk and Mr Jamie Wehbe for taking their time to coach and train the two teams, and finally to all the parents, especially the mums who helped out with supervision and our cheer squad.

Thank you.

Sport Captains





St Patrick's Cathedral Parish
1 Marist Place, Parramatta 2150
email: secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au
Telephone: 8839 8400

15 September 2015

Dear Parents

We will be holding an 'Information Session' for those interested in preparing your child/ren for the Sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and later Confirmation. This will take place through a Parish / School Based and Family Centred process. That means that it is **you** who do the preparation with your child, but we help you with this through a process of guided reflection.

In order to explain the way preparation takes place, you are invited to attend an Information Session. This session will provide you with enough opportunity to decide whether this is the right time for you to begin the journey toward completion of Initiation into the Faith Community begun at the time of Baptism.

Some points are listed below which will help you decide if you are ready to lead your child into this next phase of the journey of Faith.

How Do I Know If My Child Is Ready?

- There is no magical age for children who have been baptized as infants to complete their Initiation into our Faith Community.
- Some questions you may ask yourself when making this consideration are:
 - What does my child know about God?
 - Has my child begun to want to pray?
 - Is my child beginning to recognise the difference between RIGHT and WRONG?
 - Can my child accept that a mistake has been made?
 - Can my child admit that they sometimes do what is wrong?
 - Is my child able to say 'sorry' when it is appropriate?
- It is important that as parents you make a **decision yourself** and not be swayed by the fact that the child is now in a particular class e.g. Year Three. There is no **right** class that marks the **right** time for the first reception of the *Sacrament of Penance*, or for the first reception of the *Sacrament of Holy Communion*.
- To be eligible for preparation at this time the children should be 7 years of age by 30 June, 2015.

The Information Session will be held on:

Wed 14 October at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta.

Regards and God Bless,
St Patrick's Cathedral Sacramental Team

Please ensure you have a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate as you will need this as part of the enrolment process.

2016 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Currently only the Summer Sports of BASKETBALL, CRICKET, SOFTBALL & TENNIS are open and registrations close on Friday 30th October as these trials will be held in November 2015. All other sport registrations will open on 2nd November for 2016 trials.

Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2016 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2015 and Term One in 2016.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is **strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2016 be invited to attend.**

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Basketball (B&G), Cricket (B&G), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), Softball (B&G), Tennis (B&G), & Touch(B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2016 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST be approved by the child's school**. In order for the child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of the school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated.

All fields and especially "Representative Experience" MUST be completed.

I will email schools after the closing date of the 30th November and it is the responsibility of schools to notify students if they are successful or not in meeting the criteria. This will be done at least one week prior to the trial date if the student is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Kind Regards,

Margaret

Margaret Thornton Teaching Educator Primary Sport
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

POST SEPARATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post Separation Recovery Program. This has proven to be an excellent Program that guides and supports those whose marriage or long-term partnership has ended. **Commencing:** 21st October for 7 Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.45pm. **Venue:** Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown.

Cost: \$80.00 **Registration Essential:** Eileen or Rita on 99330205 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



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 Deacon Willy Limjap
Margaret Gale (Sacramental Coord)

Straight from the Parent Handbook...

ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES

St Patrick's has a "no nut or nut products" policy, due to the number of children who are allergic to nut products. We ask for your co-operation in not sending nut products (especially Nutella, peanut butter and Manoush containing nuts or sesame seeds) to school with children, but keep these for treats at home.

If your child suffers from allergies or requires an epiPen please inform the Administration Office before your child starts school so that the correct action plan is implemented.

2015

TERM FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

Friday 9th October **No Assembly**

Week Two

Tuesday 13th October Footsteps Dance commences

Friday 16th October Infants Assembly—Yr 1 2.15pm

Week Three

Tuesday 20th October Footsteps Dance continues

Thursday 22nd October Year 5 Parents—New Leadership Structure
2.30pm in the Library

Friday 23rd October Primary Assembly—Yr 3 2.15pm

Week Four

Tuesday 27th October Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 30th October World Teacher's Day
Infants Assembly—Yr 2 2.15pm

Week Five

Tuesday 3rd November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 6th November Primary Assembly—Yr 4 2.15pm
Year 1 excursion to "Wetlands"

Week Six

Tuesday 10th November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 13th November Assembly—Choir 2.15pm

Week Seven

Tuesday 17th November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 20th November Primary Assembly—Yr 5 2.15pm