

# st patrick's primary school

## parramatta patter

23rd October 2014

Term 4

No.3



Dear Parents

*As many of you may know I have just returned from an eighteen day pilgrimage of Greece, Turkey and Italy with more than twenty diocesan principals and senior leaders from Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta, thirty one in total.*

*As I was planning my newsletter article for this week I was trying to find the right words to describe adequately how I felt during and on my return from these wonderful places, places that for the most part were visited by another traveller, St Paul the Apostle. The journey for me was not only physical but one which was deeply spiritual and personal as I was lead into the rhythm of morning and evening prayer, daily rosary and mass and night reflections delivered by various members of the group.*

*In between we were taken by expert guides to areas where St Paul preached, where early Christian communities gathered and where people were called to reflect and were challenged to think about their lives and their relationships with others and God. The same happened for us in the most powerful of ways, away from our family and friends, together with our spiritual leaders Father Chris Desouza and Father John Paul Escarlan.*

*I would like to share with you a small summary, through words and photos some of the highlights of the pilgrimage. Today the boys and girls have received a blessed crucifix and a holy card featuring Pope Francis. This is a small gift from me in remembrance of this sacred experience afforded to me as principal of this wonderful school.*

*Please feel confident that you, your families and the staff, were in my prayers daily, throughout the 18 days.*

*God Bless you and your family  
Bernadette Fabri*

### **ST PATRICK'S PARENT GROUP MEETING—Facilitated by Alison Kaylinger**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 Time 7.00pm Topic: Anxiety and Developing Resilience  
Please RSVP to the school office on 9630 1421 or [stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)**



**Save the Date—Change  
of time now 1.00pm  
Tuesday 16th December  
St Patrick's Primary  
School Christmas  
Celebrations OLMC Hall**

### **Bus Passes for 2015**

Bus passes for 2015 will automatically issue for next year except where your child is entering Year 3. A new form needs to be completed when your child is going into Year 3 or if you have had an address change. Please collect a new form from the office and return by the 30th October to ensure the pass will be ready for the start of 2015.



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



### 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:**

Alissa Banzato, Jacob Manago, Julian Tanna, Renee Kougelis, Oliver Kougelis, Kenneth Zhang, Annette Francis, Scarlett Khouy

3L	Nicole Aboumelhem
3T	Joya Barakat
4B	Chloe Abou-Hamad
4G	Nicholas Barakat
5C	Jonathon Sarkis
5T	Dave Cerillo
6P	Isabella Moses
6W	Jack Pellew

3L	Adrian Pangan
3T	Natalie Draybi
4B	Zach Gebrael
4G	Alana Michael
5C	Ashley Younis
5T	Annie Gittany
6P	Natalia Grodek
6W	Matthew Molina

#### Update from Movie Night

Although the movie night was not a fundraising event we managed to raise **\$3165** towards valuable resources for your children's learning.

Thank you again for all the support you have given to our school.

#### Mission Talk

On Tuesday the 14th of October Year 5 had Anita come and visit our school to talk to us about our mission to help children in third world countries. We learnt that 80% of the world have children and even adults sleeping on the streets. I also found out that children only get one proper meal a day. Did you know that children know how to tell the difference between a car skidding and a gunshot. Here in Australia we learn about stranger danger but in countries where there is a war they learn how to protect themselves from gunshots and the effects of war. One child said that when she grows up she wants to be ALIVE. So next time you complain you don't want to go to school think about how lucky you are to have a very good education. The next time you are at the shopping centre and you want your parents to buy you something think about some children don't even have a bed to sleep in tonight. How lucky are we?

By Chanel Chidiac

#### Year 6—Farewell Dinner

Parents please return your money and ticket order for the farewell dinner for Year 6 2014. Your earliest response would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you Mrs Sakr.

#### Sock it to Poverty

In our first Religious Education unit this term we are focusing on our mission as baptised people, reaching out to others as Jesus did. We are also developing the understanding that all people should have the opportunity to live full and enriched lives, regardless of race, religion or gender. Children have watched clips from the Catholic Mission website which show how Catholic Mission is able to provide opportunities for individuals and communities who are not as well off as we are. Of course Catholic Mission is only able to reach out with our support, both monetary and prayer. On Friday 24 October. St Patrick's is supporting Catholic Mission with a **Sock it to Poverty** day. For the privilege of wearing socks of their choice, students are asked to donate a gold and help fight poverty around the world. <http://www.catholicmission.org.au/educationformation>

take a **selfie** with your teacher  
World Teachers Day  
Friday 31 October 2014



Win a **\$100 iTunes voucher** for you and your teacher plus **\$500 voucher** for classroom resources

Email your photo to [promotions@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:promotions@parra.catholic.edu.au) with 25 words or less explaining why your teacher is great!

Entries close 29 October 2014 with the winner announced on World Teachers Day, Friday 31 October 2014.

\*Conditions apply, see [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au) for entry terms and conditions

**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  
Very Rev Fr Ropbert Bossini  
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan  
Rev Fr Steven Hyun  
Rev Fr Michael Gitau  
Rev Robertus Kim  
Sr Susan Ward rsj



*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 FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Week Three**

Thursday 23rd October	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 24th October	“Sock it to Poverty” Sock day Primary Assembly Yr 5 - 2.15pm

**Week Four**

Monday 27th October	Parent Group Meeting 7.00pm
Thursday 30th October	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 31st October	Infants Assembly Yr 1 - 2.15pm

**Week Five**

Thursday 6th November	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 7th November	Yr 1 Sydney Aquarium Excursion Primary Assembly Yr 3 - 2.15pm

**Week Six**

Thursday 13th November	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 14th November	Infants Assembly Kinder - 2.15pm

**Week Seven**

Thursday 20th November	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 21st November	NO Assembly School Disco

**Week Eight**

Monday 24th November	Staff Development Day—No students
Wednesday 26th Nov	Swimming Carnival
Thursday 27th November	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 28th November	Primary Assembly Yr 4 - 2.15pm

**Week Nine**

Thursday 4th December	Footsteps Dance Program
Friday 5th December	Infants Assembly Choir - 2.15pm

# *My Journey.....*

*By Ms Fabri*

**Day 2:** The pilgrimage commenced with Mass at St Mary's Church Dubai

**Day 3:** Arrived in Athens, Greece and visited the Areopagus where St Paul delivered some of his sermons to the people of his time including Athenian philosophers (Acts 17: 16-21). Athens in that day was predominantly a city which worshipped pagan gods. We continued to Ancient Corinth where the apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. Included in the visit were the Peirene fountain and the 6<sup>th</sup> century Temple of Apollo

**Day 4:** Travelled to the small town of Kalambaka built at the foot of the majestic rocks of Meteora. There we visited the most awe inspiring monastery which is still active where we saw the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes. The view was magnificent!

**Day 5:** The group continued to travel east along the ancient route of St Paul via the Amphipolis and on to Philippi. Many of you would have read the many letters, St Paul wrote to the Philippians. Here, this courageous apostle won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia. We visited the beautiful Baptistery of Lydia next to the oasis on the River Zygaktis. Other places of significance visited on this day was Thessaloniki, the Arch of Galerius, St Demetrios' Orthodox Church and the Roman Agora where St Paul once preached.

**Day 6:** Travelled to Izmir in Turkey and went to ancient Smyrna, one of the seven churches of Revelation (Rev:28-11). Izmir was home to a lively Christian community under the pastoral care of its bishop, Polycarp.

**Day 7:** One of my favourite places, Ephesus. This visit included the ruins where St Paul lived and preached and where not far away St Paul was imprisoned. The amazing marble streets of Ephesus were built in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century BC and included the Temple of Hadrian, The Library of Celsus, an enormous amphitheatre (Act 19:29-31) and the ruins of the Christian Basilica where the Third Ecumenical Council took place in 431 AD. Yes it is truly amazing to be amongst such biblical history.

**Day 8:** We continued the Paulian trail at Alexander Troas where the apostle Paul spent seven days when he returned from Macedonia. Again he did much preaching there, from day to night.

**Day 9:** Gallipoli! How can you describe the emotion when visiting the site where so many of our Australian soldiers lost their young lives at ANZAC Cove. On our visit to Gallipoli the group celebrated mass and laid a wreath in the memory of the 7,594 Australian and 2431 New Zealand soldiers who lost their battle during WW1.

**Day10:** Visited the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia built in 548 AD. Hagia Sophia needs to be on everyone's 'bucket list' as it has to be seen to be believed. Now a museum this amazing building, built in Byzantine Architecture served as the spiritual home for a number of faith communities; an Eastern Orthodox Cathedral, a Roman Catholic Cathedral and a Mosque.

**Day 11:** This day's visit was to the early church of St Peter and St Paul in Istanbul.

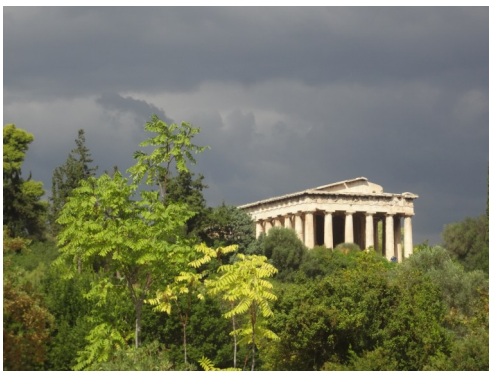
**Day 12:** A very significant day for the pilgrims, especially Father John Paul, as on his birthday he celebrated mass at the magnificent Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. This was followed by a visit to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.

**Day 13:** This morning we assembled in St Peter's Square with pilgrims from all around the world, to join with the Holy Father, Papa Francesco (Pope Francis) for his Wednesday audience. Pope Francis travelled in an open vehicle to wave and see as many people in the square as possible, which meant that on two occasions we were only a few metres away from him. Amazing! We also had the privilege of being announced by name – 'Pilgrims from the Diocese of Parramatta' (Australia), in the roll call of visitors. I can still hear our cheer. We finished the day by visiting St. Mary Major Basilica, the Basilica of St John in Lateran, the Basilica of Santa Croce in Jerusalem with its extraordinary collection of relics from the Holy Land and the Holy Stairs.

**Day 14:** On this day the group toured the Vatican Museums, wandered through the spectacular chambers leading to the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, climbed to the top viewing balcony of St Peter's Basilica and had the unforgettable experience of visiting the excavations under the Basilica – the Necropoli. Escorted by a specialist Vatican guide, we descended by foot down into the ruins of an ancient city where we saw catacombs of the early Christian Church. This tour culminated at the site where the original tomb of St Peter can be found.

**Days 15/16:** The end of our pilgrimage was spent in the beautiful town of Assisi. Here St Francis heard God's call to 'rebuild his church' and where he tended the poor and sick and founded the Franciscan Order.







# Year 5, 2014 Excursion: Bathurst Gold Fields

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October Year 5 students, teachers and parent helpers ventured out to the Bathurst Gold Fields to experience what life would have been like for miners and their families during the 1850's gold rush.

We departed at 6:30am on a luxurious coach and headed off to Bathurst. Our first stop was at Echo Point, Blue Mountains where we had a quick break and went to the lookout to view the beautiful scenery of the Blue Mountains and the Three Sisters. We had the opportunity to take lots of photos. Then we boarded the bus and headed off for Bathurst.

Once we arrived at Bathurst we got to drive on top of Mount Panorama where the V8 Supercars race. This was exciting. Upon arriving at the gold fields we had morning tea in the beautiful warm sun then prepared ourselves for a full day of activities.

Our tour guide's name was Peter. He was funny and shared lots of knowledge about the 1850's gold rush and lifestyle of the people on the gold fields with us. We got to explore the museum and touch artefacts from the gold rush, tools that miners used and household equipment. Then we walked around the gold field and observed some of the shaft mining equipment the miners used such as a whim and a rock crusher used to help extract gold from large rocks. We also explored the way the Chinese miners on the gold field lived and where they went to worship and pray. After that we went to the Blacksmith shop. This was very interesting as we got to see how the blacksmith used fire to make tools. Nicholas, Francesca, Jackson and Alanah got to wear the blacksmith's equipment and work the bellows to heat up the fire. It was really hard work.

After all that hard work we then went to the creek where we were given a lesson on how to pan for gold. Peter gave us all a pan each and a small container to store all the gold we found. Most children found a few specks of gold, but not enough to strike it rich!!!! We all enjoyed panning for gold. It is not as easy as it looked. There is a certain technique and you need to know what to look for. Thank goodness no one fell in and we managed to stay dry except for a few wet socks. After all of this tiring work panning we got to eat our lunch.

Finally we got to participate in some everyday activities from the past. We were split into four groups and each group took turns at cooking damper over the fire with Tanya, making mud bricks (yes all the girls got their hands dirty in mud), playing games such as tug-o-war, ring toss and dirt bowls with heavy iron balls and putting up tents. This was a lot of fun.

At the end of the day we listened to Peter and Tanya tell us stories about life on the gold fields during the gold rush. It made us glad we are alive today and have all of our technology.

We said good bye then headed back to the bus. We left Bathurst at 3:15pm and headed back home.

It was a great experience for Year 5 and we all agreed that it would be fun to go again during the school holidays as they offer programs for children and their families during the holidays and on weekends. Going to the Bathurst Gold fields helped us to gain a deeper understanding of what we had learnt and discovered during our Gold Unit in Term 3.

We would like to thank our parent helpers for coming with us and assisting the teachers in taking care of us so that we could have a fun and safe experience.

Year 5, 2014





# Year 5, 2014 Excursion: Bathurst Gold Fields





# 2015 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials



Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2015 are invited to participate in the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Primary School team sports trials during Term Four in 2014 and Term One in 2015. 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](http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au). This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2015 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport.

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

**Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child 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.***

**Please contact your school sports coordinator for any further information.**

Yours In Sport,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator – Primary Sport

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

## OLMC Mercy Scholarships

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta is now accepting applications for Mercy Scholarships for Academic Excellence and Music Excellence. Girls entering Years 7, 9 or 11 in 2016 are invited to apply. Visit the College website [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) for more information.

## Term 4, PRC Presentation: Smart Start School Readiness Wed 29 Oct 2014

St Michael's Primary School, 155 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown Sth

### Smart Start School Readiness

Danielle Mantakoul is one of the most dynamic speakers in the early childhood industry.

**Smart Start School** aims at assisting parents and early childhood educators in making the transition to school easier for children. Topics such as bullying, composite classes, parent teacher communication, the child's typical school day, the importance of social/emotional development and much much more will be discussed. Danielle will provide you with tips and tricks on school readiness that you may never even have considered and give parents the heads up on not only of what will be expected of their child, but of them as new school parents.

Book Now!

**Contact:** Parents Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese

**Email:** [prcparraevents@hotmail.com](mailto:prcparraevents@hotmail.com)

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM - SPRINGWOOD

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding its fortnightly Bereavement Support Session on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this Session is "The Tasks of Grief". Venue: Springwood Baptist Church Macquarie St Springwood from 10.30 – 12.30. Details and Registration: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au) or Ph. 99330205

### STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services invites those who have been separated or divorced to our monthly evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Date: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00. Registration: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au) or Ph. 99330205.