



Newsletter

17th September, 2020 Term 3 Week 9



Dear Parents and Caregivers

The inspiration for my newsletter articles is often influenced by my discussions with parents and teachers and this week is no exception. In a recent conversation I had with a group of parents we discussed the sacrifices families and our children have had to make this year due to COVID -19. Whilst some sacrifices appear small compared to losing one's livelihood, not being able to attend the bedside of an ill relative in hospital, the funeral of a loved one or enjoy the joys of a wedding, one cannot help but feel sorry for our children who have had to learn to adapt to the many cancellations of excursions, sporting events and activities this year especially Kindergarten and Year 6 students.

I can only imagine how hard it has been for parents who have had to explain to the children why they could not visit their grandparents due to a COVID outbreak or when much anticipated holidays have had to be reorganized or cancelled, so as to be compliant with restrictions.

In many respects the idea of sacrifice is quite foreign to the modern generation who generally do not want for anything. Many a parent has explained to me how their children have so much - to the point of having to store their toys away because they are inundated with so many gifts for their birthday. Many teenagers these days have numerous devices, phones and even a car by the time they are 17 years of age and are already shopping online. I wonder if they understand the concept of having to save for something special. People of my generation understand this concept well and watching the savings grow in one's bank passbook was extremely satisfying. Experiences of having to wait taught you patience. Do you remember a time when the shops were not opened on the weekend after 12md on Saturday and when photos took weeks to be developed? Perhaps you are all too young for these memories.

The advantage of sacrifice, one can argue is that it can lead to self denial and in many ways allows for a more charitable service to others. When the focus is so much on oneself it does not leave too much room for thinking of anyone else.

In his address on September 16, 2018 Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of sacrifice. He says,

Brothers and sisters, the profession of faith in Jesus Christ cannot stop at words, but calls to be authenticated by practical choices and gestures, by a life characterized by God's love; it calls for a great life, a life with an abundance of love for neighbour. Jesus tells us that to follow him, to be his disciples, we must deny ourselves (cf. v. 34), that is, the demands of our own selfish pride, and take up our own cross. Then he gives everyone a fundamental rule. And what is this rule? "For whoever would save his life will lose it" (v. 35). Often in life, for many reasons, we go astray, looking for happiness only in things, or in people whom we treat as things. But we find happiness only when love, true love, encounters us, surprises us, changes us. Love changes everything! And love can also change us, each one of us. The witnesses of Saints proves it.

The conclusion to my discussion with the parents, earlier referred to, supports this statement from our Holy Father. Although there have been sacrifices they have enjoyed staying at home with the family and spending time with them. They felt that it was a time to slow down and not to have to rush so much. They commented on relearning to value the small things in life and appreciate still having a job and their good health.

The teachers and I are so very proud of our children. I do not believe that I have heard one complaint from them. They are showing great enthusiasm for their learning and for the most part are very happy and grateful for all that has been done for them.

Perhaps something good has come from such a terrible situation like a world pandemic.

May God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal

Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

Feast day, September 15.

Our mother of sorrows,

with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping.

We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion.

Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Amen!

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=2456>

ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The allowance given to parents and caregivers, including older high school siblings, to enter the school grounds in the afternoons is in response to the fact that the school recognises that it is difficult for parents to safely physically distance outside the gate and along the narrow street. In order for this procedure to continue to be implemented it is critical that all adults/teens entering the school, do so under the following guidelines below:

1. Physical distance from other adults by 1.5 metres
2. Please make visits brief - Pick up only.
3. If unable to physically distance wearing a mask is recommended but not mandatory.

Once again we recognise that we are a loving and friendly community however with the continual spike of positive cases in some schools around Sydney and recent cases in the local area - Oatlands Golfclub - we need to adhere to all NSW Health Guidelines, which recommends that non-essential adults have limited access to school sites.

- **'Parents/carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site.'**
- **'All teachers, support staff and parents must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m).'**
- **'Parents should ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable them to physically distance from one another and from staff.'**

A Guide to NSW school students for Term 3 Last updated 4th September 2020

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

I would like to thank all our parents who have been terrific in ensuring that the children do not come to school with flu-like symptoms and who are getting them tested. Thank you so much!

Kindest Regards

Miss Fabri

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

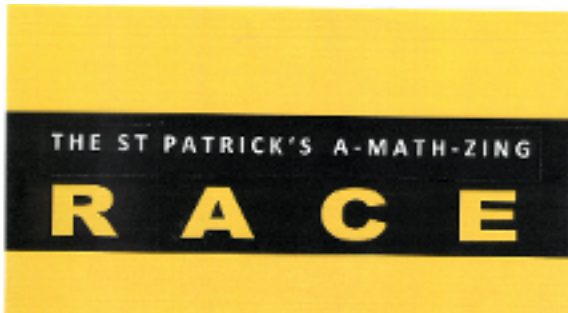
Please click on link for the most up to date information

[St Patrick's Cathedral](#)



Update: Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta would like to thank you for your interest in learning more about our new approach to Religious Education. CEDP and all schools are looking forward to sharing an updated version of our Draft New Curriculum with parents and carers in early October. Further details are available on the school [website](#). More information can be found on the CEDP Facebook Page. It is [available here](#).



The St Patrick's A-MATH-ZING Race

On Monday and Tuesday of week 10, as a part of Numeracy week, the students at St Patrick's will be participating in the *first ever* '**St Patrick's A-math-zing Race**'. The children will be solving a range of maths problems as they travel to different countries around the playground.

Monday 21st - Years 4 -6) are required to wear their sports uniform to participate in the will participate

Who will set the records for each of our challenges?

Be ready to race!

Rosemary and James

STEM LEADERS



Honour Award

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

KA	Flora Thompson	Amelia Sivashanmugan	KM	Olivia Saab	Trey St John Tannous
1C	Alyssa Vella	Hannah Nasr	1S	George Rizk	Olivia Rizk
2M	Molly Moses	Mia Freifer	2Y	Kayla Amaral	Mia Golossian

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	George Bazouni	Sierra Usman	KM	Angela Bracks	Noah Naudi
1C	Sofia Barroso	Ian Mason	1S	Serena Semaan	Charlie El Khoury
2M	Charbela Chedid	Jasmine Rizk	2Y	Charlene Wambeek	Dominic Rahme





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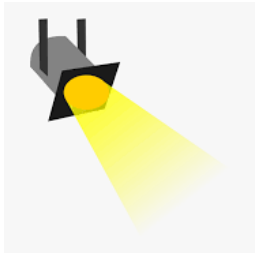
3L	Shaneli Perera	Sarah Loader	3T	Anthony Malek	Hunter Morson
4B	Shavene Perera	Stephanie Jabbour	4G	Aiden Ebrahim	Jacinta Azizi
5C	Max Barakat	Estelle Perrett	5T	Alexander Markovic	Emmanuel Missak
6P	Isobel Rahme	Joseph Sassen	6W	Tyler Morson	Aaliyah Johnston

ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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3L	Eimear Mitchell	Sonia Sitoa	3T	Celine Joachim	Olivia Moussa
4B	Steven Abraham	Cynthia Daher	4G	Christian Jreij	Sophia Semaan
5C	Danielle Tannous	Takeshi Lui	5T	Alexa Izmestyeva	Nicholas Drosos
6P	Anthony Wehbe	Ashintha Joseph	6W	Liam Jocson	Zoe Samar





Term 3 Week 9 Spotlights

This week our interviewed spotlights will be from **Melaleuca House**

Year 6 James Loader:

If you had \$1,000,000 to spend in a day, what would you spend it on?

I would probably buy a lot of electronic products and a lifetime supply of food. I would buy a huge mansion.

What is your favourite movie or tv show?

My favourite tv show is a Star Wars tv show called The Mandalorian.

If you could have a superpower, what would you like it to be and why?

I would like to travel back in time so if I do something wrong I can go back and fix it, pause time so that if I am in a position where I have to think quickly I can stop time and think or speed up time and jump to the future so if I was in a boring situation I could get out of it quickly.

What is your favourite meal?

A delicious curry with rice.

What is your ideal job?

I would like to work in I.T with technology because I have a lot of computer skills and I enjoy working with computers.

Year 6 Jake Buxton:

Which 3 people would you take to dinner and why?

I would take Oliver Kougelis so I have someone I know with me and would feel more comfortable. I would also take Virgil Van Dijk because he is my all time favourite soccer player. Lastly Tom Trbojjevic because he is my favourite Manly Sea Eagles player.

What is your biggest fear?

Big thunder storms with a lot of lightning and thunder. I am getting better but when I was younger I was really afraid.

If you could ask anyone one question, who would it be and what would you ask?

I would ask Tom Trbojjevic if he believes he is the best football player out of the 4 brothers. I would ask him this to get his response to see if he was humble and if he respected his brothers.

What do you like to do most in your spare time?

If the footy is on I will watch that but if not I would like to play online games with my friends.

What is your favourite meal?

I love nachos, ideally from Guzman Y Gomez because I really like the guacamole and the meat is soft and tender and easy to scoop all the ingredients up at once.

Year 6 Anthony Wehbe:

If you could become a famous person, who would you like to be?

I would like to be Maika Sivo the Parramatta Eels player because I like playing rugby league and he is one of the best players and my favourite.

What is your ideal career?

I would like to be a professional football player or a mechanical engineer.

What is your least favourite food?

If my mum makes me hamburgers I eat them but I don't like the ones from the shops because I don't like pickles or a lot of the sauces they put on burgers.

If you could be an animal, what would you like to be and why?

A lion because they are the king of the jungle and are powerful.

If you could spend \$1000 in 5 minutes, what would you buy?

I wouldn't buy anything. I would save it until I had more money to buy something more expensive that I needed.

Year 6 Ava Salloum:

If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?

I would like to be a dolphin because they are cute, friendly and loveable.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

My parents because they have taught me the right ways in life and how to not get stuck in situations that are harmful. They have taught me morals and how to treat others the right way. My teachers are also my inspiration because that is what I aspire to be when I am older.

What is your least favourite meal?

My least favourite meal would have to be dumplings and tacos.

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fears are insects, snakes and spiders. If I see any of them I scream. I hate the way they move and that some are deadly.

What is your favourite school subject?

PE and Writing. PE because I am a sporty person and I like being outside and being active. I like Writing because I can express my feelings and ideas and use my imagination and be creative.

Year 6: Olivia Gebrael:

If you could have a superpower what would it be and why?

I would like to fly to help me get over my fear of heights and birds.

Which 3 people would you take to dinner and why?

I would take my 3 grandparents to learn more about them and their life and to spend more quality time with them.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

Jesus because when I hear or read the Scriptures and how he treated others, it inspires me to be more like him.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I would like to sleep more with no siblings in the house to annoy me.

What 5 adjectives would you use to describe yourself?

Loud, loyal, funny, lazy, helpful



Congratulations again to our Saint Patrick's Parramatta 2020 Voice of youth Winner Emily Johnson and our Runner-ups Renee Kougelis and Maria Wahbe



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:- Jubran Sayegh, Hannah Nasr, Ashintha Joseph, Aaliya Ebrahim, Daniel Lawrence, Phillip Said, Joanthony Tannous, Ethan-Jordan Firmeza, Ava Takchi, Lauren Polintan, Olivia Zhang, Nathanael Jaitani, Samson Sayegh



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



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS! REGISTER NOW!

nextlevelsports@live.com.au

Why Choose Us?

Next Level Sports Clinic school holiday program incorporates fun multi-sport style activities and skill-based games. **We will be running a clinic both weeks of the upcoming October school holidays. Join us for days of fun with plenty of activities, games exercises & a free lunch on Friday!**

DATES

Week 1: Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd October

Week 2: Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th October

Act now, as spots are limited!

For more information (dates, location and other enquiries)

Contact David Younis at:

nextlevelsports@live.com.au

(Emails returned promptly)

Like us on Facebook! Search for "Next Level Sports Clinic"

**Understanding
School Talk ???**

Fine Motor Skills (Week 9)

Actions that require control of the small muscles of the body to achieve skillfulness. Examples of fine motor skills include drawing, cutting with scissors, handwriting, and playing a musical instrument.

Kindergarten Celebration of Learning - Term 3 Week 8

This week, Kindergarten is celebrating their learning in Science and Technology. They are learning about different materials and how they are used in different weather conditions. They are designing and making their own chick house using recycled materials which should be able to stay outside and survive in different weather conditions. Kindy will be testing their designs by leaving the chick houses outside.

We interviewed some of the students about their learning.

Irene:

"We are learning about how to make a house for chickens and how to keep it protected in all weather conditions. I learnt how to use different materials to make a protective house. I think this task was easy and hard because it was easy to design and make it but it was hard to understand some of the task and how to make it last in weather conditions."

Louis:

"We are learning how to make a house using strong materials so when we put it outside it won't break. I learnt how to actually design and make a chick house out of recycled materials. I think it is easy because I am good at constructing. It was also a little bit hard because I wasn't sure how to draw my design and what I was thinking."

John Luke:

"I am learning how to make a chick house out of materials I can recycle. I have learnt how to design and make the chick house. I think it is hard because I found it hard to make the chick house. It was easier to design it then make it."

Mahalia:

"We are learning to use materials to make a chicken house. I learnt to not use sharp materials like glass because it is unsafe for the chickens because it can break easily if it is outside. This was a little bit hard because I have to make my house safe for the chickens so I had to think hard about the design and what materials to use."

Year One Celebration of Learning - Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year One is celebrating their learning in Creative Arts in the area of Visual Arts. The students have been learning about the artist Andy Warhol and the techniques of creating pop art. The term '**pop art**' means '**popular**'. The students used their ipads and specific editing tools to create a pop art influenced portrait of themselves.

We interviewed a few students about their learning.

Michael:

"We are learning how to use the ipad to take a photo of ourselves and make it look like it is from the olden days. I have learnt how to use different techniques to make my pop art. I think this type of art is easy because the ipad helps me but other artworks are harder."

Scarlet:

"We are learning about pop art and how to use contrasting colours. I have learnt about the meaning of pop art and what the word contrasting means. I think art is easy because I'm good at it and I always try my hardest to be creative and use the techniques our teachers show us."

Edward:

"We are learning to create pop art on a self portrait using an ipad. I like doing pop art because it is fun and I can learn with my friends in my group. I learnt how to draw on an ipad using the special features and tools."

Aaliya:

"We are learning to create pop art using ipads and drawing tools. I enjoy this learning because it is fun using the ipad and different tools and I like working with my group because we help each other. I learnt how to colour using the ipad to make my pop art."

Year 2 Celebration of Learning Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year 2 is celebrating their learning in Literacy in the area of Writing. The students are learning how to compose an informative text in the context of an information report. They are also learning how to write fluent sentences and construct paragraphs.

We interviewed a few Year 2 students about their learning and how they are going with their learning.

Sara: "I am learning how to compose sentences. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes it is hard. It is hard because sentences always have to make sense and you need to use verbs, adverbs, nouns and pronouns. I am out of the learning pit so my next steps are to write different sentences to record facts, explain, describe, define and state my opinions. I like writing. It is fun to write and I like writing funny things. Sometimes it is hard to construct questions."

Frank: "I am learning how to compose a paragraph and different types of sentences. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes it is hard. I am deep in the pit and doing deep learning. I am nearly out of the pit but have some more learning to do. My next step is to start a paragraph with one clear main idea and explain more about that idea or topic. I enjoy writing because I like composing and working with my friends in a team. I have learnt about different types of sentences and I find it harder to construct sentences that are questions."

Jasmine: "We are learning how to write information reports. I am writing an information report on ladybugs and dolphins. I enjoy writing information reports because I am learning many interesting facts about the different animals and I can become an expert on the animals I am learning about. I think learning about habitat is the most interesting as I like to learn about where the different animals live. My next step is to add more detail to my information report. I have learnt that ladybugs can have different patterns."

Daniel: "In writing we are learning to write information reports about ladybugs and crocodiles. I really like Literacy. It is one of my favourite subjects. I like learning about the appearance of the animals so I can discover what they look like and about all of their body parts. Some words are hard like herbivore and omnivore but it is interesting to learn new words. I have to try and think harder sometimes and if I read more I will learn more information. I have learnt that ladybugs spit poison at the other insects so they can defend their food. Their spit does not harm humans."

Year 4 Celebration of Learning Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year 4 is celebrating their learning in Mathematics. They are learning how to read time and interpret a timetable and calendar dates.

We interviewed some students about what they are learning and how they are going with their learning.

Cynthia Daher:

"We are learning how to read time. Some things are easy and some things are hard. We need to learn to read the time and also how to say the time using words. There are different ways to read the time when you are telling someone the time. I find this learning interesting as it is new learning and it is important to know how to read time."

Joshua Nasr:

"We are learning about how to read and say time. I like working with my partner because it makes my learning easier because we share ideas to solve the maths problems."

Christian Kalouch:

"We are learning about time and calendar dates. I use strategies the teacher shows us to make my learning easier. I like being challenged in Maths and find new learning interesting."

Alicia Remaili:

"I am learning about how to read and write time. I find this task challenging because I can read time but find it hard to compare times. I find this learning fun because I am learning new things and am learning how to read both 24 hour and 12 hour time."

Year 3 Celebration of Learning - Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year 3 are celebrating their learning in Literacy in the area of Writing. The students are learning about composing persuasive and informative texts through the context of a debate. They were learning how to record pros and cons for a debate topic. The students had to think of 3 arguments for and 3 arguments against the topic. The students were placed into debating teams and allocated one of the following topics:

- Books are better than movies
 - Children should not do chores
 - Children should not play a musical instrument
- The groups were divided into affirmative and negative teams.

We interviewed some of the students about their learning:

Ray:

"I am learning how to persuade people about my opinion on a topic. I enjoy writing and I feel I am climbing out of the learning pit. My next steps are to use more language of opinion in my persuasive writing. When I am writing I feel like I am in the zone and concentrating because I am trying hard to get out of the pit."

Shaneli:

"I really like writing, especially about funny things, and want to become an author. I am learning about how to persuade people to agree with my opinion on a topic. I am climbing out of the learning pit and my next steps to help me get out of the pit are to use more persuasive devices and high modality language. My group was given the topic 'Children Should NOT Play a Musical Instrument'. My group disagrees with the topic and will be arguing against the topic."

Celine:

"We are learning to compose a persuasive text to convince someone else. I think I am climbing out of the learning pit and my next steps would be to use more high modality language to be stronger when persuading the audience. I love writing because I can express myself, teach others about how I feel and I enjoy learning new things to improve my writing. I think writing is fun."

Wren:

"We are learning to compose a persuasive exposition. I feel like I am climbing out of the learning pit and my next steps would be to include more literary devices like using emotive language and high modality language. I love writing because it helps me improve and it makes me want to become an author one day and write a book of my own."

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

St Patrick's Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Standring (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au, or through Skoolbag App. The school follows the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>

Year 5 Celebration of Learning Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year 5 are celebrating their learning in Literacy. They are learning to form relevant and detailed inferences and predictions using evidence to justify their thinking and about how authors use descriptive and figurative language features to improve texts and add meaning for their audience. The students received a text to view, then formed predictions about what the text will be about or what will happen next in the text. Throughout the week, the students will continue to analyse the text and form and justify predictions and form deep inferences.

We interviewed some students about their learning in Reading.

Sophie Gahdmar:

"We are learning about how to predict using text based evidence and retelling and connecting to short stories. We are also learning about the purpose of descriptive language in texts and how it is used to give meaning to texts and gain an emotional response from the audience. I enjoy reading and making emotional connections to texts."

Noah Reyes-Mangabat:

"We are learning to make inferences using text based evidence and how to use figurative language to improve our writing. I find it challenging sometimes trying to engage my audience to the texts I write and knowing which figurative language features to use. I am beginning to make good inferences and am starting to understand how to find evidence or make connections to prove my thinking."

Meagan Erive:

"We are learning about how authors impact on their audience through language choice and learning how to use figurative language to give meaning to our readers. I enjoy reading and writing and learning new information to help me be a better writer."

Emmanuel Missak:

"We are learning how authors impact readers and how we as authors impact others. We are also learning to make inferences. I am learning how to predict and infer using evidence in the text and also making connections to things I know to help me gain understanding. I find this challenging but fun at the same time. It is challenging because sometimes it is hard to justify my inferences or predictions but it is fun because I like new learning."

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.

Year 6 Celebration of Learning Term 3 Week 8

This week, Year 6 is celebrating their learning in Mathematics. They have been learning how to measure and compare volume, capacity and mass and also learning how to convert between units of measurement. The students had to investigate the cubic decimetre and cubic metre and transfer their learning to solve everyday problems involving volume, capacity and mass. They had fun constructing the cubic metre.

We interviewed some students about their learning:

Ethan Bechara:

"I am learning about how to convert different measurements such as mL to L and and to convert between measurements such as mL to g to cubic centimetres. I am enjoying this task because I do not find it too complicated like some of the other tasks. I like using the concrete materials to help me like the thousand block and the cubic metre. I can transfer this learning into my everyday life because when I go to the shops I can understand the difference between the units of measurements."

Talia Kalouch:

"We are learning how to calculate volume, mass and capacity and compare and convert measurements. I enjoyed this task because I like challenging myself and this task is challenging my thinking. I can transfer what I am learning into my everyday life when I am cooking or buying items from the supermarket. Some things are measured in different units depending also on the quantity you need to buy. For example if you need soil you would measure in cubic metres not cubic decimetres."

Brian Chen:

"In Maths we are learning about 3 main areas. Volume, Capacity and Mass. We are also learning about how to convert between units of measurement. I enjoy this learning because it helps to improve my maths and thinking skills. It challenges my thinking, especially when converting to different units of measurement. This maths will help me when I am measuring or weighing things in everyday life."

Isobel Rahme:

"We are learning about volume, mass and capacity and how we can convert between the units of measurement to find equivalence. We are also learning about all of the different units for example when converting grams to kilograms to tonnes and recording our thinking in a table. I am enjoying this learning because it is improving my maths skills especially in multiplication and division when we have to convert. If I am ever cooking this learning will help me to measure ingredients and convert between units of measurement."



Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolling Now for Year 7 2022



Contact the school on 9849 9100 or visit our website for an enrolment pack. Applications close end of March 2021.
For enrolment criteria please refer to our school website.

Tours of the school campus will be held in Term 4 - Tuesday 10th November & Friday 4th December 2020.