



st patrick's primary school parramatta patter

4th December 2014 Term 4 No.9

Dear Parents,

This week we began the church season of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. From now until the end of Advent churches all over the world will light one of the Advent candles and say prayers remembering this special time of preparation in the Church's calendar.

There are five candles on the Advent Wreath, three purple, one rose and the last candle, white. The purple candles are symbols of hope peace and love and the rose candle represents joy. The final white candle, in the centre of the wreath, is always lit on Christmas day as a symbol of Christ. Jesus' message of hope, peace, love and joy are as relevant to our world today as they were over two thousand years ago, at the time of his birth.

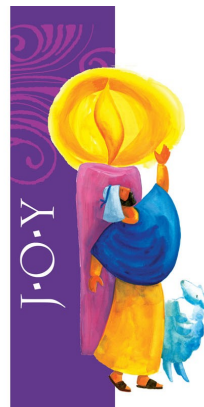
*The challenge for each one of us is how to live this message in our own lives. Are we people of **hope**? Do we see and proclaim to our family a positive outlook for the future or do we get caught up in the 'doom and gloom' often portrayed in the evening media. Are we people of **peace**? Do we promote compassion and forgiveness in our lives? Do we encourage our children to forgive when they are wronged by other children and do we demonstrate forgiveness to those who disappoint or hurt us? Are we people of **love**? Is love the flavor of our intentions, our driver when making decisions? Are we people of **joy**? Are we beacons of light for others to see? Is the joy we feel in loving the life that Jesus died on the cross to give us evident in the language we use and the attitudes that we portray.*

It is so easy in the hustle and the bustle of Christmas to get caught up in the busyness and the stress often associated with this time of year. The true meaning of this celebration is often lost in the commercialism and consumerism so prevalent in society today.

The season of Advent provides each one of us with the opportunity to stop, reflect and discuss with our children the true meaning of this joyful celebration which should have far more to do with giving of ourselves than receiving gifts.

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



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

Olana Lal, Claire Guatlo, Jacky Zhao, Chris El Hachem, Wendy Chen, Mark Sonido, Rosa Itaoui, Jonah Freifer, Christopher Konstantas, Frank Agostino, Jessica Liang, Alanah Maroun, Luca Gittany, Lucas Beacroft, Christian Barakat

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| KA | Sharbel Georges |
| KM | Sheoni Perera |
| 1C | Charlie Romanos |
| 1S | Zachary Haddad |
| 2M | Eddie Batti |
| 2Y | Christian Golossian |

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| KA | James Loader |
| KM | Anthony Nakhoul |
| 1C | Scarlett Weaver |
| 1S | Gabriella Mendoza |
| 2M | Elliana Coles |
| 2Y | Jennifer Mekdessi |

Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. **A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.**

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "L" and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday issued.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as "A". A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued.
- If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education See Distance Education - Revised Enrolment Procedures 2014

For that period the student's enrolment transfers to the distance education school.

Congratulations to

2015 Student Leaders

School Captains

Clarissa Guino
Nicholas Parkes

Vice Captains

Adriana Saab
Clark Guatlo



SRC

Alanah Maroun
Rachel Mekari

Harrie Christopher
Paul Romanos

Boronia

Ashley Younis

Zachary Bond

Melalueca

Grace Fahnbulleh

Nathan Rizk

Waratah

Tahlia Rizk

Nayden Tarabay

Wattle

Annie Gittany

Clovis Batti

School Banking for Term 4

Student banking will cease for 2014 in week 10. Tuesday 9th December will be the final day for banking for 2014. Student banking will commence again Term 1, Week 2, 2015.

2014 School Reports

This Monday the children will receive their end of year school report. This report is a summary of their achievements in the seven Key Learning Areas for Semester 2 including a rating for behavioural and work habit skills. Whilst teachers endeavour to make these reports as accurate as possible it must be remembered that they are based on what the learner has disclosed to the teacher through the activities and assessment tasks completed. In this way it is critical that students have a healthy attendance record. I have sometimes posed children a question to ascertain the percentage effort they have put into their learning. In some cases the learner gives themselves a rating of 60%, well below what they can achieve. One of the tasks of teachers I believe is to engage our students to give as close to 100% as possible. Ultimately however it is up to the learner themselves and as the children get older this becomes more and more apparent in successful students. It is important that we help the children to realize that this is what they have achieved at this point in time only . It does not mean that this is what they will always achieve and it certainly is not a reflection of who they are as people.

With the school report you will find the following papers;

- A class list with the name of the students in their class and the name of the class teachers in that grade.
- A requisite list of basic supplies needed for next year. Please note the resource fee has been adjusted accordingly.
- A booking sheet and explanation, for assessment interviews in 2015

Please note the names of all staff for 2015 will be advertised in next week's newsletter.

St Patrick's Christmas Celebration

Come and join us in the OLMC Hall, at 1pm, on Tuesday 16 December, when we will be telling the Christmas story in word and song. We hope this celebration will open our hearts to welcome Jesus this Christmas season.

Each Year group will be notified if there are any dress requirements.

We will also be farewelling the teachers who are leaving St Patrick's at the end of this year.

St Patrick's Cathedral Carols.

Come to 6pm mass on Saturday evening and stay on with your picnic tea to hear our school choir , and others, singing Christmas carols, both traditional and modern.



Vinnies St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers

This Christmas Season we are all able to help in a small way by donating an item to the Christmas hamper being assembled by your child's class. The final day for donations is Thursday 11th December as the hampers will be delivered to Vinnies on Friday 12th December. **Please make sure that the items are well within their use by dates.**

Some Suggested items:-

Tinned: ham, beetroot, potato salad, asparagus, salmon, tuna, pineapple, other fruit, Plum pudding, fruit cake

Long-life: custard, cream, milk, juice, Sweet or savoury biscuits, fruit mince pies, confectionary, Chips, Soft drink,

Self saucing pudding, pancake shake mix, maple syrup

Tea, coffee, Milo

Mayonnaise, honey, jam

Bon Bons, Christmas napkins

Any other festive non perishable food items



What 1C have put together so far...

Catherine McAuley Mathematics Experience

On Friday 28th of November 2014 we had the privilege of attending Catherine McAuley High School to spend the day with students from Year 7 and 10 to experience Mathematics fun day.

We were picked up from school and driven to Catherine McAuley in a mini bus. Once we arrived we were taken to the Year 7 Maths classrooms to learn about pi. Not the pie we eat but the mathematical formula. Then we learnt a pi song and made a pi necklace.

After having too much pi we were then taken outside for a mathematics treasure hunt. This was really fun because we got to explore the entire school with the Year 10 students whilst learning Maths.

We were then supplied with a delicious lunch which included sandwiches, juice, jelly and ice blocks. After our great day we were driven back to school and provided with a gift which was a six colour highlighter and a Catherine McAuley tote bag.

We really enjoyed our day at Catherine McAuley because we got to experience some of the mathematics that we will be exposed to in high school in a fun way and also got to meet some of the wonderful teachers and students. It was very hands-on and informative which made it an interesting day. We were very lucky to have this opportunity and can't wait until we get to high school and experience more fun learning.

Written By: Amelia Tannous, Brooklyn Griffiths and Tahlia Rizk



St Patrick's Cathedral Carols in the Cloister

Saturday 6th December 2014 - 7—10pm

Bring a picnic rug or chair and join us on the Cloister lawn for a night of fun and singing.

BYO Picnic Food and Alcohol.

Desserts and Tea/Coffee/Cordial provided



Santa will visit

Gold coin donation for Candles

For catering purposes, please add your name and number of Adults and Children attending to the list in the Cathedral Narthex or email secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au



**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 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 Nine

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

Week Ten

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday 8th December | Reports home to parents |
| Wednesday 10th Dec | Year 6 Graduation & Liturgy Supper 7pm |
| Thursday 11th December | Footsteps Dance program |
| Friday 12th December | Whole School Assembly Year 6 - 2.15pm |

Week Eleven

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday 15th December | Choir to perform local Nursing Home |
| Tuesday 16th December | School Christmas Concert — 1pm OLMC Hall |
| Wednesday 17th Dec | Last Day of school for students |

2015 TERM ONE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week One

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 27th January | Individual Maths Assessments (To be booked online) |
| Wed 28th January | Individual Maths Assessments (To be booked online) |
| Thursday 29th January | Years 1-6 return to school |

Week Two

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday 2nd February | 2015 Kindergarten commences |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|



2015 Diocesan School Fees

Dear families

As you may be aware, government funding of the school sector is still very much in the spotlight. There is still no proposed funding model from the Federal Government beyond 2017, which is causing uncertainty for schools and our system.

While we hope a new model will be developed soon, we can expect further pressure on government funding in the future. Educational inflation is at 5.1% adding further pressure on the costs of schooling.

This means we will need to pass on a 5% school fee increase next year to ensure we can maintain our current service levels (see over page).

We understand families are also facing greater financial strain, so we do not make this decision lightly.

We are committed to ensuring that no child will be refused enrolment due to a family's financial situation and we have in place a range of discounts and programs to support families including:

- Sibling discounts for second and third child enrolled
- No diocesan tuition fees for the fourth and subsequent children enrolled
- The Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- Financial hardship relief
- The Byallawa co-contribution scheme for Indigenous families

Our schools also keep school-based fees for technology, administration and excursions within a reasonable amount to ensure the costs of a Catholic education are as affordable as possible.

In terms of capital funding, there is increasing pressure on Catholic schools to pay for development costs and land for new schools. Additionally, new government funding for capital projects is very limited and interest subsidies have been abolished.

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

To ensure this continues we will be increasing the building levy by 5% or \$33 per family per year (see over page).

We continue to make every effort to contain educational costs while increasing our services and value for money and are directing our limited resources into big initiatives like:

- literacy and numeracy programs to improve learning outcomes (Focus160, Reading Recovery, EMU, EM4) and our support for students with disabilities and emotional and behavioural needs (Diversity is the Norm, post school options, etc)
- putting more teaching resources into classrooms for literacy intervention
- providing greater opportunities for professional learning for leaders and teachers
- increasing support for students with disabilities, behavioural and emotional needs
- improving our technology and infrastructure
- modernising learning spaces



Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees - 2015

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees can be paid upfront at the start of the year or in three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools - see 'Sibling Discounts' below). To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below.

The 2015 Annual and Term Diocesan Tuition Fees are as follows:

| ANNUAL FEES | No charge for 4th+ children | 1st Child | 2nd Child | 3rd Child |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary | Kindergarten | 100% \$1,047 | 75% \$786 | 50% \$525 |
| | Years 1 – 6 | \$1,350 | \$1,014 | \$675 |
| Secondary | Years 7 – 8 | \$1,875 | \$1,407 | \$939 |
| | Years 9 – 10 | \$2,079 | \$1,560 | \$1,041 |
| | Years 11 – 12 | \$2,658 | \$1,995 | \$1,329 |

| TERM FEES | Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3 | 1st Child | 2nd Child | 3rd Child |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary | Kindergarten | 100% \$349 | 75% \$262 | 50% \$175 |
| | Years 1 – 6 | \$450 | \$338 | \$225 |
| Secondary | Years 7 – 8 | \$625 | \$469 | \$313 |
| | Years 9 – 10 | \$693 | \$520 | \$347 |
| | Years 11 – 12 | \$886 | \$665 | \$443 |

Annual Diocesan Building Levy - 2015

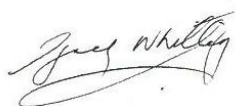
All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. *The levy for 2015 is \$702 per family, payable in three equal instalments of \$234 payable in terms one, two and three.*

I understand that for some families, school fee increases will be difficult to manage, and if this is the case, I urge you to confidentially contact your school principal to enquire about financial hardship.

Please know we will provide every assistance to families in serious financial need.

Please visit our website www.parra.catholic.edu.au for more information. If you have any concerns please contact your school principal.

Yours sincerely



Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER

Reading Challenge

Read to win!

Read 10 or more books
during the summer
holidays to go into the draw
to **win one** of

FOUR iPad MINIS

Entries close Friday 6 February 2015


Enter online via
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

The categories are:
Ages 5-8
Ages 9+

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students
enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta

Students must record all the books they read on the online
application form and have them verified by a parent or guardian
prior to submitting the form.

 @CatholicEdParra or  catholicedparra  catholicedparra


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