



Dear Parents

With the summer break right around the corner I am sure you are all looking forward to some rest and relaxation with the family. For some of you this may involve holidaying near the ocean, river or swimming pool. One of the most important safety skills we must ensure our children have, is the ability to swim. Australia is surrounded by water and the availability of water sports is very enticing for teenagers. It is very important that our children are equipped with this very important life skill long before their teen years. I have included below some tips regarding swimming, from champion swimming coach Mr Laurie Lawrence. From all accounts, for swimming instruction to be the most effective, it must be continual and slow. Short bursts of swimming instruction are nowhere near as effective as those undertaken at a very early age on a weekly basis. Mr Lawrence's main message, especially for parents that cannot afford swimming lessons is that, "children can learn great swimming and water safety skills through regular play and exploration under adult supervision".

Tip 1. Exposure is the key

Children with home pools usually turn into the best little swimmers. Why? Because they are in the pool every day. Laurie suggests taking your child at least twice a week for a swim. He said "kids going regularly for a play will even have an advantage over kids who only have one swimming lesson a week"

Tip 2: Master independent floating

Laurie believes "floating is the basis of all learn to swim". He encourages parents to make independent floating on the front and back the first priority. He recommends parents avoid "floaties" and teach natural buoyancy and a feel of the water. Laurie said "children who can float learn to move efficiently through the water rather than thrashing and struggling to keep themselves afloat". Kickboards can be used for balance in the early learning stages.

Tip 3. Encourage independence

While Laurie insists supervision at arms length is vital, he believes that independence is the key to build great swimming skills. For this reason he encourages parents to wear a t shirt and not to over handle their children in the pool. Laurie said "stay low in the water and let children grip you, teach them to recover independently instead of picking them up after swims". Laurie suggests playing in shallow water, monkey hands around pool edges and climbing out of the pool to build independence. He said "building independence will teach children their limitations, boundaries and a respect for the water".

Tip 4. Build skills slowly

According to Laurie learning to swim properly will take years to accomplish. Laurie said "people try to rush and put too many skills together at the same time". He explains that you should build one skill at a time and follow the learning progressions of water familiarisation, breath control, submersion, floating, kicking, paddling and breathing. Laurie said "water safety skills should underpin the entire learn to swim process".

Tip 5. Swimming must be fun

Don't forget to have fun, fun, fun! Laurie believes that being in the water with your child is perfect for bonding and giving them your undivided attention. Laurie recommends parents model safe swimming behaviours and teaching children to read and follow pool rules.

While the swimming pool is the greatest hazard, Laurie stresses that children must learn about water safety in all environments. With the support of the Australian Government, Laurie has produced a water safety DVD, music CD and 4 books to help teach children safety messages in a fun way. This pack has been delivered free to every early learning centre and swim school in Australia by Australia Post. Parents can also access these materials for free at the following link <http://kidsalive.com.au/early-childhood-program/>. Laurie also has a [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#) where he regular shares tips on how to teach swimming and water safety.

Parramatta and Holroyd areas have many swim schools that can offer swimming lessons for the children.

The school is not in the position to recommend any individual swim school and parents are advised to research eg through recommendation from other parents, the best swim school for their children. Perhaps Santa can gift your child with swimming lessons for 2017. It is a gift your children would be grateful for forever.

God bless you and your families
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

KIDS ALIVE – DO THE FIVE!

1. Fence the pool
2. Shut the gate
3. Teach your kids to swim – it's great
4. Supervise – watch your mate and
5. Learn how to resuscitate





Honour Award

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

KA	Marcelino Elhalabi
KM	Lachlan Moore
1C	Adrian Sicurella
1S	Dylan Amaral
2M	Olivia Wehbe
2Y	Renee Kougellis



st patrick's award

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

KA	Aiden Ebrahim
KM	Cynthia Daher
1C	Lewis Khalil
1S	Emmanuel Missak
2M	Feima Koima
2Y	Ruby Younan



2016 Christmas Concert

When Tuesday 13th December

5.45pm Children to assemble outside OLMC hall, to be welcomed and seated by teachers.

Adults to please line up in designated area outside the hall for entry at 6.15pm

6.15pm Doors open for **audience** to be seated. (Please leave room for children to be handed to teachers)

6.30pm Concert begins

Where OLMC Hall

What to wear Christmas colours, clothes suitable for dancing. Because of the terrible mess it makes, no tinsel please. No heels or thongs

We are looking forward to celebrating with our families the end of the school year and the Christmas season with a nativity, some singing and lots of dancing.

NB: This is a compulsory school event.



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week: Jonah Freifer, Frank Agostino, Lucas Beacroft, Christian Barakat, Syrus Dig, Christina Batti, John Paul Wehbe, Jessica Wehbe

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.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

At this time of year it is so easy to become caught up in the commercialism and partying of the Christmas season. Our Graduation and Thanksgiving Masses, Christmas Concert and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal remind us that Christ is at the heart of all we do and that by reaching out to others we are living our Baptismal promises.



A **heartfelt thank you** for your overwhelming response to the *Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal*. Classes are groaning under the weight of the goodies that have been donated. There will be many families enjoying extra Christmas cheer this year because of your generosity.

In addition to the hampers, the Parramatta branch of Vinnies will be presented with a cheque for \$1275.00 which has come from the sale of ice blocks.

Thank you for your support of this fund raiser which will help needy families with school requirements in the new year.

We would not have been able to sell the ice blocks without the support of a willing band of ladies and school leaders who dealt with the hordes of customers so ably. Thank you for the gift of your time.

Catholic Mission: Mission Month Ice Block Fundraiser

Over \$900 was raised for Catholic Mission in the first half of the term. Well done and thanks again to all those who contributed to this cause by selling the ice blocks and to those who bought them!

God bless you in all the good works you do.

Jude Kerr Religious Education Coordinator

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 Luke Maroun who was awarded the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Award 2016 for excellence in the Athletics Team, Rugby Union Team and Touch Football Teams last night. Well done Luke !!!



Thank you to all the members of the choir who came to spread their Christmas spirit and joy at the St Patrick's Cathedral Christmas Carols.

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.



Condolences

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Volante Family (Sienna 4B, Biaggio 2M & Gabriella KM) on the passing of their great grandmother. Please keep the family in your prayers.

St Patrick's Parramatta

STAFF

2017

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal
Assistant Principal
Religious Education Coordinator
Coordinator 2 (Mathematics/Science)
Coordinator 2
Acting Coordinator 1 (Literacy)

Ms Bernadette Fabri
Mrs Elly Benkovich
Mrs Leanda Standring
Ms Jenny Barclay
Mr Mark Baird
To be confirmed

CLASS TEACHERS

K Matilda
K Alexander
1 Clancy
1 Sebastian
2 Mackellar
2 Young
3 Lindsay
3 Thiele
4 Brinsmead
4 Greenwood
5 Coorong
5 Timara
6 Park
6 Wrightson

Ms Elizabeth Brown
Mrs Jennifer Warn
Ms Bernadette Kashian
Ms Chantal Azar
Mrs Sue Jadrabieb
Ms Alyssa Onorato
Mr Mark Baird/Mrs Michelle Mannino
Ms Julia Hagi
Mrs Anne Fardell
Ms Louisa Takchi
Mrs Bernadette Carroll
Ms Maya Rayess
Ms Cara-Lyn Kelly
Mrs Leanda Standring/Mrs Rita Milic

SPECIALIST AND SUPPORT STAFF

Teacher Librarian
Music Specialist
Physical Education Specialist
Reading Recovery and Literacy Support
Numeracy Specialist and Lead Teacher
Literacy/Learning support

Leadership Team Release

Teacher Assistant/Admin

Mrs Debra O'Dwyer
Mrs Venitia Rodricks
Mr David Younis
Mrs Lorraine Veljkovic
Mrs Jenny Barclay
Mrs Tanya Masefield (Primary)
Mrs Bonnie Sallee (Infants)
Mrs Michelle Mannino
Mrs Rita Milic
Mrs Elaine Yuen
Mrs Dianne Attard

ADMINISTRATION

Senior Finance Secretary
Administration Officer (Front Office)

Maintenance

Mrs Sharon Nutter
Mrs Jenny Jones

Mr Sean McIntosh

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

May I take this opportunity to update you on the following staff:

FAREWELL

Mrs Jude Kerr

Good bye and Good Luck to Mrs Jude Kerr who will be retiring from full time work at the end of 2016. It is hard to put into only a few words the enormous contribution Mrs Kerr has made to St Patrick's Parramatta over the past 9 years. In that time she has had two main teaching roles at the school; that of classroom teacher and that of Reading Recovery teacher, where she has inspired many a child to learn to read. Mrs Kerr has also been a member of the leadership team for that entire time, as Religious Education Coordinator. She has organised and coordinated our beautiful liturgies and masses and has been passionate about her work with the St Patrick's Cathedral Sacramental Team. She has provided outstanding professional development to staff in the area of Religious Education and is a stoic advocate for social justice especially the plight of our Indigenous Australians. On behalf of our community I would like to thank Mrs Kerr for everything she has done for us and to wish her all of God's blessings as she travels ahead on her new life's journey.

Mrs Felicity Wallace

Good Bye and Good Luck to Mrs Wallace who is leaving St Patrick's Parramatta to pursue her teaching career in Melbourne Victoria, where her husband Chris will be taking up a new position in 2017. Mrs Wallace has been teaching at the school since 2008, excluding periods of leave to have her son, Michael. On behalf of the St Patrick's Community I would like to thank Mrs Wallace for all her contributions and wish her all the very best.

Mrs Sam Pope

After a significant time at the school, being of service to the community, Mrs Pope will be taking 12 months leave. We wish her all the very best for 2017 and look forward to her return in 2018

Ms Sasha Nederpelt

We wish Ms Nederpelt all the very best for 2017 as she takes 12 months leave. Ms Nederpelt has made a significant impact on the school and the learning and teaching, through her professional development of staff in the area of Literacy. We look forward to her return in 2018.

Mrs Linda Graham

Mrs Graham will be taking Terms 1 to 3 on Long Service Leave and is due to return to St Patrick's Parramatta in Term 4 2017

Ms Lydia Moscovis

This year we are saying goodbye to Ms Moscovis who has been the class teacher for 1C. Although we have only had a short association with Ms Moscovis we thank her for her contribution to our school and wish her all the best as she continues her career.

Mrs Eva Turkington

Farewell and thank you to Mrs Eva Turkington for her marvellous work in 1S. Mrs Turkington came out of semi retirement to take up the position as class teacher for second semester and has shared her expertise and experience with the teachers in her team. Mrs Turkington will continue to be associated with St Patrick's Parramatta on a casual basis.

Mrs Viviana Williams

12 months maternity leave

The school community will be officially thanking and farewelling these teachers throughout the next few weeks.

In order to assist with the transition of all children for 2016 we will be having a "MEET OUR NEW TEACHER" afternoon on Monday 12th December at 2.15pm. Children will spend some time getting to know their new teacher(s) and the children in their class.

WELCOME

Mr Mark Baird

We welcome the return of Mr Baird to the St Patrick's Staff for 2017. In 2016 Mr Baird took up the position of Acting Religious Education Coordinator at St Joseph's Kingswood and Holy Family at Emerton. We look forward to his return to the school.

Mrs Leanda Standring

We warmly welcome to the St Patrick's staff Mrs Leanda Standring. Mrs Standring will be taking up the position as class teacher and Religious Education Coordinator. She is a passionate and creative teacher who displays a love of learning and an energy for education. We look forward to working with Mrs Standring and I am sure you join me in congratulating her on this very important leadership appointment.

Tanya Masefield

We welcome back Mrs Tanya Masefield in 2017 who is returning from parental leave to take up the position of Literacy Support - Primary. Mrs Masefield will be working with small groups of children from Years 3 to 6 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays to support children in the area of Literacy.

Ms Bernadette Kashian

Welcome to our new staff member Ms Kashian. Ms Kashian is a very experienced classroom teacher who has recently taught Year 1 at St Joachim's Catholic Primary School at Lidcombe. We look forward to her joining the St Patrick's Staff. Welcome!

Ms Elizabeth Brown

Welcome to new staff member Ms Brown. Ms Brown is relocating to Sydney and is currently teaching Kindergarten at St Ambrose's Primary School Newmarket, Queensland. We look forward to her joining the St Patrick's Staff in 2017.

Ms Maya Rayess

Welcome to new staff member Ms Rayess is an experienced Stage 3 teacher and is currently teaching at Maronite College of the Holy Family Harris Park. We look forward to her joining the St Patrick's Staff in 2017.

Mrs Rita Milic

Welcome to new staff member Mrs Milic. Mrs Milic is a highly experienced teacher currently teaching at St Paul the Apostle Primary School, Winston Hills. We look forward to her joining the St Patrick's Staff in 2017

Mrs Bonnie Sallee

Welcome to new staff member Mrs Sallee. Mrs Sallee's speciality is Learning Support with a special interest in Literacy acquisition.

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.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H8F8VHH>

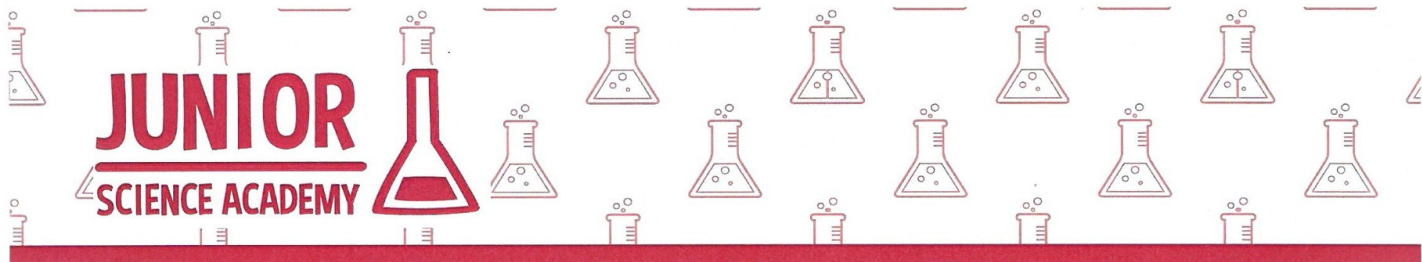
St. Patrick's Music Ensemble

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.



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.

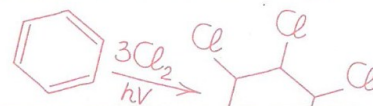
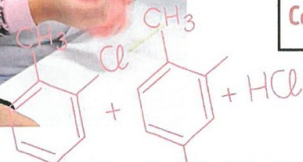
The courses aim to teach the concepts through experiments, art, drama, physical activity, craft and other hands-on activities.

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



Our Parra, our voice!

Parra MATTERS!

WAR MEMORIAL PUBLIC POOL Open & affordable

OPEN GREEN SPACE Preserved for future generations

HERITAGE BUILDINGS Respectfully restored & reused

TOURISM STRATEGY for Parramatta

Stop inappropriate **HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENT**

Join us for a public meeting

Sunday, 11 December 2016
11am Centenary Square
(outside Parramatta Town Hall)

Wear
swimmers,
towels,
caps and
floaties!

**SHOW THAT THAT YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT
YOUR CONCERNS ARE BEING IGNORED.**

Come and learn what we can do together.

facebook.com/parramattacommunity
www.nprag.org
Twitter: @NorthParraRag

**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 9

Friday 9th December	Year 6 Graduation Mass—9.15am
	Infants Assembly—Kinder—2.15pm

Week 10

Monday 12th December	Meet the Teacher Afternoon
Tuesday 13th December	Footsteps Dance continues
	Concert Evening — 6.30pm OLMC Concert Hall
Wed 14th December	Swimming Carnival—Yr 2 to Yr 6
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

2016 Swimming Carnival

This year our St Patrick's Swimming Carnival will be held on **Wednesday 14th December 2016 at Parramatta Swimming Pool**. All students in **Years 2 to 6** will be expected to attend the Carnival and participate in either race events or novelty activities.

For your child to compete in race events they **MUST BE A COMPETENT AND CONFIDENT SWIMMER ABLE TO SWIM 50m WITHOUT STOPPING**. Students competing in race events will be given novelty time at the end of the Carnival in the 50m pool if time permits. If your child is not a confident and competent 50m swimmer please indicate that they will participate in the novelty events in the smaller pool. They will be under the supervision of teachers and time permitting will receive a couple of sessions. **STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NOVELTY ACTIVITIES ONLY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE 50m RACE POOL AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY**. The safety of students is paramount and therefore we rely on parents and students to demonstrate their full cooperation.

To ensure child safety and monitoring, parents are requested not to ask to collect children early from the carnival.



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)