

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Saturday people all over Australia commemorated ANZAC Day. Unlike other years where people gathered at dawn ceremonies at cenotaphs in their local area, this year was vastly different. Photos of families standing at the edge of their driveways, with candles and other ANZAC symbols, flooded social media and this unique modification of a significant Australian annual event, shows how creatively people adapt to conditions presented to them. I know in my street we could hear the Last Post sounding from a nearby house at 6am, and one could not help but feel a sense of unity and solidarity with others, in remembering the special contribution men, women and even animals made to fight for peace.

Just like on ANZAC Day, the onset of the COVID 19 virus in our world has caused us to make some significant changes in our lives - changes we could never have imagined. We have had to think of new ways, different ways, creative ways, collaborative ways of undertaking tasks, work, prayer and sacramental experiences and events important to us. Some of these have been annoying and difficult and have even tested our patience. Learning from Home (remotely) is one such change we have had to get used to. Through speaking to parents recently I hear how very keen families are to return to a more normal routine. I fully understand and sympathize with how difficult and frustrating this process has sometimes been and continues to be. It has certainly pulled everyone out of our comfort zones and the learning has been significant; for teachers as well as parents and of course children.

Students have definitely risen to the challenge and where once upon a time we would have said some aspects of this process would be too difficult for our young ones, we are now beginning to re think these earlier assumptions. In saying this we are all very keen to return to learning 'face to face' at school. The importance of social connection, discussion and modelling, to the learning process, cannot be underestimated. As we prepare for the gradual return to onsite learning I want to congratulate you for the spirit to which you have accepted this challenge and the patience and commitment shown to do one's very best to assist your children. As I have said in the past, the lessons learned during this time is as much about the learning dispositions of cooperation, independence, resilience, patience, tenacity, balance, family teamwork and prioritizing, as it is about the content and skills particular to the Key Learning Areas scheduled. I truly believe that children have an amazing way of adapting and capacity for bounce back and I am very confident that we will be witnessing this in very positive ways in the near future. The beautiful poem, "Easter Challenge", by Joyce Rupp found in this newsletter, is very poignant at this time, especially as this Easter break we were bound to our homes like a Winter hibernation although the glorious weather called us forward.

"Hang in there!" everyone - we will soon be back together again learning, playing and praying together!

Let us think and pray often for those dozens of people in Australia and thousands of people around the world who have lost their lives to this terrible virus and pray that God will inspire our doctors and scientists to find a cure or vaccine very very soon.

May God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal



The Easter Challenge

You believe because you can see...
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe
— John 20:29

Every year it happens:
earth shakes her sleepy head,
still a bit wintered and dull,
and feels new life stirring

Every year cocoons give up their treasures,
fresh shoots push through brown leaves,
seemly dead branches shine with green,
and singing birds find their way home

Every year we hear the stories
empty tomb, surprised griever,
runners with news and revelation,
unexpected encounters,
conversations on the road,
tales of nets filling with fish,
and breakfast on a seashore

And every year
the dull and dead in us
meets our Easter challenge:

to be open to the unexpected,
to believe beyond our own security,
to welcome God in every form,
and trust in our own greening

—Joyce Rupp 2000

**Staff Development Day
scheduled for Monday 4th May
POSTPONED until further
notice.**

Future Staff Development Days

1. 17/12/2020 Gazetted SDD
for all schools in CEDP
2. 18/12/2020 Gazetted SDD
for all schools in CEDP

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

Adam Jurisic, Ava Lao,
Andrew Khalil,
Johnnie Daher,
Alyssa Vella, Juana Boby,
Gabriel Rahme



You are invited to watch a
livestream of Sunday Mass at St
Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta.
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Watch the Mass live on
Facebook and **YouTube**.
Readings for the Mass, provided
by Universalis, can be **found
here.**"

Condolences

We wish to extend our
deepest sympathy to the
Pangan Family (Josh) on
the passing of his
grandfather.



Please keep the families in your prayers.

We Pray

At present we are all struggling to breathe life into our wounded, contagious world. We ask you Lord to gather all peoples, all creatures, all that exists, into a new unity which respects the interconnectedness of all of life.

May we become a new earth community founded in love and built on love, as we seek your ever abiding presence.

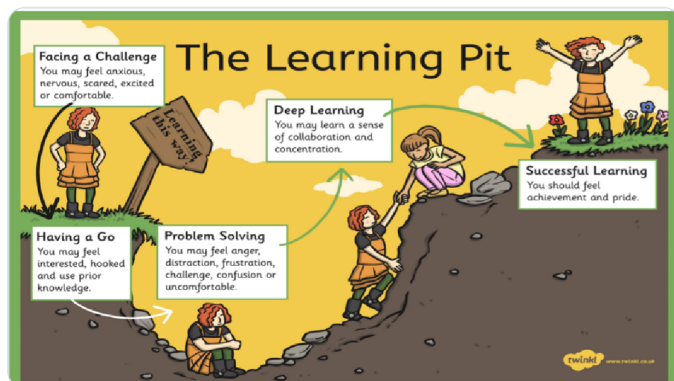
Glory to God source of all being, eternal Word, Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen





FROM THE LEARNING PIT

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service which allows students and teachers or people in general to meet in virtual rooms in a variety of remote places. These include: school to home, home to home or simply place to place where there is an internet connection. Zoom for education

can be used from a variety of reasons including to facilitate connection between students and teachers who have not seen each other for some time, to connect with students in small groups in a discussion group, masterclass or book club or more purposely to be able to provide a learning resource that the students can use at their own pace and in their own time.

When joining a Zoom meeting for the first time the students will be directed to download the zoom extension. Please follow the prompts. Feel free to contact the school if you need some help.

Take care and keep safe,

Leanda Standring

[Video conferencing guidelines for parents CEDP.pdf](#)

[Video conferencing guidelines for students CEDP.pdf](#)

LEARNING FROM HOME

Just a reminder that to avoid screen fatigue for those children who are learning online, it is important to vary the tasks with activities that exercise the senses. For the next four weeks some ideas will be included for your interest. We hope you find them helpful.

Communication with Parents

The staff of St Patrick's see great value in having an open line of communication with our community. This is even more important during our current situation. Communication in today's world takes on many forms, just this week our students have started to venture into the world of Zoom Meetings.

We are very excited about our next venture into social media with the upcoming launch of the St Patrick's official Facebook page. Watch this space for more information.

Remembering ANZAC DAY

Saturday 25th April, 2020

In 2014 I had the honour of travelling with a group of principals and system leaders on a pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey and Italy, following the footsteps of St Paul the Apostle. One of the highlights of the tour was our visit to Anzac Cove in Turkey.



Many of you have undoubtedly seen recent TV documentaries honouring our ANZAC heroes, at Gallipoli in 1915. You would have learned of the soldiers' courage and hardships and their sense of mateship and love of their king and country. Like all recounts of war the stories are extremely sad, as we remember that these very brave men were often just teenagers or young adults, the same age as some of your children or family members. All were volunteers and many having no previous military experience. What I find so interesting is that true to the makeup of modern Australia, many of our ANZACS came from countries all around the world or had parents who migrated to Australia. In fact it is estimated that 30 percent of Anzac soldiers were born overseas. Some of these countries included: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, China, Lebanon, Philippines, Malaysia, Greece, South Africa, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Italy, Malta, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, India, France and Sweden. There are probably other members of our Australian community that have Anzac connections that we do not know about. It is also very worthy of note that 1,300 Indigenous Australians managed to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), although the Commonwealth Defence Act of 1909 prevented them from entering military service legitimately. God Bless our ANZAC Heroes

Understanding School Talk ???

KISS & DROP

A designated drop off zone where parents can drop their children off, kiss them goodbye and wish them a good day and drive away.

INFORMATION REGARDING PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

message from prc@det.nsw.edu.au

Welcome to Term 2!

How quickly things change! You're probably all working quite differently to how you would have expected this time last term, but some things don't change. Connecting with stories and ideas is still as important as ever, and the Premier's Reading Challenge will continue to provide support for students to be able to discover great stories and experience quality literature.

We recently sent an email about updates to the Challenge Rules for 2020 to help support students as their learning environment is changed during COVID-19. If you missed that, please refer to the following links for more information, including some support articles with suggestions about ways to access books whilst learning from home. If you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to email us.

[What changes have been made to the PRC rules for 2020?](#)

[How do students add their BONUS choice books?](#)

[How can parents/ carers and students find books to read from home?](#)

KEY DATES

Monday March 2: Challenge opens for student entries

Friday August 28: Final date for entry of Student Reading Records by students

SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE (STANDARD ITEM)

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.

Mothers Day 2020

St Patrick's Parramatta Drive - Thru Mother's Day stall.

This year is different for all us but we cannot go without thanking our beautiful mothers or caregivers. We have been trying to think outside of the box and have come up with a great solution to the normal Mother's Day stall.

Calling on all who wish to be a part of the St Patrick's Parramatta Drive - Thru Mother's Day stall.

What is it?

St Patrick's Parramatta, Mother's Day stall, Drive - Thru is an opportunity for families to purchase a Mother's Day gift.

How does it work?

- Drive Thru by will be from the usual 'Kiss and Drop' location in Ross Street.
- We will have a range of \$5 and \$10 bags available.
- Drivers pull up in your car, state how many bags you want ie 2 x \$5, wind your passenger side window down and tap with your EFTPOS card and you will then be free to drive off.

Can I get to choose the gift?

- No unfortunately this year due to the unusual circumstances of COVID_19 restrictions, all gifts have been randomly packed for pick up only. The choices are the cost of the gift ie \$5 or \$10

Can I swap or return my gift for a refund?

- Under the circumstances we are unable to swap or give refunds. We thank you for your understanding.

How much are the gifts?

- You can choose a bag to the value of \$5 and/or a \$10 bag to purchase. If you have more than one child you can purchase a bag for each child. We will ensure that all gifts are different within the one family.

How do I pay?

- Tap and Go ONLY. NO CASH accepted

Do we have to purchase a gift if we have already bought our own?

- This is an optional service. You do not have to be involved. We fully understand!

When will the drive thru take place?

- House Groups will be rostered on between certain hours of the day in order to control and manage numbers.
- The roster is as per the table below.
- If you are unable to come during this time please let us know and we will try and accommodate you.
- Parents of children who are currently attending school can purchase their bag(s) in the afternoons after school either through normal Drive - Thru or if coming by walk please see Mrs Jones in the pickup zone. Please ensure you demonstrate social distancing.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- **Drivers will not be permitted to get out of their car**
- **Staff will be on the footpath only and not permitted on the road**
- **Parents will be scheduled to come to the 'drive and pick up' in small groups across the week.**

Mothers Day 2020 Drive Thru Roster optional

	3.00pm - 3.30pm	9.30am - 10.30am	1.30pm - 2.30pm
Friday	Children attending school		
Monday		Waratah	Boronia
Tuesday		Wattle	Melaleuca

Sensory activities

Tactile (touch)

(P) – Preschooler

(G) – Grade-schooler



Use silly putty (P, G)

- ◆ Play in sandbox or with water (P)
- ◆ Use squishy or textured fidget, like a stress ball (P, G)
- ◆ Finger paint (P)
- ◆ Draw with shaving cream (P, G)



Squish play-dough (P, G)

- ◆ Squish sensory sand, foam, or slime (P, G)
- ◆ Knead bread or pizza dough (G)
- ◆ Massage lotion on hands and arms (G)
- ◆ Write with a vibrating pen (P, G)

