



St Patrick's Primary School

Newsletter

15th March 2018 Term 1 Week 7

2018

Dates to Remember

March

Week 7—Catholic Schools Week

Friday 16th St Patrick's Day
Celebrations

Week 8

Monday 19th Triskills
Tuesday 20th Triskills
Thursday 22nd Year 3—2pm—3pm
Celebration of Learning
Friday 23rd Primary Cross Country
(Runners only)

Week 9

Monday 26th Triskills
Tuesday 27th Triskills
Wednesday 28th Triskills
Thursday 29th Year 2—2pm—3pm
Celebration of Learning
Friday 30th GOOD FRIDAY

April

Week 10

Monday 2nd EASTER MONDAY
Tuesday 3rd Triskills
Wednesday 4th Triskills
Thursday 5th Primary Choir
NSW Police Force
Year 5—2pm—3pm
Celebration of Learning
Friday 6th School Disco

Week 11

Friday 13th LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Dear Parents

This week is the third of three parts focussing on Pope Francis' homily on Ash Wednesday. Last week he encouraged us to SEE all the wonderful and life-giving gestures and attitudes around us. The many acts of charity, families who strive to make their homes 'schools of love', the youth's optimistic hope for the future, the gift of our elderly, the value for what the sick and vulnerable can teach us, the courage of those who fall and get up to move forward and finally recognising that Christ died for all of us, without exception.

Pope Francis completes his address by asking us to RETURN with no fear. He appeals to us to:

Return without fear, for this is the favourable time to come home, to the home of my Father and your Father (cf. Jn 20:17). **It is the time for allowing one's heart to be touched...** Persisting on the path of evil only gives rise to disappointment and sadness. True life is something quite distinct and our heart indeed knows this. God does not tire, nor will he tire, of holding out his hand (cf. Misericordiae Vultus, 19).

Return without fear, to join in the celebration of those who are forgiven.

Return without fear, to experience the healing and reconciling tenderness of God. Let the Lord heal the wounds of sin and fulfil the prophecy made to our fathers: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek 36: 26).

PAUSE, SEE, RETURN!

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 95.9%	
K = 100%	3 = 98.4%
1 = 93.2%	4 = 98.3%
2 = 94.6%	5 = 95.0%
	6 = 91.8%

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The school extends our heartfelt condolences to the family of ex-student Gabrielle Wehbe. Gabrielle sadly passed away on Friday from a long illness. We feel very sad that such a young person has left us so early however we know that she is now with Almighty God in heaven. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

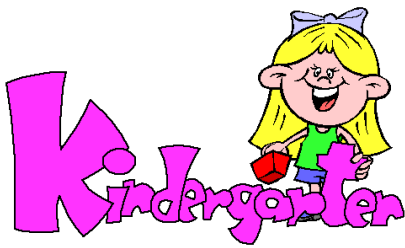


ST PATRICK'S PARRAMATTA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all the companies that are supporting the St Patrick's Parramatta Sponsorship Program. These companies can be found in the St Patrick's Parramatta Local Directory published weekly with the newsletter on Skoolbag. We are now opening this service to 'Non for Profit' Organisations for a reduced amount. If you know of any junior sporting organisation or club that would like to contribute to the sponsorship program please contact the school office. Funds from the program thus far have gone towards the purchase of Chromebooks, enabling a one to one device in Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6).

Our next sponsorship project will be the provision of devices for Yrs 1 and Kindergarten, the updating of readers across the school and possibly the establishment of a 'Makeit' Centre if significant sponsorship is made available. All contributions are very much appreciated.

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.

2018 School Fees

The school fee statements have been mailed out this week, with a due date of 21/3/2018.

It is possible that the reference numbers may have changed, ensure you are confirming reference numbers before making payments through your bank. All arrangements will need to be updated for 2018 as previous arrangements are void.



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

Elliana Coles, James Agostino, Olivia Fayad, Isla Giron, Jayden Farah, Jacob Semaan, Crystella Geagea, Tharuki Randeniya, Mikayla Saleh

From our Leaders ...

On Monday the 12th of March, we held a ceremony where we acknowledged and welcomed the new Kindergarten class of 2018. We also acknowledged the new students and families that have joined Saint Patrick's community this year.

As a catholic school it is important to welcome the new students and families so that they feel comfortable to learn in our environment. As Pope Francis stated "Life is a precious gift, but we realize this only when we give it to others." As a community we can work together and make sure all our school members are entitled to their rights and are able to walk in our school gates every morning feeling safe and excited for a new day of fun learning.



Catherine McAuley answered God's call by accepting everyone as she welcomed them into the House of Mercy no matter what their religious beliefs or what cultural background they were. So we also as a Catholic community have the responsibility to welcome and support our new school members. This week we showed a way of welcoming them by putting together a morning tea for the parents so they had a chance to meet other parents and interact with other new families. The Year Six students welcomed the kindergarten classes by decorating welcoming badges for their kindy buddies. During class, Year Six were asked to write a stanza about our understanding of Catherine McAuley and how she showed 'Servant Leadership'. Here are two examples of some students piece of writing.

Catherine McAuley

**Catherine Mcauley was very strong,
and did the right thing all along.
She helped the poor in every way,
Each and every single day.**

**She gathered a community,
To get this one opportunity,
To start a house of mercy for everyone,
And help one by one.**

**She created the house of mercy made to help the poor,
Whoever knocked was able to enter through the door.
Once she died,
Her legacy was full of pride.**

A Woman of Faith

A woman of faith,
she served the sick and needy everyday,
While not expecting others to give up their pay.
Not caring whether they had a disease,
She made the others feel comfortable
And at ease.

No matter what type of person they were
In Catherine's eyes everyone was equal to her.
Love was her way
It caused others to stay
In the House of Mercy
in which she worked everyday.



Here is a pledge focusing on what our St Patrick's goal is towards our community-

**We, the children of St Patrick's,
Promise to try our best
To be a welcoming community
And help you feel
Very much at home,
And valued members
Of our school community.**

Our community continues to grow and together we can ensure that you all feel welcome and valued as a member of our school by following the Mercy tradition lived out by Catherine McAuley. We look forward to also welcoming your contributions to the community - Let's work together for an even brighter 2018.

Jade Takchi

Celebrations of Learning

Dear Parents,

As explained in previous emails we will now begin a cycle of what we call 'Celebrations of Learning'. These will take many forms in the classrooms depending on what the teachers are trying to showcase. Some key factors to consider:

- Celebrations will be held in the classrooms or an advertised space, such as the library.
- They may take the form of a culminating presentation eg results of a inquiry project eg a design and make, an EXPO stand.
- May take the form of an open classroom which will give visitors the opportunity to view learning journals or work displayed around the room.
- May give visitors the opportunity to watch their children in the process of collaborative learning and problem solving.
- They may take place on days other than Fridays
- You may be invited to form the audience for an 'end product' or goal setting with children.
- **Be mindful that this is an opportunity to celebrate the learning with the children and teachers. This is NOT a time to ask for an interview to see how your child is going. These meetings need to be arranged through an appointment to enable preparation and reflection by the staff.**

NOTE PLEASE - GUIDELINES

The staff is very mindful that children like some adults may feel in a vulnerable position being watched so we ask all adults to show utmost respect by:

- Remaining quiet when children are presenting/speaking.
- Adhering to our policy of confidentiality regarding children's learning by not making comments to other parents regarding individual children.
- Assisting only when asked to do so please. This is their learning journey and we know that making errors is an important part of that journey.
- We do not expect all parents to attend every opportunity and fully understand that many parents are working and cannot make it. We will do our best to emphasize this with the children.

On Thursday 29th March at 2pm we would like to invite the Year 2 parents to our Celebration of Learning which is centred around our history unit 'The Past In The Present'. We will be referring to our celebration as a TOY MUSEUM. Similarly to our visit to the Powerhouse Discovery Museum, the students will be describing and comparing toys from the past to the toys available now.

On Thursday 22nd March at 2pm we would like to invite the Year 3 parents to our Celebration of Learning which is centred around our Science unit 'Melting and Freezing'. Your children will be completing a design and make group task to construct a box that can keep an ice cube frozen for the longest period of time possible. Although we ask parents not to assist students in the construction process, we welcome parents to watch your children in a team environment and where offering advice is more than welcome.

On Thursday 5th April, at 2.00pm, we would like to invite the Year 5 parents to our Celebration of Learning which is centred around our science unit 'Earth's place in Space'.

We will be presenting their work on the History of Space Technologies in the school hall. Come and visit our Space Museum.



ICE BLOCKS

We will continue to sell ice blocks each Friday at lunch time until the end of term.

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.

Parent Event Committee Meeting

Towards the end of last year we had a Parent Meeting to discuss events for term 1 2018. This meeting was well attended and plans for this year were discussed. It was decided that we would hold an evening meeting to give parents who work an opportunity to attend. This meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday 22 March at 7pm in the library. At this meeting we need to finalise the remainder of the events for the year including Mother's Day, Athletics Carnival, Grandparents Day, Father's Day and the Movie Night (some discussion to be had around this event).

These meetings are an informal way of getting together and working on ways we can continue to build on our strong school community and in the process raise some funds to provide ongoing resources for our students. Ms Fabri and I look forward to working with those of you who are able to make the meeting.

Welcome Morning Tea

We have a wonderful parent community here at St Patrick's as was evidenced on Monday when our Year 1 families organised a beautiful Morning Tea to welcome the new families to our school. This event was co-ordinated by Michelyn Wehbe and supported by many of the parents who assisted in setting up the hall, organising food, including many homemade delicacies (and calories) and the clean up afterwards. We cannot thank them enough for all they did on the day and behind the scene.



Cross Country Helpers—Urgent

Next Friday is our Cross Country. If your child is competing, and you intend going down, **we are still in urgent need of more parent helpers** to assist on the day. This would help staff ensure that the day runs smoothly.



Its a Girl!!

Congratulations to the Grohs Family (Alani 5C, Bailey 1C & Ashton KM) on the birth of their baby girl, Lily.

Writers Corner



This week, I would like to share some excerpts of the brilliant entries I've received so far. The thing I love most about writing is that YOU, as the writer, are in control! When you write, part of you goes out into the world to, entertain, inform and persuade your audience!

Here are some excerpts of some of the entries I've received. I hope they inspire you to keep writing!

...a mysterious box, describing it to be the size of a hand and a curious, humming noise was heard coming from it. Many inspectors have carefully examined the box, saying no harm would come from it, but then the inspectors didn't return...

Joetta Maria Khoury

She loved being invisible because she was the best at playing hide and seek!

Isabella Bousimon

The magic appears from the first to the last letter. Remember...to experience magic, all you need to do is believe.

Alexandriya Izmestyeva

I took it into my arms and shook it. It sounded hard and it was very heavy. And then, I saw a diary. It was pale blue with roses all over it. Then I saw a tag with a very strange looking footprint...

Shanelle Wambeek

Detective Bunny found strands of hair clumped together under a piece of tape. The detective believes that since the hair was so thin, it must belong to an elephant, as elephants barely have any hair and look a bit bald.

Christa-Nicole Gadmar

Then I smelt it and it smelt fresh and clean. I opened it and SURPRISE! AAAAAHHHHH! My heart skipped a beat. I looked inside and there were lots and lots of.... (you'll have to pop into the library to read the rest!)

Isobel Rahme

I liked a cake that I saw and POP! The cake appeared. Next time, I will like a mermaid tail. I would like a mermaid tail so that I can explore the sea and see all of the fish.

Isabella Chivers

"Oh, I WISH there was something inside it," she cried. POP! A cake appeared out of nowhere. "How did the box know I was hungry?" I wish for a book. POP! A book appeared. "WOW! This box is MAGIC" she exclaimed. All of a sudden, Zoe's sister came and stole the box! "Hey! Come back!"

Zoe Samar

It was a dark and gloomy Autumn Monday. The crisp, dry leave of the jacaranda tree flickered like candles in the wind and the vibrant purple lilacs died out as the rain clouds covered up the last rays of sun...

Ashintia Joseph

You can see why I've been so impressed! The way these authors have spoken to their audience is so engaging, that I didn't want the stories to end! The word choice, the imagery, the creativity! Don't forget to visit the library to read the rest of the stories!

Do you have a writing idea for the Writers Corner? What would YOU like to write about? Write down your topic and I'll be happy to include it in next week's Writers Corner.

Happy Writing!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

INCORPORATING

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

'EVERY LEARNER, EVERY DAY: TRANSFORMING LEARNING'

ST PATRICK'S DAY OLYMPICS 2018 hosted by MOTIV8SPORTS

"Motiv8sports Olympics 2018"

OLYMPICS 2018 is an action packed event designed & performed by Motiv8sports for children at St Patrick's Primary School. On the 16th March 2018 Motiv8sports will work with the staff and students of St Patrick's to perform one of the most memorable events of the year. OLYMPICS 2018 is an event full of colour, culture & an amazing array of activities...Sport, Music, Leadership & team building activities. Every child who participates in OLYMPICS 2018 will be working towards a common goal throughout the day, that is to have an amazing level of fun and earn as many points as possible for their team. Motiv8sports Olympics 2018 is fully supervised by Motiv8sports Staff and St Patrick's Staff.

Date: Friday 16th March

Venue: Parramatta Park (The Picnic Ground)

Time: Children will be divided into 2 categories on the day.

MORNING SESSION 9.30am to 11.30am = JUNIOR OLYMPICS
Kindy / Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 3

AFTERNOON SESSION 12.00pm to 2.00pm = SENIOR OLYMPICS
Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6

Uniform: Sports Uniform

Other requirements: children will need to wear a hat, carry a small backpack with a hand towel, a light sports drink bottle and a snack. Children might like to have a spare T- shirt. (Children may get lightly wet in the 'Sponge Get Wet' activity - weather permitting).

All children will be having lunch at school either before or after the OLYMPICS 2018.

Cost: No cost to parents.

Note Please: As this is a structured Physical Education Activity organised by an outsourced company (incursion) parents who wish to come and watch will be asked to stay within a designated Parent Area. All children will be required to return to school for other St Patrick's Day Activities. For organisational and safety purposes No dismissal will be allowed from the park.



When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked at you and wanted to say,
'Thanks for all the things I saw
when you thought I wasn't looking.'



Parents please ensure you have the right
class on your child's lunch orders. We
have had several mishaps this week with
lunches going to the wrong classroom.

ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IDENTITY PILOT (ECSI)

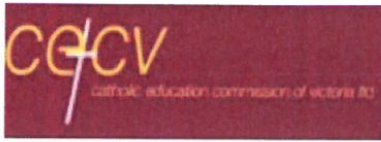
Dear Parents,

The school has been asked by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta to be part of the 'Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity' Project. We are one of five schools piloting this project throughout the Diocese.

It involves gathering data on how Catholic Identity is expressed in work and practice at St Patrick's Primary, Parramatta. This data is collected from the students -Yrs 5/6, staff and parents. Can I please ask you to read the attached letter and seriously consider spending some time completing and putting forward this very valuable information. Please note all responses are anonymous and highly confidential. To assist any parents who would like to complete the survey at school using a school laptop, support will be provided on Thursday and Friday mornings in the library until the end of term.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or the numbers provided in the letter.

Kind Regards
Bernadette Fabri



12 March 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian,

RE: Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey.

I write to invite you to participate in the ECSI survey which will assist us in better understanding how Catholic Identity is expressed in work and practice at St Patrick's Primary, Parramatta, which is one of five schools piloting this project throughout the Diocese.

The Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven) was commissioned by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) to design a process and tools, based on sound research, to accomplish the goal of understanding our current Catholic identity and where the school community might like to see it in the future.

Our Bishop, Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, has requested that Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta also engage the Catholic University in Leuven to pilot the project in 2018.

This survey is a key element in this process and I write to request your participation. The online survey gathers responses from students in Years 5 and 6, all staff, and a representative sample of parents.

You are asked to complete the survey online; it may take you up to 40 minutes to complete. Try not to get caught up in the questions, simply respond intuitively. Keeping a record of your individual User code and Password will allow you to complete the survey over two or more sessions.

The survey is only available through the project website; please refer to the 'Instructions for Adults Completing Surveys'. Your responses to this survey are anonymous but will help build the school's Catholic identity into the future.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the questionnaires, rather than contacting the school office, please contact:

- *Mr David Bourne* - Project Officer, CEDP on 0448 905 562
- *Mr Mark Smith* - Learning Leader, Mission, CEDP on 9840 5714

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your anticipated participation.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gary Borg
Director, Mission
Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

ENC.

Enhancing Catholic School Identity

Instructions for survey completion for parents

Thank you very much for participating in the *Enhancing Catholic School Identity* project. The purpose of this survey research is to gain meaningful insights into how your son or daughter's school community views its Catholic identity today and how such identity might be shaped for tomorrow.

Everyone's input is important.

The survey period is open from Tuesday 5 March 2018 until Friday 27 April 2018. Your participation should take about 55 minutes. It is best to finish the survey in one shot, without having to come back later. Your responses are anonymous and your personal data is treated confidentially in accordance with ethical and legal guidelines. Only you will be able to view your individual results and this can be done once you've completed the questionnaires.

Best practices for completing ECSI surveys

- ✓ **Answer spontaneously and don't overanalyse.** Your input is more valuable if you respond with the first thought that comes to mind. Plus, you'll proceed faster.
- ✓ **Choose the response that honestly matches your opinion.** Don't hesitate to select "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" if that's in fact how you feel.
- ✓ **Respond as best you can to each question as it is worded.** You may feel that some questions don't fully apply to your school environment. That's OK; just respond as best you can.

It's also helpful to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Many questions ask you for two perspectives:**
 - "My son/daughter's school" as you actually see things today
 - "My ideal school" as you would like to see things in the best future scenario
- ✓ **Some questions might seem repetitive; but they're actually not.** There's a scientific purpose behind the ways in which the questions are formulated. Every question counts.
- ✓ **Trust that the survey as a whole will accurately capture your personal point of view.** Even if you struggle to respond to some individual questions, it's important to complete the entire survey.

Login instructions

➤ Access the surveys at **www.schoolidentity.net**

➤ Enter the case-sensitive password **Ghj654** and click login

Website access password:	<input type="password"/>
	<input type="button" value="Login"/>

➤ Click on the **TO THE SURVEYS** button

TO THE SURVEYS

➤ If you're a new user: Click on the **NEW USER** button

If you wish to continue a previous session: Enter your **personal login name** and **password**

➤ Enter your school's **group entry code** – as provided by your school – so that your input will be linked to your school.




St Patrick's Primary, Parramatta: HD14d2

➤ You are now logged in.

Displayed on the screen is your unique **user code** and **password** (case-sensitive).

Save this information (by writing, printing, saving, or emailing it) in order to access the website at a later time.

➤ From this point forward, please follow the instructions on your screen to complete the surveys.

  	User code : u000224153 Password: px2628
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Survey progress

- The survey begins with some general demographic questions.
- The survey proceeds in several parts. Please finish one part before proceeding to the next one.
- You can view your results at any time by returning to the 'main questionnaire page'.
- You can return at any time to a question and change your response.
- If you wish to pause and finish the survey at a later time, please **save your user code and password** (case-sensitive) in order to re-access the website.

Dear Parents/ Guardians



Oz Fashions, your uniform supplier is now selling all WINTER uniforms required for 2018.

We are open 6 days a week Monday-Friday 9.00-5.30pm, Saturday 9.00-4.00pm.

Please purchase your uniforms before the holidays to avoid long queues and to guarantee we have all the sizes you require.

We also sell CLARKS black leather school shoes and CLARKS white leather sports shoes at very competitive prices.

2018

Saint Patrick's Day

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BUSINESS AS A TOOL FOR THE COMMON GOOD

DELIVERED BY

MR IWAN SUNITO

CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF CROWN GROUP HOLDINGS

FRIDAY MARCH 16TH, 2018

TICKETS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

ENQUIRIES: EVENTS@STPATSCATHEDRAL.COM.AU



Build your own iPhone app these school holidays!

More than 30,000 Australian kids have loved Code Camp

Been before?
Try our new camp

Blast 3D



Camps we offer at Code Camp

Sponsored by Westpac Powered by hp

Little League

Ages 5-6

2 days of fun where our littlest coders make the first small, but important steps to becoming creators of technology, not just consumers.

Spark

Ages 7-12

3-4 days of creativity, design, fun and coding. Our most popular Code Camp where every child aged 7 and above starts their coding journey.

Ignite

Ages 7-12

Ignite is for those who have conquered Spark or who already have a coding experience elsewhere. They'll build their own top-down adventure game!

Blast 3D New!

Ages 8-13

Brand new for 2018, your kids will immerse themselves in a 3D world of their creation! Unlock the next level of their coding adventure at Code Camp Blast 3D.

24-27 April
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy College

\$349 for 3 days
BYO Laptop or Hire

www.codecamp.com.au/OLMC

Alternate dates and locations available (no camps on public holidays)



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)