



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

31st March 2016

Term 1 Issue 9



SCHOOL MAGAZINES

Dear Parents

This year, as part of our aim to increase the reading frequency for students and thus reading outcomes, all children in Yrs 3 to 6 will be given their own series of school magazines.

Research informs us that:

"Good readers read considerably more than the poor readers both in and out of school, which appear[s] to contribute to the good readers' growth in some reading and writing skills. Poor readers tend to become poor writers. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)"

It is our aim that this format of reading ie School Magazines, will encourage even the most reluctant of readers, as well as excite those that love reading. They incorporate a wide mix of literary genres: poetry, plays, short stories and tales, as well as procedures, reports, features, profiles, book reviews and extracts, cartoons, comic strip serials, activities, puzzles and competitions, readers' letters and emails. There is something for everyone!

Please find below some details of the issues.



Countdown: Meet the *Countdown* crew and read part one of an exciting new serial that sees our crew sailing into danger. Find out some interesting facts about parrots, perform a play with a cast of feathery characters and search for birds in this month's find-a-word. There's also some fantastic poetry and a magical story about kites. (7-9 yrs)

Blast Off: Jools and Vern share a hilarious story about a smelly dog, a poem about two orange cats as well as some fascinating facts about that very clever creature ... the dung beetle. Find out why our hands are so 'handy', learn how to draw, take a glimpse at a terrific new book all about bad guys, and sharpen up your rapping skills—there's a play to perform! (9-10yrs)

Orbit: The first issue of *Orbit* will have you hanging with flying foxes, searching for hidden words, reading about hungry washing machines and listening out for that master mimic—the spangled drongo! Take a sneak peek at this month's terrific Bookshelf title, and see if you can solve the mystery of the beeping at dawn. (10- 11yrs)

Touchdown: Ever wondered why diamonds sparkle? Find out the answer to this, and many other questions, in a fascinating article about these precious gems. Visit New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and help Pencils D Barrymore find hidden New York words. Read a touching story about a magical garden, perform a side-splitting play and immerse yourself in some beautiful poetry. (11+yrs)

For your information there are 10 issues per year for every child and we have provided all children with a folder to keep the issues clean and organised. The cost of the magazines have been incurred by the school from funds raised and augmented with school funds. The students will use the magazines at school but they will also be able to take them home for their enjoyment. **Can you please support the teachers by ensuring that the children bring the magazines to school every day and look after them so that we do not have lost folders of magazines.** We are unable to replace lost magazines. As always the school is interested in your feedback once the children have started using this very valuable resource.

God Bless you and your Family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Ph: 02 9630 1421

Villiers Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm

stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au



Honour Award

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

3L	Kiara Haddad
3T	Savannah Chiha
4B	Angelina Aqabani
4G	Josef Chedid
5C	Afia Mundanmany Babu
5T	Chanel Nader
6P	An Le
6W	Joseph Kalouche



st patrick's award

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

3L	Anthony Khouri
3T	Evelyn Gereige
4B	Jade Takchi
4G	Harrison Chidiac
5C	Daniel Takchi
5T	Adrian Pangan
6P	Mikayla Urizar
6W	Grace Doumit

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY -21st March to Friday 1st April **EXTENDED TO 5TH APRIL 5.00PM**

This week and next week a group of 60 randomly selected parents from Kindergarten to Year 6 have been invited to give the school feedback through the **Quality Catholic Schools' (QCS) Survey**. A package with instructions was sent home on Monday 21st March with the children. The children in Years 5 and 6 will be completing their survey at school online. Staff responses also form part of the data and when compiled gives the school an indication on how various members of our community think about aspects of:

1. cultural behaviour
2. relationships
3. learning community.

The topics within these aspects include;

- Social Justice
- Catholic Parish Involvement Learning Focus,
- Extra-Curricular activities such as Trisklls, involvement of the choir in CAPTIVATE, Footsteps dance, Life Education, Moran Photographic Workshop for Primary Students etc
- Homework
- Social Skills
- Connectedness to School
- Opportunity for Parents
- Behaviour of Staff
- The extent to which parents believe their children are developing effective social skills.
- The extent to which parents believe their children have positive relationships with other students.
- School Improvement
- Approachability
- Teacher Morale
- Parent Input
- Stimulating Learning
- Behaviour Management
- Reporting
- Transitions
- Student Safety
- Classroom Behaviour
- Connectedness to Peers
- Student Motivation
- The extent to which parents see their children wanting to be at school. General Satisfaction

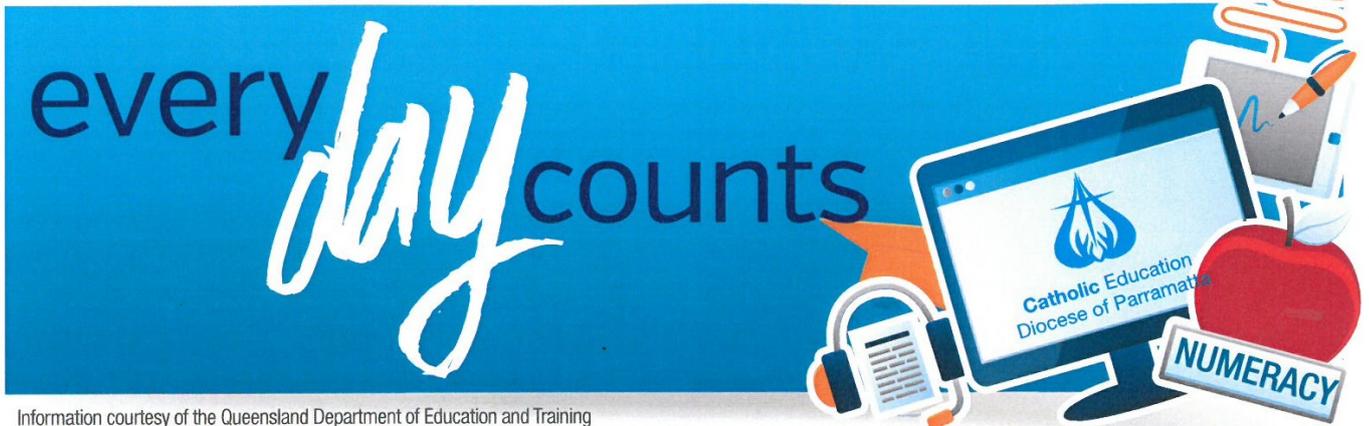
As you can imagine obtaining information/feedback on all of these topics is of great interest to the staff at St Patrick's as it can indicate to us what we are doing well and what areas of development need to have greater focus. **It is also important to reinforce that all responses are completely confidential and that individual responses will never be released to the school, CEDP or any other third party.**

I know that completing surveys can be time consuming but I do make a special appeal to any parents who received a package this week to participate in this survey, as your contributions are very important to us and are used to represent the wider parent community. A summary of the results of the survey will be communicated to all parents when they are collated and analyzed. All schools in the Parramatta Diocese are involved in the QCS Survey which will take place from Monday 21st March to Friday 5th April

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Children are required by legislation to attend school each day, and we are required by law to keep records of each child's absences from school. For this reason if your child is unable to attend school, a note must be sent the day the child returns to school giving the reason for the absence. This can be done by letter or by using the school's Skoolbag App.

The absence needs to be explained within 7 days of the absence or it will be changed to unexplained and cannot be altered if the note is received after that time. All absences are shown on the child's report.



Information courtesy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day



Ok reasons to stay home from school



sick



natural disaster



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even **1 day** can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight

=

Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten
It's where good habits begin



ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

each **1%** increase in student attendance

may relate to **2-3** NAPLAN scale score points*

*based on historical data



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Get involved in your child's school

- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Go to school events
- Read the school newsletter
- Be organised at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask about your child's day
- Volunteer to help at school

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 was sent home on Tuesday. Please return if you able to attend.

Date: Thursday 7th April

Place: School Library

Time: 2.00pm



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

Isabella Maarou, Lucy Parkes, Maria Khoury, Naomi Faddoul

2016 School Terms

Term 1	29th January to 8th April
Term 2	26th April to 1st July
Term 3	18th July to 23rd September
Term 4	10th October to 16th December

** Please note Staff Development days may affect commencement & concluding dates. Please refer to our weekly newsletter in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS & ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) YEARS 3-6 (EXTRA-CIRRICULA OPPORTUNITY)

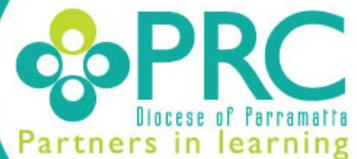
The University of NSW 2016 Australian Schools Competitions will be held on

Digital Technologies	Tuesday	17 th May	cost \$8.00
Science	Wednesday	31 st May	cost \$8.00
English	Tuesday	2 nd Aug	cost \$8.00
Maths	Tuesday	16 th Aug	cost \$8.00

LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT IS TOMORROW. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED



Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



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Term 2, 2016 General Meeting - Mon 30 May 2016: Topic ASPECT School & Satellite Classes

1/3/2016 07:00 PM until 30/5/2016



Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St, Blacktown

Contact: Parents, Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese
Email: prcparrasecretary@gmail.com

[< Return to events list](#)

FOLLOW US



SEARCH

All Sources

March 2016

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



NAPLAN

Literacy & Numeracy WORKSHOPS

A 30 minute parent information session will be provided at the beginning of each workshop.

LITERACY

MONDAY - 18 April

YEAR 3 - 10am to 12pm

YEAR 5 - 12.30pm to 2.30pm

NUMERACY

WEDNESDAY - 20 April

YEAR 3 - 10am to 12pm

YEAR 5 - 12.30pm to 2.30pm

PARRAMATTA LIBRARY | \$5 each workshop | BOOK ONLINE
www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/library

PARRAMATTA CITY LIBRARY
PARTICIPATE | CONNECT | LEARN

2017 Kindergarten Enrolments

Thank you to all our families who have handed in the 2017 Kindergarten enrolments. Please be aware that enrolments have now closed. Please contact the office ASAP if you have not returned your enrolment form. Parents will be contacted over the next few weeks to organise interview times.

Sick Children



We know that it can sometimes be difficult to determine whether your child is too sick to attend school. In the interests of the wellbeing of our whole school community we ask you to take a moment to review the "Too Sick To Go To School?" chart created by NSW Health which is accessible from the following webpage - <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/too-sick-to-go-to-school>

This chart reminds parents of the advisable periods of time children should be away from school during and after an illness. We appreciate your co-operation with keeping our school healthy and happy.



Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to shop in season and save.

Buying fruit and veg when it is in season is much cheaper than at other times of year. It's better quality and tastes better too.

Autumn heralds a host of new season produce. Here is a guide for March, April and May:

FRUIT

Apple (Red Delicious, Granny Smith), Avocado, Banana, Custard Apple, Fig, Grapes, Grapefruit, Kiwifruit, Mandarin (Imperial), Melon, Nashi, Orange (Valencia), Passionfruit, Pear, Plum, Persimmon.



VEGETABLES

Asian Greens, Beans (Green), Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Cucumber, Eggplant, Leek, Lettuce/Salad Mix, Mushroom, Onion, Peas (Snow), Potato, Pumpkin, Shallots, Spinach, Sweetcorn, Tomato, Turnip, Zucchini.



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.



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 10 th May 2016
Session 2	6pm – 8pm	Tuesday 17 th May 2016
Session 3	6pm – 8pm	Tuesday 24 th 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!
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On the 31st of March, Year 6 visited Healthy Harold to learn about the influence of drugs, cyber safety and thinking before you act.

We learnt how smoking could affect your body and the way it functions and to never try smoking because you have the risk of getting addicted to it.

We were informed about a variety of drugs; some you should never try and some that can help our body, like prescription medicines and health tablets.

We explored how to stay safe on the Internet and to think before you click. We learnt that we should never send mean or inappropriate messages about someone or post something behind their back. If you don't have something nice to say, don't say it. We also learnt that if we do receive a mean message or comment, we should block the person that sent it and tell a trusted adult about what happened.

Lastly we discovered that people around us can influence us in making the wrong or right decisions. We should always choose what we know is right and always think our decisions through!

Written by Isabella Loader and Kayleigh Figueredo 6W



2016 Term 1

Important Dates

Week 10

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—2pm Library
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

Week 2

Tuesday 3rd May Mother's Day stall
Diocesan Cross Country
Friday 6th May Mother's Day Mass — St Patrick's Cathedral 9.15am
followed by Morning Tea.

Week 3

Tuesday 10th May NAPLAN—Language/Writing
Wednesday 11th May NAPLAN—Reading
Thursday 12th May NAPLAN— Numeracy
Friday 13th May NAPLAN—Catch up day
Infants Assembly—Year 1

2016 School Fees

Thank you to the families who have begun to pay the 2016 school fees. Term 1 school fees are now overdue (7th March, 2016). Please contact Mrs Sharon Nutter if you have any queries or wish to discuss payment arrangements on 9630 1421.



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)