

Newsletter

21st May, 2020 Term 2 Week 4



OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Next Sunday is the feast of the Ascension. The Feast of the Ascension is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday, which commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, referenced in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2. Although the Ascension is an extremely important feast my reading has led me to ponder on the importance also of the time between the Ascension (this Sunday, May 21st) and the Feast of Pentecost (May 31st).

The time between the Ascension of our Lord next Sunday and Pentecost was a time of waiting and reflection for the disciples. This was the period between the ascension of Christ and the Holy Spirit's descending. I imagine that this was a time of great anxiety for them as they felt that they no longer had Jesus with them - that they had lost Him, that they were alone. In a sense one can draw a parallel between this time and our time of waiting and reflection as we tentatively wait for the slow relaxing of restrictions by our governments and the discovery of a vaccine to the coronavirus.

Just like the disciples we too have been waiting in our homes for a sign that things will get better. I can imagine that the disciples would have recalled stories of Jesus and things he said and did. They would have cried with fear and laughed at the memories of the past. In many ways I have heard people saying that they have enjoyed this slowing down and recalled how things had changed for them in good ways and also not so good ways. In the early days of the pandemic I believe that we would have expressed our fears and anger perhaps as to why the world finds itself in the current situation - totally out of our control. The disciples would have felt that way as well, I am sure.

Luckily for most of us we were able to wait with our family. Imagine how lonely our isolation would have been if we lived alone. The importance of connection and connecting was amplified by the increase in the use of video conferencing, texts, phone calls and Facetime. The disciples did not have the benefit of these inventions but felt a need to connect, just like us. They gathered in community reported to have been around 120. They prayed and comforted each other. We too are called at this time to wait and pray; as a family, a nation and as a global community. To give each other hope and to trust that God will use amazing people around the world to heal what needs to be healed.

May I encourage you to focus on prayer with your family, especially in this 'waiting' time between the two feasts. Interestingly this week, May 18 to 24 is also Laudato Si' Week and celebrates the 5th anniversary of the encyclical letter Laudato Si' on the care of the common home. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis teaches us that "everything is connected."

You are invited to come together in unity with Catholics from all around the world for Laudato Si' Week. Pope Francis invites us to join in. Learn more at www.laudatosiweek.org #LaudatoSi5

May God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

UPDATE REGARDING GRADUAL RETURN TO SCHOOL - WEEK 5

From Monday 25th May all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be **expected** to return to school.

- If the family has extenuating circumstances that they believe prevent the child's return on Monday 25th May, please contact the school through email or skoolbag to arrange a phone call to discuss and to see how the school can support you. Please do so even if you have already had a conversation with Miss Fabri or another staff member.
- As from Monday 25th May, in all CEDP schools, there will **no longer be remote learning available**. It is envisaged that teachers will have full class groups.
- If your child(ren) has borrowed a school **chromebook** please return to the office in the bag provided.
- As bubblers are still unavailable please ensure that the children have a filled water bottle. Please let us know if you need any assistance in this area.
- When children return please ask them to bring any completed or partially completed **learning booklets and exercise books**. These will be quarantined for a period of time and then looked at by the teachers.
- When the children return please ensure they bring back any **library books** or readers. These will also be quarantined and cleaned if necessary.

MORNING DROP OFF

TIME

- Usual time (8.20 - 8.50) Gate opens at 8.00am for parents who absolutely need the early drop off and who are unable to secure before school care. This time is not for children who wish to get to school early to play.
- Please drop your child off at the gate or 'Kiss and Drop' from your car.
- At this stage there will be no Morning Assembly until further notice.

STAGGERED PICK UP IN THE AFTERNOONS

In an attempt to minimize the number of adults on the playground we have planned a staggered pick up for parents/caregivers who will be picking up their children by walk. Please follow the guidelines below. COMMENCING MONDAY MAY 25TH

TIMES

- Parents/caregivers picking up their children by walk (2.40pm to 3.00pm if possible)
- Drive Thru (usual time from 3.00pm to 3.30pm)

GUIDELINES

- A teacher at the gate will call out your child's name
- Please enter through the small gate (ENTRY)
- The children will meet you in the COLA area. (Please exercise social distancing)
- Please EXIT as quickly as possible through the double gate.
- Due to the extra numbers of students we ask parents not to go to the classrooms.
- No parent/teachers interviews will take place after school. The teacher is more than happy to contact you by phone or email.
- Drivers are not permitted to get out of their car if in the Drive Thru line.

FROM THE LEARNING PIT

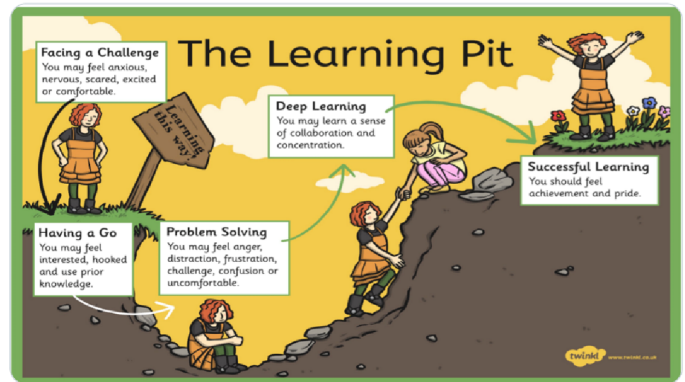
Our brain is like a muscle; the more we use it, the more it grows. In some ways, the way we use our brain is very different to how we use our muscles, but there are multiple similarities as well.

If we want to become stronger, we slowly increase the size of our weights. Similarly, as your child's brain develops and makes deeper connections we need to encourage them to pursue harder and more complex learning opportunities.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, the best learning comes when we make mistakes, as this is when the brain makes deep connections. These deep connections occur even more so when we are making mistakes whilst doing difficult tasks rather than having success with easy ones. Children need to be encouraged to embrace tasks that challenge, involve struggle and often result in mistakes. This is not easy.

One simple change you can make to encourage your child to persevere is to stop praising a talent or score your child may have achieved with "You are so artistic" or "You are so clever" and instead praise how they worked through the process; "I like how you kept trying to solve the problem even though it was hard".

This simple change will help your child realise persevering with a task is needed for learning to take place; this is very important for all learners to understand, especially as concepts become more complex and they become independent learners.



Official Facebook Page Launched

St Patrick's Parramatta Official Facebook Page was launched on Monday. If you have a Facebook account you can find it by searching St Patrick's Parramatta. Please note the official Facebook page has the school crest on it as there may be some unofficial or community based pages set up.

We encourage you to read the school's Facebook Policy before engaging with the page, which was sent out via Skoolbag app on 18/5/2020.

If you haven't already done so, please 'like' our page and join us as we share the great learning happening at St Patrick's Parramatta.



EXTRA SCHOOL CLEANING BEING UNDERTAKEN IN TERM 2

- For details on extra school clearing for Term 2 please see last week's Newsletter (Wk 3 TM 2)

Health and Safety Guidelines

Health and Safety Guidelines

Message for Parents

- *if your child is sick, they must not go to school. You must keep them at home and away from others. If your child has a cough, sore throat, runny nose and sneezing, they should remain at home until they are completely better.*
- *Remember to **maintain physical distancing** from other parents and teachers when attending school, including when dropping off and picking up your children.*
- *We also ask that no child brings their mobile phone to school unless absolutely necessary. These will need to be kept in school bags for the day.*

Medical Updates



Does your child suffer from any medical conditions such as Anaphylaxis or Asthma?

Please ensure the office is aware of any medical conditions and kept up to date with changes to medications or conditions.

Anaphylaxis and Asthma plans are required to be updated EVERY 12 months.



SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

- Semester One reports have been designed to respond to changes in the learning and teaching during **COVID-19**
- Semester One reports will follow the **CEDP formatting** through COMPASS (digital platform)
- There will be **no comparative** data or 3/5 point grading scale
- The report will still provide valuable information about your child's learning, and the school will be asking for **feedback from parents/caregivers** on aspects of your child's learning observed by you
- This Midyear report recognises and reflects each student's learning in three key areas: Religious Education, English, Mathematics
- The report will include a general comment and information on observed attributes or work habits.
- There will also be opportunities for students to reflect on their experiences as learners at home or at school during this time.
- The 2020 second semester report will return to documenting progress in all key learning areas.
- This report complies with government requirements.
- Semester One reports will be handed out Wk 1 of Term 3

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE RETURNING TO SCHOOL

1. Maintain a calm relaxed demeanour, even though it can be upsetting if your child is distressed to leave you.
2. Sometimes a small familiar item from home carried by the child provides some reassurance to the child while they are away from their parents. Choose an item that isn't sentimental or too large and distracting in class. Sometimes even a family photo or a photo of their pet helps a child's sense of connection to home.
3. Pop a note in your child's lunch box saying hello - that they can look forward to.
4. Some parents find that their children are reassured by drawing a heart on their child's hand, telling the child that they can touch/press it when they want to feel close to their parents/family.

If you think your child may need additional support from the wellbeing team in returning to school, please contact your principal.

Eucharist 2020 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a quick update to keep everyone in the loop regarding the preparation sessions for Eucharist 2020. Please note that due to the ongoing restrictions in place around the COVID-19 pandemic the Sacraments of Initiation preparation for Eucharist is on hold until further notice.

At this stage the sessions affected by this are as follows:

Eucharist 1: Tuesday 28th April 2020, 7:30 pm - Parent Session

Eucharist 2: Tuesday 12th May 2020, 7:30 pm - Parent Session

Eucharist 3: Saturday 23rd May 2020, 4:30 pm - Parent and Children Session

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta Practice for First Eucharist: Saturday 6th June 2020, 4pm - Parent and Children Session

St Oliver's, Harris Park Practice for First Eucharist: Saturday 13th June 2020, 4:30pm - Parent and Children Session

Please note that **all** of the sessions listed above are **postponed** and that this also includes the First Eucharist celebrations for both St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta and St Oliver's Harris Park. Unfortunately, at this time we have no timeline for when sessions might resume; we will continue to comply with the parameters of current recommendations and be sure to inform you of any developments. We hope that we will be able to get back on track soon and are certainly looking forward to doing this when it is again safe for us to gather for sessions and formation. In the meantime, we continue our prayers for the speedy resolution of this situation and for the safety of all.

Please be assured that Meg (Sacramental Coordinator) will be in contact as soon as she have information on when sessions can be rescheduled.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Meg at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Kind regards,

Mrs Tuetue Religious Education Coordinator.



Winter Uniform Changeover

The children are now wearing winter uniform.

All School Uniform Items available from

Oz Fashions

115-127 Parramatta Road, Granville NSW 2142

Phone: 9897 3121 www.ozfashions.com.au

Girls' Winter Uniform

Tartan Pinafore

White Long Sleeve Blouse (Peter Pan collar)

Tartan School Tie

Green above ankle socks or Green Tights

Black Shoes

Green Woolen Jumper

Green Jacket with Emblem

Boy's Winter Uniform

Grey Long Trousers

Grey Long Sleeve Shirt

Green tie

Grey above ankle socks

Black Shoes

Grey Woolen Jumper

Green Jacket with Emblem

Girls' Sports Uniform

Track Suit with School Emblem

Sport Shirt with School Emblem

White Above ankle socks

White Sports Shoes

Boy's Sports Uniform

Track Suit with School Emblem

Sport Shirt with School Emblem

White Above ankle socks

White Sports Shoes

All children are required to have a Green School Hat with Emblem and Green School Bag with Emblem

SPORTS DAY FOR TERM 2

Wednesday	KA, 1S, 3L, Year 5
Thursday	1C, 2Y, 3T, Year 4
Friday	KM, 2M, Year 6

You are invited to watch a livestream of Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta.
The Ascension of the Lord



Watch the Mass live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Readings for the Mass, provided by Universalis, can be [found here](#)."

Personal Plans- Diversity

Parents of children who have a personal plan will have received an email of their child's personal plans. We hope that you understand this is not our normal way of communicating the Personal Plans with parents, however in times like now, we have not been able to have face to face meetings. We ask parents to review the personal plans and send back a confirmation email with the blurb provided in the email.

We understand that you may have questions and want to discuss the personal plan further with the classroom teacher. At this point in time, we are available to have phone meetings with parents who require immediate action to be taken until the face to face meetings are permitted.

If you have any questions please make an appointment via the office to speak to your child's classroom teacher.

Miss Onorato

Diversity Coordinator

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.



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week—
Aurora Broadbridge,
Sofia Bousimon, Marcus
Moses, Christopher
Mekdessi, George Rizk,
Julia Vytingco

Understanding School Talk ???

Anchor Charts

A tool to support student's learning. They are created together with the students and capture important content or strategies. Students are encouraged to them to guide their learning.