



St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

9th November 2017 Term 4 Week 5

Dear Parents

Every Monday afternoon, after work, the six members of the leadership team gather to meet regarding key elements of our school planning, ranging from learning in all areas, children and parent feedback, school events, professional development of staff and the school calendar, just to name a few. In our efforts to be efficient and collaborative, much of what we record is now undertaken using our laptops or ipads, generally using Google Drive. This is a magnificent tool for collaborative practice and enables all team members to see what is being typed and planned.

As important as this tool is however, one of the team members brought forward an observation that had a significant impact on me and how we interact with each other when devices are present, and one that you may have experienced also. What she noticed was, whilst our discussions were positive, solution based and fluent, we were beginning to slump into some very poor and potentially toxic habits. When we reflected on some of her concerns we realised that this was what was happening: We were losing eye contact with each other especially when someone was speaking, as we were looking at our screens, we were being tempted to 'multitask' instead of paying full attention to what was being said, recording of ideas was being done by anyone who had a device and this sometimes resulted in a confusion of cursors, and worst of all we were getting used to communicating this way. Interestingly the staff member who thankfully brought it to our attention was the one member without a device at the meeting - not because she could not use it - but her preference was the use of a hardcopy diary and notes.

There was absolutely no argument from the team that we did not wish to continue running our meetings this way and that we preferred to focus on each other fully, so we decided to set up some norms as to how we would manage the agenda and minutes. In light of this discussion we made some quite simple changes, such as, closing the laptop when we are in the professional development/discussion section of our meeting - which formed the main body of our time together.

What I have described and experienced is certainly not unusual and I am sure you can recall a time when you have experienced something similar. In the online magazine 'the Atlantic', journalist Lauren Casani Davis interviews clinical psychologist and sociologist Sherry Turkle, who has spent the past 30 years observing how people react and adapt to new technologies that change the way we communicate. Turkle argues "that texts, tweets, Facebook posts, emails, instant messages, and snapchats—simultaneous, rapid-fire "sips" of online communication—have replaced face-to-face conversation, and that people are noticing the consequences." I know teachers often comment on how our students seem to be showing signs of losing the art of communicating and that their preference is definitely playing on their devices than talking with other kids. Her latest book, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* is a very interesting read and some of the points she makes in the book and in the interview with Ms Davis are worth noting. These include:

- **'if you have a phone on the table between two people, the people in the conversation feel less connected to each other.'**
- **'We suppress this capacity [feeling empathy], by putting ourselves in environments where we're not looking at each other in the eye, not sticking with the other person long enough or hard enough to follow what they're feeling.'**
- **'I [Turkle] interviewed this group of college students, and one of them said, "Our texting is fine, it's what our texting is doing to our conversations when we're together, that's the problem." I think social media is great. The question is, are we on a diet of social media that's hurting our face-to-face conversation? And if we are, how can we put ourselves on a different kind of diet? That's the conversation I'm trying to start.'**
- **'[mobile devices], I think unlike other similar technologies, make three promises. I call it "three gifts from a benevolent genie": that you'll never have to be alone, that your voice will always be heard, that you can put your attention wherever you want it to be. And that you can slip in and out of wherever you are to be wherever you want to be, with no social stigma. [These devices create] a new set of social mores that allow for a split attention in human relationships and human community.'**

Whilst all this sounds quite depressing because users of technology realise that it is true, the wonderful message in Turkle's work is that we can do something about it - just like the actions taken by the Leadership Team. Her recommendation is that we find different ways to take a bit of device-free time. For some, it will be when we go away on holidays and for some it will be an agreed practice in the family to be 'device free' during a particular time of day eg at the dinner table or on a certain day of the week. I think becoming aware of what is happening to the communication in the family and actively deciding to combat the effects, is a great start. If you have some good ideas that you would like to share with others in the school community regarding this topic, please let us know and we will publish in the next newsletter.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri



Is there an age limit for kids on social media?



Most social media services and apps require users to be 13 years old to join.

WHAT ABOUT APPS?
App stores set their own age ratings based on the app's content.



WHY 13?

This is usually to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA)—a US law preventing the collection and storage of personal information from a child under 13.



Age Guide to Social Media



SOCIAL MEDIA	TERMS OF USE - MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS	APP STORE RATING	GOOGLE PLAY RATING
ASK.fm ASK.fm	13+	12+	12+
CLUB PENGUIN Club Penguin	All ages (Directed at 6-14 year olds)	4+	G-General
EA EA (Electronic Arts)	18+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	n/a	G-General
f Facebook	13+	4+	12+
Messenger Facebook Messenger	13+	4+	3+
o Flickr	13+	12+	12+
l Foursquare	13+	4+	12+
G+ Google+	13+	17+	12+
i Instagram	13+	12+	12+
keek Keek	13+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	12+	12+
k. Kik	13+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	12+	12+
in LinkedIn	14+	4+	3+
M Minecraft	All ages (Parental permission required to create mojang account if user is under 13)	n/a	M-Mature (Pocket Edition)
Moshi Monsters Moshi Monsters	All ages (Directed at 6-12 year olds. If user is under 13, parent's email is required)	4+	G-General
P Pinterest	13+	12+	12+
S Skype	18+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	4+	3+
SN Snapchat	13+	12+	12+
S Spotafriend	13-19 yrs only	17+	16+
Steam Steam	13+	17+	12+
T Tinder	18+ (Facebook account required to register)	17+	18+
t Tumblr	13+	17+	12+
T Twitter	13+	4+	12+
v Vimeo	13+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	17+	12+
V Vine	13+	17+	12+
W WhatsApp	16+	4+	3+
y Yellow	13+ (With parental permission up to 17yrs)	12+	12+
Y YouTube	13+	17+	12+

* Age guide based on published Terms of Use and app store ratings as at April 2016.

Scholastic Sch Yr Attendance Level %

Year	Attendance Level %
K	96.0%
01	87.1%
02	88.5%
03	86.2%
04	89.7%
05	90.4%
06	85.5%

CEDP Attendance Benchmark Target Level = 90%

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 89.1%

Not Returning to St Patrick's in 2018

Thank you to the parents who have informed the office that their child will not be returning to St Patrick's in 2018. If your child is not returning to St Patrick's in 2018 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 2018. This does not apply to year 6 students.



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

Daniel Saleh, Andre Eltakchi, Noah Gebrael, Maria Wahbe, Michael Aboumelhem, Michel Kazzaz, Eimear Mitchell, Ellen Nikolakopoulos, Andrew Doumit, Jack Gittany, Gabriella Mendoza, Josef Chedid, Katerina Yannakis



Honour Award

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

KA	Ray J Wehbe
KM	Daniel Semaan
1C	Joshua Nasr
1S	Aidan Connolly
2M	Daniel Saleh
2Y	Lauren Polintan



st patrick's award

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

KA	Kaylani Elphinstone
KM	Annabelle Johnson
1C	Elio Layoun
1S	Christian Donaldson
2M	Jubran Sayegh
2Y	Lucia El Hani

NOTIFICATION REGARDING GATE CLOSURE IN 2018

To ensure full compliance with the school's timetable hours (8.50am to 3.00pm) please be aware that as from **Term 1, 2018 the main gate will be locked at the official gazetted school start time, that is at 8.50am.** This will mean that any child who arrives after 8.50am will require an adult to sign them in and this will be recorded as a partial absence. We are no longer able to continue to give children the 10mins grace period. It is hoped that giving families this early notification will assist parents whose children are currently arriving late to school ie after 8.50am. It is our recommendation that parents and children begin working on strategies now, to try to arrive by the starting time. Below are some suggestions to help improve this punctuality.

1. Prepare as much as you can the night before
2. Identify and overcome distractions
3. Make your morning routine visual
4. Delegate some responsibility
5. Make yourself scarce
6. Be willing to take your child to school even if they aren't fully ready

Please contact your child's class teacher or members of the leadership team if we can be of any assistance.

Regards

Bernadette Fabri

St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2018 DATES

Week One 2018	Monday 29th January 2018	Tuesday 30th January 2018	Wednesday 31st January 2018	Thursday 1st February 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
	Staff Development Day – Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Staff Development Day – Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	All students commence the 2018 school year. Kindergarten to Year 6		
	Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher on any of these 2 days.				



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Banksia Road Public School Community on the tragic death of two of their students and to those that were injured. Please keep these families and the school community in your prayers.

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NAME THE CRANE COMPETITION



Last Friday members of Lendlease came to St Patrick's to invite all students to enter the 'Name the Crane' Competition. Lendlease is the company that are constructing the new Western Sydney Stadium. The competition is open to all students and they are asked to make up a name for the large crane that has been delivered to the stadium site. The children will then need to explain in a few words why they have chosen that name. The judges will be looking for the most creative names and decorative colouring in, The winner and runner up will get a book voucher for their class to the value of \$500/\$250 and will have their 'name' displayed on the site. They will be invited with their parents to the unveiling. Children will be given time in class to enter. All finalists will need a signed parent approval and release form completed. Some important dates include:

1. Launch of competition (4/10/17 2.00pm)
 2. Close of competition (17/11/17)
 3. Winner announced (24/11/17 8.50am)
 4. Morning assembly Unveiling of winning artwork involving winner/runner up and parents/teacher (onsite 6/12/17)
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GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Join us for a girls' *pamper and shopping night.*



St Patrick's Cathedral Hall

1 Marist Pl. Parramatta

Saturday 11 November

7pm - 10pm

Enjoy a mini manicure, facial peel or an express massage while you get your Christmas shopping in early.

Stalls include – candles, jewellery, children's clothing, children's activity packs and more.

Please rsvp secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au for catering purposes.

Proceeds go to St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta

ALTAR SERVERS

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish is currently looking for children in Year Five and above who are interested in joining the team of Altar Servers. They are an important part of the liturgical team at the Cathedral and I encourage all students who are interested to contact Mrs Standing for an expression of interest form.

Sacrament of Penance

Please add these important dates to your diary;

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 11 November | Sacrament of Penance Parent and children Session 4.30pm |
| 25 November | Sacrament of Penance - Practice for Penance 4pm |
| 28 November | Sacraments of Initiation - 7pm |



ICE BLOCKS !! We are selling ice blocks every Friday until the end of term. Each child may buy **ONE** ice block at \$1.00 each.

KINDY ORIENTATION

Thank you to all the parents and children who attended the Kindy Orientation mornings this week. It was so lovely to meet all the children again and listen to the wise words articulated by our experienced parents to the new parents. This session up in the library was greatly appreciated by the new families who felt both supported and informed by such a wonderful community. Thank you again everyone involved.

THE EARLY YEARS OF SCHOOL

Starting school means lots of changes for you and your child. It is crucial to plan and talk about safe travel to and from school with your child.

Starting school probably means your child will see themselves as a “big kid”. They may even want to travel to school by themselves, with friends or siblings. However, your young child is still developing many of the skills they need to be safe in a road traffic environment.

- Until your child is at least 8 years old, hold their hand:
 - on the footpath
 - in the car park
 - when crossing the road
- Up until at least 10 years old, supervise your child very closely, holding their hand when crossing the road. If a hand isn't available they should hold an arm, bag, clothes or the pram.
- In the early years of your child's schooling, there are many road safety considerations for you to think about.
- The route to and from school may be unfamiliar
- Plan a safe route together and practice walking it on weekends or school holidays. As you walk together, talk about all the things you are doing to keep you both safe.
- Most journeys to and from school are in peak hours
- Roads are full of people and vehicles. The roads around schools are busy places and can make the journey to school hazardous. Always closely and actively supervise your child. Hold hands together when walking on the footpath and crossing the road. You should do this until they are at least ten years old.
- The beginning and end of the school day can be hectic
- Entering or leaving the school can be a source of great excitement or even stress! Your child may not be focused on their own safety. Arrange a safe place to meet inside the school grounds or on the school side of the road. Never call your child across the road.
- Using and sharing pedestrian road safety messages
- At school, your child will learn about road safety as part of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Help them learn the pedestrian safety messages by using them and sharing them whenever you are out and about.
- Hold a grown-up's hand when you're:
 - on the footpath
 - in a carpark
 - crossing the road



2017 School Calendar

Term 4

Week 5

Friday 10th November Ice Blocks will be sold at lunch time
Infants Assembly—Year 2—2.15pm

Week 6

Tuesday 14th November 'Footsteps' Dance continues
Wednesday 15th November Year 6 Camp
Kinder 2018 Parent Information Night
Thursday 16th November Year 6 Camp
Friday 17th November Ice Blocks will be sold at lunch time
Primary Assembly—Year 5—2.15pm

Week 7

Tuesday 21st November 'Footsteps' Dance continues
Friday 24th November Ice Blocks will be sold at lunch time
Infants Assembly—Year 1—2.15pm

Week 8

Tuesday 28th November 'Footsteps' Dance continues
Wednesday 29th November Swimming Carnival
Friday 1st December Ice Blocks will be sold at lunch time
Primary Assembly—Year 4—2.15pm

Week 9

Tuesday 5th December 'Footsteps' Dance continues
Friday 8th December Year 6 Graduation Mass—9.15am
Infants Assembly—Kinder— 2.15pm

Week 10

Monday 11th December Christmas Concert—1pm OLMC Hall (TBC)
Tuesday 12th December 'Footsteps' Dance continues
Friday 15th December Thanksgiving Mass—more details to come
Whole School Farewell Assembly
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS 2017



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

Fr George Azhakath

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale (Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)



Bus Safety Week 6 -12 November 2017

Your child is most at risk just after getting off the bus. To reduce this risk, meet your child at the bus stop, **never on the opposite side of the road.**

At the bus stop, hold hands and stand with your child, well away from the passing traffic. Never wait close to the kerb.

Wait until the bus has driven off before choosing the safest place to cross the road. Then follow the usual road crossing procedures with your child.

- **STOP!** One step back from the kerb.
- **LOOK!** For traffic to your right, left and right again.
- **LISTEN!** For the sounds of approaching traffic.
- **THINK!** Whether it is safe to cross.

Teach your child to turn their head in both directions to look and listen for traffic as they cross the road. Remember, until your child turns 10, hold your child's hand whenever you cross the road.

At school, your child will learn about road safety as part of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Help them learn the bus safety messages by using them and sharing them whenever you are out and about on a bus.

Students in Early Stage 1 to Stage 3

- Wait until the bus has gone, then use a safe place to cross the road
- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road
- Use a safe place to cross
- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road

RECENT CHANGES TO EXTENDED LEAVE (APPLICATIONS NEEDED FOR 5 DAYS OR MORE)

The Catholic Education Office have made recent changes to the application for extended leave from 10 days or more to **5 days or more.**

- Parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave during the school term. Extended leave is now considered to be 5 or more days.
- Parents/Carers must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave **prior** to commencing leave OR apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly.
- Please note that if the child does not return to school on the specified date in the application the school must be notified. If the family is not contactable the Department of Education and Training must be informed.
- On most occasions it is in the child's best interest for all holidays to be scheduled in gazetted holiday times.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Oakhill
COLLEGE

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

Christmas@Oakhill
December 1st 5.30-7.00

Join us for a family night with your picnic basket and blanket to enjoy an evening of live music and Christmas festivities!

December 1st 5.30-7.30
All Proceeds of the event go to Ronald McDonald House

Face painting, sausage BBQ
&
of course a visit from Santa!

Free ticketed event
Get your tickets at Trybooking.com
'Christmas@Oakhill'

OZ FASHIONS
The Uniform Specialist

OZ Fashions - The Uniform Specialist
115 - 127 Parramatta Road
Granville NSW 2142
PHONE: (02) 98973121
FAX: (02) 9897 3222
WEB: www.ozfashions.com.au
EMAIL: joe@ozfashions.com.au

Entry into car park via lane ways:
* Good Street
* Gray Street
* Kemp Street

OZ Fashions - Trading Hours
Monday: 9am - 5:30pm
Tuesday: 9am - 5:30pm
Wednesday: 9am - 5:30pm
Thursday: 9am - 5:30pm
Friday: 9am - 5:30pm
Saturday: 9am - 4pm
Sunday/ Public Holidays: Closed

Clarks
CLEARANCE MASSIVE SALE
25% - 50% OFF

	RRP	OZ SALE PRICE
ALLIANCE	\$100.00	\$80.00
DAYTONA YOUTH	\$135.00	\$90.00
DAYTONA ADULT	\$140.00	\$95.00
STANFORD YOUTH	\$135.00	\$90.00
STANFORD ADULT	\$140.00	\$95.00
GLACIER	\$130.00	\$80.00
GRO SHU	\$100.00	\$50.00
RAPTURE	\$100.00	\$80.00
RESPONSE	\$100.00	\$50.00
SAWYER	\$135.00	\$80.00
VANCOUVER	\$85.00	\$70.00
VENTURA	\$85.00	\$70.00



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

College Open Morning Tour

Wednesday November 15, 2017

expanding beyond what we know we can be

Our Lady of Lebanon Co Cathedral
MARRIED COUPLES DAY

Living in Love
as man and woman
with Byron & Francine Pirola

Men and women are different in so many ways! For many couples these differences can easily become a source of tension and misunderstanding.

Join Byron & Francine Pirola unpack the male female dynamic and show you how to apply the insights to reinvigorate your connection.

Date: Sunday Nov 19, 2017
Time: 9am - 5pm (refreshments from 8.30am)
Venue: St Joseph's Conference Centre
64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills
Cost: \$100 per couple

Program
8:30 Refreshments on arrival
9:00 Welcome & Warmup
9:30 Part 1
11:00 Morning Tea
11:30 Part 2
1:30 Lunch
2:30 Part 3
3:30 Adoration, Reconciliation
4:00 Mass
5:00 Close

More information:
Joanne: 0416 234 003
To register email:
olofamilycommittee@gmail.com