

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tomorrow the school community will be celebrating our love for our grandparents, great grandparents and other senior members of the family. Children will have a special dress up, participate in a televised mass and undertake special activities. Kindergarten will also be celebrating the fact that they have been at school for over a 100 days. Sadly, this year, we are unable to welcome our extended family members to our usual events, such as morning tea and visits to our classrooms. It goes without saying that it is because they are so important to us and we care about their safety and well being that they are unable to attend. It does not mean, however, that we cannot recognise that we already have a part of them with us, in the form of their grandchildren - our students - who will pretend to be them for the day.

In a recent conversation with my 93 year old aunty, I recognised, with much appreciation, the link our grandparents or older members of our family contribute to our own identity. She often tells me stories of what life was like when my parents were young and even when I was born and growing up. She explains what life was like during the war and how much the generation at the time had to endure in terms of sacrifice and change. She fills in the gaps in the family history and explains the connections between family members. She passes on the traditions of our home country, Malta, especially the cuisine and will often explain where this cuisine came from. What I value the most about our conversations, however, is the wisdom gathered over her 93 years. She speaks of the importance of family and the values she holds dear. Her very strong faith is so empowering and even in such difficult times - like we are experiencing now - she seems to be very philosophical about the fact that this too will pass and is confident that we will get back to 'normal' again. Perhaps she has experienced the cycle of life and life events. She often speaks about the importance of having a balance in life - not too much work and not too much play. My dear aunty believes in the importance of peace in one's life and links gratitude and forgiveness as critical in achieving this. I just love our conversations!

One cannot help but think, with great sadness, the tragic impact on the elderly community COVID -19 has had. I believe it serves to remind us about what is precious and how important it is to value the people who have been instrumental in the development of our family tree and consequently our very existence. COVID -19 has served to remind us how very vulnerable the elderly are and for many thousands of families around the world they have had to bear the loss of their elderly.

We love you: Boo-nee-ka and Boo-neek, Nonna and Nonno, Yaya and Pappoús, Oba-chan, Sobo and Ojiisan, Sofu, Lola and Lolo, Yeay and Taa, Maimeó and Daideó, Halmoni and Halapoji, Babushka and Dedushka, Avó and Avô, Grandma, Nanna, Nana and Grandad, Pa, Pop, Bibi and Babu, Jiddah, Sett, Teeta and Jadd, Jeddi, Seedi, Awa and Tata, Pog and Yawg, Grand-mère and Grand-père, Nanna and Nannu, Nani, Dadi and Nana, Dada, Lao Lao, Nai Nai and Lao ye or Wai gong, Zu fu, Yapoo and Nawo, Tama matua and Tinamatua, Baka and Djed, Babička and Děda, Datuk and Nenek, Baba and Deda, Khuṇyā and Khuṇ pū, Babusya and Didus', Ông and Bà.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal

Mass Times

We are open for Mass with a congregation of 100 people.

Entry is on a first come first serve basis. Mass is celebrated at the usual times :

Monday to Friday - 6.30 am and 12.30 pm Saturday - 8.00 am and 6.00 pm Vigil

Sunday - 8 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am and 6pm

[Please click on link for the most up to date information](#)

[St Patrick's Cathedral](#)



Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education

Dear Parents and Carers

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta recently wrote to you about a hope-filled new approach to sharing our faith with students. As you may be aware, the other day the Daily Telegraph published an article about this Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education. Unfortunately, this article presented a very limited interpretation of this new approach to Religious Education. Be assured that the new approach is firmly based in the traditions of Catholic thought, doctrine and teachings, focused on sharing our faith with students as well as encouraging them to become attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible adults.

The new curriculum has emerged from a two-year development phase involving staff, students and parents from 37 schools, ongoing dialogue between Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, school and Diocesan leaders, with input from parents and clergy. It is on track for implementation across 2020 to 2021.

More information about the Draft New Curriculum is available [here](#). There are a number of podcasts you may wish to listen to which explain, in detail, the Curriculum Dispositions and Rationale.

CEDP Inspire Podcast - Ep 036: Prof Anthony Maher - Rationale | Draft New Curriculum

CEDP Inspire Podcast - Ep 035: Prof. Anthony Maher - Dispositions | Hand

CEDP Inspire Podcast - Ep 034: Prof. Anthony Maher - Dispositions | Heart

CEDP Inspire Podcast - Ep 033: Prof. Anthony Maher - Dispositions | Head

CEDP Inspire Podcast - Ep 032: Bishop Vincent

Thank you for your continued support of our caring and faithful learning community. Please feel free to make an appointment for a phone conversation if you have any questions.

Your sincerely
Miss Fabri

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES - COVID-19

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday you all received a letter from Greg Whitby outlining the new and stricter guidelines from NSW Health. (Included again for your convenience with this newsletter) Of particular note is the section on children who are displaying symptoms of illness.

- Currently, **no student should attend school if they are unwell**. That still applies but now, **each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms must have a COVID-19 test**.
- **Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID - 19 result and are symptom free**.
- **A negative COVID - 19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school**. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID - 19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate. Please find a link to [COVID-19 testing clinics](#)

Due to the seriousness of these guidelines we ask all parents to ensure that if your child was sick and has been cleared to return to school after recovery that you provide via email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

- **FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS** - The above documentation
- **OR NON FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS** - sufficient detail of why they are away. The school will contact you if there is insufficient detail in the explanation e.g. 'sick', 'a little unwell' so please include as much detail as possible in the explanation.

Please note as you will be required to supply a photo of the results you will be unable to attach it via skoolbag.

Symptoms of COVID-19

COVID-19 [symptoms](#) include:

- fever (37.5 ° or higher)
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- loss of taste
- loss of smell.

Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- fatigue
- runny nose
- muscle pain
- joint pain
- headache
- diarrhoea
- nausea/vomiting
- loss of appetite.

I know for some parents this is difficult however I also know that for all parents the health and safety of our community, especially of our children is paramount. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

TELL THEM FROM ME - OPPORTUNITY FOR FEEDBACK

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Patrick's Parramatta.

Dates of survey availability:

Week 4 to Week 6

(Monday 10 August – Friday 28 August)

Code needed:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/8wxdx>

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers for your cooperation regarding the early pick up in Term 2. Due to the current outbreaks in our local area this procedure will continue until further notice.

Drop off Reminders

A reminder that from Term 3 the front gate will close at 8.50am. Any child arriving at school after this time must be accompanied by an adult who will need to fill in a partial absence form. If this does not happen the partial absence will be recorded as 'unexplained'.

Pick up will continue at 2.40pm due to the tightening of the current restrictions. We would like to remind all the adults entering the school that **Physical Distancing is expected** and we ask you to respect the health and safety of others in our community. It is best practice at the moment that you do not enter the school grounds unless you are unable to physically distance outside. We will continue to keep you informed of any further changes.

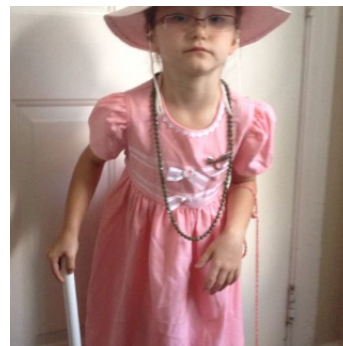
NSW Health 'hotspot suburbs' website

NSW Health have established a [website](#) to inform the community of actions they should take if they have been in a location where there has been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within NSW. It is important that all families comply with public health advice which includes the requirement to self-isolate for the required period if you or the children have been at any of the locations published on this website on the specified dates and times.



GRANDPARENTS - WE LOVE YOU!

Please see information about some of the activities to celebrate these special people in the lives of the children, below.



1. Children will participate in televised mass at the Cathedral dedicated to Grandparents.
2. **GRANDPARENTS DRESS UP DAY** We know that our grandparents cannot visit us this year but we can pretend to be them for the day SO all children are asked to come dressed as one of their grandparents, great grandparents or even great great grandparents. Have a little fun with the outfits but keep it simple!

Date: Friday 21st August (TOMORROW)

eSafety Webinars for Parents/Carers

CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinars for parents and carers.

Parents and carers must register for the course on the secondary site via the following link:

- 7 September 2020 session - [link to register](#)

1. [Webinar information and FAQ](#)

If you have any further enquiries please email safeguarding@parra.catholic.edu.au.



As the bubblers are still out of use, it is very important that each child bring their own water bottle to school.

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION:

[Utility works & traffic changes Parramatta CBD – August 2020](#)



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:-

Shaneli Perera, Jasmine Rizk,
Michael Sunwar, Sonia Sitoa,
Louis Wehbe (KA) Elaine Xue,
Josephine Behan, Annabelle Johnson,
Elias Kazzaz, Amyllia Maneze,
Amariah Tamaro



Honour Award

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

KA	Emilie Blazek	Jared Cauan	KM	Juliana Angelo	John-Luke Rahme
1C	Hannah Nasr	Marcella Abboud	1S	Liam Makhoul	Oliver Jakopovic
2M	Araminta Jackson	Patrick Saab	2Y	Mia Golossian	Samvruth Kuchipudi

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Rebecca Black	Christian Jaitani	KM	Alessia Agostino	George Kazzaz
1C	James Younis	Scarlett Eid	1S	Nina Kancijanac	Miami Calumpiano
2M	Nour Kahwaji	Benjamin Kalouche	2Y	Elaine Xue	Andrew Batti





Honour Award

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

3L	Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat	Olivia Fayad	3T	Sara Lorenzo	Luke Wehbe
4B	Cynthia Daher	Paul Khouri	4G	Lara Samar	Elio Layoun
5C	Zara Diuco	Jubran Sayegh	5T	Justin Mawad	Carmela Poblete
6P	Christine Kahwaji	Olivia Gebrael	6W	Jacob Manago	Christina Elzahoul

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

3L	Ray Chen	Fleur Perrett	3T	Wren Chua	Juliette Khoury
4B	Clare Camenzuli	Isaiah Johnston	4G	Germain Toledo	Barbie Koima
5C	Jacob Semaan	Maria Khoury	5T	Lauren Polintan	Clio Encarnacao
6P	Oliver Kougelis	Olivia Wehbe	6W	Ethan-Jordan Firmeza	Feima Koima



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation through St Patrick's Cathedral Parish is now open for children 10 yrs or older who have made their Reconciliation and First Eucharist. While this is the minimum age for children to join in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is important to note that there is no maximum age for children who have been baptised as infants to complete their Initiation into the Faith Community.

Please go to the [Registration form](#). Alternately, please contact St Patrick's sacramental coordinator Meg Gale at sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au.

The calendar of mandatory preparation sessions is as follows:

Confirmation 1: Monday 24th August, 7.30pm - Parent Session

Confirmation 2: Saturday 5th September 4.30pm - Parent and Children Session

Confirmation 3: Saturday 19th September 4.30pm - Parent and Children Session

Confirmation 4: Monday 21st September 7.30pm - Practice for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Order of Confirmation: Friday 25th September 7.30pm

Please note that the above is subject to change in light of any developments in the current COVID situation.

Chantal Tuetue

Religious Education Coordinator

St. Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta

Understanding School Talk ???

Guided Reading:

Guided reading is a teaching strategy in which the teacher meets with students in small groups to help them develop their reading skills. The teacher literally guides them as they read a new book together. Students are usually grouped according to their guided reading level. The teacher helps students become more independent readers by explaining and encouraging the use of context clues, reviewing letter and sound knowledge, and helping students learn how to make sense of what they are reading. The goal is to teach students how to become efficient, independent readers.

SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

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.

GBW:vt

19 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, the NSW Government released new advice to schools on responding to the challenges of COVID-19. This new advice followed a review of the existing protocols by the NSW Chief Medical Officer.

The health and safety of our school communities will always be our top priority. I know that some of the new advice announced this week will bring disappointment for some students, families and staff. It will mean that some really important upcoming school celebrations such as Year 12 and Year 6 graduation functions and other large school events will not be able to proceed. I particularly feel for these students, as well as their families and teachers; I know how important these milestone events are for them. At the same time, it is just so important that we do everything possible to keep every member of our community safe.

Below are some of the main changes for schools:

COVID-19 Testing

- Currently, no student should attend school if they are unwell. That still applies but now, each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms must have a COVID-19 test
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free
- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate
- These same protocols apply to school staff.

School Activities

- Wherever it's possible, schools will keep activities to Year groups or Stages (e.g. Year 5 and 6 together)
- Schools will stay within their local community area or zone for interschool activities, including sport.
- Group activities such as choirs, chanting and the use of wind instruments in a group setting won't take place

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



Bethany Centre 470 Church Street Parramatta NSW 2150 • PO Box 3066 North Parramatta NSW 1750



9840 5600



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[catholicedparra](https://www.youtube.com/catholicedparra)

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- Formal graduation ceremonies and other school-related social activities are now not allowed; however, a graduation assembly (e.g. Year 6 or Year 12) can take place but with restrictions. The assembly can only include the students from that Year group and staff. Regrettably, parents / carers and other family members are not able to attend the assembly. I know that schools are exploring creative ways to ensure parents and carers are part of this in other ways such as live streaming and the use of social media.
- Parent & Friends social events or functions can't take place
- School or community-run playgroups are on hold
- Kindergarten orientation and transition to school activities remain on hold
- School-related overnight events like retreats, camps and excursions are suspended.

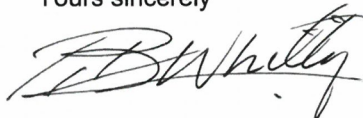
The health and safety advice that has been in place throughout the pandemic remains in place. This includes regular hand washing and social distancing for adults.

I am aware that there have been so many changes for school communities during the last six months and how difficult this has been for families and school staff. I am so proud of the way that each community has responded and supported each other during this extraordinary time.

Your school will be in touch with you about these changes and how they will apply in your school. They will keep you updated when there is important new information.

Thank you again for your support and your care of each other as we continue to work together during this complex time.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



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