

st patrick's primary school parramatter patter



26th November 2015 Term 4 No.8

Dear Parents

'DANCING UNDER THE STARS' DISCO Thank you, so much, for your understanding regarding the postponement of the school disco. From all accounts everyone agreed that the extreme weather conditions made it impossible to continue this event. As you can imagine, finding a replacement date this time of year, that suits most key stakeholders, has been problematic. It is indeed a very busy time of year with Christmas functions, dance and music concerts and family gatherings. Food vendors are fully booked up and the dance school DJ is unavailable. In light of these factors it has been decided that the, 'Dancing Under the Stars' Disco will be postponed to early next year, 2016 with the date set at Friday, 12th February. This community function will serve to show our newest members - the kindergarten families for 2016 – the true St Patrick's Parramatta hospitality. We will endeavour to negotiate with the dance school an opportunity for the children to present their dancing in some way. We will keep you posted! A separate note will go out to Year 6 families and families leaving our school, to organize reimbursement of tickets, if desired. May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the members of the Parents Events Committee, ably supported by Mrs Fardell, who spent many an hour organizing for the disco. Thank you to Annette Romanos, Monique Wehbe, Josephine Romanos, Elizabeth Johnson, Jo Harb and Maria Gittany. Your generosity is once again very much appreciated. More information about how to get on the 2016 St Patrick's Parents Events Committee, will be available in next week's newsletter. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Parents, at this time of year it can become very tempting to leave your children at home from school or to pick them up early for non essential, non medical reasons. I know that one can't help but be swept by the Christmas spirit and part of this atmosphere is being on holidays. Sometimes children fervently plead with you to let them stay at home or to come with you Christmas shopping. They report that they are, "doing nothing at school" or that "all their friends are allowed to stay at home". This is far from the truth! Although some units of work are coming to a conclusion, literacy and numeracy blocks are still well in place with students and teachers consolidating some very important skills. As expressed in previous newsletters, attendance at school is a critical life lesson and is essential to school success. It is not only about the learning or missing out on learning opportunities, but also about developing an attitude that, going to school every day of the school year is an expectation; in fact a government and legal requirement. With the move towards increasingly automative systems all absences and partial absences are entered daily or at the point of need, into a student database; FACES. This system is becoming so sophisticated that it is very easy for a school or a system to identify vulnerable students – students who are absent from school more that 10% of the time. Yes, this seems a very low threshold, but the reality is that even such a low percentage equates to a significant number of days absent. What I would also like to bring to your attention is that any absence which is not substantiated with a letter of explanation **within 7 days** will be marked as 'Unexplained'. These absences will be included on school reports. Once again I thank you for all your cooperation and attention to these important issues.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri



Honour Award

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

KA	Oscar Morgan
KM	Ellen Nikolakopoulos
1C	Jerome Santos
1S	Cedric Guino
2M	Mark Abraham
2Y	Jeremy Moussa



st patrick's award

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

KA	Aurora Broadbridge
KM	Daniel Saleh
1C	Jack Gittany
1S	Emily Johnson
2M	Elias Nakhle
2Y	Lacey Bond



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

Louis Takchi, Savannah Chiha, Ethan Xue, Keenen Rosauro, Marvin Molina, Bethany Issa, Emily-Rose Grech, Dave Cerillo, Kayleigh Figueredo, An Le, Nathan Didier Serre, Natalie Draybi, Simone Tanna, Kristiana Stevanja, Adrian Stevanja

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations is extended to Adriana Saab (Year 6) who has been awarded the very prestigious honour of obtaining a scholarship at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta. Congratulations to Adriana for this wonderful achievement. This academic scholarship involved an exam, preparation of portfolio and a short listing process.

New drop off safety reminders



It has been brought to our attention that the school driveway on Ross Street is being used by parents as a drop off point for their children. Pulling into this driveway poses a **danger** to all students coming in and out of the school. This driveway is out of bounds and should not be used by parents. Thank you to the parents using the new drop off zone correctly.

The Pope Francis 'To Do' List

Have forthright and honest debates and policies; issues cannot be dealt with once and for all, but will need to be "reframed and enriched again and again" by everyone with plenty of different proposals because there is no one way to solve problems. (16, 60, 185)

2016 Return to School Dates

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.



St Patrick's Christmas Concert

Peace on Earth

directed by Michael Mangan



On Wednesday 9th December 2015, St Patrick's Primary is excited to welcome Michael Mangan to our school. The talented and widely acclaimed musician will be holding workshops with the children throughout the day developing our 2015 Christmas Concert '*Peace on Earth*'.

Michael will be working with the children until approximately 12.30pm with each year group and whole school to put the finishing touches to our concert, '*Peace on Earth*'.

The concert will begin at 1.30pm in the Our Lady of Mercy College Hall and we would like to extend an invitation to our Parents to come along and enjoy the afternoon with us.

Date: Wednesday 9th December 2015
Venue: Our Lady of Mercy College Hall
Clothing: Christmas Mufti

**Please return to your child's class teacher the permission note along with the \$6.00 payment
Michael will be selling autographed CDs of his 'Peace on Earth' concert for \$10.00**

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Year 6 2015 Graduation

On Friday, 4th December, the Year 6 students will be graduating. The Graduation Mass will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral at 9.15am and the whole school Kindergarten to Year 6 will be attending. After the mass Year 6 students will be presented with their Graduation certificates and the school captains and Miss Fabri will deliver their address.

This will be followed by a morning tea in the hall for Year 6 and their special guests. Thank you to the Year 5 parents for organising this special treat



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Notes went out this week requesting your support for the Vinnies Christmas hamper appeal. As usual we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of your responses. Thank you for your support . We hope to finalise the hampers by Wed 9 December so that Vinnies volunteers are able to deliver them well before Christmas.



Pilgrims from the Diocese of Parramatta will be involved in a mission experience in the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Bohol, Philippines on their way to Poland for WYD 2016



Meet the challenge of Pope Francis in helping and caring for those in need.



Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy Mt 5:7



World Youth Day - Help the Philippines

Just to let you know that raffle tickets for the Filipino Appeal will continue next week. Prizes will be drawn on Monday 7th December.

Raffle tickets will be sold every morning before school. 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
- 2 x \$30 Porters Liquor Oatlands

School students

Tap into



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.



Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to disguise vegetables.

Can't get the kids to go near the greens? Disguise is a great way to get them eating veg, without the protests!



Here's how:

Grate vegies into meat dishes: carrot, zucchini, capsicum and celery work well in bolognese sauce, meat patties, meatballs, shepherd's pie and tacos.

Add chopped vegies: to quiches or omelettes – try mushroom, tomato, capsicum or zucchini.

Blend vegies in to sauces: puree sweet potato, pumpkin or cauliflower.

Add extra vegies: mushrooms, capsicum and pineapple are great on pizzas.

Add in other root veg to mashed potato: pumpkin and sweet potato are favourites.

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.





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...

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

Children should be collected promptly after school. If you expect to be late at any time, please telephone the school to avoid your child becoming anxious.

Variations to picking up arrangements: To ensure the safety of all children and to assist school staff to be able to effectively monitor children's movements all parents are asked to inform your child's classroom teacher in writing if another parent will be picking your child in the afternoon or if there are changes to the usual pick up routine. This will serve to avoid undue distress to children and staff. If any parent is concerned about the well being of a friend's child, who may not have been picked up, please inform the school office so that a follow up phone call can be made.

2015

TERM FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Eight

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
Morning Tea to follow Mass
(Normal school day for Year 6)
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 Yr 2—Yr 6
Friday 11th December Whole School Farewell Assembly -
Year 6 - 2.00pm

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

2016

TERM ONE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

Wednesday 27th January MAI Testing days
Thursday 28th January MAI Testing days
Friday 29th January Students Yr 1—6 return to school

Week Two

Monday 1st February 2016 Kindergarten commences

A NOTE FROM THE SICK BAY...

We have had a number of children presenting to the sick bay with rather large and swollen mosquito bites. Please find below a few facts on how to avoid and reduce the risk around mosquito bites.

Communicable Diseases Factsheet

Mosquitoes are a health hazard

Last updated: 1 July 2012

Avoid mosquito bites

Mosquitoes spread human disease-causing pathogens, such as Murray Valley encephalitis, Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses. During this summer holiday season around dusk each day, make sure you take special care to protect yourself, your family and your friends.

Use an insect repellent

Most mosquitoes become active around dusk, although some species are active also during the day. The key time to take special care against mosquito bites is just prior to, and for two hours after dusk—the time of day when many of us go outside.

Your chances of being bitten by mosquitoes at this time are extremely high, particularly if you are unprotected and exposed.

Cover up and take care

It only takes common sense to reduce your chances of picking up a serious mosquito-borne infection.

- When outside cover up as much as possible with light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing and covered footwear
- Use an effective repellent on all exposed skin. Re-apply repellent within a few hours, according to instructions, as protection wears off from perspiration, particularly on hot nights or during exercise. The best mosquito repellents contain Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin. Botanical based products (e.g. Eucalyptus, Citronella etc) provide only limited periods of protection
- The stronger the concentration of an insect repellent, the less frequently it will need to be applied to stop mosquito bites. Repellents containing low concentrations of DEET or Picaridin provide shorter periods of protection and need to be reapplied more frequently so it's important to read the product information
- Cover your clothes with repellent as mosquitoes can bite through material, but be careful, some repellents stain clothes
- Topical repellents are not recommended for use on children under 3 months. Use of physical barriers such as netting of prams, cots and play areas is preferred. Repellents containing less than 10% DEET or Picaridin are safe for older children if applied according to instructions. Parents or carers should apply repellent
- Note that prolonged or excessive use of repellents can be dangerous, particularly on babies and young children. Avoid putting repellent near eyes and mouth, spread sparingly over the skin
- Use mosquito coils outdoors and use vaporising mats indoors. Note, however, that devices that use light to attract and electrocute insects have not been proved to be effective in reducing mosquito numbers
- Cover all windows, doors, chimneys, vents and other entrances with insect screens



Mosquitoes can be more than just nuisance biting pests so use a repellent and cover up to guard against mosquito-borne disease.

- Sleep under mosquito bed nets at night
- When camping, use flyscreens on caravans and tents or sleep under mosquito nets.

Reduce mosquito risk around the home

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant ground water. Their breeding sites include swamps, ground pools and containers. It only takes two to three weeks to produce large numbers of mature mosquitoes. They then travel as far as 10 kilometres from their breeding place in search of food, resting and breeding along the way. During the day, mosquitoes rest and hide in cool shady areas away from direct heat before emerging at dusk to feed.

Your home could be a potential site for mosquitoes, so take steps to reduce mosquito numbers and your exposure to mosquito-borne disease. Keep your yard well-maintained, mow lawns regularly, and clear vegetation areas of moist-tangled undergrowth. Ensure you cover all windows, doors, chimneys, vents and other entrances with insect screens that are in good condition.

Don't grow your own mosquitoes. Clean up your yard and remove all water-holding rubbish, regularly flush out pot plant bases, keep house guttering clear, and make sure openings of septic tanks and water tanks are covered and screened securely.

And for the farmers

If you live on a farm, mosquitoes can breed in a number of places, so take the following precautions to reduce that likelihood

- Keep dams and ground pools free of vegetation
- Check dam walls and irrigation bays for water leaks
- Be careful not to over-irrigate, to avoid water from collecting in low-lying areas for long periods of time
- Do not let irrigation water flow into and lie undisturbed in roadside table drains.

For further information please call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au

WE ARE MOVING

CatholicCare Social Services, Diocese of Parramatta are moving our offices from 2a Villiers Street, North Parramatta and 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

As of **Monday 23 November 2015**
our new address will be

**38 Prince Street Blacktown
(corner of First Avenue)**

Our Allawah Street Blacktown offices will provide limited services on Thursday, 19 November and will be closed Friday, 20 November before re-opening at our new address. Our Parramatta office will offer limited services on Friday, 20 November. As of 23 November confirmed counselling appointments only will be conducted at 2A Villiers Street, North Parramatta. All other services will move to Blacktown.

Please confirm the address of your next appointment when you call to book (02) 8822 2222.

www.ccss.org.au [facebook.com/CCSSParramatta](https://www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta) (02) 8822 2222



Source: Google Maps

Sydney SUNDAY 29 Nov. Meet at **St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt** at 12 noon

PEOPLE'S

CLIMATE MARCH

Caring for our
Common Home

Nov 27 - 29 across Australia

Have you been inspired by Pope Francis and his teachings in Laudato Si'? Well now is the time to stand with the Catholic community and show you care.

As world leaders meet in Paris for the COP21 climate summit, you are invited to gather in Australia and walk alongside millions of people in hundreds of major cities around the world. By marching together we will show that we want an end to fossil fuels and a planned transition to 100% renewable energy. We will march to demand our politicians support communities that are building a better, safer and fairer future for all. We will march because we must protect creation for the vulnerable and for future generations!

For more information & to sign up today visit
www.catholicearthcare.org.au/?p=2995



Catholic
Earthcare
AUSTRALIA

- Sydney, Sunday 29 November – Meet at St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt at 12pm. Contact Simon Habel simon.habel@catholicearthcare.org.au.