

Newsletter

18th December, 2019 Term 4 Week 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This is the last newsletter for 2019 and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for all you have contributed to our school. To our parent community, thank you for your generosity, your cooperation, your feedback, your time, and particularly your partnership in the education of your children. Thank you to those who volunteered at morning teas, graduation and farewell functions, excursions, reading groups, masses, sports events, in the classroom, in the library and the many other school appeals such as the selling of ice blocks. Thank you for your donation of money or goods, gifts for raffles and time; it is very much appreciated.

To our students; thank you for your enthusiasm for learning, your courtesy and friendliness and your spirit of hospitality when coming into your classrooms. Thank you for trying hard and accepting feedback. Thank you for your cooperation and loyalty to our school and respect for your teachers. I hope you have a restful and fun Christmas break.

To the staff at St Patrick's thank you so much for the care you demonstrate to the students in your class or in sick bay and your genuine interest in their learning progress. I loved watching you problem solve together and trying to determine what strategy best suits individual children. Thank you for your passion for learning and your extraordinary organizational abilities. Thank you for caring about the children as you do.

As I mentioned in my Principal's Address at the Graduation Mass I wish our Year 6 students all the very best for high school. They have been a wonderful grade of children and a real testimony to the great job their families have done.

It is also with particular sadness that we say goodbye to some of our families who will be leaving St Patrick's Parramatta either with their youngest now going to high school or those who will be moving to other schools for various reasons. I have loved getting to know you and your children and our association feels longer than my time at St Patrick's. We wish you well and hope to see you again often.

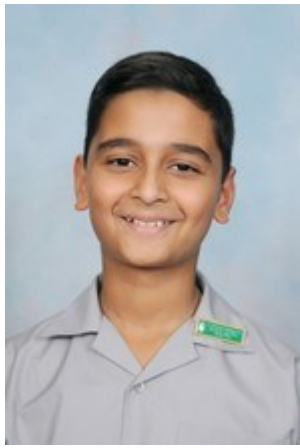
From all accounts the children really enjoyed meeting their teachers last Tuesday and hopefully this friendly encounter has helped to alleviate any stress that may occur when children are unsure about the year to come.

May the Lord grant you and your loved ones love, joy, peace and goodwill this Christmas and New Year! We particularly think of families that have lost loved ones; you will not be far from our thoughts this Christmas.

God bless you and your family

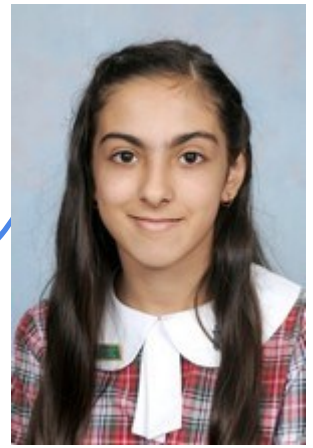
Kind Regards
Bernadette Fabri
Principal





Captains Speech

2019



Our excitement, fun and hardship is about to come to an exciting but nerve racking end. We've done it! But most importantly we've done it together as a family and as a team. Throughout our years of Primary School we have experienced so much together and have grown close with every single one of our peers. We are a team. And we have learnt, cried, faced challenges together, all as a team.

There have been many thrills, joys and triumphs; as well as struggles, sufferings and obstacles. These experiences have helped us thrive, learn and grow as individuals. We were taught to stay close and have each others backs through all times and to lean on each other for support, as a school community. May it be either when rejoicing with our friends when achieving success, assisting others in their time of need or laughing with teachers as we made our way through the year. We stuck together, laughed with one another, played together, celebrated together and challenged each other in our learning. We have been taught to be diligent, self-directed lifelong learners and have learnt off each other, developed new friendships and a sense of community that we will cherish and carry forward as we transition into high school and into our future lives.

A wise person once said, "Big life changes are pretty scary. But what's scarier? Regret."

Our journey throughout Primary School is coming to an end. We will be leaving some of our friends and hopefully looking forward to making new ones as well. High school is a significant new chapter in our life where we may be challenged at times. It is important that going into high school we carry out the same values we have been instilled with and that we aim to be the best versions of ourselves in all we do, everyday, and diligent workers striving for success. Our choices in life define who we are and what we become of ourselves. We all have talents, but we are given a choice in whether we use these talents for the good or bad. We were taught to make discerning choices and to maintain our faith in God to help us face trials and challenges.

We are both most honoured to represent you as your 2019 School Captains and be granted the opportunity to represent our school at its true heart. We are proud to be the leaders of your school, for it to be the greatest and bring out the best in its students as it always has. It has been a unique experience for each and every one of us and has provided us with many opportunities as we now move on to our next stage in life, and given us the foundations for our education, so we may all have the chance to be who we want to be.

The teachers and staff in our school have helped us in growing and becoming the learners that we are today. Without these people in our lives we wouldn't have been able to do some of the many things that we have accomplished during our years at primary school.

We would like to thank the teachers who have educated us from Kindergarten to Year 5; Mrs Nubla, Mrs Uliano, Mrs Veljkovic, Mrs Masefield, Mrs Williams, Miss Onorato, Mrs Jadrabieb, Miss Hagi, Mrs Wallace, Mrs Daou, Mrs Fardell and Mrs Carroll.

Their years of toil and of care brought us up to be the best people and best learners we can be and to teach to grow in our learning, as well as prepared us for Year 6. Thank you to all the casual teachers; who spent their time with us in our classrooms and carried forward our learning when our teachers were absent.

A notable Thank You to Mrs Fardell, Mrs Standring, Mrs Jadrabieb and Ms Chan for teaching us in year 6. You have been with us throughout the year, supported us and taught and prepared us exceptionally well for High school. You have helped us to develop as self-directed learners and pushed us to try to be better than our best and never give up. We will always remember the Power of Yet.

Thank You to Mr Younis and Mrs Rodricks for educating us weekly about sport, health, music and drama. You have taught us well so that we can step into high school knowledgeable, wise and confident and we have made many lasting memories with you both from the beginning of kindergarten to now.

Thank You to Mrs Fabri and Mrs Benkovich, for leading our school and its students so well. You always did and still encourage us to take action of our learning and be the drivers not just passengers. You both work extremely hard for the wellbeing of our school, its staff and its students.

Thank You to Mrs Jones, Mrs Nutter and Mrs Mitterer, for always being there for us when we aren't feeling our best or even when we need someone to talk to each and everyday.

Thank You to Father Bob and Father Chris for both being knowledgeable, compassionate and approachable priests whom we all look up to. You help us in strengthening our faith and guide us in staying close to God.

Thank You to Mrs Yuen, Mr McIntosh, Mrs Barclay, Ms Kelly, Mrs Maninno, Mrs O'Dwyer and Mrs Attard and all Staff members for their continuous support of the learning of students and assisting us in making our time at St Patrick's even more memorable. You dedicate your time to the wellbeing and learning of our school and help to create a community based environment that we will never forget.

Finally, on behalf of the year 6 Class of 2019, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and guardians. You have been with us and stuck by our side since day one. You've dedicated your time to caring for us, packing our lunches and helping us with our homework and studies. You manage to take time out of work to watch us run, swim or participate in activities, you offer us guidance when we're feeling down, and you're are relentlessly patient and resilient with us.

We show gratitude for all the hardship, tears and effort you've endured while raising us, and for giving us the chance to feel special and be open to opportunities and decisions, supporting us in our accomplishments, ups and downs. We will persist in trying to make you proud every single day.

To the year 6 class of 2019, you are all inspiring and wonderful role models. We all laughed and shared many lasting conversations with each other as a family. We have experienced and created so many everlasting memories together in the past 7 years at this school that we will always remember and cherish. Even though we will be going in separate paths in the future, we know that our friendships and times together will never be forgotten.

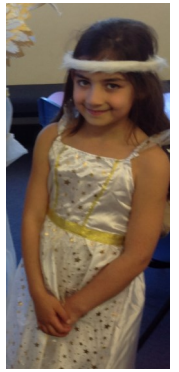
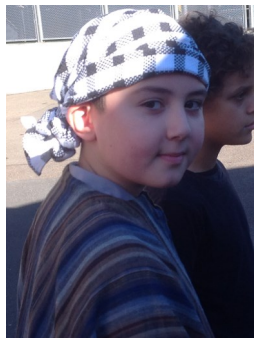
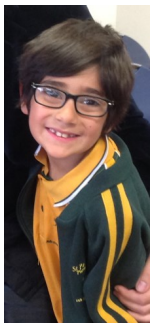
It has most definitely been a wonderful privilege for the both of us to have the opportunity to lead our school under the role of School Captain of 2019. It has been an extremely rewarding experience we will always remember as we move onto highschool. As the class of 2019 we are all appointed leaders of our school and have had the fortunate opportunity in experiencing Primary School with people who we have grown closer to and now know exceptionally well and share the same journey through primary school, friends who have been there for us no matter what.

We will miss you all at St Patrick's; the staff, the teachers, the community and the friendships we've forged.

We will always fondly cherish the memories we have created and they'll always have a special place in our hearts. We are ready to move on in our schooling lives towards bigger things in High School.

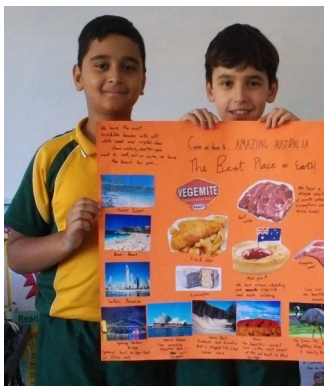
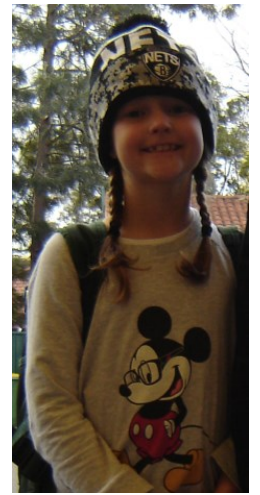
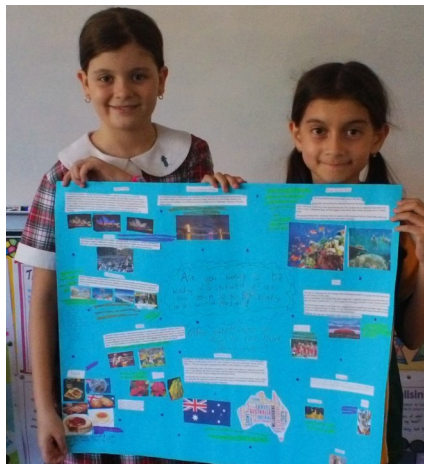
To conclude, a beautiful quote from the wise Mother Teresa; *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."*

I would like to once again commend a final thank you to all those who have influenced us to help us become better people throughout our schooling lives. Finally, we would like to wish St Patrick's Primary Parramatta the best for the future with continued success and blessings always all the best in the years to come. Thank you.



Farewell Class of 2019





YEAR 6 END OF YEAR GOODBYE -

The Year 6 end of year goodbye will be taking place this afternoon in the playground - weather permitting - Wednesday 18th December at 2.20pm. This will involve the traditional guard of honour from their Kindergarten Buddies and a few special surprises including a mystery presentation. All welcome!!!

GRADUATION AND THANKSGIVING MASS - MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 2019

Thank you to all the families that attended the Graduation and Thanksgiving mass last Monday. As always the Cathedral was filled to capacity as we celebrated Eucharist, prayed and reflected on such a wonderful year together. Thank you to the Year 6 teachers Mrs Standring, Mrs Fardell, Mrs Rodricks and Ms Chan for all the organisation behind the scenes. Thank you also to Father Bob and Father Chris for all their support throughout the year and for their spiritual leadership of our community. Congratulations Year 6 2019!

A special thank you is extended to our Year 5 parents, who, under the coordination of the parents of the 2020 leaders, put on a marvellous morning tea. I would like these parents to know the number of expressions of gratitude received and directed to you for all your efforts. The food was delicious and ample and the hall decorations must have taken a significant period of time to put together. It was so worth the effort as the Year 6 parents, their guests, and the children, loved taking photos against the feature wall and were able to relax with each other after mass. Well Done Year 5 Parents! Congratulations!!.



Art Showcase

ARTS SHOWCASE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Thank you to all the students who entered our first art exhibition. This year's theme was 'Hope for Christmas' and the entries were all outstanding and showcased a wide variety of interpretations of the theme.

On Wednesday all students were invited to view the entries and choose their favourite. The Year Five SRC members tallied the results and the top three infants and primary pieces of art were awarded the People's Choice Award.



Congratulations to the following students:

Infants- Quintus Feng, Zachary Tannous and Olivia Moussa.

Primary- Sean Feng, Shanelle Wambeek and Anthony Nakhoul.

All People's Choice artwork have been framed and will be on display in the stairwell leading to the library.

Thank you also for donating a gold coin with your entry all money raised will be added to the ice blocks money and donated to St Vincent de Paul bushfires Appeal.



9 CHILD HONOURING HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

www.childhonouring.org

@kwiens62



Kristin Wiener 2016

Here are some holiday ideas. Although this is designed for the northern hemisphere I think you can get the idea. Enjoy

 Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthdays over the holidays.

OZ Fashions your uniform supplier is now selling all uniforms required for 2020. OZ Fashions are open 6 days a week Monday-Friday 9.00-5.30pm and Saturday 9.00-4.00pm. We are closed from the 25th December till the 5th January. We do not trade on Public holidays nor Sundays. Please purchase your uniforms before the New Year 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.

100% Yearly Attendance

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who achieved the amazing feat of 100% attendance for the year. This is an enormous effort as it required the student to have no absences or partial absences for the entire year. Looking forward to presenting these students with a special medallion at the first assembly next year.



Children's Mass on Christmas Eve, 6.00pm

Each year we invite the children to take part in this Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to experience this special time of the year by being involved in the 'Christmas Story'.

A practice session has been scheduled for **Friday 20th December at 4pm**. We will meet in the cloister at St Patrick's Cathedral church. No need to book, just turn up.

SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

The wellbeing of children and young people in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools is of paramount importance. A sense of well-being and connectedness in schools promotes optimal development of the person and contributes to academic success.

Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

NEXT LEVEL SPORTS SUMMER CLINIC DATES CONFIRMED:



Christmas Clinic
- 2019: Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of December
(Christmas Eve pending numbers)

January Clinic

- 2020: Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th of January.

Location: St Patrick's PS, Parramatta.

To book or for further enquiries: nextlevelsports@live.com.au

St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2020 DATES

Week One 2020	Monday 27th January 2020	Tuesday 28th January 2020	Wednesday 29th January 2020	Thursday 30th January 2020	Friday 31st January 2020	Week 2 Monday 3rd February 2020
	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 4 days.				

SCHOOL CONCERT AND PARISH CAROLS

Congratulations to the children and the staff for a fabulous school concert on Thursday night and for their involvement in the Parish Carols on Saturday night. The feedback the school has received has been extremely positive and parents really appreciated the staff efforts for both events. It was a very joyous way to celebrate the Christmas Season which is soon to be upon us. Thank you to Mrs Standing and the school Christmas Concert Committee for the organisation last Thursday Night.

Thank you to Mrs Rodricks for her preparation of the choir for Saturday Night and for all the parents who brought their children to the cathedral to join in this very prayerful and meaningful liturgy.

After the liturgy the children were treated to a little gift of chocolate from Santa and had fun on the jumping castle. It was a really lovely evening!



Read & win

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

Win a
**GOOGLE
CHROMEBOOK**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **two Google Chromebooks** or one of **thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30**.

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

Enter online
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

**Competition opens
on 2 December 2019 and
closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020**
Terms and conditions apply.

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 Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

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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)