



15th December 2016

Term 4 Issue 10

Dear Parents

This is the last newsletter for 2016 and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for all you have contributed to our school. To our parent community, thank you for your generosity, your cooperation, your feedback, your time, and particularly your partnership in the education of your children. Thank you to those who volunteered at morning teas, graduation and farewell functions, excursions, reading groups, masses, sports events, in the classroom, in the library and the many other school appeals such as the selling of ice blocks. Thank you for your donation of money or goods, gifts for raffles and time; it is very much appreciated.

To our students; thank you for your enthusiasm for learning, your courtesy and friendliness and your spirit of hospitality when coming into your classrooms. Thank you for trying hard and accepting feedback. Thank you for your cooperation and loyalty to our school and respect for your teachers. I hope you have a restful and fun Christmas break.

To the staff at St Patrick's thank you so much for the care you demonstrate to the students in your class or in sick bay and your genuine interest in their learning progress. I loved watching you problem solve together and trying to determine what strategy best suits individual children. Thank you for your passion for learning and your extraordinary organizational abilities. Thank you for caring about the children as you do.

As I mentioned in my Principal's Address at the Graduation Mass I wish our Year 6 students all the very best for high school. They have been a wonderful grade of children and a real testimony to the great job their families have done. By way of saying 'Goodbye' in a truly St Patrick's way we will be gathering together as a school community in the school hall on the last day, Friday 16th December at 2.30pm. Parents are most welcome to join us.

It is also with particular sadness that we say goodbye to some of our families who will be leaving St Patrick's Parramatta either with their youngest now going to high school or those who will be moving to other schools for various reasons. I have loved getting to know you and your children and our association feels longer than simply three years. We wish you well and hope to see you again often.

From all accounts the children really enjoyed meeting their teachers last Monday and hopefully this friendly encounter has helped to alleviate any stress that may occur when children are unsure about the year to come.

May the Lord grant you and your loved ones love, joy, peace and goodwill this Christmas and New Year!

God bless you and your families

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

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2016 School Captains Speech



What an amazing 7 years it has been at St. Patrick's Primary School. There have been many highs and lows which is to be expected in life but these experiences have only made me stronger as a person. Trust and loyalty are two of the most important traits to have as a person and for me essential in the formation of long lasting friendships. I consider myself to be trustworthy and loyal to all my classmates, as well as to all students in our school.

Kindergarten was the start of my schooling experience. On the first day my sister Kristiana and I would never leave each other's sight on the playground. We were scared that something bad would happen to one of us so we stuck together. As you can see, we are still sticking together and I am fortunate to have been able to share this experience with her. Our Kindergarten teachers were Miss Farah, now known as Mrs Salami and Miss Rougos. These teachers had a huge role to play in our lives as they would kick-start our journey towards our love of learning. Kindergarten was also memorable for me as I started forming some close friendships. In Kindergarten I was also chosen to be an SRC representative by my teacher. I was very proud back then as I was one of the first students the teachers saw as being a good role model. But at the time, I didn't really know what the role meant and can't really say that I did that much.

A memory I have from Year 1 was our Multicultural Day organised by Mrs Baird. We all dressed up in our traditional clothing from countries all around the world. It was a great celebration of cultures and we paraded proudly with flags and music to celebrate the day.

In Year 2 our teachers were Mrs Iouliano, Mrs Mills and Mrs Maysfield. We had a lot of fun that year and I can remember going to Prince Alfred Park to record tallies of the different types of vehicles that were driving past. It was good to get out of the school grounds for a different experience which I still remember today.

Our teachers in Year 3 were Ms Carol and Mrs Jadrabib. I enjoyed learning about Vincent van Gogh and other artists such as Pablo Picasso. It was fun to be creative throughout the year.

Year 4 was the year when I first started to see the value in working as a team. Ms Hagi helped me to see the importance of having responsibility and team work and during the year I became SRC representative again. But this was the first time I took the role seriously as I understood more about what was involved in being a leader.

Year 5 was a fun year for us all with our teachers. My teacher was Mrs Tondini and she was a compassionate and caring teacher. I began to bring out my inner comedian and tried to make others laugh. When someone would look at me, I'd pull faces at them or just say silly things to make them smile.

Year 6 has proven to be the best year to date. There have been many fun experiences as well as some challenges that we have faced this year. Our teachers are Mrs Pope and Ms Kelly. Our grade has worked together on many activities this year. It has been a fun year and I have especially enjoyed joking around with the teachers. The most popular game was guessing how many million years they have lived for. Thank you for allowing us to have a laugh with you. A challenge we have had this year is homework. Some advice for Year 5 is to do your homework as soon as you get it. Don't leave it to the last minute as you will get a bucket load the day before the other homework is due. Then you will panic and wish that you had listened to me. Also, please continue the tradition of age jokes with the Year 6 teachers.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Mrs Rodrics, Mrs Waterhouse and Mr Younes for teaching us music and sport. We have all had many memorable experiences with you.

I am so honoured to have had the privilege of being your school captain in 2016. I would like to thank all of Year 6 and the leadership team for your support this year and for your friendship. A special thank you to all our parents who have always been by our side through our kindergarten to year 6 journey. We know that you will continue to support us in the years ahead. From the book of Matthew, Jesus said, *"Just as you did it to the least, you did it to me."* We need to be compassionate towards others and find ways to offer our support and help those in need.

I leave you with the words of Jesus that say, *"I will be with you always till the end of age"*. May you be given the strength to make the right decisions in your life as you choose the path that you follow.

Adrian Stevanja

2016 School Captains Speech

What a journey it has been! We arrived as nervous 5 year olds and are now leaving as confident young people with numerous opportunities awaiting us. It is up to us to decide the path that we choose to take in life as we have been given the necessary building blocks by our teachers and family to help make this decision easier. The values that we have been taught throughout the years have inspired and encouraged us to always strive to achieve our best.

In Kindergarten, I remember walking through those huge, daunting, green gates with my brother Adrian. I was carrying my oversized school bag and had butterflies in my stomach. I was pretty nervous as it was our first day.

We were introduced to our Year 6 Buddy. Julia was my buddie's name and I was so happy because she was so nice and it felt like she was my big sister. She helped me to read and I felt safe and comfortable in my first year of schooling. Now I have a completely different buddy perspective because I am a Year 6 buddy and I understand the important role that it is. We need to be good role models for the new students so they can enjoy their experiences here and have someone to talk to if they need support. One day they may even decide that they would like to be given the opportunity to represent our wonderful school as leaders.

Our Year 1 teachers were Ms Hagi and Mrs Tondini. For our year 1 excursion, we went to Rouse Hill School House. We were given the opportunity to dress up and experience what it would have been like if we went to school in the olden days. We were given a new name for the day and we got to do many fun activities. This included singing, marching, writing on chalk boards and sewing with a needle and thread. It was pouring with rain and it was so cold and miserable. But despite the weather, it was one of the best excursions that I have been on.

In Year 2, I felt like I was becoming more confident in myself and in my abilities. I was chosen to be an SRC representative for my class. I was so happy that my teacher, Mrs Maysfield chose me and I was proud to be a voice for my class and set a good example for my peers. I really enjoyed the role and I hoped to have it again in the future.

Our Year 4 teachers were Ms Pope and Ms Hagi. It was an amazing year and I represented my class for SRC again. I was over the moon and soon realised that it was a bigger job which included reading in front of large audiences. I was a bit nervous at first as I was not a confident speaker but with practise it became easier. This year there have been many opportunities for me in public speaking situations. I have enjoyed the experience and can say that I am more confident speaking in front of large audiences, such as today.

Another memorable moment was at the end of Year 5. I was so excited to be elected school captain with my brother, Adrian. I knew that we would get along and be able to complete our jobs by supporting each other. It was also good to have a homework buddy and share ideas for tasks that we had to complete at home. Leaders reports for assemblies were also easier to write with a wing man.

A big thank you to all our teachers who have taught us over the years as well as Mrs Bryant, Ms Fabri, Ms Benkovich and Mrs Kerr. Also, to our fantastic Year 6 teachers Ms Kelly and Mrs Pope, we have had so much fun this year. Your knowledge and guidance is much appreciated and has helped shape us into who we are today.

It has been a fantastic year and I thank each and every one of the 6 students for your friendship. You have all been leaders at our school, supporting younger students as well as each other. You are all amazing and know that I will always treasure the memories.

Also thanks to Mum and Dad for supporting us and putting up with our silliness, at times.

We all need to remember to live by the values of our school on a daily basis. That is to be respectful of others, show compassion to those in need and demonstrate resilience when the going gets tough.

Many friendships have been made and memories created to last a lifetime. We will look back on our days at school and probably wish that we could still continue to be together, but unfortunately this is life. We have to build up our resilience and learn to cope in new situations as we move on to the next stage in our lives.

May God bless you and help you all to achieve your dreams.

Kristiana Stevanja





Have a safe
and restful
holiday



Merry Christmas from
the Staff at St Patricks

Thank you Mr George Gittany
for the fabulous photos

Farewell



When I first came to St Patrick's in July 2008, the thing that struck me was the children's vibrant faith, seen most clearly in their beautiful prayers. Over the years the fruit of this faith has been evident in the response of our school community to social justice appeals, to calls for help for carnivals, stalls, barbeques and especially ice blocks! It is heard in words of encouragement, consolation and gratitude. It is your love of God manifest in so many ways that helps to make our school community such a powerful beacon of Christ's love in the world.

Not only have I had the joy of teaching and spending time with your delightful children but I have also been blessed to work with a supportive and very professional staff, including two Principals of distinction, Gloria Bryant and Bernadette Fabri and three wonderful Parish Priests – Fr Wim, Fr John and Fr Bob. It is difficult to put into words just how enriched my life has been by these associations.

As I sail off to destinations as yet unknown a part of my heart will remain here at St Patrick's.
I will finish with this blessing for you,

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Good bye and God bless
Jude Kerr



A Christmas Blessing

May all the days
of all the years
That **God** has still in store
Be filled with every joy
and grace
To bless you more and more;
May hope of heart
and peace of mind
Beside you ever stay,
And that's the golden
wish I have
For you, this
Christmas Day!

*"For this day is born to you a
Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in
the city of David". (Luke 2:11)*

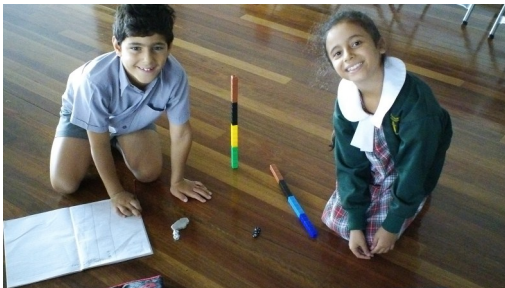


THANK YOU YEAR 5 PARENTS

Thank you to the parents Monique Wehbe, Zeinab Takchi, Maria Guatlo and Rita Davino and all the other Year 5 parents who assisted in the organisation of the Year 6 graduation morning tea. I know that the children and their parents really appreciated all your efforts.

Farewell Year Six 2016





Goodbye and
Good Luck !!!!

SRC Shout Out

SRC Prayer Booklets

Want to read a prayer from morning assembly again?

Come and visit the library!

Two prayer booklets have been made using all Semester One and Semester Two prayers.

These can be read up in the Library in our Author's Corner. These special booklets will not be available to borrow.

If you have written a prayer and would like to find it, or would like to spend some quiet time in prayer, these booklets are now available in the library.

Semester Two SRCs



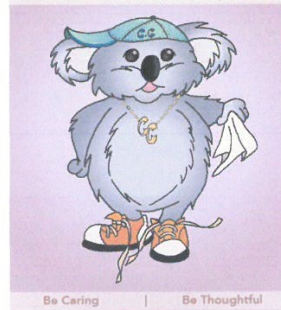
Ricky Respect

"Ricky rocks respect!"



Coolio Compassion

"It's cool to be compassionate!"



Rocky Resilience

"Rocky bounces back!"



Jolly Jokers

1. What do you call an alligator in a vest?

Answer: *An Investigator*

2. Why can't you give Elsa a balloon?

Answer: *Because she will Let it go.*

3. What did the pencil say to the other pencil?

Answer: *You're looking sharp.*

4. What bow can't be tied?

Answer: *A rainbow!*

Alicia Remaili & Gabriel Kalouche (KM)

Lara Samar & Sebastian El Hani (KA)



A-Z Order Alphabet Time!

Rocky	_____
School	_____
Compassionate	_____
Learning	_____
Resilience	_____
Determined	_____
Positive	_____
Respect	_____
Coolio	_____
St Patrick	_____
Welcoming	_____
Fair	_____

Zara Diuco & Adam Jurasic (1C)
Lucia El Hani & Emmanuel Missak (1S)

How I felt being an SRC...

I felt like I was a really good student that my class could vote for. I felt very welcomed being an SRC.

Carl Cauan (2M)

I felt very responsible and a really good student. I loved being part of the SRC. It was very fun!

Nyah Khalil (2M)

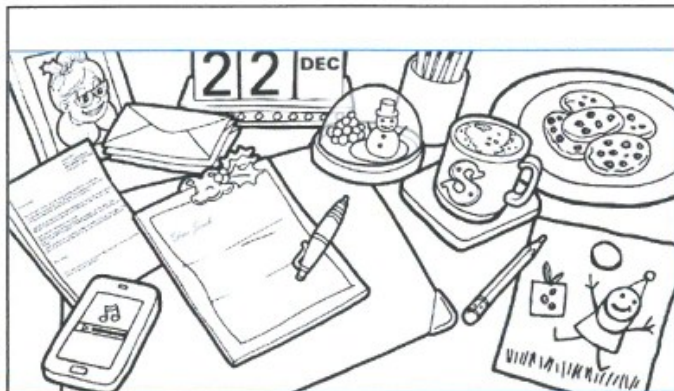
I felt very welcomed and trusted. I felt that I was a role model. I was very happy when I was voted an SRC.

Christian Barakat (2Y)

I felt welcomed and being an SRC I was able to help others when they needed me. I felt proud to be part of the SRC.

Claire Scanlon (2M)





Can you spot the difference?
Evelyn Gereige & Lorenzo De Guzman (3T)

MASCOT FINDER

P D R C N P N E W L N D E I J B D I
W Y T E O G P Y D E P Z P Q R L E S
E R H X S M A O T E L E A R N E R D
T F O Y X P P T S I T C K B U N A C
D F U R D N E A K I W E O V J R P A
O O G G B C J C S Z T X R M J W R R
E U H G B I Q Q T S S I E M I J T I
K K T T X H A Z I C I B V X I N U N
T D F V U S V Z Z Z Q O Z E Y N G G
F H U H W J M H R K L W N G N X E X
W E L T U I P V S G G F A I R A L D
T O Q Q N D F R E S I L I E N C E D

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

CARING
COMPASSION
DETERMINED
FAIR

LEARNER
POSITIVE
RESILIENCE
RESPECT

THOUGHTFUL
WELCOMING

Scarlett Khoury & Daniel Pinto (3L)

Special Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Student Council Representatives for Semester Two, on all their efforts, hard work and dedication. They have demonstrated excellent leadership qualities and have displayed great enthusiasm in carrying out their role. It has been an absolute delight working closely with these children this semester.

Miss Azar.

Rocky Resilience Poem Time

Resilience	Responsible
Outstanding	Encouraging
Courageous	Smart
Kind	Independent
Young	Loyal
	Intelligent
	Excellent
	Nice
	Caring
	Extraordinary

Mikaela Salazar & Jesse Sabat (4B)

Elaria Fayad & Joseph Romanos (4G)

Who Am I?

I am caring and thoughtful. My shoe laces are untied. I like to wear a necklace and I always show compassion.

Answer: Coolio Compassion

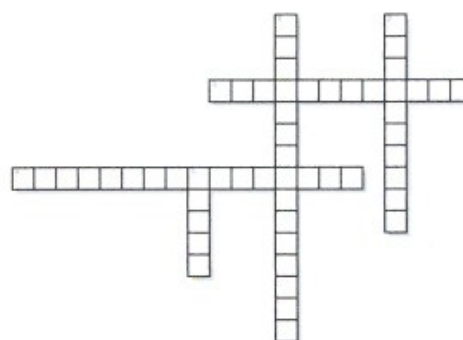
Isabella Ghostina-Maoraoui & Joseph Chiha (5T)

Quiz Time!

1. How can Ricky Respect show respect to others?
2. How does Coolio show Compassion at St Patrick's?

Annabelle Younis & Ray Wehbe (5C)

CROSS WORD FUN



ACROSS

3. This school mascot always shows respect
4. This school mascot always shows compassion

DOWN

1. This school mascot always shows resilience
2. Something our teacher always wants us to do
5. God always shows this to us

Kristiana Stevanja 6P & Adrian Stevanja 6W



Medical Updates for 2017

As we are nearing the end of the school year a reminder to parents with children who have a medical condition ie Anaphylaxis, Asthma that we require an updated plan before the new school year. The plan is to be dated by the doctor with the new date (not just a copy of last year's). This is an annual requirement.



Congratulations to the Missak Family (Emmanuel 1S) on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Christiano. We wish the family all the best.

St. Patrick's Dance Group

The Mercy Music and Performance Academy and St. Patrick's Primary School would like to start an **Extracurricular Dance Group** in 2017.

Rehearsals would be held before school on a Monday morning on the grounds of Our Lady of Mercy College. Parents would drop students off at the gates of Our Lady of Mercy College for their group rehearsal. Students would then walk to St Patrick's under the supervision of their dance teacher.

We are seeking expressions of interest from families whose children will be in years 4-6 in 2017.

We would kindly ask for all families to complete a short survey by following the link below.

St. Patrick's Music Ensemble

Do you learn a Concert band instrument? Would you like to join the St. Pat's Music Ensemble?

The Mercy Music and Performance Academy and St. Patrick's Primary School are starting a Music Ensemble that rehearse every Tuesday on the grounds of Our Lady of Mercy College. Rehearsals are from 8am – 8:35. At the conclusion of the rehearsal, students are then taken across to St. Patrick's, under the supervision of the Ensemble Conductor.

Any students who are currently learning a Concert Band instrument are welcome.

For more information please email music@olmc.nsw.edu.au or call: 02 8838 1226 during school hours.



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week and over the Christmas School Holiday break: Noah Romanos, Nathan Romanos, Annabella Remaili, Christian Sarkis, Elie Wehbe, Steven Abraham, Donnacha Ryan, Clio Encarnacao, Aiden Kalathil, Oscar Morgan, Lauren Buxton, Deo Cerillo, Simone Sabat, Jessica Bechara, Joseph Sassen, Nicholas Rahme, Michael Ayoub, Rafaella Bautista, Sophie Gahdmar, Joel Lahoud, James Sitoa, Benjamin Maroon, Ruby Younan, Antonia Romanos, Stacie Touche, Audrey Joseph, Natalia Gebrael, Marcus-Adam El-Chaar, Cedric Guino, Jeremy Saliba, Emmanuel Missak, Angel Arida, Benjamin Aitkins, Benjamin Aguilera, Talia Lahoud, Joanne Kevin, Arabella Gittany, Siwoo Kim, Norm Shidiak, Victoria Nassif, Antonio Moussa, Elisa Sassen, Mia Kerr, Lan Nguyen, Madison Younes, Charlie Romanos, Dominic Coles, Liam Abdallah, Claire Scanlon, Lewis Khalil, Sarah Loader, Anja Macadangdang, Juliette Khoury, Tyler Morson, Sebastian El Hani, Gabriel Kalouche, Finn Giron, Jo Harb, Isabella Loader, Sara-Maree Wakim, Oscar Gray, Aoife Mitchell

OZ Fashions opening & closing times during the Christmas period.

Our last trading day for this year will be Saturday, 24th December (9am – 4pm) and we will re-open on Thursday, 5th January (9am-5:30pm). I strongly recommend parents purchase their uniform early January to avoid lengthy queues.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Summer Reading Challenge*

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **four iPad minis**

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win*

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 7 February 2017

*Terms and Conditions apply

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2016 Important Dates

Term 4

Week 10

Thurs 15th December	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday 16th December	Thanksgiving Mass
	Whole School Farewell Assembly
	LAST DAY OF 2016 FOR STUDENTS

2017 Start Dates

27/01/2017	SDD (Children booked in for MAI Assessments TBA)
30/1/2017	SDD (Children booked in for MAI Assessments TBA)
31/01/2017	Years 1– 6 return
02/02/2017	Kindergarten Commence

Free 2 day workshop
for parents & carers of
school-aged students
on the autism
spectrum!

Parramatta
21 & 22 Feb 2017

Register your place:

positivepartnerships.com.au

 positive partnerships



SCHOOL HOLIDAY COURSE AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY - juniorscienceacademy.com.au

At the Junior Science Academy, children are introduced to science concepts and skills in a safe and supervised environment at Macquarie University.

The courses aim to teach the concepts through experiments, art, drama, physical activity, craft and other hands-on activities. We provide students with experiences and activities that help them to understand a concept or gain knowledge in an active way.

We add and rotate courses each school holidays and drop off and pick up times are designed for the working parent. The Junior Science Academy is for children in years 1-6 in primary school.



Drop Off	8:30am-9:30 am
Activities	9:30am-4:30pm
Pick-Up	4:30pm-5:30pm
Cost	\$120



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)