

St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

4th August 2016 Term 3 Issue 3



Dear Parents

Next Monday, the 8th of August is the feast of St Mary Mackillop of the Cross. Many of you are very familiar with the story of Mary Mackillop and the amazing qualities she demonstrated to the people of her era. By the time of her death in 1909 she was renowned as a woman of great vision, of heroic character and outstanding holiness. What was so amazing about this woman? In an interesting article written by Mary Cresp rsj it was described that it was **Mary's personal virtues that made her so special rather than her achievements**. This statement, I believe, is worth contemplating. In a world that focuses heavily on results, financial success and position in society many people forget in the importance of being a good and decent human being, willing to show generosity, service, compassion and forgiveness. The two categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive however, and I know of people who have been highly successful and who embody the characteristics described. What I notice however, is that their focus seems to be the personal fulfillment that comes with sharing one's gifts with others. These people seem to possess the condition of happiness.

Another significant feature of Mary's life is her belief in the dignity of all humans, especially through the provision of education. This belief is particularly interesting to me as I maintain that education; learning about God, oneself, the world and each other is such a powerful privilege and one that we can often take for granted in Australia. Providing quality learning experiences in the family and in the school can often help students to recognize their moral obligation to learn. This concept is described by Professor Therese D'Orsa, lecturer at the University of Newcastle who says that learning is, "a responsibility to oneself, one's community, one's future and the relationships which circumscribe that future."

A well known saying by St Mary Mackillop reflects this moral obligation; 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' Her dedication to the poor and marginalized was a key element of her ministry and one that we can emulate in our own way. Allowing our children to begin to take on small responsibilities around the home and the school begins to empower them to recognize that they CAN contribute in very significant ways; to the family, the school and society. Sometimes parents can feel that children are too young to do chores, to look after their own possessions and to take on tasks to assist them. I can understand that at times it is in fact easier to do things for them however imagine the 'seeds for service' parents can sow and the sense of self efficacy ie the strength of one's belief in one's own ability to complete tasks and reach goals, that can be developed in our children, through these experiences. The life of St Mary Mackillop is as significant today as it was to the people of her time. She taught us that life is precious and the impact we can have on our world is in essence only brief. Using her wise words, "We are but travellers here" let us work together to make a positive impact on those around us each and every day. NB: The children in Years 5 and 6 and the SRC representatives of each class, K to 4 have been invited to attend mass at the cathedral on Monday.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri



2016 Census Day

Tomorrow Friday, 5th August is the school's Annual Census Day. The information gathered on this day determines our funding and completes our audit requirements. **It is extremely important that ALL absences are explained for this day.** Please send absences through our skoolbag app on the day, as early as possible. Should you not have access to the skoolbag app an email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au would be greatly appreciated.

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Villiers Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Po Box 2308, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Office hours 8.30am—3.30pm

stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

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Grandparents Day

I would like to sincerely thank all the teachers and parents who assisted in making our Grandparent's Day on Friday such a success. The mass was so well attended and the children shone in their reverence and singing. The morning tea afterwards was spectacular in the usual St Patrick's style with a huge thank you to Mrs Trish Dooley, Mrs Annette Romanos and to Mrs Khouri. Thank you to all the lovely grandparents who made a special effort to come to visit and spend some time with us. A special thank you is extended to Mrs Essey, grandparent of Jeremy Moussa (3T) and Abbey Matta (KM) and to Mr John McDermott grandfather of Ben (3T) and Thomas (1S) Aguilera who presented the homily so aptly at the mass. I have included a copy of these in this newsletter as I felt that those that were unable to attend would enjoy reading them. Thanks again to Mrs Rodricks and the Choir and Year 5 for sharing their gift of song with everyone.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Tuckshop2U for their generosity in donating some of the morning tea for the grandparents.



My name is John McDermott, and I've been married to my wife Joan for 47 years. We have 3 children, Monique, Anthony and Kirrily. We also have 9 beautiful grandchildren, ranging in ages from Jack who is 16 to Zoe who is 10 months.

My wife and I have lived in North Parramatta all our married life. During the 1980s and 90s, our 3 children were educated at St. Patrick's Primary school. We have fond memories of them being taught by a lovely young teacher named Miss Bernadette Fabri.

Now, nearly 30 years later, our life has come full circle. Two of our grandchildren are students at St Patrick's Primary- Benjamin Aguilera who is in year 3 and Thomas who is in year 1. Next year their brother Zachary will start Kindergarten. We are thrilled that Miss Fabri is also now the school Principal! Being grandparents is really GRAND! All of our 9 grandchildren are special and we love them so much. They are a true reflection of God. We enjoy seeing them grow into the unique person God created them to be.

Ben who is 8, is very keen on science. I enjoy teaching him some of the things I learnt when I worked as an Engineer. Tom, who is 7, shares my love of reading. When he was little, he used to sit on my lap and I read him lots of stories. Now he reads to me!

The most important job as grandparents is to share the faith. We share our faith through our example. By showing love, kindness and compassion to those around us and going to Mass and being part of the Church community.

Every night we pray for our children and grandchildren. We ask God that He will bless and guide them and keep them faithful to His Church.

Thank you God for the blessing of being a grandparent!





Good Morning everyone. My name is Karen Essey and I am the very proud Grandmother of Jeremy Moussa in Year 3 and Abbey Matta in Kindergarten. I also have 3 other beautiful granddaughters Olivia Moussa who is attending St Patricks next year and Georgia and Sofia Ortiz who live in Marayong.

The day we became grandparents was the most emotional, exciting and proudest day of our lives. Words cannot express the feelings that we experienced – but we knew at that moment that our lives would never be the same. We knew that everything was about to change – and change for the better.

My husband and I are both retired and we are very fortunate that our grandchildren all live very close by and we see them several times a week. Becoming a grandparent allows us to re-live our own childhood through our

beautiful grandchildren – and that keeps us both very young at heart.

Grandchildren are one of life's greatest joys. We have the chance to teach and share all that we know with the next generation – and they too help us learn new things each and every week.

My husband has recently been taught by our grandson Jeremy how to play chess, and we have both become very talented goal keepers in our Sunday afternoon backyard soccer games. You will often see us walking the streets especially in the last few weeks catching Pokémon – and we are the proud owners of 2 full size jumping castles which keep our grandchildren entertained for hours at a time.

Our grandchildren love to help me bake so we can have afternoon tea parties – and help their grandfather do the gardening or wash the car. We have even converted one room of our home into a toy room with one wall covered with a blackboard so that the grandchildren can write on the walls without getting into trouble – from their parents!

Being a grandparent is lots of fun – but it can also get messy – very messy! We love every piece of playdough smeared into our lounges and every sticky fingerprint on our windows and doors. We love every chocolate covered face and every messy bed that has been jumped on. We love every scratch on our timber floors from riding their bikes inside and the texta scribbled all over our coffee tables.

We also love the half eaten apples in the fridge, the biscuits in the pot plants and under cushions and the pile of sand hidden in a corner that has made its way in from the sandpits.

There is never a dull moment when our grandchildren are around – and even though it takes us hours to clean up after the cyclonic mess they leave - we wouldn't have it any other way. We love that our grandchildren look forward to visiting our home and have so much fun. But unfortunately for their parents though – they have to deal with the tears and tantrums as they struggle to get them back in the car when it's time to leave. They take comfort in knowing however - that our home is always open to them... and that our lolly jar and fruit bowl are always full!

Every time we see our grandchildren – we are reminded of how far our family has come – especially now, seeing our grandchildren attend the same school that our children attended.

We feel extremely blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference in our grandchildren's lives – and we are grateful for the joy that they bring into our everyday lives.

I would like to wish all the grandparents of the St. Patrick's community a very Happy Grandparents Day.



Reflections on Grandparents from Year 3

I have my four grandparents. Their names are Therese, Sandra, Kalim and Joe. Therese and Kalim let me sleep over, they are nice and funny. They entertain me and they let me stay up to 12.00 if I'm sleeping over. Sandra and Joe always get me presents, Joe does magic. They cook anything I want. I will love them for ever and ever.

Jeremy Saliba



My grandma is the best. Every time she goes somewhere or when I go with her we buy something or eat ice-cream without my Mum knowing. The best thing about my grandma is she has been living next to me my whole life. When my Mum went to buy a house my grandmother had a spare house right next to her house. My great grandmother lives in the same house as my grandma. Im lucky that my grandparents live next door to me and my favourite part is when my grandma gets home I say hello out of my window. She takes me to the park. I love my grandma. I don't really know my grandpa.

Alani Grohs

I don't have any grandparents because they passed away before I was born but I like grandparents, because they gave birth to my parents. If we didnt have grandparents, we wouldn't have any parents and with no parents, how can we survive?

Grandparents tell stories about the old days. They help and care for us. They make us smile. They are always with us even if we cant see them. They help us and guide us down the right path, and are the parents of our parents.

Daniel Pinto

My Grandparents mean soooooo much to me because they do more than my parents. I love them because we go to dinner, on my mum's side, we go on Monday and Dad's side on Tuesday.

I call my Mum's parents Tate and Dodo and I call my Dad's parents Taty and Jido.

Sometimes my Jido gives me beer and my Taty tickles me a lot. My Tate tickles me too and my Dodo tells me jokes. I will follow in my grandparents footsteps.

John Paul Wehbe



I have 4 grandparents. They are my Poppy, Nana, Gidore and Abuela. They are very nice. Poppy and Nana are my Mum's parents. Gidore and Abuela are my Dad's parents.

My Grandmas are good at knitting, sewing and especially art. My grandpa's are interested in cars, motorcycles and golf. I go to my Nan's and Poppy's house. I play with my sisters and toys and sometimes we have sleepovers and yummy pancakes. At my Gidore and Abuela's house I watch TV and play the ipads and swim in the summer. Sometimes I have sleepovers with my cousins.

I love my grandparents and going to their houses because it is funny.

Scarlett Khoury



My Grandparents are Chinese. I have two Grandparents . They were teachers, then my Grandpa became a chef. They live in a triple decker house. When I visit them they always cook great soup and food for me to enjoy.

Camran Nasrulla



Honour Award

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

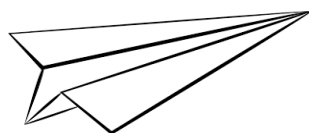
KA	Elio Layoun
KM	Lachlan Moore
1C	Estelle Perrett
1S	Nathan Romanos
2M	Christine Kahwaji
2Y	Malcolm Nasr



st patrick's award

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

KA	Stephanie Jabbour
KM	Joel Lahoud
1C	Zara Diuco
1S	Lucia El Hani
2M	Catherine Said
2Y	Ruby Younan



Ready to Fly

As part of National Science Week 2016 St Patrick's is launching a paper plane challenge for all students. Those who enter have to make a paper plane that flies a long distance from one A4 sheet of paper ONLY!!

Heats held : Wednesday 10th August and Thursday 11th August

Location : School Hall

Time : Your lunch break (Primary 1.00-1.30pm and Infants 1.30-2.00pm)

Entry Fee : \$1.00

If interested in participating in this marvellous event, please complete the entry form and along with your dollar hand it into the office. Entry forms are available from the office.

SO WHO IS READY TO FLY? STEM TEAM

Condolences



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the **Joseph Family** (Ashintha 2Y) on the passing of his grandfather. Please keep the family in your prayers.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the **Rosauro Family** (Keenan 4G) on the passing of his great grandfather. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:- Jim Rizk, Sophia Knobel, Anthony Nakhoul, Evelyn Gereige, Brailey Qumi, Christina Brown, Valerie Liu and Aaron Neroy

OPENING OF SCHOOL GATES IN THE MORNING – 8.00am Commenced Monday 1st August

Dear Parents

Just a reminder that morning supervision begins at 8.20pm, when teachers begin their morning duty. To maximize safety and with school not starting till 8.50am, the school gate will remain locked until 8.00am. It is very important that children are not left unattended outside the school. As I understand the importance of parents getting to work on time, I have published the names of the two before school care services below. These before and after school care centres are used by many families in the school and the staff are very familiar with the school expectations and protocols.

Thanking you for your continued cooperation.
Bernadette Fabri

North Parramatta Out of School Hours Care 9683 3009 www.ooshnp.com

Parramatta West OOSH

9632 5246

Pyjama Day—25th August

On Thursday 25 August we are having a Gold Coin Pyjama Day to raise money for an Aboriginal group in Mt Druitt. The money we raise will help this group continue their day to day work. Last Wednesday, Auntie Jenny Ebbsworth, Sr Naomi rsj and Br Laurie mfc spoke to staff about the challenges facing Aboriginal families and how they work to support and encourage Aboriginal people.



The organization is called Baabayn and was established by four Aboriginal elders who live in Western Sydney and know all about the ups and downs of life for Aboriginal People in the Mount Druitt area. They say:

Our main purpose is to support our people in healing from the past and building towards the future. We work as a group to support individuals, we turn no-one away, and we seek to build our people's pride in who they are, their sense of belonging, and their sense of connectedness to community and culture.

Our Aims in a Nutshell

- Nurturing of local Aboriginal people's confidence, self-esteem, spirituality and knowledge of their culture
- A supportive, healing, low-stress environment for Aboriginal people
- Support for Aboriginal people who want to network and link up
- Lasting partnerships to help us support our people more effectively
- Assistance and advocacy for people who are struggling in their dealings with government departments, etc.
- Healing through art and crafts.

Things We Do

EVERYDAY SUPPORT BY MEANS OF:

- Family group meetings, with services and programs (e.g. counselling and falls prevention for seniors) provided by a range of government and other organisations
- Homework club every Tuesday (run with the help of Kenthurst Parish's Social Justice Committee)
- Being there for families when need arises (e.g. assistance with funerals)
- Supporting young mums and helping families to stay together.

BIG, ONE-OFF EVENTS, SUCH AS:

- Annual Christmas party at the Nurragingy reserve, with gifts for our communities' children
- Annual weekend at Gerringong for children and their families.

Judith Kerr



LOL FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday 26th June, children from St Patrick's gathered at Our Lady of Lebanon to celebrate their First Communion. Father reminded the children that their challenge, like ours, is to be the Light of Christ to others.

Congratulations to Daniel Moussa, Zara Moussa, Scarlett Khouri, Christian Sarkis, Angelina Wakim, Charlie Romanos, Jeremy Saliba, Dante Dagostina, Anthony Maaraoui, Alex Layoun, Christiana Kalouche, Jeremy Moussa, Isaac Bechara, John-Paul Wehbe, Julian Tanna, Olivia Sicurella, Anthony Khouri and Justin Makhoul.

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10am - 4pm (Bookings preferred)
38 Prince Street, Blacktown

CatholicCare
Social Services

Phone: 02 8822 2222 | Email Choices: choices@ccss.org.au

St Patrick's Advertising—Local Directory

Dear Parents,

Please find uploaded with this newsletter the St Patrick's local directory. You will find the names & contact details of some companies associated with our community or local area that maybe of some service to you. May I take this opportunity to **sincerely thank these families for their support of the school** through their involvement in our advertising program. Monies from the advertising will go towards continuing to increase our bank of devices for learning, in particular K—4. If any family or friend is still interested in putting in an Expression of Interest please contact the office on 96301421.

Kindest Regards

Bernadette Fabri

Saint John Paul II's

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Weekend Retreat Mt Schoenstatt

**FRIDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 11TH
SEPTEMBER 2016**

Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre Mulgoa

\$135 incl. meals & sessions

\$190 incl. meals, sessions & share accommodation

RENEWING THE CULTURE
"The language of the body calls for a patient apprenticeship in learning to interpret and channel desires in view of authentic self-giving."
- Pope Francis Amoris Laetitia 284

Led by Fr Thomas Loya -
Internationally Recognised speaker,
Theology of the Body Expert and
Retreat Master.

Saint John Paul II's great masterpiece, the Theology of the Body, helps us to discover God's vision for the human person, male and female, and how we are called to a life of freedom and greatness.

Fr Loya is an expert in bringing the Theology of the Body to life in a pastoral and sacramental manner. Participants will leave the retreat encouraged that they have the necessary tools to engage the culture with an affirming and life-giving approach to hot button topics, especially in the areas of human sexuality, marriage and family, and the key life issues.

Booking are Essential: Register by calling the Family and Life Office (02) 88383441 or via trybooking/214195

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA
FAMILY & LIFE OFFICE

A sky full of prizes to be won.

The Dollarmites have discovered Prize Lights in the Outback sky and they want to share these spectacular prizes with School Bankers.

Keep saving to discover the Prize Lights

Simply make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 3 for a chance to win one of the Star Saver prizes, including camping kits, instant cameras and magazine packs.

What's more, if you complete the fun Stargazing online activity, along with making three or more School Banking deposits during Term 3, you'll also have a chance to win one of 50 Supernova prizes – PlayStation 4 packs.

To complete your Stargazing online activity, or to find out more, visit commbank.com.au/prizelights



Fed Up with Children's Behaviour

Wednesday, 24 August 2016 | 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

Bestselling author Sue Dengate is coming to the Hills for one of her only NSW talks this year. Focusing on the effects of food chemicals on children's behaviour, health and learning ability including:

Tantrums, arguments, oppositional defiant behaviour

Asthma, itchy skin, rashes, migraines

Difficulty falling asleep, frequent night waking

Depression, unexplained tiredness, difficulty concentrating

Hidden and new food additives

Suitable for adults

Cost: \$15PP | Bookings essential online

When

24 August 2016 | 07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

Location

Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, 29 Main Street, Rouse Hill 2155 [View Map](#)



Add to calendar

Event Snapshot

Cost
\$15 per person

Contact
Vinegar Hill Memorial Library
8889 5200

[Bookings essential online](#)

THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

2016 Important Dates

Term 3

Week 3

Friday 5th August Infants Assembly—Kindergarten—2.15pm

Week 4

Tuesday 9th August Cumberland Zone Athletics

Wednesday 10th August National Science Week—Paper plane heat
Year 5 Personal Development night—7pm

Thursday 11th August National Science Week—Paper plane heat

Friday 12th August Primary Assembly—Year 3—2.15pm

Week 5

Monday 15th August Feast of the Assumption Mass — 9.30am
St Patrick's Cathedral

Tuesday 16th August ICAS Maths Competition—7.40am
STEM Leaders & Committee—Hack Day

Friday 19th August Staff Development Day— No school for students

Week 6

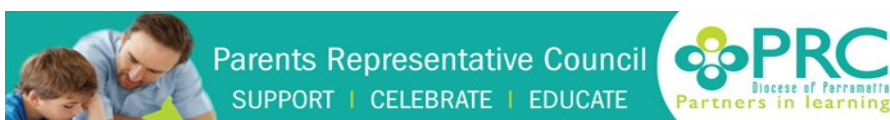
Monday 22nd August Voice of Youth Cluster Final—Year 6 Marist
Author visit for K—Yr 2

Friday 26th August Author visit for Yr 3—Yr 6
NO ASSEMBLY

Week 7

Tuesday 30th August Father's Day stall

Friday 2nd September Father's Day Breakfast—School Hall 7.30am
Father's Day Mass—St Patrick's Cathedral—9.15am
Infants Assembly—Year 2—2.15pm



Term 3, 2016 General Meeting - Mon 22 Aug 2016: Topic Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety

College Library, Nagle Girls' Catholic College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Sth

2016 School Terms

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.**



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

Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.

Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini

Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale (Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)