

# Newsletter

St Patrick's Primary School  
Parramatta



7th March, 2019 Term 1 Week 6

## 2019 Dates to Remember Term 1.

### Week 6

#### **Friday 8th March**

Whole School Assembly at 2:00pm

Primary Awards only

### Week 7

#### **Monday 11th March**

Triskills

#### **Tuesday 12th March**

Triskills

#### **Thursday 14th March**

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Years 3 to 6 only

#### **Friday 15th March**

St Patrick's Day celebrations

Motiv8—St Patricks Dundas

No assembly

### Week 8

#### **Monday 18th March**

Triskills

#### **Tuesday 19th March**

Triskills

#### **Friday 22nd March**

Kinder Assembly at 2:15pm

Infants awards only

### Week 9

#### **Monday 25th March**

Triskills

#### **Tuesday 26th March**

Triskills

#### **Wednesday 27th March**

Primary Cross Country—Runners only

#### **Friday 29th March**

School Photos—Summer Uniform

Dear Parents

Yesterday, Wednesday 6th March 2019 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 burning of the palms took place at Tuesday's morning assembly. Father Bob and Father Chris introduced this symbolic action with prayer, blessed the palms and explained to the children the importance of this element/ritual to our Religious Education, Church tradition and growing faith.

For children, Lent is a time when we encourage them to think of others before themselves. To spend time praying and reflecting, to be of greater service to others in their community and beyond and to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. For little ones Lent can be made practical by setting a goal of sacrifice of some kind. At the Opening School Mass the symbol of the cloak of Jesus was used to remind us that we are challenged on a daily basis to show compassion, love and forgiveness - to wear this cloak particularly when events call us to do otherwise.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of joining Kindergarten during their prayer liturgy where they received the blessed ashes in their classrooms. I could not believe the capacity of our little ones to be so reverent and patient as they waited for their turn to receive the cross on their foreheads. Together we spoke about how much Jesus loves them and how he calls us to be kind, loving and forgiving to others and to speak to him often in prayer. Again the teachers and I were touched by the deep faith they already have. They expressed this so innocently and purely with comments such as, 'Did you know that God loves us' and 'God lives in our hearts.' They told us that 'God is everywhere' and they spoke about some members of their families who are with God in heaven. How beautiful! Keep up the good job parents!

Without going into too much detail in this school newsletter, being in the media, that children have access to it, it would be true to say that recent events have been very sad and challenging for many people. On Friday 1st March 2019, Bishop Vincent released his Pastoral letter to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta. We have been asked by our Bishop of Parramatta to pray and keep praying for all those affected. In this letter, amongst many other statements, Bishop sets us a challenge this Lent; to '...have the courage to die to that which is contrary to the Gospel, and rise to be what Christ has called us to be.' He summons us '... to a discipleship of humility, weakness and vulnerability, of dying and rising in Christ. We are challenged to remove our heart of stone and to have a heart of flesh instead.'

Let us continue to pray for each other and for all those who suffer and are persecuted.

If you wish to read Bishop's full letter please copy and paste the link into your browser.

[Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta](#)

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri  
Principal



## Honour Award

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

3L	Tiffany McCloskey	Alicia Remaili
3T	Lachlan Moore	Clare Camenzuli
4B	Noah Romanos	Olivia Saab
4G	Samuel Navasardyan	Raymond Joe Khoury
5C	Christian Barakat	Alexandra Elphinstone
5T	Sharbel Georges	Joseph Sassen
6P	Lucy Parkes	Alex Layoun
6W	Emily Hamilton	George Draybi

## st patrick's award

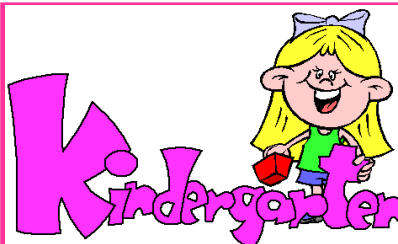
The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

3L	Aiden Ebrahim	Nardos Addisu
3T	Donnacha Ryan	Ava Lao
4B	Carmela Poblete	Noah Reyes-Mangabat
4G	Maria Khoury	Lucia El Hani
5C	Oliver Kougellis	Isabella Cameron
5T	Jake Buxton	Talia Kalouch
6P	Scarlett Khoury	Justin Makhoul
6W	Jazmyne Grech	Anthony Ghostine Maaroui



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

Hunter Morson, Xavier Skaf, Gabriella Sta Rosa, Catherine Said, Sienna Golossian



## ENROLMENTS FOR 2020 KINDERGARTEN

**Sibling enrolments forms are due back no later than Friday 29th of March 2019.**

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.

## 2019 SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

**Term 1 2019 statements have now been mailed to families this week 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**If you have any concerns with school fee payment please contact the School Finance Secretary Mrs Fiona Mitterer.**

## PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2019

**The 2019 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge starts soon!!!! Take a look at their great website**

**<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> for key dates, rules and booklists. More information to come soon!**

## BUS TRAVEL - OPAL CARD

**We have been asked by the local bus operator to relay the following message:**

**One of the requirements travelling on Hillsbus is the need for students to tap on and off when they travel to and from school.**

**Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students don't tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.**

**With this in mind, we ask for your assistance in reminding your children that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card.**

# ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 2019 hosted by MOTIV8SPORTS

**Date:** Friday 15th March 2019

**Venue:** St Patrick's College Dundas. Please note parking is restricted to street parking (eg., Kirby Street)

**Cost:** Covered in resource fee and augmented with school funds

**Time:** Children will participate in 2 sessions on the day. There will be a recess break and a lunch break. The timetable is as follows:

Buses leave St Patrick's Parramatta : 9:00 am

OPENING CEREMONY: 9:45 am to 10:00 am

MORNING SESSION 10:00 am to 11.10 am

Recess: 11:10 am to 11:40 am

AFTERNOON SESSION 11.50 pm to 1.10 pm

Lunch: 1:10 pm to 1:40pm

CLOSING CEREMONY and AWARDS 1:40 pm to 1:50 pm

Buses Depart to return to school: 2:00pm

**Uniform:** Sports uniform and school hat

**Please note: An alert was sent out today regarding permission for your child to attend the St Patrick's Day Celebrations.** We are trialling a new permission process, where money is not required, to eliminate lost notes and what we hope will be more convenient for parents/carers.

As you would fill out an absentee form on the Skoolbag app, the permission note is a similar process. Please go into eforms and complete the Motiv8 permission slip by Wednesday 13th March.

You are able to list all the siblings on the one form. If you need any assistance please contact Mrs Jones.

## IMPORTANT BEFORE SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year we have noticed an increasing number of children waiting on the footpath before 8.00am in the morning. These children are unsupervised and their safety cannot be monitored. Some children have been reported to be playing with balls on the street which is highly dangerous. The supervision and safety of children before the supervised time of 8.20am is a parent responsibility. Supervision on the playground commences at 8.20am where teachers are assigned to playground duty. School commences at 8.50am. I understand that many families need to get to work so I highly recommend securing a place with a Before School Care service. (Please find the contact details below)

With thanks

Bernadette Fabri

**NORTH PARRAMATTA OOSH PH NUMBER: 9683 3009**



## CONGRATULATIONS FINN!

I have been playing hockey with Wenty Hockey and the University of Technology for over four years and I love playing it. This is the second year I trialled for Hockey and I was fortunate to be selected again in the Parramatta Diocese Representative team. I was really excited when I got to show off my skills at the Nepean Hockey Centre at Western Sydney University earlier this week. I now get to go to Canberra in May to represent the Parramatta Diocese which is really exciting for me and my family. I can't wait to become a representative player!

Finn Giron 5T



## CONGRATULATIONS LORENZO!

Last Friday I went to Wollongong to participate at the Mackillop Basketball Team trials. I was competing against 4 other Dioceses, while I was playing with other players from the Parramatta Diocese. During the day Mackillop team coaches were scouting for players to form a New South Wales team to compete against the other states in Australia. From 10am we started playing against other Dioceses. We had to play four games throughout the entire day. The atmosphere was intense, competitive and exciting. Our team played very well together and fought with a competitive spirit till the end. At the end of the day the Mackillop team was announced. Unfortunately I wasn't selected because there was so many talented players to choose from, although I had great time and it was an amazing experience. Hopefully I will take this experience and improve so that when I try again I may progress even further.

Lorenzo De Guzman 6P

## ST PATRICK'S DAY FAIR - ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH

Next week the RE Team will be selling raffle tickets, from the amphitheatre, to support the St Patrick's Day festival. Tickets can be bought for \$2 each and will be on sale every morning from 8.30am. Prizes include: \$2000 Flight Centre travel voucher, \$500 Apple TV store voucher \$120 Outback Steak house voucher, \$100 Ticketmaster voucher, \$100 Bondi pizza voucher. The raffle will be drawn on 17 March at 3pm during the St Patrick's Festival. It is a great way to support our school's parish.

To ensure accuracy with contact details the school's address and phone number will be used on the ticket, and you will be notified the following week from a staff member.

## School Photos – Friday 29th March

Earlier this week a note was sent home regarding school photos for the 29th March , 2019 unfortunately the second page of the note was not included on how to order the photos online. **We encourage you to pay online for both individual photos and sibling photos. The website for ordering photos is [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)** This can be done in the convenience of your home. An email receipt will be mailed to you as confirmation and you can pay for all children or sibling photos in 1 easy payment. **The online code for our school St Patricks Primary, Parramatta is MKW J3F KMB. This needs to be completed at least 48hrs prior to photo day.**



Every child received a separate school photograph envelope earlier this week, which if paying by cash or cheque must be returned to school with the correct payment (no change is able to be given) by **Tuesday 26th March 2019**. Please ensure that you read the instructions on the envelope carefully and complete the envelope in full.

Your child is required to be neatly dressed in **full Summer School Uniform on that date.**



## Leadership Homily - Ethan Bechara 5C

Respect, compassion and resilience. In our everyday lives, these three important values can be displayed within our interactions with each other. Our school mascots are what we should contain and practice every day, but the question is, how do we use these values in our interactions with each other?

Ricky respect, the mascot that teaches us the importance of respect. We should all have respect for each other. This value can be shown in different ways, through our actions, words and thoughts. We can all start off by respecting the ethnicity, religions, opinions of others and just other people in general. In my personal opinion, I do believe respect is the most significant value any human could possess.

Coolio Compassion, our mascot that displays the value of compassion, teaches us the greatness of it. But what does compassion mean? It means to be kind, caring, and have the will to help others. We can also feel compassion for example, if something terrible happens to someone you feel compassion for them as if you want to help them. But how do you show compassion to others? You can show it when talking and interacting with others through actions like helping.

Rocky Resilient, our mascot that reminds us of Resilience. You show resilience when you get back up. Maybe sometimes your friend called you something mean and it hurt you for a while but then you brushed it off and let go of that hurt. That can be an example of resilience. Just like Coolio Compassion and Ricky Respect, resilience can be shown in different ways. Whether it'd be by actions or words

These three important values, Respect, compassion and resilience we help guide us through our lives and will be shown within our interaction with each other. How we interact will determine how much we really value these three in our lives. We can all interact with respect, compassion and resilience in mind, as it's the right thing to do. I personally, will do my best in order to live out my life, with these three values in my daily life.

# St Patrick's Day Festival

Rides, Food, Stalls, Book Stall  
White Elephant Stall, Entertainment etc

**17 | MARCH | 2019**  
**12PM - 5PM**

GROUNDS OF ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
1 MARIST PLACE, PARRAMATTA

**ALL WELCOME**

## Change of Sports Day for Week 7

Due to St Patrick's Day Celebrations—Motiv8 next week we have made an amendment to sports day.

Your child will be required to wear their sports uniform on the following day-

### Wednesday 13th March

1C, 2M, 2Y, 5C, 5T, 6P and 6W

### Thursday 14th March

KA, 1S, 3L, 3T, 4B and 4G.

### Friday 15th March

**St Patrick's Day  
Celebration—Motiv8**

# NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2019

## Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2019 most students across Australia will sit NAPLAN online.

Feedback in the first year of NAPLAN Online showed that students engaged well with online assessments. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's test performance. The test presents questions of higher or lower complexity, depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills.

There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

To get an idea of what the online assessment looks like, visit the public demonstration site at [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

## How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of coaching providers. NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

## Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests. However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)



## Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## NAPLAN Online 2019 timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days. This is to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 14 May and finishes on Friday 24 May 2019.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min.	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only
Reading	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the writing test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Conventions of language	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

## What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

## How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at [myschool.edu.au](https://myschool.edu.au)

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](https://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](https://nap.edu.au)

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit [nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy](https://nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING NAPLAN ONLINE 2019

Dear Parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students,

This year 2019 your child will be sitting for the NAPLAN Online. Children at St Patrick's Parramatta will be joining other students in Australia in doing NAPLAN online. Up to this point students in Year 3 and 5 have completed NAPLAN testing using paper tests.

To optimize success it is suggested that all parents visit the NAPLAN link below and allow their child to 'play' using the practice tests. You do not need a code but only to follow the link provided. <http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Whilst the teachers will be spending a short time familiarizing them to the formatting of these tests the more comfortable the children are in using arrows, tabs, drop down menu for example the more relaxed and confident they will be.

What children will need:

Devices: (All children will be using school provided chrome books)

Headphones: (Each child will need to bring their own headphone).

It is recommended that they have headphones with soft caps covering the ear rather than earbuds ones. See below they can be purchased from K Mart, Target or Big w and range from \$6.00 to \$13.00. Practice: It is recommended that all students practice using the format provided in the tests by completing the practice tests especially numeracy. This test requires the students to use a digital ruler (found on the upper right hand corner, click once and drag) for example. It is important that children know how to use this feature.

NB: Yr 3 will not be doing the writing assessment online.



### HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day


will be exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

 SCHOLASTIC



## OPEN DAY 2019

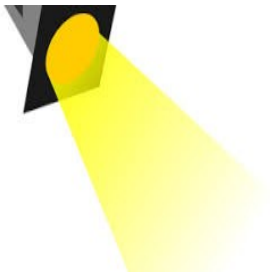
Sunday 10 March

10am - 2pm

You are invited to join us for **Open Day** at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta in 2019, our 130th anniversary year.

[www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)





## Spotlight on...

Today we are focusing on our ARTS leaders - Savannah Chiha and Anthony Maaraoui

### Savannah Chiha

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

My favourite movie is Journey To The Mysterious Island because it is an adventure movie and I enjoy the action and the curiosity.

If there was an emergency, apart from being with your family what would be the thing you grab first?

The first thing I would grab is the St. Jude Prayer that I keep in my bedroom, because it is the most important thing to me.

What hobbies do you have?

My hobbies are acting and singing

Your least favourite dish?

My least favourite dish is salmon because I don't like the taste or texture of it.

What's your favourite place in the world?

My favourite place in the world would have to be Hawaii because I love the setting, the activities you can do, the festivals and the traditions.

### Anthony Maaraoui

Favourite Book?

My favourite book is wonder because it is about real life situations.

If you were an animal what would you be?

I would be a giraffe because they are really tall .

If you could have any job what would it be? Why?

A gamer because you can make money from playing games.

What is your favourite subject?

My favorite subject is Arts because I am good at it.

What do you do in your spare time?

I go to the gym and play video games.



every learner  
every day ✓



*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 Christopher Del Rosario      Rev Deacon Willy Limjap

Meg Gale ( Sacramental Coord)

Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)      Mindy Mercado (Youth Co-ord)

Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary) Donna Missio (Receptionist)