

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This year, the teachers in Kindergarten, Years One and Two are participating in challenging and rigorous professional learning (PL) in Mathematics. This sequence of PL has been designed by Emeritus Professor Peter Sullivan and his team from both Monash and Sydney Universities. The area of the *NSW Mathematics K to 10 Curriculum*, being focused on this term, falls within the strand of Number and Algebra with learning sequences on Counting Principles, Making Things Equal, Structure of Number and Place Value.

Every day last week the children in K to 2 were visited by Mrs Barclay (Leader of Learning - Maths) and Mrs Geraldine Caleta, who is the Teaching Educator from the Catholic Education Office. Some of your children may have spoken to you about what they are doing in Maths and about these visitors. Through my observations and interactions with the children I have been so impressed with how our students, as young as Kindergarten, were able to record their thinking in such a diverse number of ways and then to explain their thinking with other children. The lesson I visited, challenged the children on how to make two plates of cookies equal and then to record what they did.

One of the most significant challenges for teachers and parents is to believe that children have the capability to think deeply and critically in these early years. When I taught this age group, many years ago, the level of maths we were teaching was very much less complex than what I can see children doing now. Sometimes I reflect on how it was common practice to cap the learning, at 20 for counting in Kindy for example and up to 30 for Year 1. As you can anticipate there would have been some children who could understand the concept of quantity at a level far beyond 20 or 30, in these grades. Of course, great teachers always responded to the needs of the students at the time and catered for this in their lessons. When I see children in Kindy, One and Two exploring number sentences that are the same, equal and fair and using mathematical symbols to express this - I feel very proud of our students and teachers, in how far we have come in lifting the 'glass ceiling' on learning.

The key principles behind this approach is that: learning is most effective when students engage in higher-order thinking as they work on appropriately challenging tasks and to enable learning success teachers present sequences of lessons which build from one session to another using student data as the decider as to where to go next. As you can imagine, appropriately rigorous tasks will differ from student to student as what is challenging to one may be too easy for another. This is also the demands of curriculum design compared to the days when all students were given the exactly the same worksheet, regardless of their competency on that day.

The teaching of Maths at St Patrick's Parramatta reflects the most current national and international research and the strategies incorporated in lessons supports what the research is showing about how children learn maths best.

To support teachers, parents and students about contemporary evidence-based practice such as the importance of '**number sense**', a new centre at Stanford University called Youcubed was formed. For those of you interested in Maths and mathematical concepts *Youcubed* can be accessed by following the link below. *Youcubed* has interesting articles for parents and fun activities for children. Why not give it a view!
<https://www.youcubed.org/>

God bless you and your families

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](#)



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 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. We understand that this is very difficult, especially when meeting up with your friends, however in order for us to continue to open the school gate for entry by parents in the afternoons it is very important that parents make their visits as brief as possible. Please feel welcome to have a chat outside the school site. We also ask you to demonstrate physical distancing if you are waiting outside the school, especially when interacting with staff who are on duty. We will continue to keep you informed of any further changes.



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:-
Shanelle Wambeek, Ashton Grohs,
Zara Diuco, Isaac Loulach,
Sophia Pagua, Rosalia Daher,
Deon Don, Emily Johnson,
Karabo Khama, Zachary Tannous



Congratulations to the Baysari Family (Elijah KM) on the birth of their beautiful little girl , Grace.

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES - COVID-19

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last week 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.

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.

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.

CLOSING DATE COMING UP SOON

Dates of survey availability:

Week 4 to Week 6

(Monday 10 August – Friday 28 August)

Code needed:

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

Understanding School Talk ???

Shared Reading:

In shared reading, teachers read a book multiple times with the class over several days. A large version of the book is often placed in front of the class so all students can see it at the same time. The purpose of reading the same story several times is to improve comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and decoding (sounding out) skills. A common strategy the teacher uses during shared reading is pausing to ask students for predictions such as what they think will happen next. This is done to get students to think about what they are reading, which helps with comprehension and interpretive/higher-level thinking skills (e.g., thinking about what might be implied in the story without having actually read it, reading between the lines, etc.) Children might volunteer or be asked to read parts of the story either individually or with other students.

St Patrick's 2020 Voice of Youth Final

On Tuesday 25th August, 8 finalists competed in the 2020 St Patrick's Voice of Youth final. Although excited to be in the final, some were also feeling nervous about voicing their ideas and opinions in front of peers, teachers and judges.



They didn't let their nerves get in the way of presenting their speech and all finalists did a fantastic job. They used public speaking skills to the best of their ability and raised some interesting topics and issues, leaving the audience wondering.

Our 8 finalists and their speech topics included:

<u>Shanelle Wambeek</u> 'Life IS better with chocolate!'	<u>Emily Johnson</u> 'Life as a GEEK!'
<u>Maria Wahbe</u> 'Being the OLDER Sibling'	<u>James Loader</u> 'WE SHOULD have a 3 DAY WEEKEND!'
<u>Liam Jocson</u> 'DISCRIMINATION!'	<u>Christian Sta Rosa</u> 'Life as an OLDER sibling!'
<u>Renee Kougellis</u> 'Life as a TWIN!'	<u>Oliver Kougellis</u> 'Public Speaking!'

Thank you to Maria for presenting her speech via video link as she was unable to attend on the day and thank you to Jack out IT specialist for assisting with this.

Year 6 would like to thank the judges, Mrs Standring, Mrs O'Dwyer and Mrs Williams for taking time out of their daily schedule to judge the final as well as thanking Ms Fabri for attending. It was a very hard decision for the judges to make regarding selecting first place and the 2 runners-up. They had a lot of positive feedback to give to each of the finalists and they enjoyed the range of topics presented. After much collaboration and discussion a decision was finally reached by the professional judges using a criteria. The 2020 Voice of Youth Final results are:

1st Place: Emily Johnson
Runners-up: Maria Wahbe and Renee Kougellis

Look out for these voices as well as the voices of all of our Year 6 students in the future. We are learning to be persuasive and voice our ideas and opinions for all to hear!

Written by Olivia Gebrael and Talia Kalouche

Hotel Snap: Year 6 Hotel Design Competition

The Challenge

Working in teams, the students in year 6 were asked to design and build a hotel that yields the highest profit. We were provided with guidelines that needed to be followed so that the design would not be disqualified.

Each group designed a hotel which was constructed out of 50 unifix cubes, with one cube representing one hotel room. The goal was to construct a hotel with the greatest value possible, after taking away construction costs. A hotel's value came from the number of rooms it had and the quality of each room. A room's value increased when more of its sides were open and therefore having more windows. The challenge was also to keep the design of the hotel at 10 floors or less as having more than 10 floors meant more land tax was to be paid.

Once designed and built, groups had to calculate the building and land cost including tax and then calculate the income earned based on the different types of rooms, then work out if they achieved a profit or a loss.

The winning team, with a profit of \$17 415, was Ava Salloum, Ethan Bechara and Cedric Guino. Congratulations to our future architects and builders.

All of Year 6 then compared and contrasted the hotel designs to review what made some designs more profitable and successful than others and what changes could be made to improve original designs.

This was a fun activity because we were able to design and make, learn about cost/profit/loss, work in teams while trying to follow the rules and protocols. We were all excited that there would be a winner and tried hard to win. We were all engaged in the learning.

Written by Olivia Takchi and Michael Ayoub



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



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!





Honour Award

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

KA	Natanem Addisu	Gabriella Semaan	KM	Julian Badr	Rosalia Daher
1C	Tony Karam	Melissa Black	1S	Samson Seyegh	Olivia Pijaca
2M	Audrey El Bayeh	Mia Gebrael	2Y	Grace Talbot	John Bardetta

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Fareeda Daher	Sophia Ghani	KM	George Nassif	Juana Boby
1C	Michael Agostino	Esperanza Thompson	1S	Michael Remaili	Sophie Abraham
2M	Patrick Katar	Ashton Grohs	2Y	Caroline Youssef	Ethan Zaiter





Honour Award

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

3L	Joanthy Tannous	Gabriella Sta Rosa	3T	Lawrence Wahbe	Isaac Wehbe
4B	Shavene Perera	Gabriella Volante	4G	April Soh	Angelica Beame
5C	Dylan Amaral	Ysabel Daelo	5T	Magdalena Gilchrist	Emma Barrientos Salazar
6P	Josh Blanquera-Pangan	Catherine Said	6W	Gabriel Rahme	Christian Sta Rosa

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

3L	Timana Gutierrez Caceres	Raymond Wehbe	3T	Annabelle Johnson	Josephine Behan
4B	Isaac Loulach	Anabelle Tudberry	4G	Anthony Sassen	Lachlan Moore
5C	Thomas Aguilera	Daniella Gereige	5T	Louis Wehbe	James Sitoa
6P	Shanelle Wambeek	Carl Cauan	6W	Talia Kalouche	James Loader





Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

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



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ABN 96 675 623 906

- 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
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Diocese of Parramatta

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



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