



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Tuesday (17th March, 2020) we recalled the life of St Patrick, on the anniversary of his death in the year 387. St Patrick is the patron saint of our school, St Patrick's Parramatta.

Many people already know much about the life of St Patrick but if you do not, here are some key facts taken from one of the most popular catholic magazines in the US, [Catholic Digest](#).

- Born in modern day Great Britain at some point in the late fourth or early fifth century, at the age of 16 he was abducted by Irish pirates and was held as a slave in Eire for six years until escaping.
- He made his way back to Britain, and from there to Gaul (modern France) where he dedicated himself to his Christian faith, was ordained a priest, and then went back to Ireland as a missionary, converting thousands and laying the foundation for a resurgent Christianity across all of Britannia.
- Living at a time when the rational thing to do was to hide away, to barricade the gates and pray for the enemy to go away, Patrick, took up his crosier and sailed back to the land where he had once known bondage, into the heartland of those who had preyed upon a vulnerable Britain, and he sought to bring them into the Christian fold.

So, What can we learn from the life of St Patrick? Writer Sean Sullivan reminds us to demonstrate St Patrick's ability to forgive. We all know that sometimes this is a very difficult virtue, for when people wrong us it is very hurtful and induces much anger and disappointment. He writes;

We live in an age where forgiveness — true forgiveness — is lacking. Restitution, revenge, recompense, these are the tools used to settle differences, and in doing so, they engender only hatred and mistrust. We should not be surprised at this. It is a human fault to carry hatred with us, to hold grudges against those who have wronged us, and have suspicion of all who may even distantly be related to our trespassers... In this age where the word of Christ has retreated from public life and tribalism abounds, we as Christians, must then turn to St. Patrick. Like so many other missionary churchmen of his age, he went above the petty tribalism and, holding true to the evangelizing call of Christ, approached former enemies not out of a want for blood or vengeance, but with a conviction that the love of God, lived to its utmost by those who profess his name, would conquer all.

"As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.

[Catholic Digest](#) 2018

God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal



2020 Dates to Remember

Week 8

Friday 20th March

St Patrick's Day Celebration

Whole School Picnic at Coleman Oval Parramatta Park

POSTPONED

Primary Assembly—Year 6—**CANCELLED**

Week 9

Tuesday 24th March

Triskills continues - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday 25th March

Cross Country - **CANCELLED**

Friday 27th March

Celebration of Learning—Year 5—2.00pm

POSTPONED

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY DATES

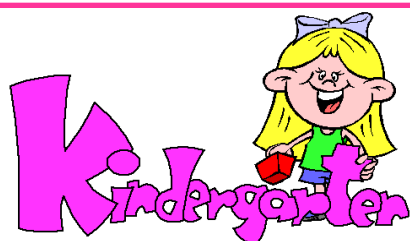
Every year the school is required to hold 6 Staff Development Days (SDD) when students will not be in attendance. These days may be set aside for the spiritual and/or professional development of staff. To assist parents and caregivers to keep track of these days please find the following information:

1. 30/01/2020 Staff preparation and gathering of Maths data on individual children.
2. 31/01/2020 Gathering of Maths data on individual children.
3. 21/02/2020 Building Sustainable Practices (Dr Michael Mc Dowell)
4. 4/05/2020 Religious Education Curriculum (Anthony Maher) (tbc)
5. 17/12/2020 Gazetted SDD for all schools in CEDP
6. 18/12/2020 Gazetted SDD for all schools in CEDP

2020 School Terms

Term 1	Concludes on Thursday 9th April
Term 2	Monday 27th April to Friday 3rd July
Term 3	Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September
Term 4	Monday 12th October to Wednesday 16th December

ENROLMENTS FOR 2021 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN



Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2021 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.

The completed Enrolment Application, together with originals of all requested supporting documentation, must be submitted, in person, to our school office. You will need to bring copies and originals of your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parent's and child's if born overseas), Immunization Certificates and proof of address (council rates, drivers licence). Please be aware that we are unable to accept or process incomplete applications and note that submitting an application does not guarantee automatic placement.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2020.

St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 88.1% of children are over the required 90%

K = 96.6%	2 = 80.0%	4 = 90.7%	6 = 88.1%
1 = 85.2%	3 = 91.7%	5 = 85.5%	



Honour Award

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

3L	Owen Abraham	Bailey Grohs
3T	Callum Donaldson	Olivia Moussa
4B	Gabriel Kalouche	Sophie Salloum
4G	James Agostino	Tiffany McCloskey
5C	Sophie Gahdmar	Dylan Amaral
5T	Adam Jurisic	Meagan Erive
6P	Anthony Wehbe	Aoife Mitchell
6W	Xavier Haklani	Talia Kalouche

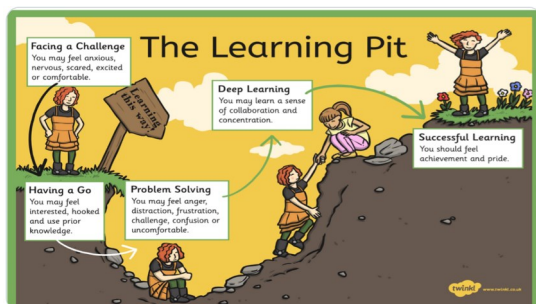


st patrick's award

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

3L	Joshua Jaitani	Kaylani Elphinstone
3T	Hunter Morson	Celine Joachim
4B	Liam Stojkovski	Julia Vytinco
4G	Donnacha Ryan	Lara Samar
5C	Fidelle Youssef	Jacob Wehbe
5T	Amyllia Maneze	Tony Thomas
6P	Andrew Doumit	Catherine Said
6W	Bryan Bracks	Olivia Takchi

Awards will be handed out in class on Friday



From the Learning Pit..

As the students move through the stages of learning they may feel different emotions. This is all part of the learning process. When discussing learning with your child you may like to acknowledge the following emotions but reassure them it is normal and is a good indication learning is happening.

Facing a challenge: You may feel anxious, nervous, scared, excited or comfortable.

Having a Go: You may feel interested or hooked. You may use prior knowledge.

Problem Solving: You may feel angry, distracted, frustrated, challenged, confused or uncomfortable.

Deep Learning: You may learn skills of collaboration and concentration.

Successful Learning: You may feel a sense of achievement and pride



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week —

Jacob Semaan,
Aaliyah Johnston,

Angela Bracks, Carl Cauan,
Noah Reyes-Mangabat,
Sebastian Vella, Anthony Bracks,
Bailey Grohs, Phillip Boutros,
Timana Gutierrez Caceres,
Audrey El Bayeh, Isla-Rose Eid

Understanding School Talk ???

OOSH

Out of School Hours Care

Centres which look after children
before and after school



Spotlight

This week we are focusing our Spotlight on....

Our year 6 student Aaliyah Johnston.

Aaliyah Johnston

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to play on my iPad and watch movies.

What are you most excited for currently?

I'm excited for my birthday. I'm turning eleven.

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is English because it's easy and I'm good at it.

What is your ideal job?

I want to be a doctor because they make a lot of money and I love helping others.

What sport (s) or music do you play?

I do dancing and I enjoy it very much.



Lost Property

Missing a jacket? It may be in this pile in the office. Please come and check.

COVID –19

Please find a link to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the COVID - 19 virus from NSW Health that may answer some of your questions. The school is guided by the best advice from NSW Health with regard to all procedures to minimize risk of possible contamination.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/coronavirus-faqs.aspx#1-9-2>

NAPLAN Yrs 3 and 5

12–22 May

NAPLAN Online

NAPLAN information will be available through this newsletter over the next 2 terms. Please watch this space.

NAPLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do students do in the NAPLAN writing test?

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are provided with a 'writing stimulus' or 'prompt' – an idea or topic – and asked to write a response of a particular text type (genre). Students sitting NAPLAN are tested on either narrative or persuasive writing

Will students complete the writing test online in 2020?

Many schools across Australia have transitioned to NAPLAN Online. Year 5, 7 and 9 students participating in NAPLAN Online will undertake all NAPLAN tests, including writing, online. Year 3 students at schools participating in NAPLAN Online will complete tests online for numeracy, reading and conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation), **but they will complete the writing test on paper**

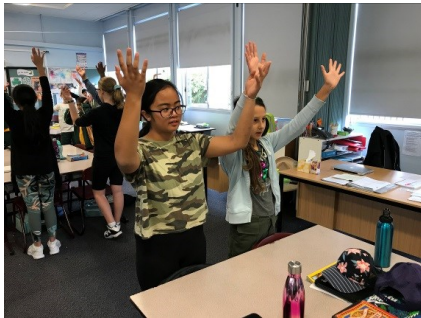
The [public demonstration site](#) allows students to become familiar with the writing panel and editing tools that will be available to them in the writing test.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations

On the 17th of March we celebrated St Patrick's Day. We had a lovely liturgy led by our Year Six Leaders over the speakers whilst children were in their classrooms listening and praying. Throughout the day we had a special visitor at St Patrick's Parramatta named **Mrs Leprechaun** who granted the children of St Patrick's many wishes such as free play outside with lots of play equipment. Thank you to those who helped organise this fun and faith filled day for our students.

We hope you all had a wonderful and joyous St Patrick Day.

St Patrick's Day Committee.

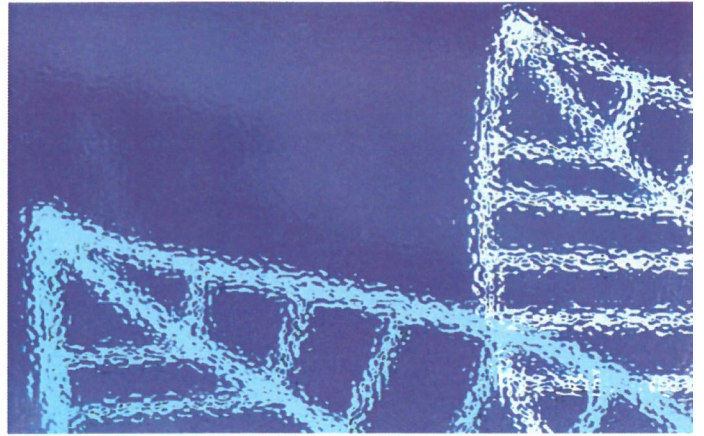


Healing

Week 4

Monday 16 to Sunday 22 March

2020 CEDP LENTEN REFLECTIONS



Gather

“I only know that I was blind and now I see.” John 9:25

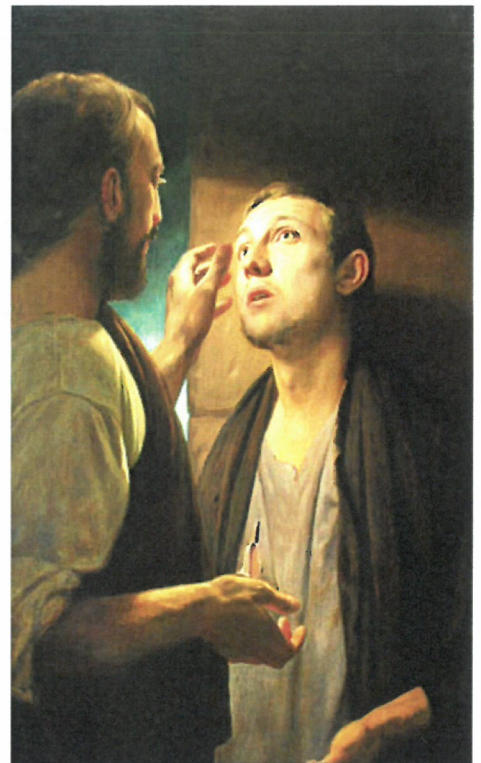
Generous and gracious God,
at times I can be blind to the path that You ask me to follow.
Open my eyes so that they may reflect the goodness of Your love.
Let my eyes feel with mercy and compassion.
Let my eyes understand with wisdom and acceptance.
Let my eyes be Your healing presence.
Amen

Listen

Gospel - John 9:1-42 (Amended)

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam.” So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” He himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So, they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”



**‘Christ and the pauper.
Healing of the blind man’ by
A.N. Mironov**

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" ²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. I only know I was blind and now I see!"

Reflect

The encounter of Jesus with the blind man goes through several phases and is surrounded with much observance and conversation. The man, who has been blind since birth, comes to Jesus with the expressed hope and desire to be able to see. The response of Jesus is surprising! He makes a mud paste and places it over the eyes of the blind man. Such an action, bewildering to the onlookers, points to the fact that healing comes from the ordinary stuff of life; mud and clay which is very messy. Even though the blind man's journey from darkness to light seemed to take a long route, his final reply was one of sureness and **CLARITY**:

"I only know that I was blind and now I see."

In his humility and directness, the blind man gifts us all with **CLARITY** as we realise that the right attitude in receiving God's gift is simply one of gracious acceptance.

Respond

1. Recall times when you have been led to **CLARITY** through engaging with the ordinary and messy stuff of life.
2. When the disciples first saw the blind man they asked, "who is to blame?" The response of Jesus reminds us that sometimes no one is to blame but that difficult situations present an opportunity for us to be drawn more fully into God's presence. Do you think that this is so?
3. Can you remember a time in your life when you have been in a situation that you found difficult and therefore resisted - but by trusting and remaining faithful to the situation you received insight and clarity?

Concluding Prayer

Glory to God source of all being, Eternal Word, Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen

From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity

<https://www.numeracyathome.com/>

The following is taken from guidelines published by the NSW government:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/>

What parents can do at home to help their child with graphs and tables

- Together with your child, keep track of the time they spend watching TV. At the end of the week, see if together you can make a graph to show the time spent.
- Play games such as 'rock, paper, scissors' with your child and use tally marks to keep a record of wins and losses.
- With your child, read and discuss information shown on sporting competition tables.
- Read information books with your child and discuss tables and graphs that appear in them.
- Show your child how to find and use a table of contents in a book.
- Draw up a table of activities that your child completes during the week such as sports training, music or swimming lessons and household chores, or special times during the school week such as library, school sport or computers

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.

Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.



sub tuum
praesidium

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)