

# ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARRAMATTER PATER

12th November 2015 Term 4 No.6



Dear Parents

*It is good to be back at work after a short period of leave. Can I express my gratitude to Mrs Benkovich and the other members of the leadership team for taking on higher duties both confidently and competently and to the staff for their care in continuing the great work at St Patrick's Parramatta.*

*A few weeks ago I had the good fortune to see the popular musical 'Matilda'. What a wonderful treat! I was so impressed with so many aspects of this show, from the music, the costumes, the set design and of course the story. What stood out for me however were the amazing talents of the young performers. Not only were they able to sing and dance far better than many adults I know, including myself, but they were able to remember vast pieces of dialogue, get their timing correct, display emotion, work with actors of all ages and work as a team with each other.*

*I personally just love the theatre, especially musicals and I know from my experience in education that children show us from a very young age their interest in the creative arts. The school is very lucky to have Mrs Rodricks, our music teacher, who is passionate about music and drama. This year she has spent many weeks with her students preparing dramatic representations to songs that they have learned. I love being invited to see the published performances as it gives me an opportunity to see our children, just like those in professional musicals, express themselves in exciting and enjoyable ways. Many of them love to get dressed up in costumes and not only do they get an opportunity to perform but Mrs Rodricks also helps them to create their own dialogue and choreography.*

*I am often mindful that we all have very different gifts and the gifts found within the creative arts are just as important and powerful as the core subject areas. I am also mindful that the increasing emphasis that is placed on standardized tests, like NAPLAN, has a tendency to reduce our measures of success to a very narrow band of skills. No one is denying that a person's ability to be literate and numerate is critical however so is our ability to dream, imagine and create. As always it is about balance. For those who would like to increase the provision of the arts in their family I have included a list of ideas outlined in the article, "The Importance of the Creative Arts for Children and Teens." To read the full report the link is as follow: <http://childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/multiple-intelligences/the-importance-of-the-creative-arts-for-children-and-teens/>*

*The Creative Arts is one of the NSW Board of Studies Key Learning Areas with its own curriculum and is an extremely important aspect of every child's learning. May I encourage you to take your children to the theatre, art galleries, dance and musical concerts often. As I write this I am recalling some exstudents who have even found a successful career in the arts; on stage and television. Some of these students were quite shy as youngsters. Who knows I may be blessed to see some of our current students on a professional stage one day.*

*God Bless You and Your family*

*Bernadette Fabri*

*Principal*



## Honour Award

The Honour Award is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding behaviour shown in the Student Charter

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| KA | Samuel Navasardyan |
| KM | Aireen Kwa         |
| 1C | Joseph Saseen      |
| 1S | James Loader       |
| 2M | Scarlett Weaver    |
| 2Y | Lorenzo De Guzman  |

## st patrick's award

The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| KA | Alex Elkhoury          |
| KM | Baxter Gittany         |
| 1C | Catherine Said         |
| 1S | Ashintha Joseph        |
| 2M | Christopher Konstantas |
| 2Y | Nyagua Koima           |



### The Pope Francis 'To Do' List

For genuine change, put the common good first. Special interests manipulate information, offer 'superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern.' (54)

### **Ideas to encourage the Arts in family life.**

1. When you read to your children, be dramatic. Act out stories with props and costumes. Encourage them to create their own stories to act out for you. Add to the collection with clothing you no longer need: hats, scarves, purses, shoes, and items you can find inexpensively at garage sales.
2. Put together an "art studio" in your home. Stock it with a variety of tools and materials: crayons, markers, finger paints, scissors, pastels, watercolors, brushes, glues, papers of various sizes and textures, intriguing found objects, leftovers from your own home improvement, boxes and containers of all sizes.
3. Expand your musical repertoire at home and in the car. Venture into unknown musical territory so that you and the children can hear something out of your usual fare. This can be easily expanded by turning to different radio stations and by checking out CDs from the public library — all for free!
4. While the music is playing at home, dance together. Teach your children traditional dances you know or improvise with them. Body movement is fun and good exercise.
5. Sing together. Teach the kids your favorite songs. Many of them allow for verses that can be made up, such as "Down by the Bay," which can have an endless and hilarious number of rhymes added to it.
6. Look for arts programs after school, on weekends, and during vacations. Many community park and recreation departments offer these. Summer camps based on the arts are a good departure from the typical competitive sports camps.
7. Create a scrapbook together. Put photos, memorabilia, drawings, and captions together creatively. In doing so, you will not only have a shared experience but a memory that will last for many years (if you use acid-free paper).
8. The most important ingredient in the recipe is your interest. Be there to appreciate and encourage during every step of the creative process.

## NEW PICK UP CONDITIONS

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for your continued cooperation and patience regarding our new car pick-up conditions. Although we are still experiencing some complications, generally the system is running quite well. There are definite plans to look at making the school section of Trott Street one way however until then we ask for your assistance by:

- Avoiding U-turns outside the school to join the queue
- Ensuring you display your family name sign where it can be easily seen (have one in both cars if necessary, the children can help make these)
- Being patient.

We remind parents and older siblings, who are not using the pick-up service, to please enter the school gate and collect your children either from their classrooms or the amphitheatre. For their safety we will not be allowing children to cross at the crossing without a supervising adult or high school family member.

Regards

Elly Benkovich

Please read the following changes to the afternoon drive thru—

1. The existing 'P5 Minutes 8:30am-9:30am 2:30pm-4.00pm School Days' restriction located on the north side of Ross Street between Trott Street and Villiers Street, Parramatta (outside St. Patrick's Primary School) will be replaced with a 'No Parking 8.00am-9:30am & 2:30pm-4:00pm School Days' restriction as shown in attached sketch 1.
2. The existing 'No Parking 8:30am-9:30am 2:30pm-3:30pm School Days' restriction located on the west side of Villiers Street between Ross Street and Gross Street, Parramatta (outside St. Patrick's Primary School) will be replaced with a 'P5 Minutes 8.00am-9:30am & 2:30pm-4:00pm School Days' restriction as shown in attached sketch 2.



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

Andrew Doumit, Gabriella Mendoza, Ellen Nikolakopoulos, Katerina Yannakis, James Fraser, Josef Chedid, Kayla Teklic, Diederik Lubbers, Zoe Borger, Jack Gittany

### School Group Photo

On 16th November St Patrick's will be taking our annual school group photo. The children are required to wear full summer uniform. The photo will be taken at approx. 9.30am, so if you could have your children to school on time it would be greatly appreciated.

### Not Returning to St Patrick's in 2016

Thank you to the parents who have informed the office that their child will not be returning to St Patrick's in 2016. If your child is not returning to St Patrick's in 2016 please send a letter to Ms Fabri stating the last day of attendance at St Patrick's and which school they will be moving onto in 2016.

### Back to School 2016

If you plan to travel overseas or interstate over the Christmas holidays and your child will be returning late back to school in 2016, please notify the school office in writing stating the date they will be returning to school. Please note if your child will be missing 10 or more school days they are required to complete an application for Extended Leave form, which can be collected from the office. Parents are discouraged from taking children out of school for travel or extended holidays during school time. This can have a detrimental effect on your child's academic progress.

## *Dancing Under the Stars' Family Disco*

As you are aware the Disco is fast approaching and will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November in the school playground from 6pm-8pm. Gates will be open from 5pm to allow time for you to eat and socialise before dancing. Please try to purchase tickets prior to the evening if possible, however they will be on sale at the door. Tickets are \$3 per student and adult but Pre-school aged children will have free entry.

On the night there will be Pizza and Dippin' Dots ice cream available for purchase as well as ice blocks and drinks from our school canteen. Unfortunately we were unable to arrange for the Kebab stall to attend. Families are welcome to bring their own snacks or picnic basket if you prefer however we ask that you respect our NUT FREE POLICY to ensure the safety of all attending.



On the night there will be a DANCE OFF for the students to participate in if they wish to. There will be an INFANTS DANCE OFF (6:45pm) followed by a PRIMARY DANCE OFF (7:15pm). Students will stand in a circle and those who wish to participate will enter the circle and dance for an entire song selected by our DJ Michelle. Students are welcome to dance in groups or pairs if they feel more comfortable as well as individually however prizes will be awarded to individual dancers not groups.

A panel including the DJ and teachers will observe each dance off and decide on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each category (Infants/Primary). Girls and Boys will not be separate. We believe in equal opportunity for all so regardless of gender we believe all have a chance to participate at an equal level. Prizes will be awarded to not necessarily the BEST dancers but the most energetic, unique and funky dancers who are on the dance floor trying their best and having a great time. We also have some prizes to hand out to students we see throughout the night who are having fun and dancing the night away.

### **PRIZES INCLUDE:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$50 Bondi Pizza Voucher**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$20 Messina Gelato Voucher**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$10 Messina Gelato Voucher**



**Grill'd Burger Vouchers will be awarded to Students we see who are participating throughout the disco and having a great time with their friends and family.**

Students Year 1 to Year 6 return to school in 2016 on Friday 29th January. MAI testing will be over 2 days 27th and 28th January. Kindergarten will commence on Monday 1st February, 2016

### **Consent Forms—Kindy to Year 5**

Consent forms were sent home to children in Kindy to Year 5. These forms will stay on the children's files for the period of enrolment. Please ensure all parents residing with the child have completed both sides of the form and ticked all boxes. Please return to your class teacher as soon as possible.



### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE ACADEMY AT OLMC FOR 2016 ( Yr 3 – 6)**

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. The program will involve after school lessons and a cost will be incurred for those families interested in taking up tuition. Please send your completed expression of interest to St Patricks school office or scan and email to [music@olmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:music@olmc.nsw.edu.au)

## Parramatta League Oz Tag Gala Day

Last Tuesday, Mrs Davino and I had the honour of taking 48 of our St Patrick's Stage 2 and Stage 3 boys and girls to participate in the Parramatta Diocese League Gala Day at Doyle Ground in Parramatta. This involved the students competing against teams from other schools in a friendly non-contact game where rather than tackling the players tag each other. All four of our teams represented the school with pride and displayed exceptional sportsmanship and respect throughout the day to officials, players and spectators.

All of our teams played to the best of their ability, finishing in the top range of their Pool. We definitely have some future league stars in our midst. Congratulations to our Stage 2 Girls who won their competition finishing first overall. I was exceptionally proud of all our St Patrick's players and the tremendous effort and skills they displayed on the day.

I would like to thank Mrs Davino and all of the parents who assisted and supported us on the day. Your help was greatly appreciated.

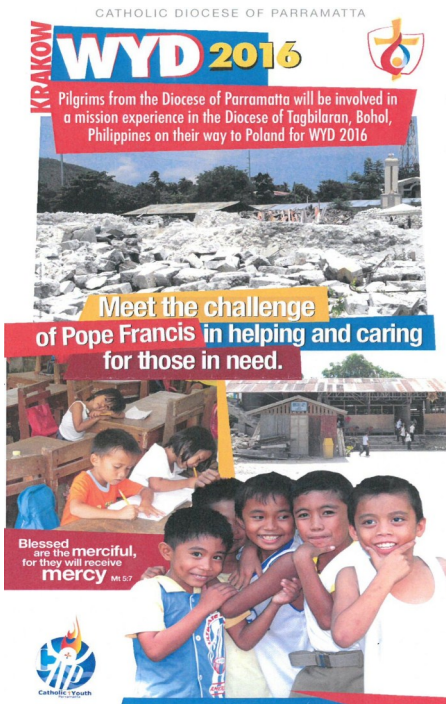
Mr David Younis

## **World Youth Day - Help the Philippines - Gold and Fold**

*St Patrick's will be having a Mufti day to raise funds  
to assist the people in the  
Diocese of Tagbilaran on Friday 13th  
November.*

*Raffle tickets will be sold every morning before school next  
week. The tickets are 50c each or 3 for \$1.00.*

*\$100 Oatlands Village Fresh Produce      \$50 City Extra  
3 x \$50 Parramatta Leagues Club          2 x VIP Bondi Pizza Voucher  
2 x \$50 Parramatta Park Café              \$50 Blacktown Workers Club  
\$100 Lachlan's Old Govt House*



## Year 1 Excursion to the Wetlands

On Friday 6th of November, Year One went off to see the wonders of the wetlands at Bicentennial park at Sydney Olympic Park as part of our Wet and Dry Environments unit. When we arrived we were so excited to see the flora and fauna found in the wetlands. Firstly, we walked through the bushland to the lake where we observed the insects. Next we carefully and quietly walked through the mangroves (very careful to not scare away the crabs) where we were able to see how the mangroves change and grow.



After the mangroves we went up a big hill and used magnifying glasses to explore the flora and fauna found in the dry forest within the park. Finally, we went inside the education centre to observe some animals in their tanks and we even got to meet and touch a sea turtle named Petal. We were happy to head back to school after a big day of exploring the park. Thank you to those parents that came with us and made our excursion extra fun.



*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...

**WET WEATHER**

- During wet weather in the morning, children are to wait in under cover amphitheatre outside the Year Six classrooms until 8.35 am when their teachers will take them to the classrooms.
- Children will be supervised in the classroom during recess and lunchtime.
- After school in light rain, there will be normal pickup with children waiting in their classrooms as per usual.
- In extremely heavy rain, if conditions are unsafe, children will wait in their classrooms for parents to park and collect them.

**It is important for children to bring a raincoat and rain-hat to school each day.**

**2015**

**TERM FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Week Six**

Friday 13th November

**World Youth Day - Help the Philippines - Gold and Fold - Mufti Day'**

Assembly—Choir 2.15pm

**Week Seven**

Tuesday 17th November

Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 20th November

Primary Assembly—Yr 5 2.15pm

' Dancing under the Stars' Family disco

Gates open 5pm

**Week Eight**

Tuesday 24th November

Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 27th November

Infants Assembly— Kindy 2.15pm

**Week Nine**

Tuesday 1st December

Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 4th December

Year 6 Graduation Mass—9.15am

No assembly

**Week Ten**

Tuesday 8th December

Footsteps Dance continues

Wednesday 9th December

Peace on Earth Christmas Concert—  
1.30pm

Thursday 10th December

Swimming Carnival

Friday 11th December

Whole School Farewell Assembly -  
Year 6 - 2.15pm

**Week Eleven**

Monday 14th December

Footsteps Dance continues

Tuesday 15th December

Year 6 Fun day at Arcadia

Wednesday 16th December

Last Day for students for Term 4

## OLMC Parramatta 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 2017 are invited to apply. Visit the College website [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) for more information.

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### OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on November 16, 2015 the last tour of the year.

Tour the College and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2017.

Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) to reserve your place or contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can be a Mercy Girl.

# All students are gifted and talented....identifying personalised pathways to success

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## Term 4 PRC General Meeting – Mon 16 Nov 2015, 7pm

All catholic school parents and educators welcome!

Free presentation to all who attend the Term 4 General Meeting.

**Presenters:** Tim Hardy, Team Leader - Numeracy, Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta

and

Anthony McElhone, Principal, St Oliver's Primary School, Harris Park



**Venue:** Diocesan Assembly Centre(IFM), Grd Flr, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St, Blacktown

Doors open 6.30pm for coffee & tea.

Further enquiries: Please email [prcparrapresident@gmail.com](mailto:prcparrapresident@gmail.com)

**Please Note:** Note-taking is the responsibility of each attendee for the benefit of themselves and the school community that they represent. Formal handouts from presentations is unlikely.

Expand your imagination by reading this summer and you could **win an iPad mini**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of four iPad minis. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win!

Enter online at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Entries close 5 February 2016.

## Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

[@CatholicEdParra](https://twitter.com/CatholicEdParra)  
[catholicedparra](https://www.facebook.com/catholicedparra)  
 Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta  
\*Terms and Conditions apply

**Cancer Council NSW** SunSmart Snippet

# The simplest way

...to get your vitamin D!

Did you know:

- Our bodies make vitamin D when skin is exposed to sunlight?
- We need vitamin D as well as calcium to maintain good health, in particular to keep our bones and muscles fit and strong?
- Sun protection is required when UV levels are 3 and above?

Does sunscreen stop vitamin D?

- Sunscreen filters out most, but not all UV radiation.
- People who use sunscreen regularly (when UV levels are 3 and above) don't have lower vitamin D levels than people who do not use sunscreen.

Health  
 Western Sydney Local Health District  
 To help keep your kids safe, check your schools SunSmart status by heading to [www.sunsmartnsw.com.au](http://www.sunsmartnsw.com.au)

**SUNSMART**

# School students

## Tap into

school

The smarter way for students to travel to and from school.

### 2016 Travel Passes

Changes have been made to the travel passes for 2016. If you have never held a pass previously or your child is moving from year 2 to year 3 in 2016 you are required to apply online. Please send your child into the school office to pick up a brochure.