



**2018**

**Dates to Remember**

**Term 4**

**November**

**Week 4**

Friday 9th Primary Assembly—Year 3  
2.15pm—School Hall

**Week 5**

Tuesday 13th Footsteps Dance  
Wednesday 14th 2019 Kinder  
Parent Information Night  
Friday 16th Family Fun Night

**Week 6**

Monday 19th Year 5 and Year 2—  
Celebration of Learning  
145pm  
Tuesday 20th Footsteps Dance  
Thursday 22nd Year 6 Camp  
Friday 23rd Year 6 Camp  
Infants Assembly—Year 1  
2.15pm—School Hall

**Week 7**

Tuesday 27th Footsteps Dance  
Friday 30th Swimming Carnival  
Year 2—6

**Week 8**

Tuesday 4th Dec Footsteps Dance

**Week 9**

Tuesday 11th Dec Footsteps Dance  
Friday 14th Dec Year 6 Graduation and  
Thanksgiving Mass  
Whole School Assembly—  
2.00pm School Hall

**Week 10**

Wednesday 19th Whole School Farewell  
Assembly

# St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

8th November 2018 Term 4 Week 4

*Dear Parents,*

*Over the last 3 days I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the children and families starting at St Patrick's Parramatta in 2019. With over 40 siblings commencing school next year I could feel the connection already well developed between these families. Over the next few weeks I thought a series of articles on starting school would be useful. This tips, for parents of young children, are also helpful for families of children in the younger grades. New families will be able to access this information through the school website.*

*The information shared below is from a website called KidsMatter. If you would like more information the following information sheets related to this topic are available online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets)*

*Topics featured include: Thinking About Transition to School, Getting Ready for School, Getting Help When Starting School, Understanding Behaviour, Problem Solving, Coping Skills and A Change for the Whole Family.*

*The first of these articles speaks about the fact that starting school is more than just the first day at school. It reminds parents that this process starts well before hand; from picking up enrolment forms, the first orientation experience, to the very first day and beyond. It gives parents ideas on helping your child to develop some very important skills; skills which will help them experience success at school. Some of these include:*

- **Social and emotional skills**
- **Independence Skills**
- **Learning Skills**

*For detailed information please see the embedded article No 1.*

*Please keep these children and their family in your prayers as they commence this very important educational journey with their little ones.*

*God bless you and your family  
Bernadette Fabri  
Principal*

## AFTERNOON PICK-UP (Children left at school after 3.30pm)

Dear Parents,

Since our return to school this term I am noticing that although the school's finishing time is 3.00pm, quite a few children are not being picked up until after 3.30pm. I appreciate that the traffic conditions around the school are often hectic and frustrating but as you can appreciate I cannot extend the teachers' work day and children picked up late **ie after 3.30pm impacts on all staff; some of whom need to attend to their own young children or family responsibilities. The teachers have already been asked to supervise children for an extra half hour to try to assist with our local school conditions.**

I respectfully ask that all children be picked up before 3.30pm. If you know that this is a regular occurrence for your family please arrange for after school care or make other arrangements for pick up.

As always I thank you for your cooperation.  
Bernadette Fabri

### St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2019 DATES

Week One 2019	Monday 28th January 2019	Tuesday 29th January 2019	Wednesday 30th January 2019	Thursday 31st January 2019	Friday 1st February 2019
	Public Holiday	Staff Development Day –  Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Staff Development Day –  Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Years 1 to Year 6 Commence school	Kindergarten commence school (full day)
		Year 1 to 6—Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher on any of these 2 days.			
		Kindergarten Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher on any of these 3 days.			

### Condolences



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Khoury Family (Sophia KM) on the passing of her Grandmother. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### Not Returning to St Patrick's in 2019

Thank you to the parents who have informed the office that their child will not be returning to St Patrick's in 2019. If your child is not returning to St Patrick's in 2019 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 2019. This does not apply to year 6 students.



## Honour Award

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

<b>3L</b>	Magdalena Gilchrist	Samuel Navasardyan
<b>3T</b>	Maria Khoury	Elie Wehbe
<b>4B</b>	Michael Ayoub	Jacob Manago
<b>4G</b>	Josh Blanquera Pangan	Emily Johnson
<b>5C</b>	Jayden Farah	Elias Nakhle
<b>5T</b>	Charlie Romanos	Brooklyn Munro
<b>6P</b>	Harrison Chidiac	Kyah Rahme
<b>6W</b>	Erica Jurisic	Sandra Moussa



## st patrick's award

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

<b>3L</b>	Oscar Morgan	Aurora Broadbridge
<b>3T</b>	Matthew Draybi	Daniella Gereige
<b>4B</b>	Ethan-Jordan Firmeza	Sophia Paguia
<b>4G</b>	Aoife Mitchell	Ruby Younan
<b>5C</b>	Joetta Maria Khoury	Crista-Nicole Gahdmar
<b>5T</b>	Christian Sarkis	Crystella Geagea
<b>6P</b>	Rafael Buitizon	Jayda Tarabay
<b>6W</b>	Jennifer Mekdessi	Geshua Toledo

### St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 88.9%

**K = 87.7%**

**2 = 89.3%**

**4 = 86.7%**

**6 = 81.7%**

**1 = 91.7%**

**3 = 90.3%**

**5 = 94.9%**

## Sun Safe: Hats Hats Hats



Just a reminder that all students should have a school hat at school every day. As the weather starts to warm up it is important for all students to wear their school hat when on the playground. From next week any student without a hat will be required to sit in the shade during times they are on the playground. The school hat is a compulsory component of the school uniform. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## New afternoon procedure

Dear Parents

Afternoon pick up from the COLA seems to be going very well. Some of the feedback from parents so far are as follows:

- Less congested
- Can easily find the children
- Children have more room and are more comfortable
- It is not so noisy
- Easier access out the gate
- More room to stop and have a chat with other parents

We will continue to trial this procedure so if you have any more feedback please see the teacher on duty. Thank you for your cooperation.



# Mini Writers Festival

This week years 3-6 were treated to a visit from six prominent Australian writers and illustrators, who spoon-fed us the plots and important parts to their own books. The authors each had different genres for their books, like, history, adventure, fantasy and comedy. Their performances were spectacular - and the students were very enthusiastic. Our visitors taught us many things - and I'm sure that many of St. Patrick's students will be encouraged to read these brilliant books. Students were also allowed to have their books signed by the author of their books!

All six authors were nominated for the Koala Australian Book awards. The best book will be decided by children. They all have good chance at winning. These will be announced on Thursday. My favourite author of all, was R.A. Spratt, with her book, *Nanny Piggins*. It was great to see all the mums and dads at the event, and I think that, maybe they too, will enjoy reading these books. I am very appreciative for this experience, it was definitely worthwhile.

By Elias, in 5C



This week our primary students had the wonderful privilege of meeting talented Australian authors and illustrators at a Mini-Writers festival right at our school!

The authors introduced themselves and enthused the audience with readings from some of their latest books. They were finalists in the KOALA Book Awards Competition and voted for by children as their favourite authors.

All of the authors had some hilarious jokes and entertained us the whole time. It was fantastic seeing James Hart doing some of his illustrations from his novels and drawing personal bookmarks with Tom. All of these authors all made engaging speeches so by the end you were desperate to read all of the books.

It was a significant memory of having the Author signing a book that you bought or brought in. I hope that we have more visits of this kind in the future.

-Alexandriya Izmestyeva 3T

**LOLLY JAR GUESSES**



<p>Would you like to win yourself a jar filled with delicious lollies?</p> <p><b>DONATE TO A GREAT CAUSE!</b></p> <p>All donations will go towards supporting Mrs Daou on her pilgrimage during</p> <p><b>World Youth Day.</b></p>	<p><b>Guess how many lollies are in the lolly jar!!</b></p> <p><b>50c for 1 guess</b></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>\$1 for 3 guesses</b></p>	<p><b>When?</b> Week 4 before school @ 8:20am</p> <p><b>Where?</b> Outside the Year 6 classrooms</p>
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## **WORLD YOUTH DAY**

Dear Parents and Students,

World Youth Day is fast approaching and I have been involved in formation groups on a regular basis in preparation for my pilgrimage. The guessing competition will continue next week. I would like to thank you for your generosity with the fundraising and for all your prayers.

Thank you,

Mrs Louisa Daou



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

Patrick Semaan,	Noah Gebrael,	Michel Kazzaz,
Zachery	Khattar,	
Michael Aboumelhem,	Eimear Mitchell,	
Ellen Nikolakopoulos,	Andrew Doumit,	
Gabriella Mendoza,	Jack Gittany	

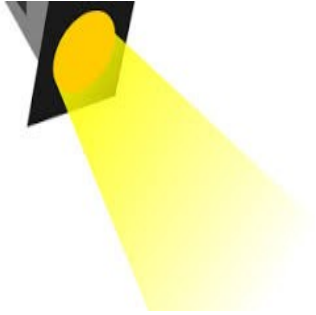
## Year 5 and Year 2 Celebration of Learning

Year 5 and Year 2 have been working together choreographing a dance for Creative Arts and are very excited to show off their routines.

Please join us for their performance of a lifetime in Week 6, November 19th in the school hall starting at 1.45pm sharp.



## Spotlight on... Year 5 SRC's



Kalim Azar

Name 5 words describing you

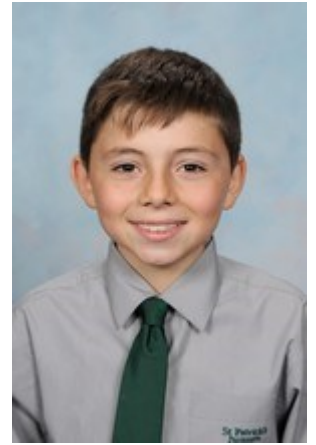
Sporty, funny, crazy, cheeky and friendly

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is heights because I feel like I am going to fall off a tall building or object.

What is your favourite dish?

My favourite dish is sushi.



Daniel Pinto

What sport or music do you play?

I play club cricket and I also play guitar.

If you were a animal what would it be?

If I were an animal I would be a peregrine falcon because it is very fast and it can fly.

If you could have any superpower what would it be?

If I could have any superpower, it would be the power to run super fast because it would help me with sport and it could help me get to places faster.



Emily

If you could have any superpower what would it be?

I would probably have telecanesses because I don't have to get up and do things.

What's your favourite place in the world?

Italy would probably be my favourite place in the world because I loved it there and there was so many things to do

If you were a animal would it be?

I would be a fox because its my favourite animal and they are adorable



Zac

What is the best thing you've ever achieved that you thought you never would?

One time I drank a full bottle of water in one sip.

What is your favourite movie/tv show ever? Why?

Spongebob squarepants is my favorite tv show because it is really funny and classic.

Name 5 words describing you.

Sometimes Annoying, funny, sporty, crazy and friendly.



## Joetta Maria

### What's your favourite line from any book or movie?

My favourite line from a book or movie is from Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone "I'm Hermione Granger, and you are..... Ronald Weasley, pleasure,"

### Name 5 words describing you?

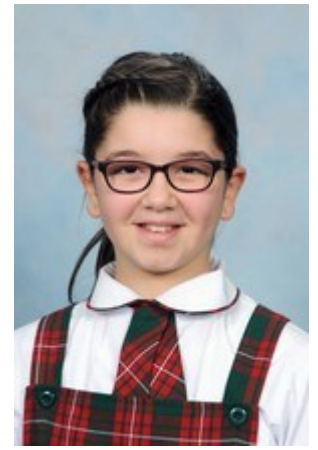
Funny, weird, enthusiastic, positive and artistic.

### What is your ideal job?

My ideal job is to be an actress because I can be a part of many interesting movies and I can meet many people from all around the world.

### Favourite celebrity/sport icon?

My favourite celebrity is Emma Watson because she is an amazing actress and has a very strong personality which are all the things I want to be.



## Scarlett

### What one country would you like to travel to most and why?

I would like to travel to Lebanon since all my family has been and it looks really cool and the beaches near the resorts are amazing.

### Your least favourite dish?

My least favourite dish is all vegetables except tomatoes. I love tomatoes.

### What are you most excited for currently?

I am most excited for next year since I tried out for the Blacktown City Reps Netball Team and I find out if I made the team next year. I can't wait.



## Brooklyn

### If you were a animal would it be?

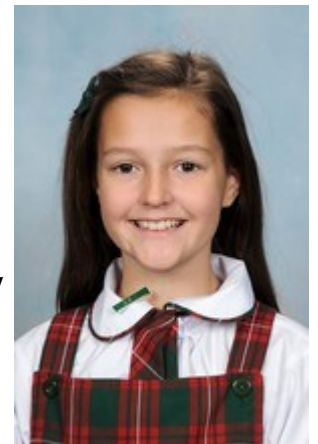
If I was an animal I would be a koala because they're cute cuddly and can climb.

### Which three people (in the whole world) would you invite to dinner and why?

Firstly I would invite my parents because they love me so much and care for me I would also pick my friend Jazmine because she's a really good person.

### If you could have any superpower what would it be?

My superpower would be unlimited wishes because I can wish when I ever I want and what I want.





# Family Fun Night 2018

We are excited to announce that St Patrick's will be holding our Family Fun Night on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of November (Week 5)**. This evening continues to build community spirit within the school and allows families the opportunity to meet and form friendships, especially new families to our school. St Patrick's prides itself on having a friendly and welcoming school culture and we endeavour to maintain and continue building this family spirit.

The evening will be led by one of the FOOTSTEPS Dance Instructors who has worked with the students this year, teaching them dance and movement throughout the term. The disco will begin at 6pm and conclude at 9pm. Gates will be open from 5pm to allow families to find a comfy spot in the playground and have a chat with each other and make new friends. You are encouraged to bring fold up chairs or a picnic rug/blanket.

Why not have a night off cooking and grab dinner at the disco? Food will be available from 5pm. We will have **pizza, hotdogs, corn on the cob, zooper doopers, lollies, water and drinks for sale on the night**. Parents are more than welcome to bring their own picnic supper. If you bring your own snacks to the event please remember that **St Patrick's is a NUT FREE ZONE!!!!**

Make sure you fill out the permission note that was sent home earlier and get your tickets. We are looking forward to a great night.

## Parish Youth Group Junior Credo: EDGE

- for children in Yrs 4-6 Fortnightly on Fridays -

5pm-6pm (school terms only) at

St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall.

Email Mindy for more info:

[credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)

Junior Credo Edge is a Parish based Ministry run by St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta



*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	6.30am, 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 Michael Gitau

Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Margaret Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)

Donna Missio (Receptionist)



# Thinking about transition to school

Starting school is an important time for children and families. Children who make a positive start to school are more likely to:

- feel comfortable, relaxed and valued
- feel excited and motivated to learn
- have good relationships with others
- develop a sense of belonging within the school community.

Starting school is not just about the first day. It's a process that begins when children and families start to prepare in the year before, and continues as children experience their first days, weeks and months of school. The process involves a number of changes for children and families, and everyone reacts differently. For some children the change brings excitement about making friends and learning new things, while for others the change can leave them feeling nervous and overwhelmed. You may reflect on your own school experiences and be reminded of the mix of emotions you felt when starting school.

Families play an important role in supporting children to manage the transition to primary school. With the support of your child's early childhood educator and school teacher, you can help them to cope with the new challenges by developing their social, emotional and learning skills. Supporting your child's skills in these areas contributes to their mental health and wellbeing. Children who are mentally healthy are better learners, have stronger relationships and are better able to meet life's challenges.



## The main changes for your child

Starting school involves a number of changes for children and families. This includes the differences between your child's current setting (eg home, long day care, preschool) and the primary school they will be attending. When children start school they experience changes in the following areas.

**Physical environment:** For example, the size of the playground, classroom and school buildings, the location and types of toilets, the number of other children and teachers.

**Rules and procedures:** For example, more structured times for attending class, eating and going to the toilet, rules for different places such as the classroom and playground, lining up and putting up a hand to speak.

**Relationships:** For example, meeting new children and adults, responding to children of different ages, leaving an early childhood educator, getting to know a range of teachers for different subjects and from different grades.

**Learning:** For example, more formal learning experiences, structured times and set tasks, increasing independence.



## Managing change during transition

### Learning from other transitions

Your child has most likely already experienced several transitions in their life. These may include starting preschool, going on holiday, moving house or welcoming the addition of a new brother or sister. These experiences can help children develop skills for managing new situations such as starting school. They can also help you get to know how your child copes with change. You may like to think about:

- What has helped your child manage other transitions and changes in their life?
- How have you supported them to cope?
- How can you utilise your child's early childhood educator and school teacher to support this process?

### Using your child's strengths and skills

Throughout your child's early years they have been learning and developing a range of skills. Every child is different. They each have their own strengths that can help them manage change when starting school.



The following provides you with some ideas for helping your child manage change and build on their social and emotional, independence and learning skills. Many of the suggestions will be things that you are already doing, and your child will keep progressing in these areas when they start school.

You may like to choose one or two skills to focus on over the next few months. Choosing a small number of skills is important as you do not want to overwhelm your child in the lead up to starting school.

### Social and emotional skills

**Teach friendship skills:** Teach your child ways to introduce themselves to new children, join in play with others and be friendly and co-operative. Talk to your child about what being a good friend means (eg sharing, taking turns at choosing a play activity, using kind words).

**Encourage sharing and taking turns:** Playing with your child, following their lead and having fun together will help develop their social skills. Playing simple board games, card games or computer games with children helps them to develop sharing and turn taking skills. It also helps children to cope with disappointment when they do not always win.

**Invite children to play together:** Arranging for your child to get together with other children helps them to establish friendships and practise their social skills. Providing positive guidance and helping to structure activities (eg using blocks to build a tower together) can be helpful when supporting children to establish new friendships.

• **Involve your child in conversations:** Talking with your child and involving them in conversations can help them to learn the rules of communication such as waiting for a turn, expressing ideas and listening without interrupting.

• **Help your child to manage their emotions:** Emotional skills include being able to recognise, express, understand and manage a wide range of feelings. You can promote your child's emotional development by spending time with them and being warm and responsive to their needs. Talk to your child about what is happening and help them to describe and label the emotions they are feeling.

• **Get to know other families in the school community:** Arranging to meet with other families in the school community prior to starting school will help develop relationships and a sense of connectedness to the school community.



## Independence skills

**Encourage self-help skills:** These skills include your child dressing and undressing themselves, eating from their lunch box, going to the toilet and asking for help. Encouraging your child to develop these skills will give them lots of confidence in being able to do things for themselves.

**Promote a sense of responsibility:** Encouraging your child to take responsibility for small tasks (eg setting the table for dinner, putting their clothes in the wash basket) will help them feel useful and build their self-confidence.

**Teach your child to care for their belongings:** Encourage your child to care for and respect their belongings (eg tidying up toys, putting pencils back in their pencil case).

**Involve your child in making decisions:** Providing your child with simple choices will give them practice for decisions they may need to make at school. Start with giving two choices such as the red or the blue top when getting dressed or an apple or banana for a snack. This will give them the confidence to make bigger decisions.

**Develop your child's understanding of social rules:** Talk to your child about how different settings have different rules and expectations (eg rules at preschool, rules around a swimming pool to keep everyone safe). This will help them adjust to some new rules they will need to learn to remember and follow at school.



## Learning skills

### **Introduce early literacy and numeracy skills:**

These include your child recognising numbers and letters, and counting and writing their own name. Introduce the concept of counting and letter recognition through everyday activities. For example, count the number of toys on the floor, point to words when reading aloud to your child, sing songs, say nursery rhymes and foster an enjoyment of listening to stories. Remember, children will get plenty of practice with reading and writing once they start school.

### **Encourage your child to focus on an activity:**

Encourage your child to sit and focus on an activity for a period of time (eg making a house from blocks, building a racing track, drawing a picture, doing a puzzle). Your child may benefit from you sitting with them or checking back at regular intervals to provide positive encouragement and feedback as they concentrate and enjoy themselves. For example, you might say, "wow, look at the size of the house you built! Could we add a fence or garden?"

**Encourage listening skills:** Reading books or listening to CD or DVD recordings of stories is a great way to help develop your child's listening skills. Asking questions about the story can also support your child's understanding and communication skills. For example, ask questions about what has happened, what might happen next or how characters might be feeling. To promote curiosity, you might ask, "I wonder what would happen if...?"

**Help your child to follow instructions:** Start by giving your child one instruction to follow (eg get your socks) and walk with them to do it if necessary. You can then build up to giving your child two-step instructions (eg put your dish in the sink and get your socks). Children often have difficulty remembering more than two or three instructions at a time.

### **Promote a hands-on approach to learning:**

Learning occurs through everyday play and experiences. Providing opportunities to experience new places, such as going to the library to look for books, visiting places in the community and following your child's interests (eg looking for bugs with lots of legs), will show them that learning is fun. 'Make-believe' play, such as when children pretend to be characters, encourages their imagination and creative skills. Materials such as empty boxes, writing materials and dress-up clothes can help to support make-believe play.

**Encourage hand-eye coordination:** Using scissors and glue, drawing, building with blocks, helping with cooking (stirring and pouring), and throwing and catching balls can help children to learn and practise hand-eye coordination, which is important as they learn to read and write.





## For more information

If you would like more information, KidsMatter has produced a range of resources to support your child through early childhood and primary school. The following information sheets related to this topic are available online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets)

KidsMatter Early Childhood information sheets:

- *Feelings matter*
- *Children and play: Resources for families and staff*
- *Learning positive friendship skills*
- *Supporting children to develop friendships and empathy*

KidsMatter Primary information sheets:

- *Social and emotional learning: Suggestions for families*
- *Emotional development: Suggestions for families*
- *Helping children learn positive friendship skills*
- *Friendship skills: Suggestions for families*

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Starting School information sheets for families. View them all online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**



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