

2018
Dates to
Remember

St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

6th December 2018 Term 4 Week 8

Term 4

Week 8

Thursday 6th Dec Year 4 Celebration of Learning—2pm

Week 9

Tuesday 11th Dec Footsteps Dance
Meet the Teacher afternoon

Friday 14th Dec Year 6 Graduation and Thanksgiving Mass—
St Patrick's Cathedral
Whole School Assembly— 2.00pm
School Hall

Week 10

Monday 17th Dec Christmas Concert with John Burland—1.15pm
OLMC Hall

Wednesday 19th Dec Whole School Farewell Assembly

Dear Parents and Carers

This week is the fifth instalment of the Starting School Series 'Problem Solving'. Helping children to solve their own problems is one of the most important skills that parents and teachers can teach children.

Children will inevitably come home with a problem or two. These problems most often include big picture issues such as complications with their friends or children in their class, feeling left out, not understanding the learning, lacking confidence, feeling anxious about something or worrying about change. Sometimes these problems are relatively minor - although they do not seem so to the children. These could include things like wearing the wrong uniform or forgetting their hat, forgetting their homework, leaving their lunch or school items at home or misplacing a toy. What is wonderful about all these problems is that they are learning opportunities and they all have solutions.

Educational Psychologist Michael Grose often speaks about 'stretch situations'. These are small, safe situations where children can experience and practise the need to be resilient. It is important for children to experience the 'dip' in a situation: eg wearing the wrong uniform - and then to experience the 'rise' when they have discovered that they survived the day with no repercussions. This cycle of resilience and their ability to overcome the problem is often then transferred to more serious life problems if and when they arise in adulthood.

Of course there are always situations when children need serious adult support and in these cases it is important that adults step in. This is very important in issues such as safety and wellbeing, and particularly when it involves bullying.

The school has clearly set-out procedures to follow up and investigate such reports and all reports are taken seriously. The process for investigating parent concerns include: listening to the concern, gathering more information, making investigations, further discussion with parents and regular communication until a resolution is achieved. The school is bound by privacy legislation. This means that sometimes details and some information cannot be shared. The school is however committed to providing the parent or child with as much information as is appropriate. The school always works hard to maximize procedural fairness to eliminate any perception of favouritism and inconsistency. If for any reason a parent feels that this has not taken place, I encourage you to come and see me or Mrs Benkovich (Assistant Principal).

Finally if you ever feel that your child needs assistance managing a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Approaching your child's classroom teacher is a starting point. We are always here to help, no matter how big or small the problem is. In the meantime I hope this article is helpful.

This week's article from [Kidsmatter](#) deals with the following topics:

- 1. Identify the Problem*
- 2. Find solutions and try them out*
- 3. Check In: how did you go*
- 4. You can help to support your child's problem solving skills*

God bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

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.

Dear Parents and Carers

St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta recognises that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher.

As you could appreciate, teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Further, that other than in the case of a genuine emergency, they are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents and students outside of normal working hours. Please keep in mind that if you send an email to a member of our staff outside of normal working hours, a reply may not be received until the following working day.

We appreciate your assistance and understanding.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact **Bernadette Fabri** on **8832 4600**

Kind regards
Bernadette Fabri

Christmas Concert

The feeling of Christmas is in the air, our shops are full of people getting ready for this special time with family and friends. Buying presents, preparing food organising holidays are all important things to do in the lead up to Christmas, however as we head into the season of Advent it is important for us to stop and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas - The Birth of Christ. This year our students will be sharing the joy of Christmas in our presentation of 'The Christmas Star' on **Monday 17 December** at **1.15pm** in the **Edith Angel Hall, OLMC**.



During the morning the students will be working alongside John Burland, who will be leading the concert. Currently the students are busy practising the songs and actions during music lessons with Miss Issa. We will be sending out a suggested dress for each grade early next week. We look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas with you all and hope to see you there.

Mrs Standring
(REC)



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week:
Anthony Malek, Joseph Norman,
Frank Agostino, Christian Barakat,
Patrick Katar, Jacob Sayegh,
Jim Sahyoun



Its a Girl!!

Congratulations to the Bayssari Family (Anton KM) on the birth of their baby girl, Chiara Maria

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 88.6%

K = 86.0%	2 = 91.1%	4 = 86.7%	6 = 83.3%
1 = 93.4%	3 = 88.7%	5 = 91.5%	

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

1. Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
3. Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
4. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
5. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
6. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
7. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
8. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
9. Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
10. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
11. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
12. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
13. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
14. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
15. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Adapted by Whitney Hopley from *When True Simplicity is Gained: Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World*, copyright 1998 by Martin E. Marty. Published by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., www.eerdmans.com, 1-800-253-7521 <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/>



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.			



Spotlight on... Year 2 SRC's

Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat

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

Teen Titans Go because the show makes me laugh and I like the action.

What's your favourite place in the world?

The movies because I like watching on the big screen and love movies.

What sport(s) or music do you play?

I used to play the piano and knew how to play Mary had a little lamb.



Luke Wehbe

If you were a animal would it be?

I would be a leopard because the fast, cool and jump really high.

Favourite book?

Diary of a Wimpy Kid because it has cool pictures and is funny.

Your least favourite dish?

My least favourite lettuce and broccoli because they are all mushy.



Panayioti Yannakis

What do you do in your spare time?

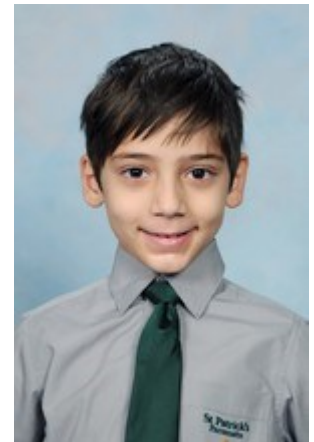
I read lots of books like Dogman and Captain Underpants.

What is your ideal job?

I would love to be an explorer of the sea because I love adventure.

What are you most excited for currently?

I am excited for the holidays because I would love to have some sleepovers with my Grandma.



Elijah Skaf

If you had \$1,000,000 to spend in a day, what would you spend it on?

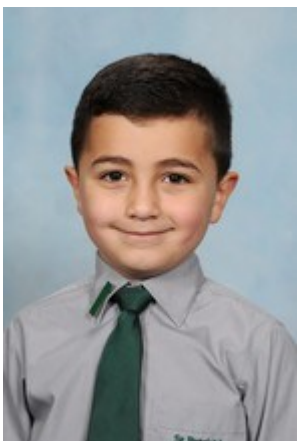
I would by a fitbit and playstation because they are cool.

Favourite celebrity/sport icon?

Ronaldo because he is the best soccer player ever.

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

Josh my best friend, Joseph and Levi because they are my friends and are nice.





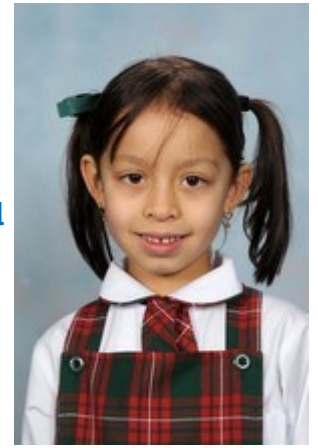
Eva Jakopovic

What is your favourite colour?

I like rainbow because I love all bright colours.

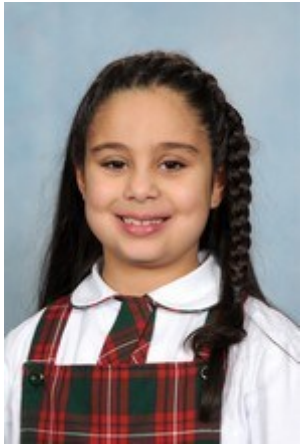
If you could have any superpower what would it be?

I would want to fly so I could go anywhere when ever I want.



What is your biggest fear?

Spiders and snakes because they can harm us.



Chloe Vella

What's your favourite place in the world?

My favourite place is America because it has really cool Disneyland theme parks.

If you had a superpower what would it be?

If I could have any superpower it would be invisibility because I can go places that I am not aloud to go to without being seen.

What do you want to be when your older?

When I am older I want to be an English teacher. I want to help students when they can't pronounce words.

Olivia Moussa

If you were an animal what would it be?

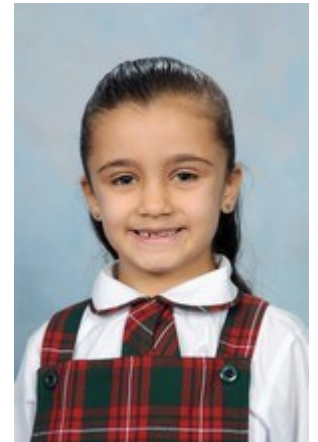
I want to be a butterfly because I can fly everywhere instead of walking.

What's your favourite place in Australia?

My favourite place is Queensland because of all the fun theme parks.

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is snakes because they can hurt us and they are poisonous.



Sara Lorenzo

What is your favourite movie?

My favourite movie is the Greatest Showman because I like the songs in it.

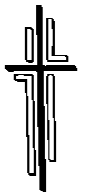
What sport or music do you do?

I do dancing and swimming. I do ballet, jazz and tap.

If I could have any superpower what would it be?

If I could have any superpower it would be speed because if I am stuck in traffic or late for something I can just run very fast.





3rd December, 2018

Data Validation Survey

Having accurate, up-to-date information on our students is an important part of maintaining their safety and wellbeing, and supporting their learning. It also assists schools to make good decisions about how best to support and care for all students. To ensure that the data we currently hold is current and accurate, CEDP is conducting a **data validation survey**.

What does this involve?

It is pretty straight forward. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) will send you an email, SMS and/or letter with a link to the survey. Please note that in some cases you may need to confirm visa details, arrival and school starting dates in Australia, so please have this information with you before starting the survey.

The survey will ask you to confirm or change the information the school currently has about your child/children. This could include names, addresses, email addresses etc. In the majority of cases, the information will not have changed. If it has, it is important you record this in the survey. Letters sent to parents will include instructions on how to access the survey online.

Completing this survey helps to ensure that we have the right information about your child in the case of an emergency and for programs that best suit your child's needs.

Reminder emails and SMS will also be sent.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact your school. You can also contact the CEDP Helpdesk at enterpriseservicedesk@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone 9840 5620.

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Ms Bernadette Fabri
Principal



School Banking

Our last school banking for 2018
will be Week 9, Tuesday 11th
December.



Condolences

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the McGlinn Family (Hamish 6W) on the passing of his grandmother. Please keep the family in your prayers.





ST PATRICK'S GIFT SHOP

Murphy House, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

OPENING TIMES

Monday:	CLOSED
Tuesday:	10am - 2pm
Wednesday:	10am - 3pm
Thursday:	10am - 3pm
Friday:	10am - 3pm
Saturday:	CLOSED
Sunday:	9am - 2pm

Email giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

CAROLS, PRAYER & READINGS *in the Cathedral*

Led by:

- St Patrick's Primary School Choir,
- Members of St Patrick's Parish and
- Credo Youth

Saturday December 8
7.30pm

Followed by

BBQ, Jumping Castle & visit from Santa in the Cloister.

Don't forget your picnic rug and snacks.

Everyone is Welcome

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

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)

Christmas Concert Costumes

The joy of Christmas is filling the air! Your children are sounding like angels as they practise the songs for our annual Christmas Concert. This year's concert will be held on **Monday 17 December at 1.15pm** in the **Edith Angel Hall** at **Our Lady of Mercy College**. Please find costume suggestions for each grade below:

Concert costumes

Kindy: Song - Jesus' Lullaby

Boys - white t-shirt and light coloured shorts

Girls - white t-shirt and light/ white coloured skirt or shorts

Coloured streamers (blue, brown and white - supplied)

Year 1: Song - Walk on to Bethlehem

Boys - Earthy coloured t-shirts - brown, red or orange t-shirt with brown or dark shorts or pants

Girls - Earthy coloured t-shirts - brown, red or orange t-shirt with brown or dark shorts, pants or skirts.

Coloured streamers (yellow, orange, red and white - supplied)

Year 2: Song - No room for you tonight

Boys - Dress like boys in the time of Jesus - checked tea towel attached to their head, long tunic (This can be made by two towels pinned together and slipped over shorts and tops) or dark coloured dressing gown.

Girls - Dress like girls in the time of Jesus - long skirt or long tunic (Two towels pinned together and slipped over shorts and tops) or dressing gown

Coloured streamers (many colours, symbolising all nations waiting for Christ and white - supplied)

Year 3: Song - Mary of Blessed One -

Boys - White or blue with black pants or shorts.

Girls - White or blue with black bottoms (pants, skirt, leggings)

Coloured streamers (blue and white - supplied)

Year 4: Song - The Promise -

Boys - Plain colour - black or dark brown pants or shorts and top

Girls - Plain colour - black or dark brown pants, shorts or skirt and top

Coloured streamers (purple, pink and white - supplied)

Year 5: Song - Christmas Star -

Boys - Bright colours stars - White top, dark pants.

Girls - Bright colours stars - White top, dark pants or skirt

Huge stars pinned on front of each T-shirt. (stars supplied)

Year 6: Song - Glory to our God -

Boys - Bright colours - Gold, Yellow and White top and dark pants or shorts

Girls - Bright colours - Gold, Yellow and White top and dark pants, shorts or skirt

Coloured streamers (yellow and white - supplied)

All students need to wear closed in shoes on the day please. The students are invited to wear their Christmas outfit all day.

We look forward to celebrating the Christmas story together.

Leanda Standing
(REC)



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS! REGISTER NOW!

nextlevelsports@live.com.au

Next Level Sports Clinic will be running sports clinics on the following dates:

Friday 21st of December 2018 'Christmas Theme' Clinic (St Patrick's Parramatta)

Monday 21st of January to Thursday 25th of January

Head teachers present at both clinic will be Mr Younis (of St Patrick's) and Mr Maunick (of St Margaret Mary's)

Join us for fun with plenty of activities, games, exercises & a free lunch on Thursday!

Students are welcome to attend all week or selected days.

Act now, as spots are limited!

For more information (dates, location and other enquiries)

Contact David Younis at:

nextlevelsports@live.com.au

(Emails returned promptly)

Problem solving

Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.

The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

Remember, it is best to begin when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. Start with an issue where you know they are likely to experience some success. If your child is very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (eg having some quiet time, taking some deep breaths) or leave problem solving for another day or another issue when you know your child is ready to participate.



1 Identify the problem

This step can be difficult as children do not always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where your child feels comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Using your active listening skills will also help your child to feel understood and supported in talking to you. (For more information, see the Starting School *Understanding behaviour* information sheet.) Your child will benefit from your help in trying to understand what might be happening, particularly when they are having difficulty identifying the problem. Remember to step back and not jump in to solving the problems for your child at this stage.

2 Find solutions and try them out

Once you have a better sense of what the problem is, you may like to generate some solutions with your child. Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start as any more may seem overwhelming for a young child. They may not yet be able to generate their own solutions, but you can encourage their thinking with questions such as "what do you think you/we could do?" With practice and support from others, your child will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. However, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

Once you and your child have identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out? (eg at home or in the school playground.)

3 Check in: how did it go?

Once your child has tried the solution, check in with your child as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What could your child try next? Remember to give your child lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn't work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if the issue was correctly identified.

You can help to support your child's problem solving skills

- Model your own problem solving. Next time a daily problem arises (eg losing your car keys) talk through the problem and solution out loud. This will help to show your child that everyone has problems and that we can work through them by coming up with different solutions.
- Encourage your child to utilise support people to assist them with problem solving. These could be family members, friends, educators and teachers. This will promote help-seeking behaviours in your child and enable them to feel supported when they have a problem.

Learning to negotiate solutions to everyday problems and make decisions for themselves will help your child to gradually become more independent and responsible. It also helps them feel confident and good about themselves, which is an important part of mental health and wellbeing. When their mental health is supported, children are better learners, have stronger relationships and are better able to meet life's challenges.

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

KidsMatter Early Childhood information sheets:

- *Helping young kids to choose wisely*
- *Learning to make good decisions and solve problems*
- *Decision-making skills: Suggestions for families and staff*

KidsMatter Primary information sheets:

- *Helping kids to choose wisely*
- *Decision-making 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



Australian Government
Department of Health



Principals Australia Institute
Learning. Leading.

