

St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

17th March 2016

Term 1 Issue 7



Dear Parents

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY! Today the, 17th March is the feast day of our school's name sake and patron saint, St Patrick.

The life of St Patrick is such an interesting one and his association with the Irish people, combined with the enormous contribution the Irish convicts and settlers had on the establishment of the first colony, particularly Parramatta, makes him very significant to us. Just like St Patrick, these early convicts and free men and women brought the Word of God to these early settlers. It is through these early Irish Catholics that the first Australian Church was established and from there the first Catholic Schools. St Patrick's is known to be the oldest Catholic School in Australia, not on the original site. What an honour to have such an illustrious history. For those of you that are interested I have copied a brief history of our school from our website

St Patrick's is the oldest parish school in Australia.

- The parish school was established by Fr Therry in Hunter Street in 1820. In 1837 the school was relocated next to St Patrick's Church. In 1874 the girls and smaller boys were separated and taught in a school opposite the church.
- From 1874-1888 the Sisters of Mercy, Head House Monte Saint Angelo, North Sydney, were teaching at St Patrick's School Parramatta, in a building which was standing in front of the present O.L.M.C. in Victoria Road, then known as Pennant Street.
- The Sisters of Mercy from Callan, Ireland, then took up residence in Parramatta on 8th December 1888 at the invitation of Cardinal Moran. They re-opened the school on Monday 10th December, just two days later with an enrolment of 55 pupils.
- **In 1926 that building was demolished and a new building was erected at the corner of Villiers Street and Ross Street, the current site.**
- The senior girls moved to Westmead in 1966 to form Catherine McAuley High School. The primary school remains to this present day.
- The Sisters of Mercy handed the responsibility for the School to the first lay Principal Ms Joan Coyle in 1985.

A place of Heritage,
Innovative Learning and Vision.
Respect, Resilience and Compassion

You will notice from these dates, that the main administration building will be 90 years old this year. In other words the school has been on the current site, at the corner of Ross and Villiers Streets, for almost a century. What celebrations we can have on our 100th anniversary in 2026 God Willing!

A Christian hymn with old Irish lyrics is the Saint Patrick's Breastplate or Lorica and these words are often associated with St Patrick's ministry in the 5th Century. There is one verse which is particularly well known and it reminds us of the presence of Christ in every aspect of our existence. As we read this prayer and celebrate St Patrick's Day together, let us remember to always rise to the challenge of being Christ-like people with and for each other and in this regard continue to demonstrate the qualities we wish our children to aspire to.

You are all warmly invited to our St Patrick's Day Liturgy tomorrow at 2.15pm in the school hall.

God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
 Christ in me,
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
 Christ in breadth, Christ in length, Christ in height,
 Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.**

**THE STORY OF ST PATRICK
 St. Patrick: Hero of Christian History
 The True Tale of Patrick**

Jeri Tanner



Much myth and legend surrounds the story of Patrick, born in Britain in the late 4th century. St. Patrick is often reduced to a mythical figure who performed magical feats (like driving all the snakes out of Ireland). The truth, as usual, is better than fiction!

All that can be known about Patrick comes from two documents written by him, one of which is “The Confession,” his short autobiographical account. In it, Patrick tells how he was kidnapped as a youth from his devout father’s comfortable home in Britain. Though Patrick’s father was a deacon in the church and had taught him God’s ways, Patrick had become a careless and rebellious young man. “I did not, indeed, know the true God; and I was taken into captivity in Ireland with many thousands of people, according to our deserts, for quite drawn away from God, we did not keep his precepts, nor were we obedient to our priests who used to remind us of our salvation.”

Patrick was made a slave and a pig herder. There in the difficult and desolate country he found himself in, Patrick called on the Lord he had previously neglected. “But after I reached Ireland I used to pasture the flock each day and I used to pray many times a day. More and more did the love of God, and my fear of him and faith increase, and my spirit was moved so that in a day [I said] from one up to a hundred prayers, and in the night a like number; besides I used to stay out in the forests and on the mountain and I would wake up before daylight to pray in the snow, in icy coldness, in rain, and I used to feel neither ill nor any slothfulness, because, as I now see, the Spirit was burning in me at that time.”



Patrick eventually escaped, having been directed in a dream to a ship which took him home to Britain. His relieved family entreated him never to leave! But one night he had a vision: “I saw a man whose name was Victoricus coming as if from Ireland with innumerable letters, and he gave me one of them, and I read the beginning of the letter: ‘The Voice of the Irish’; and as I was reading the beginning of the letter I seemed at that moment to hear the voice of those who were beside the forest of Foclut which is near the western sea, and they were crying as if with one voice: ‘We beg you, holy youth, that you shall come and shall walk again among us.’ And I was stung intensely in my heart so that I could read no more, and thus I awoke. Thanks be to God, because after so many years the Lord bestowed on them according to their cry.”

Patrick did return to Ireland, bringing the true gospel and establishing the church there. You can read the entire ‘Confession of St Patrick’ online. ministry-to-children.com/st-patrick-history/



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

Isla Giron, Jayden Farah, Joseph Kalouche, Crystella Geagea, Jacob Semaan, Mikayla Saleh, Noah Reyes-Mangabat, Chanel Achie, Carl Cauan

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING (QCS) SURVEY

Dear Parents

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the **Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS)** survey.

The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 1 April 2016 all staff and *all Year 5 & 6* students, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

This year we will again be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. **The survey will still remain confidential and individual survey responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office.**

An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement. This will definitely help us in working with all students to improve their learning. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs Benkovich or me.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

Again can I reassure you that the responses you supply are anonymous to the school and the system. If you have been selected and require any assistance regarding access or use of technology please ring the office so that we can provide you with the help you require.

Regards and thanks

Bernadette Fabri

[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 returned by Thursday 31st March 2016. When you return the enrolment you will need to bring your child's original Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parents' 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.

[SIBLING APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY 31ST MARCH, 2016](#)

EARLY YEARS ASSESSMENTS (EYA) - LITERACY

Improving learning outcomes for all students is at the heart of the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta's (CEDP) strategic intent.

The National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy (2005) stated that **“the assessment of all children by their teachers at school entry and regularly during the early years of schooling is of critical importance to the teaching of reading, and in particular, to identify children who are at risk of not making adequate progress.”** They concluded that early assessment is a key responsibility of system and school literacy planning.

In light of this diocesan statement Early Years Assessments are undertaken by classroom teachers of Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two in all primary schools across the Diocese of Parramatta. These have been taking place over the last few weeks, including this week and the diocese supports schools by funding the replacement of class teachers for the day to undertake individual literacy interviews with the children. Some assessments are conducted as a whole class. This very important literacy data is then analyzed and used at a student, school and diocesan level and compared to mid year and end of year results.



Speech therapy help for your child- at school!

Does your child call a snake a *thnake*? Is a rabbit a *wabbit*? Are other speech sounds unclear?

Is he slow learning to read, or has trouble spelling?

Does she have trouble expressing herself, following instructions or keeping up with the class?

Don't leave it any longer— help is at hand!

What can you do?

- a) Call Belinda to discuss your child
- b) Talk to your classroom teacher, or
- c) Talk to Ms Fabri about organising an assessment and therapy if needed.

Your child may be eligible for Medicare and private health fund rebates.



Belinda Drewitt Smith
0422 926 724

beesnees23s@hotmail.com
www.CommunicArtspeechpathology.com

Belinda is a qualified private Speech Pathologist and visits your school weekly.



CommunicArt
SPEECH PATHOLOGY

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

CCSS Solo Parent Services is commencing a Bereavement Support Program for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or partner. It will be held on Tuesday fortnights commencing on 05th April, with an Information session and Overview of the Program. The Program will run fortnightly until Tuesday 12th July. Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm. Venue: CCSS 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Cost: \$5.00 per session.

For further information / Registration Essential: Call Rita on 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



Mathematics Challenge of the Week

This week's challenge is open to all Infants children. So start thinking about the following problem:

Michael has 3 pencils less than Celine in his pencil case.

How many pencils might they each have?



Place your answer in the "Maths box" in the office before next Tuesday afternoon. The student with the most correct solutions will be announced at our next Infant's assembly. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENTRY.**

The STEM team.

Sr Catherine Maddock, the founding Principal of Christ the King North Rocks will be leaving the parish and returning to Ireland on the 30th June. A mass of thanksgiving in her honour for over four decades of service to the CTK community and Catholic Education in the Diocese, will be celebrated on Sunday 19th June at 10am followed by morning tea. Those of you who have know Sr Catherine over this time are asked to join us for this very special celebration.



1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING PARENT COURSE

*Learn to manage difficult behavior in children
2-12 years old*

A three-session program for parents and carers.

Venue: St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School, Merrylands
7 Chetwynd Rd, Merrylands. Tel: 9637 4600

Learn:

- ✓ How to discipline without arguing, yelling or smacking
- ✓ How to sort behaviour
- ✓ How to handle challenging and testing behaviours
- ✓ Choosing your strategy, the three choices
- ✓ Using emotion coaching to encourage good behaviour
- ✓ 7 tactics for encouraging good behaviour

Parents will receive:

- A 1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Workbook

Registration Fee?

The course costs \$10 (per parent or per couple) which covers the cost of the Parent workbook
Register for this course contacting **St Margaret Mary's School Office** on **9637 4600**

What people are saying...

What a relief to come across a program that preserves the dignity of the child, maintains the self control of both the parent and the child and is actually easy to remember when memory is the first thing to go!

I realized quickly that the 1-2-3 Magic can be a magnificent preventative measure that any parent can use to avoid raising a child, who later down the line, needs excessive discipline or grows out of control

Who is running it?

The presenter for this course is [presenters name] who completed Parentshop's 1-2-3 Magic® & Emotion Coaching practitioner training on [date trained].
[Describe your relevant experience]

- An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

This course is being run by a Parentshop® licensed practitioner. www.parentshop.com.au



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The Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta together with St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary at Merrylands, are pleased to offer parents and carers in our Diocese, the 1 2 3 Magic and Emotion Coaching course.

The course is 3 sessions and will be run on the following dates:

Session 1 6pm – 8pm Tuesday 10th May 2016
Session 2 6pm – 8pm Tuesday 17th May 2016
Session 3 6pm – 8pm Tuesday 24th May 2016

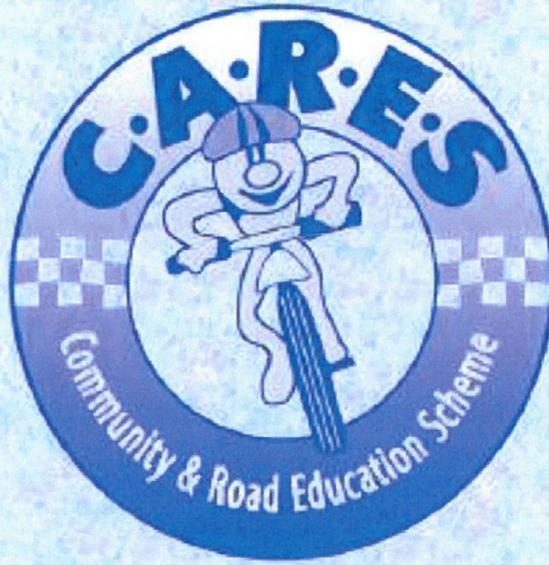
Course Facilitators: Tanya Cosgrave and Veronica Jarrett

Cost is \$10 per parent/couple/carer(s) to cover the cost of the parent workbook (only one required per family). This can be brought on the night

Register by calling St Margaret Mary's school office on 9637 4600

- An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

This course is being run by a Parentshop® licensed practitioner. www.parentshop.com.au



AUTO PLACE X PETER BROCK DR, PROSPECT

TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2016

10AM – 2PM

Come along during the school holidays and ride in a safe environment with real traffic lights.

Bring your own bike and helmet

FREE Face Painting

Parking is on site and free

Bring a picnic

Sausage sizzle and drinks

Adult Supervision required

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Blacktown City Council





VOCAL WORKSHOPS

The Big Sing!

Attention all singers! If you love singing and would like to improve your skills, this is the workshop for you.

The Big Sing is a great opportunity to join with other singers in a relaxed, fun environment and explore your voice further, guided by a professional singing teacher.

The Big Sing will explore vocal skills and refresh singing techniques and also focus on performance training and exam preparation. Students will be taken through a range of exercises and songs which are designed to explore and develop vocal production, breathing, pitch and tone.

Note: Students can choose to attend one or both workshops.

- Dates: **Workshop 1:** Thursday April 21, 9am-3pm
Workshop 2: Monday September 26, 9am-3pm
- Venue: Christina Creede Music Centre at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, Ross Street, North Parramatta (Enter via Gate 3)
- Ages: Year 3 – Year 12
- Cost: \$75 (OLMC Student) per workshop
\$110 (non-OLMC Student) per workshop
- Bookings: Bookings are essential
olmc.nsw.edu.au/the-academy/apply-now
- Enquiries: music@olmc.nsw.edu.au or 02 8838 1288



W www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy P 02 8838 1288



PERCUSSION WORKSHOPS

The Big Bash!

Attention drummers and percussionists! If you are a keen drummer or percussionist, then this workshop is not to be missed.

Led by professional drummers, the workshop covers many facets of the art form. Throughout the day, students will learn about the origins of drumming, technique, reading, hand drumming, the drum kit, orchestral percussion and even create their very own original piece of music. The 1-day course caters for beginner to intermediate skill levels.

Note: Students can choose to attend one or both workshops.

- Dates: **Workshop 1:** Friday April 22, 9am-3pm
Workshop 2: Tuesday September 27, 9am-3pm
- Venue: Christina Creede Music Centre at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, Ross Street, North Parramatta (Enter via Gate 3)
- Ages: Year 3 – Year 12
- Cost: \$75 (OLMC Student) per workshop
\$110 (non-OLMC Student) per workshop
- Bookings: Bookings are essential
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W www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy P 02 8838 1288

If you are interested in any of the School Holiday workshops run by Mercy Music & Performance Academy please drop into the office to pick up a brochure.

PARENT WORKSHOP

Helping to keep your child safe - Cyber Safety

Dear Parents

Following the Primary Parent Teacher evening, where the topic of unsupervised internet use was discussed, many parents expressed an interest to learn more about Cyber Safety. As a response to this interest I have approached Senior Constable Louise Conroy, Youth Liaison Officer Parramatta Local Area Command, to speak to you regarding what you can do at home about this increasingly important issue. A note will be sent out at a later date so keep this date and time free.

Date: Thursday 7th April

Place: School Library

Time: 2.00pm



3-DAY HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Orchestral Experience!

Talented young musicians have the opportunity to be mentored by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellows at this multi-day pop-up music camp.

Student musicians from Years 3 to 12 (aged 8 to 18) who play one of the following orchestral instruments at an approximate standard of AMEB Grade 4 or above are invited to attend this special workshop: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass clarinet, Bassoon, French horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, Orchestral Percussion, Violin, Viola, Cello or Double bass.

- Dates: Wednesday July 13 - Friday July 15, 10am - 4pm
- Venue: Christina Creede Music Centre at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, Ross Street, North Parramatta (Enter via Gate 3)
- Ages: Year 3 – Year 12
- Cost: \$85 for 3 days
- Bookings: Bookings are essential
www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/theacademy
Bookings close on Wednesday June 8, 2016
- Enquiries: music@olmc.nsw.edu.au or 02 8838 1288

This workshop is run in conjunction with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Riverside Theatre.



sydney symphony orchestra
David Robertson
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

RIVERSIDE

W www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy P 02 8838 1288



2-DAY WORKSHOP

Strings

All about the Bow

Calling all beginner and intermediate students who play Violin, Viola, Cello or the Double Bass!

These exciting sessions will address bowing techniques, ensemble playing and pitch in a relaxed, fun environment.

The focus of the workshop will be ensemble technique and performance technique and will culminate in a concert showcasing the pieces developed throughout the two days.

Applications are open to student musicians from Years 3 to 12 (aged 8 to 18) who play an orchestral string instrument from an approximate standard of AMEB preliminary to Grade 3.

Note: It is expected that participants will attend both days of the workshop.

- Dates: Monday July 11 & Tuesday July 12, 9am-3pm
- Venue: Christina Creede Music Centre at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, Ross Street, North Parramatta (Enter via Gate 3)
- Ages: Year 3 – Year 12
- Cost: \$150 (current OLMC students)
\$180 plus GST (non OLMC students)
- Bookings: Bookings are essential
olmc.nsw.edu.au/the-academy/apply-now
- Enquiries: music@olmc.nsw.edu.au or 02 8838 1288



W www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy P 02 8838 1288

2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 8

Friday 18th March St Patrick's Day Liturgy—2.15pm

Week 9

Friday 25th March Good Friday—NO SCHOOL

Week 10

Monday 28th March Easter Monday—NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 29th March Life Education Van commences

Wednesday 30th March Life Education Van continues

Thursday 31st March Life Education Van continues

Friday 1st April Life Education Van continues

Primary Assembly 2.15-Year 3

Week 11

Monday 4th April Life Education Van continues

Tuesday 5th April Life Education Van continues

Thursday 7th April Parent Workshop—Cyber Safety 2.00pm

Friday 8th April **Infants Assembly 2.15-Choir**

LAST DAY OF TERM

Term 2

Week 1

Monday 25th April Anzac Day —NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 26th April Return to school—1st day of Term 2

Friday 29th April ANZAC Day Assembly—Year 4

A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis

It is a Thrilling Experience

The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts, and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep.



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

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)