



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

18th February 2016

Term 1

Issue 3

Dear Parents

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent/Information evenings for Kindergarten, Yrs One, Two, Three, Four and Five. Information Meetings for Yrs Three and Six are being held this evening. A special thank you is extended to the teachers, for preparing and sharing a basic summary of the curriculum to be taught this year and some insights into learning in specific areas.

A common theme presented by our teachers is that of developing independence and resilience in our children. Over the years in education I have often posed a very important question to the learners; **"Where are you in your learning vehicle?"** For some they are definitely in the **'driver's seat'**. These students will help to set the direction for the learning by taking responsibility for their achievements and challenges. They ask questions to clarify understandings so as to ensure their own success. They learn beyond what is set by the teacher, often in their own time and they embrace feedback because their primary goal is the learning. Performance is important to them but only for a short time until the next learning challenge comes along.

Mistakes and inaccuracies are just indicators of the 'where to next' in the learning, not a 'who I am'. The word 'yet' in this context is a very important focus. Children need to be encouraged to end some sentences with the word yet eg., 'I am unable to solve complex problems...YET.' 'I cannot swim a 50 metres ... YET' The growth mindset these children display will often determine the way they manage high school as they are used to taking ownership of their work habits and have learnt to be self-reflective, that is, they are beginning to understand how they learn and how they can optimise this.

There are some students who are in what I call the **'passengers seat'** of the learning vehicle. These students may vary their position from back seat to front seat depending on their mindset and confidence. Younger children understandably are often in the passengers seats because they still need the guidance and skills required for good learning skills and habits. Interestingly however teachers do see even younger students learning to be 'drivers' because they show such interest in making learning gains, not only to please teachers or parents but for themselves.

We can assist students to move into the most effective learning position by allowing them to take risks in their learning, which often means that they will make mistakes along the way. Not focusing on the 'failure' but rather on the achievements will encourage them to own their learning and not be frightened to get things wrong. Constructive, detailed feedback on how they can improve is essential however, just like that given to a learner driver. Adults, even teachers are often tempted to jump into the driver's seat for students by taking on the necessary effort and responsibilities required, but all this does, is disempower them as learners. Doing homework for children so that it looks 'perfect' is another common mistake. Sometimes children put pressure on parents or parents feel the task is too difficult so they try to 'help'. I perfectly understand this however if homework is causing a problem for you and your child at home please come and speak to their teacher.

I think one of the most important considerations on this topic is the question, 'what about those students who find themselves in the **'boot'** of the learning vehicle? Yes as learners we can all sometimes go there. These students do not align themselves with the learning at all. The learning is someone else's task; often their teachers, mum or dad's perhaps. Our challenge for these students is to make learning relevant for them by ensuring that we find what interests them, and use that as a springboard. This sometimes takes some creative thinking, however it is definitely achievable. Not crossing the boundaries of the learning is also important by asking ourselves, 'who is the learner here and what is their role, rights and responsibilities?' As we commence the learning for 2016 it may be worth having a conversation with your children about where they would like to position themselves in the learning vehicle and how they can be supported in improving their own learning outcomes.

God Bless you and your families

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Honour Award

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

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 3L | Dante Dagostino |
| 3T | Jayden Farah |
| 4B | Kyah Rahme |
| 4G | Hamish McGlinn |
| 5C | Christopher Alarcon |
| 5T | Anna Janczewski |
| 6P | Antonia Behan |
| 6W | Sophie Morgan |



st patrick's award

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

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 3L | Julian Tanna |
| 3T | Christiana Kalouche |
| 4B | Matthew Khreich |
| 4G | Elliana Coles |
| 5C | Pierre Onano |
| 5T | Jarrod Kassis |
| 6P | Lam Nguyen |
| 6W | Joshua Rizk |

UNDERSTANDING PLAY IN THE EARLY YEARS

It is so good to see that our new Kindergarten children are slowly settling into the school routine. One of the questions and concerns that parents express is the worry that their children have not made friends or are saying that they are by themselves on the playground. This is not unusual at the very beginning of their start of school. Below is an article written by a colleague which may help you to understand better how children play in these early years.

One of the most valuable environments for learning is that which happens in the playground, in which interactions occur between your child and their friends. While most are usually positive experiences, it is not uncommon for the occasional disagreement or upset to occur, especially with younger children. And it can be difficult for a parent to ask how their child's day has unfolded, only to receive the response that no one would play with them or nobody likes them!

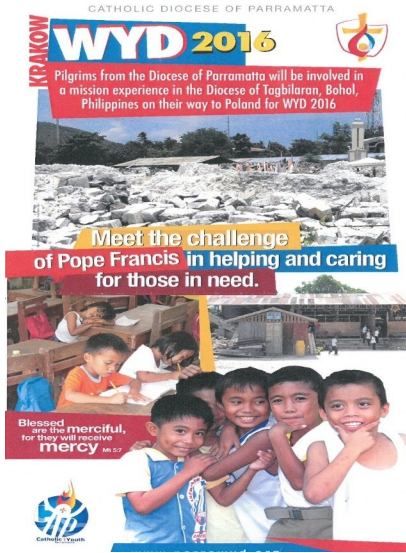
With children in the younger grades, a common experience is something we call 'parallel play'. This is where a game children are playing, will suddenly stop as one child has wandered off and the others follow, unaware they may be leaving someone behind. It takes time for children to develop the more advanced skills of inclusivity and empathy. In these instances it can be supportive to ensure your child understands that not all children have developed their 'play thinking' yet and until that happens they can choose to tag along or find another group with whom they can play. This can be an opportunity to praise them for being aware of the importance of feeling included and encourage them to take the lead by practising including others.

Aslan Counselling & Education



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

Christian Sta Rosa, Monica Giurgius, Dante Dagostino, Diana Granados Gavito, Josh Pangan, John Boutros, Christian Stojkovski, Ysabel Daelo, Estelle Perrett



As most of you would know Ms Chantal Azar is representing the school at World Youth Day in July. As part of her participation in this very important diocesan event Ms Azar will be going on a pilgrimage to the Philippines to assist various parishes and schools in the Diocese of Tagbilaran. This Mission Encounter, with other diocesan youth, will enable her to experience the needs of the people there and assist by doing works of charity planned by the organisers.

Schools in the diocese and in parishes have been asked to sell raffle tickets to enable young teachers to go to World Youth Day.

This is the last fundraiser for Ms Azar. We appreciate any contribution and whether you are able to sell all tickets or just a few, all raffle tickets and money will be due back to school on 19th February.

Tomorrow will be a Mufti Day, where the children will be able to wear any clothing in the colours of Poland ie Red and White; the country that World Youth Day will take place this year.

Please remember to return all raffle tickets tomorrow sold or unsold.

ST PATRICK'S PARRAMATTA FEATURED ON FACEBOOK

For any parent who has a Facebook account you may be interested in two entries on the Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese Facebook Page. Both entries feature students from St Patrick's Parramatta. The first one included our new Kindergarten children and the most recent presentation was one where some of our students, from across the school, reflected on Lent. To view these just 'like' Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. Congratulations and thank you to all the children involved.

CYBERSAFETY

At all the primary Parent/Information Nights this year I spoke briefly about the importance of remaining vigilant about your child's internet usage. I am currently preparing an article with some helpful hints and websites for a future newsletter. Watch this space!

Bernadette Fabri

How We Do Mathematics in the Infant's Classroom at St Patrick's

Next Wednesday 24th February at 7pm we will be holding a maths evening for new families with children in Kinder, Year 1 or Year 2. This evening is designed mostly for new parents to our school and a refresher for those parents who have attended before. We will be looking at a typical maths lesson the children are engaged in daily and give you some ideas on how you can work with them at home.



To enable us to plan the evening we would like you to RSVP to the event by logging onto:

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Enter the code : w46uk

Fill in your details

Simply as that !!! We look forward to meeting you on the night.

Mrs Benkovich & Mrs Barclay (Maths Support)

MORNING DROP OFF

Reminder to Parents that the morning drop off zone on Ross Street is for kiss and drop only. Should you park and come into the school you may be fined. Thank you to the many parents following the Kiss and Drop procedures.

Welcome to 2016' Family Disco

My sincere appreciation to all the parents who assisted to make the "Welcome to 2016 Disco" such a success. I really enjoyed speaking to many of you and the children seemed to love the choice of dancing or playing 'pass ball' with representatives from the AFL Association.

As always we cannot thank the organizers enough as you all know very well that events such as this do not just happen. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to serving at the canteen for their designated time slot and to those who did much of the work re preparations last year. Thank you to Mrs Fardell for her work with the parents in 2015 in readiness for this disco and to Mr Younis for organising the ball event. Thank you to all the teachers who gave up their Friday night to be with the children and to help out.

Looking forward to working with the 2016 Parent Events Committee members as soon as all the Parent Information Nights are over.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

| |
|-------------------|
| Nelly Azizi |
| Bernadette Moussa |
| Vanessa Haddad |
| Vivien Feng |
| Poppy Kougelis |
| Felicia Figuredo |
| Rima Sassen |
| Laura Tarabay |
| Elizabeth Johnson |
| Kirrilly Aguilera |
| Diane Sabat |
| Michelle McGlinn |
| Rochelle Qumi |
| Sonia Jabbour |
| Nisreen Aqabani |
| Monique Wehbe |
| Julie Sabat |
| Annette Romanos |





SPORTS REPORT

Good afternoon parents and students, on Tuesday the 16th of February St Patrick's entered the Cumberland Zone Swimming carnival, with Mr Younis and our fantastic parent helpers. Our team of 23 athletes made their way to Parramatta Pools to represent our community and we all tried our hardest and represented our school to the best of our ability.

Congratulations to Mikayla Saleh for breaking the Cumberland Zone record for 11year old girls in the 50m freestyle event, (she is only 8years old!!) and for also being crowned the Junior Girls Age Champion for the Cumberland Zone.

We would also like to congratulate Raymond Wehbe and our junior girls relay team for making it through to the Diocesan Carnival. Mr Younis and our PD/H/PE leaders and sports captains would like to thank everyone who came to support our swimmers and congratulate our swimmers on such a great day!

Our next event is the Cross-Country. It's never too early to start training.

Thank you and see you next time.
PD/H/PE Leaders



Get Well Ms Nederpelt !!

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your expressions of concern for Ms Nederpelt. Ms Nederpelt was recently admitted to hospital for an emergency appendectomy. She is doing well and is on the mend. She will be returning to work as soon as she is given clearance by the doctor.



[St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta](#)
[Enrolments for 2017 Kindergarten are now Open](#)

Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2017 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.

Enrolment forms are required to be return by Thursday 31st March 2016. When you return the enrolment you will need to bring your child's original Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parent's and child's if born overseas), Immunization Certificates and proof of address (council rates, drivers licence). We will photo copy these and return them to you at this time. Our acceptances are in accordance with the Diocesan Guidelines for Enrolments. Please feel free to contact us on (02) 9630 1421.



Open Day
Sunday
28 February 2016
10am-2pm

OLMC Parramatta Open Day

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2016 Open Day on Sunday, February 28 from 10am – 2.00pm. Principal's welcome at 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300 to obtain further information.

There's a Playgroup near you!

Come to playgroup and meet others in a relaxed and friendly environment.

A playgroup is a place for you and your children aged 0-6 to have fun, make new friends and develop skills through play.

Parramatta St Pats Playgroup

St Patricks Hall

1 Marist Place, Parramatta

Wednesdays 10.30 – 12.30

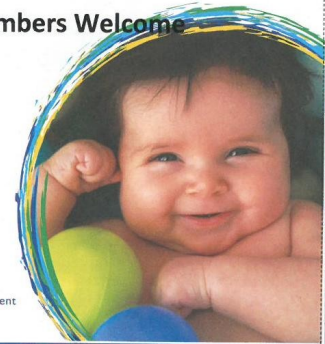
1800 171 882

Have fun and make friends

New Members Welcome

You are welcome to visit 2 sessions before you become a Playgroup NSW member.

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Playgroup NSW



playgroupnsw.com.au

1800 171 882



Parramatta Marist High School Information Evening 2016



Tuesday, 1 March 2016

5:30pm - School Tours & BBQ

6:30pm – 7:15pm Principal's Address & Information Session

Bookings Essential: www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au

Enrolment packages will be available during the evening.

Year 7, 2017 Enrolments open: 3 March 2016

Year 7, 2017 Enrolments close: 7 April 2016

Enrolments received after the closing date will be placed on a waiting list.

2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 4

Thursday 18th Feb Parent Information Evening—Year 3—7pm
Parent Information Evening—Year 6—8pm

Friday 19th Feb Infants Choir—Yr 2 to St Joseph's Kingswood

Primary Assembly 2.15pm—Year 4

WYD Red and White (Poland) mufti day

Please return your raffle tickets

Week 5

Wednesday 24th Feb Infants Maths Information Evening—7pm

Friday 26th Feb Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Year 2 excursion to Elizabeth Farm

Year 6 excursion to Canberra

Primary Choir—Yr 3—6 to St Paul's Winston Hills

Infants Assembly 2.15pm—Year 1

Week 6

Friday 4th March **Primary Assembly 2.15pm—Year 5**

Week 7

Friday 11th March **Infants Assembly 2.15pm—Kindergarten**



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



The St. Pat's Band Program

Thank you to all those parents and students who have signed up for group lessons at the Mercy Music and Performance Academy.

We still have space for more students, particularly in the areas of drums, flute and saxophone!

If you would like your child to start learning an instrument, there is still time for term 1. Please go to:

<http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/the-academy/st-patricks-concert-band-program>

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

Mon to Fri 6.45am, 12.30pm
Public Hol 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)