



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

20th October 2016 Term 4 Issue 2



Dear Parents

At last Friday's assembly I announced to the school community that Mrs Jude Kerr will be retiring at the end of the year. Mrs Kerr has had a long association with St Patrick's Parramatta as both classroom teacher and Reading Recovery teacher. In her time at the school she has undertaken the role of Religious Education Coordinator (REC). As a former REC myself I am very aware of the enormous privilege inherent in this role. I say this because it is not every role that allows you to travel along with children on their faith journey and sometimes even that of their parents. To do this well—as Mrs Kerr has done, requires a genuinely interested and faith filled person who is truly present to others and who engages with them without judgment and with authentic compassion. Mrs Kerr's commitment to social justice and in support of the poor and marginalized is evident beyond her work in the school and her ability to continue to forge and strengthen links between the school and the parish has been consistent and effective. It will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Kerr however I am confident that this is but another fork in the road for her with many pleasant surprises ahead. The school will be organizing formal farewell celebrations for Mrs Kerr at the end of the term. More information will be advertised in later newsletters.

Religious Education Coordinator Appointment 2017

The Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta has appointed Mrs Leanda Standing as the new Religious Education Coordinator for 2017. Mrs Standing is a very experienced, capable and creative REC and teacher. It is my pleasure to soon welcome Mrs Standing to the St Patrick's Parramatta staff and community.

School Attendance

It is hard to believe that we have already commenced Term 4 for the year. One of the sets of data that teachers look at as the year progresses is the number of days absent that the children have accumulated, or better still how many days present they have been able to achieve. The 'days absent' data is presented as a percentage of days present. As a guide, the Catholic Education Office groups the percentages in the following categories.

Absenteeism	Attendance Rate	Educational Risk	Days absent per year	Long term absence (over 10 years)
Regular	90% or more	Low	20 days or less	1 year or less
Emerging	80%-89%	Medium	Between 20 and 40	1-2 years
Chronic	70%-79%	High	Between 40 and 60	2-3 years
Complex	69% or less	Severe	60 days or more	3 years plus

The aim for all students is to get a score above 90%. As you will notice from the table, any score below 90% places the student at a medium to severe educational risk.

Even a day here and there can eventually add up, increasing the probability of a significant impact on children's learning, and their overall attitude to commitment, connection with others, resilience and personal drive.

It is worthy of note at this point, to mention that in cases of chronic illness, some children just cannot come to school. In these situations these children and their families are supported by children's services which are often connected to hospitals and out clinics and they will generally have access to external tutoring for the period of their rehabilitation. The well being of these children is always paramount and absence from school is sometimes necessary.

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

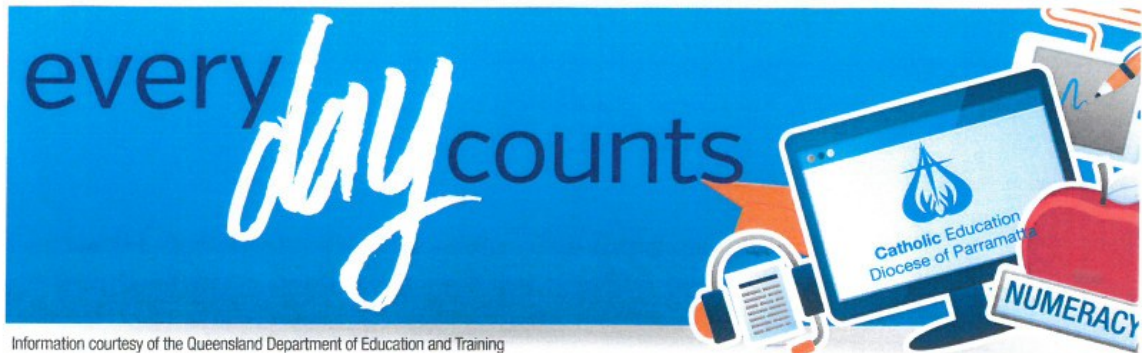
www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au

The 2011 NSW Government Department of Education and Training, Working Document, Guidelines for Supporting School Attendance states;

- Regular attendance at school is fundamental to student learning. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve educational success, and increase their career and life options.
- Student attendance has been identified as an important aspect of a student's wellbeing and failure to receive an education has been identified as a risk of harm factor.
- Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and disadvantage them in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.

Strong attendance during Term 4 can make a significant difference to the children's learning and their overall data scores. Remember: Every Day Counts.

God bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri



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



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



Honour Award

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

3L	Anthony Khouri
3T	Crista-Nicole Gadhmar
4B	Mikayla Saleh
4G	Julian Camenzuli
5C	Luke Maroun
5T	Isabella Ghostine-Maaraoui
6P	Zach Gebrael
6W	Mikayla Shalala



st patrick's award

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

3L	Alani Grohs
3T	Elias Nakle
4B	Oisin Ryan
4G	Jessica Wehbe
5C	Lucienne Tolentino
5T	Simone Tanna
6P	George Gebrael
6W	Alecks Lopez



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week: Claudia Yaghi, Norman Elzahoul, Mark Abraham, Jake Buxton, Alissa Banzato, Jacob Manago, Alexandriya Izmestyeva, Makayla Kalouch, Cynthia Daher, Julian Tanna, Renee Kougellis, Oliver Kougellis, Kenneth Zhang, Weyata Lamin, Stephanie Jabbour

KEEP THIS DATE 9.15 am 11 November WAY OF MERCY CELEBRATION

Friday 11 November is a sacred day for St Patrick's. The 4 metre tall Cross of Mercy and relics of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Teresa of Kalcatta which have been visiting schools and parishes in the Dioceses for the past three months make their final visit ... to our school.

We will process behind the cross, symbolically walking with all people, identifying with their joys and hopes, their griefs and their anxieties and praying for the strength to follow Christ. We will gather to pray and then people will have the opportunity to venerate the relics and cross.

Members of our school and Parish community are warmly invited to join us in this unique celebration.



St Patrick's Cathedral Parish

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact the Liturgy Co-ordinator, Chris Ohlsen on 8838 3403 or liturgy@stpatscathedral.com.au.

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish are for children in Year 5 and above who are interested in joining their team of Altar Servers. Altar Servers are an important group of boys and girls who help out in the liturgical life of the Parish. If you are interested an application can be picked up from the front office. Training sessions will commence Monday 17/10/2016, Tuesday 18/10/2016 or Thursday 20/10/2016 depending on your preference of day/time and will run for 4 weeks.



Condolences

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Aboumelhem family (Nicole 5T & Michael 2M) on the passing of their Grandmother. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Online School Canteen Orders

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Come and learn at The Mercy Music and Performance Academy, located on the grounds of Our Lady of Mercy College. Music lessons are taught in a nurturing, exciting and professional environment, with an emphasis on achieving excellence. We seek to nurture and cultivate creative expression, helping students realise their musical potential.

Lessons are taught by qualified professionals in a manner which is challenging, motivating, educational and fun.

Lessons cater for boys and girls from Years 3 - 12. Beginners through to advanced students across a variety of instruments are all welcome.

In consultation with the mentors, students can prepare for grades such as AMEB and CPM. Lessons are 30 minutes in length.

Instrumental lessons have the potential to:

- Build character
- Help with concentration and discipline
- Enhance coordination
- Teach perseverance
- Improve reading and comprehension skills
- Help to relieve stress
- Create a sense of achievement (goal setting)
- Promote social skills

phone: 02 8838 1288

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au/TheAcademy

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TUCKSHOP 2U
will now be serving
HOT FOOD
on Tuesday and Thursday ONLY.

Please visit
tuckshop2u.com.au
to view our
updated menu.

Please note that our Banana Bread and Choc Vanilla
Blueberry Slice are no longer gluten free.

Not Returning to St Patrick's in 2017

Thank you to the parents who have informed the office that their child will not be returning to St Patrick's in 2017. If your child is not returning to St Patrick's in 2017 please send a letter to Ms Fabri stating the last day of attendance at St Patrick's and which school they will be moving onto in 2017.



ICE BLOCKS !!

It's Term 4 and we are selling ice blocks again every Friday. The money raised will help the people of Haiti whose country has been devastated by Cyclone Matthew. Some will also go to Catholic Mission to help children in Cambodia.

Each child may buy **ONE** ice at \$1.00.



Bookclub Issue 7 2016—Closing Date 28/10/2016 Please follow below instructions to order online

- Log into www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our new iPhone or iPad app from the App store.
- Follow the online prompts to place order
- No need to send anything back to the school as the order automatically comes into the office.

Should you have any problems ordering online please call Mrs Jones in the office on 9630 1421.



Best wishes to Mr David Younis and his fiancé Emily for their upcoming wedding this Sunday at OLQP Parish Greystanes. Please keep Mr Younis and Emily in your prayers.



BACK TO *McAuley* DAY

**SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2016,
12 NOON – 4.30PM**

All past students, staff, parents and friends of Catherine McAuley Westmead (formerly known as Catherine McAuley Girls High) are invited to return to school to celebrate our 50th anniversary.



Golden Jubilee Mass to commence at 12 noon, Morley Centre, Catherine McAuley Westmead
Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD, Bishop of Parramatta

Following Mass enjoy a 'trip down memory lane' with memorabilia, displays, hospitality and performances.

Further information please contact School Reception: 9849 9100 or mcauleywestmead@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catherine McAuley Westmead
2 Darcy Road, Westmead
www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au

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SELFIE WITH YOUR TEACHER !!!

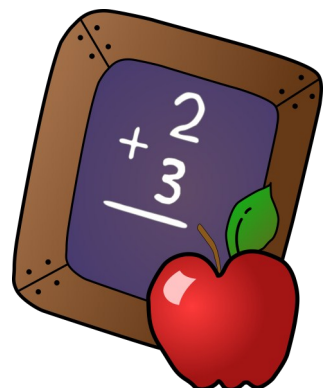
Celebrate World Teachers Day on Friday 28 October. Thank your teacher by taking a selfie with your teacher to go into the draw to win an iTunes card valued at \$200 and an iPad mini for your teacher!

World Teachers Day is an annual event held to celebrate the vital work of teachers in educating children around the world.

This year, we're asking students to take a selfie with their teacher and tell us in 25 words or less why you think your teacher is great. Enter online <http://parra.catholic.edu.au/thank-your-teacher>

Entries close 26 October 2016.

Follow CatholicEdParra on Facebook and Twitter to see if you win.





Videos on Sales for Captivate Performances

We are pleased to announce that access to download and/or stream online the videos of ALL 7 Showcase 2016 performances is available to purchase now.

You can go straight to the booking site at <https://www.trybooking.com/MWPJ> or see some preview videos and get other information on our [website](#).

Video access costs \$10 and lets you view and download any (or all!) of the Showcase videos.

Please be aware that these videos are being sold for private use only.

There are also plenty of photos on our [Facebook page](#) from Showcase.

Kind regards,

Natasha Chong

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkewtc7y7Gnfbsbh0304TKD7n3G7pNSYp>



Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolments for Year 7 2018

There are two Open Mornings remaining specifically for Year 7 2018 enrolments on:

Wednesday 19th October and Thursday 17th November 2016 9.15 – 11am

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2018. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on one of our two upcoming school tours especially for Year 7 2018 applicants but open to any year group.

These mornings will give interested parents and students the opportunity to tour our school on a normal school day. You will be able to view our school grounds and facilities, go into classrooms and meet our students and teachers. Enrolment packs will be available on the day.

To book places for a school tour on one of these two mornings please contact our School Reception on 9849 9100.

BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

'Building Child Safe Communities' is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers and contractors complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools, Catholic Out of Schools Hours Care and Catholic Early Learning Centres. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers – please click on '[Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteers](#)' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on '[Volunteer Form](#)' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

Contractors – please click on '[Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Contractors](#)' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).



Then click on '[Contractor Form](#)' (bottom of page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are contracting.

A new form is required:

- ◆ For each location that you are a volunteer or contractor
- ◆ If any of the details you have provided on the form change

We thank all volunteers and contractors for their continued support of Catholic Education.

Lost Property

Please label ALL clothing with your child's name and class. This will enable us to return lost property to your child. Can we also ask that you check your children's hats and jumpers that belong to them and return to school if they are not your child's. As you can appreciate uniforms are costly and we have had parents contacting us regarding this problem.

2016 Important Dates

Term 4

Week 1

Friday 14th October Infants Assembly - 2.15pm

Week 2

Tuesday 18th October Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 21st October Primary Assembly—Year 3—2.15pm

Week 3

Tuesday 25th October Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 28th October Infants Assembly—Year 1—2.15pm

Week 4

Tuesday 1st November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 4th November Primary Assembly—Year 6—2.15pm

Week 5

Monday 7th November Kinder 2017 Orientation

Tuesday 8th November Footsteps Dance continues

Wednesday 9th November Kinder 2017 Orientation

Thursday 10th November Kinder 2017 Orientation

Friday 11th November Remembrance Day
Way of Mercy Celebrations—9.15am

Week 6

Tuesday 15th November Footsteps Dance continues

Wednesday 16th Nov Kinder 2017 Parent Information Night

Friday 18th November Primary Assembly—Year 4—2.15pm

Week 7

Tuesday 22nd November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 25th November Infants Assembly—Choir—2.15pm

Week 8

Tuesday 29th November Footsteps Dance continues

Friday 2nd December Primary Assembly—Year 5—2.15pm



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

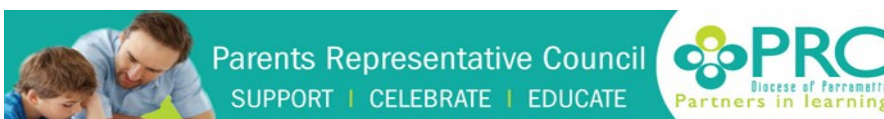
Weekday Masses

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)



Term 4, 2016 General Meeting - Mon 14 Nov 2016: Topic Future Directions/Where we're heading in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

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