



St Patrick's Primary School

Newsletter

15th February 2018 Term 1 Week 3

2018

Dates to Remember

February

Week 3

Friday 16th Whole School Assembly
School Hall—2pm

Week 4

Monday 19th Triskills
Tuesday 20th Triskills
Friday 23rd Diocesan Swimming
Carnival
Infants Assembly—Yr 1
School Hall—2.15pm

Week 5

Monday 26th Triskills
Tuesday 27th Triskills

March

Friday 2nd Primary Assembly—Yr 6
School Hall—2.15pm

Week 6

Monday 5th Triskills
Tuesday 6th Triskills
Friday 9th Infants Assembly—Kindy
School Hall—2.15pm

Week 7

Monday 12th Welcoming Ceremony
Kindy Students & New
families to the school
NO TRISKILLS

Dear Parents

Yesterday, Wednesday 14th February Year 1 to 6 gathered in the cathedral to celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is marked by the distribution of ashes made from the burning of palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The ashes used came from the burning of the palms at Tuesday's morning assembly. Father Bob introduced this symbolic action with prayer, blessed the palms and explained to the children the importance of this element/ritual to our Religious Education and growing faith.

In his beautiful homily Father Bob continued the theme introduced at the Opening School Mass where he spoke about the importance of good foundations in our lives. He related this concept to the foundations of a skyscraper which need to be deep, strong and reliable. He connected this image with the foundation stones the children were holding during mass: These foundation stones had key gospel values displayed. They were: Honesty, Compassion, Good Deeds, Resilience, Forgiveness, Justice, Tolerance and Respect.

Father Bob challenged all of us in the cathedral to think of the opposite condition of these values and to reflect which one spoke to us. He then sent us away with the task of choosing one of the values to focus on and to write our reflections on how we are demonstrating this faith in action weekly in our religion books or journal. This reflective practice, even identifying times when we have not shown compassion, for example, is a very important skill in developing empathy and mindfulness.

During the Ash Wednesday Liturgy Father Bob went one step further in explaining that if we truly tried to embed this chosen value in our lives that this would lead to positive changes. I imagine this change have an effect on us and those around us. He encouraged us to pray, fast and help the poor to enrich this process.

Already today I noticed children reflecting in their religion books on what Father spoke about. I feel that this is a very worthwhile and simple activity that you can do as a family. Let us pray that this Lent we will transform ourselves, in some way, towards becoming the people God created us to be.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 96.4%

K = 98.2%

3 = 95.2%

1 = 98.3%

4 = 98.3%

2 = 96.4%

5 = 95.0%

6 = 93.4%



Opening School Mass

Reflections from Sandra Moussa:

In 2018 there is a high demand for our community to show what Jesus Christ is about and who he is! Saint Francis of Assisi said it best when he proclaimed "Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary use words". What does this quote mean? This is telling us that proclaiming the Gospel by example or the way we live has more impact than actually our words and voices. We need to display the characteristics of what we believe as Catholics, some of these include respect, compassion, forgiveness, love, acceptance and resilience.

A saying my mum always taught me as I was growing up and till now that seems to keep coming to my mind is that it "costs nothing to anyone to be kind". Yet for us as humans how easy it is to quickly anger, judge and treat people so cruelly. Jesus showed us that no matter what life throws at us it is important always be truthful and honest. Most importantly he spoke about the need for forgiveness and compassion. Mother Teresa so beautifully said that if we are "so busy judging people we don't have the time to love them". We all make mistakes and that's ok but if we remember to do things for people not because of who they are and what they can do in return but rather because of who we are and what we stand, for we are a living example of good deeds.

So what does this look like in real life? We may not be able to do big things like donate to the poor or feed the homeless but we can do the small things - sitting with a person who is alone on the playground, invite them to play with you and your friends. Smile at the next person that passes you, that may be the best part of their day and as I said before it doesn't cost anything to show kindness yet the effect is priceless. I say these little things make a difference because I was on the receiving end of this at the beginning of last year. For those who don't know me I started at Saint Patrick's last year in year 5. Year 5 was an incredible experience for me. So I want to take a minute to thank my beautiful teachers Mrs Rayess, Mrs Williams and the whole grade who walked with me in kindness, respect and love through the year and helped me through the good and bad times.

So this year I want to pay it forward and invite you to join me on this journey and let's "Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary lets use words" be consciously spreading love to everyone around us no matter what. Thank you for listening and let our journey begin'

SRC/House Captains Whole School Assembly

A Whole school Assembly will be held on Friday 16th February at **2pm** to celebrate the election/selection of the Student Representative Council Members and House Captains. During the assembly the selected students will be receiving their SRC badges and House Colour badges. You are all welcome to attend the assembly and congratulate these students.

SRC - Semester 1, 2018

<u>Class</u>	<u>SRC Names</u>
KM	Boy: Benjamin Kalouche Girl: Jasmine Rizk
KA	Boy: Frank Malkoun Girl: Grace Talbot
IC	Boy: Panayioti Yannakis Girl: Eva Jakopovic
1S	Boy: Elijah Skaf Girl: Sara Lorenzo
2Y	Boy: Sebastian El Hani Girl: Marie Rahme
2M	Boy: Xavier Moujalli Girl: Abbey Matta
3L	Boy: Raymond Joe Khoury Girl: Estelle Perrett
3T	Boy: Remon Wehbe Girl: Amariah Tamaro
4B	Boy: Jacob Manago Girl: Isabella Chivers
4G	Boy: Michael Aboumelhem Girl: Ruby Younan
5C	Boy: Elias Nakle Girl: Scarlet Khoury
5T	Boy: Zachery Khattar Girl: Brooklyn Munro

House Captains - Semester 1, 2018

Rafael Buitizon	Isabella Younes
Oisin Ryan	Ivanka Markovic
Hamish McGlinn	Jayda Tarabay
Christian Stojkovski	Sienna Volante



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

Adrian Sicurella, Jazmyne Drosos, Anastasia Naudi, Dante Dagostino, Christian Sta Rosa, Diana Granados Gavito, Josh Blanquera Pangan, Georgia-Rose Rizk

2018 School Fees

Statements will be mailed out the end of Week 3 (16/2/2018) with a due date of 21st March, 2018. Directions for direct debits or bpays will be included in the mailout, please take note of dates required to return forms.

ICE BLOCKS



Nothing is more refreshing on a hot summer day than a icy cold ice-block! We will be selling ice-blocks every Friday starting this week. They will cost \$1 and will be available every Friday during lunch.

The proceeds will go towards organising a wonderful St Patrick's Day celebration for your children, to be held later in the term. Many thanks to Mrs Rahme for coordinating the selling of the ice-blocks and to her team of helpers for giving up their time for our students. If you are interested in helping sell the ice-blocks on Friday and can spare 1 hour between 1.00pm and 2pm please contact the office.

DON'T FORGET!



SCHOLASTIC
Book Club

orders are due:
16th February 2018

As of 2018 we will no longer accept cash/cheque for Book Club in the office. All orders will need to be processed through the LOOP platform. Please see instructions included in this newsletter. If you require help completing this order please contact Mrs Jones in the office.

2018 CUMBERLAND ZONE SWIMMING RESULTS

What a wonderful day considering the hot, hot weather and humidity!

*"Special thanks to the student representatives from **St Patrick's, Parramatta** for keeping us nourished throughout the day."*
Margaret Thornton (Primary Sport Teaching Educator Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.)

*'I was at zone today please pass on my thanks and congrats to the wonderful hospitality children. They were well dressed, well mannered, happy and great at their jobs. These yr 6 children were fantastic ambassadors for your school. Well done' **Feedback from a staff member from another school:** Kerrie*

Congratulations !!!!!

11yrs Girls Champion

Mikayla Saleh

St Patrick's

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all the students who attended the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival. Our students were a credit to themselves, their families and their school both in and out of the water. Congratulations to every one of our swimmers for their commitment and efforts.

The following students have made it through to the next level of competition:

Ayoub, Michael — 10 Years 50m Breaststroke and 50m Butterfly

Chidiac, Harrison — 11 Years 50m Breaststroke

Saleh, Daniel — 9 Years 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke

Saleh, Mikayla — 11 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly and 200m IM

St Pat's - P, Female — Senior 4x50m Relay

St Pat's - P, Male — Junior 4x50m Relay

Good luck to all our competitors in the Diocesan Carnival.

Mark Baird—Sports Coordinator



every learner
every day ✓


Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

Writers Corner



Welcome back to a new school year! Another year older, another year wiser, and another year of stories to tell! Writing allows you to put your thoughts out into the world for other people to enjoy! Keep an eye out for the writing prompt in our school newsletter and get those pens wriggling!

Parents, we'd **love** to read your contributions too!

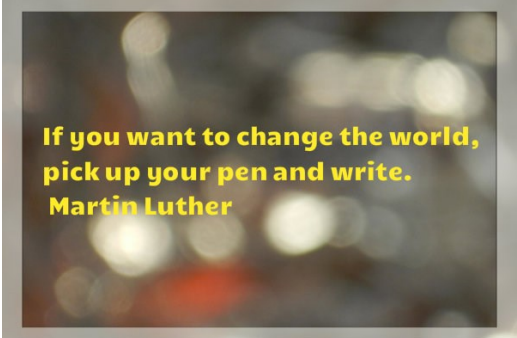
Our writing prompt this week is:

Would you rather have the power to fly, or the power to become invisible? Why?

You can present your answer in any way you choose and it can be as long or as short as you like! Remember that other students, teachers and parents will be reading your responses, so make sure your writing is easy to read or typed.

Submissions for this week will be due on Tuesday, February 20. Please hand them in to your teachers and I will have them displayed!

Happy Writing!
Mrs Stojanovski
Literacy Coordinator

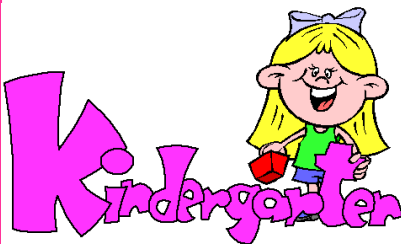


**If you want to change the world,
pick up your pen and write.
Martin Luther**



Reminder to Parents—Lunch Utensils

Just a reminder that if your child requires a spoon or fork to eat their recess or lunch we would appreciate you putting a plastic fork or spoon in their lunch box. No knives please.



ENROLMENTS FOR 2018 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN

Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2018 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.

When you return the enrolment you will need to bring your child's original Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parent's and child's if born overseas), Immunization Certificates and proof of address (council rates, drivers licence). We will photo copy these and return them to you at this time.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2018.

ENROLMENT CRITERIA

Who can enrol in a Catholic school?

Children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before 31 July are eligible for enrolment for Kindergarten that year. By law, all children must be enrolled in school by their sixth birthday. For more information on the Diocesan guidelines for enrolment please see www.parra.catholic.edu.au

What if my child already attends a Catholic primary school in the Diocese?

A child who has completed primary education in a Catholic parish-based primary school will usually be offered continuity of enrolment in a Catholic secondary school. If no places exist at the chosen school, Catholic Education's Director System Performance will assist families to enrol in another Catholic secondary school in the Diocese.

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2019



Catherine McAuley is a Catholic girls' secondary school, located at Westmead. Our broad curriculum encourages young women to pursue independent lifelong learning.



OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 13 March 2018 4.00pm - 7.00pm

This school open event will give visitors the opportunity to tour the school and view facilities as well as meet our School Principal and School Leadership Team

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL ON 9849 9100 FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK. APPLICATIONS CLOSE 6TH APRIL 2018

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead

www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Open Day

Sunday March 11, 2018

expanding beyond what we know we can be

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.



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)



14 February 2018
Ash Wednesday

Dear brothers and sisters in ministry,

Earlier this week, Fairfax Media ran a series of articles on the alleged wealth of the Catholic Church in Australia and the way it deals with survivors of abuse. These articles appear to be part of a relentless campaign with similar articles likely to be published in the future.

Though these articles are mostly concerned with the financial position of the Archdioceses of Sydney and Melbourne, it is a timely reminder for us to look at what the Diocese of Parramatta is doing in the area of providing justice to survivors of abuse.

As the articles highlight, in the light of the extent of the abuse in the Church and its handling by some Church leaders, it is reasonable for people to have lost trust in the Church. As the Diocese of Parramatta, we need to rebuild this trust. It is incumbent upon us to rebuild a broken Church.

In the Diocese of Parramatta, we are constantly looking at ways to enact and demonstrate accountability and transparency in the responsible administration of the resources of the Church, despite the media reports.

In the Diocese of Parramatta, our commitment to survivors of abuse comes first. We take this commitment very seriously. We have honoured most claims of abuse brought forward from survivors and we are in the process of finalising other claims. We also have arrangements in place to meet the financial obligations to survivors of abuse.

Any suggestion that we would not honour financial commitments to a survivor of abuse to “protect” our financial assets is wrong and misleading.

It is important to note that the Catholic Church in Australia was the first organisation to commit to a National Redress Scheme. We remain fully supportive of this endeavour.

What needs to be clear is that “Church property”, usually acquired through the generous donations and volunteer work of generations of Catholics, cannot simply be compared to a normal commercial building. Church property usually belongs to an individual parish or is held in trust. Comparing a commercial building to a Church property is not the same thing and would be like comparing apples to oranges.

As Bishop of Parramatta, I reiterate my pledge to work towards having the best systems in place to protect children from harm in the future when they engage in ministry of the Diocese of Parramatta.

My offer to meet with every survivor of abuse in this Diocese is ongoing and I will continue my work in this area.

The Diocese of Parramatta remains committed to responding to survivors of abuse with justice, compassion, integrity, care and professionalism.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL

Bishop of Parramatta

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T: 02 8838 3400 F: 02 9630 4813 E: bishop@parra.catholic.org.au W: www.parracatholic.org

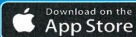
Book Club LOOP

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform.

It's easy to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order using your credit card. If your school is not yet in the **LOOP**, speak with your school's Book Club Organiser.

Head to **scholastic.com.au/LOOP**

or



Follow these **easy** steps!

1 Simply grab your child's Book Club catalogue and either **SIGN-IN** or **REGISTER** your account.

2 Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for), then select your **SCHOOL** and your **CHILD'S CLASS**.

Note: You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school.

Looking for **MORE** product information? Additional content such as videos and downloads are available for select titles. Select your issue and enter the item number to view information on titles and some great resources, such as videos and reviews.

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [REGISTER](#) | [HELP](#)



LOOKING FOR MORE PRODUCT INFORMATION?

Item No.

FIND

3 Click on **ORDER** and enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue.

4 All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date.

That's it! There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school.

SCHOLASTIC



coles SPORTS for SCHOOLS

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET COLLECTING

Remind family and friends to share their vouchers with your school. The more you collect, the more sports gear your school will receive!



Learning Difficulties Coalition NSW Inc.

For Parents, Teachers & Health Professionals

Understanding Anxiety for Students with Learning Challenges

Presented by Dr Maria Ivanka Milic
Clinical Psychologist

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Term 1 Seminar

www ldc.org.au

VENUE:

Castle Hill RSL, Phoenix Room,
77 Castle St, Castle Hill

TIME / DATE:

Registration 9.30am
Seminar with question time 10am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 27th March 2018

PARKING:

Free parking at the Club

COST:

Seminar Payment Only

\$35 Seminar - LDC Member
\$70 Seminar - Non LDC member

Seminar & NEW Membership Offer

\$68 Seminar entry & NEW Individual membership (until 31 May 2019)
\$85 Seminar entry & NEW School membership (until 31 May 2019)

Anxiety is an emotion commonly experienced by everyone when faced with challenging situations. School life has daily challenges for students needing to be able to organise themselves, and demonstrate previous learning whilst acquiring new learning. These attempts are frequently observed by classmates and in many instances evaluated by teachers. Students with learning difficulties are likely to experience greater challenges relative to their peers. Research suggests a higher prevalence of anxiety in children with learning difficulties which is partially related to these extra life challenges they face.

This workshop aims to increase parents', teachers' and other professionals' understanding of anxiety in children and adolescents, and to provide a repertoire of cognitive and behavioural strategies that can be used to support them in managing their anxiety at home and in school.

2 registrants @ member rates per Individual Membership (Member + guest)

6 staff @ member rates per School/Organisation Membership

Register online @ www ldc.org.au OR send completed form with payment to the LDC.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT must be received by Tuesday 20th March 2018

(Please note: LMBR/ EdConnect payments accepted late)