

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In the weeks beginning 11 Aug 2020 to 28 Aug 2020 students in Yrs 4, 5 and 6 student, staff and parents were invited to complete a survey organised by the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. The survey aims to provide feedback to schools about the extent to which parents feel the school supports learning and positive behaviour and promotes a safe and inclusive environment as well as answering the question, 'Please tell us some of the things you really like about your child's school, or things that would make it even better.'

Thank you to the 44 parent respondents who completed the survey. The school has now received the reports pertaining to each of these subgroups and will continue to work through the information and elicit implications, considerations and possible improvements.

Here is a summary of the parent responses:

Areas that were scored high >8 (school mean) by parents include:

- My children's school helps them grow in their understanding of Jesus
- My children's learning in Religious Education helps them respond to important questions in their life.
- I feel welcome when I come into the school
- I can easily speak to the school principal
- There is someone at home that encourages them to do well at school
- There is someone in the family that praises the child for doing well at school
- There is someone in the family who talks with the child about their feeling towards other children in the school
- My child is clear about the rules for school behaviour
- The school helps prevent the students from smoking
- The school helps the students from using drugs
- My child feels safe at school
- My child feels safe going to and from school
- Gangs are not a problem at our school

Areas that indicated a need for consideration and possible further development < 6 (school mean) include:

- I am informed about my child's social and emotional development.
- I am well informed about my child's progress in school subjects.
- I am informed about opportunities concerning my child's future.

Other topics that were raised by a very small number of parents, but still worthy of serious consideration include exclusion and bullying experienced by their children; both totally unacceptable. Also lack of opportunities for meaningful inclusion of parents in prayer and some objection to the use of Information and Communication technology at school.

Thank you to all these parents for their very valuable feedback. I will endeavour to address some of the questions raised in the individual parent comments in future newsletters.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette 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](#)



Do you have a calling to spread the good news and joy of the Gospels to the children in the State Schools in 2021?

Become a Catechist – a SRE volunteer – a Scripture Teacher.

What is a SRE?

SREs (Special Religious Educators) are volunteers who:

- Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend the local State Schools.
- Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people.
- Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people.
- Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.

For more details about the ministry, how it works and how you could become involved call the St Patrick's, Parramatta, Parish Office: ph **88398412** or e-mail secterary@stpatscathedral.com.au



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Ms Barton and her Family on the passing of her grandfather. Please keep the family in your prayers.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Ms Stephenson and her Family on the passing of her grandfather. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Semester 2 SRC

To congratulate and thank our Semester 2 SRC students, we will be presenting them with a certificate on 4 Dec followed by a Morning Tea on 15 Dec.

Thank you to all our SRC's for their amazing work and dedication. Unfortunately no visitors permitted at this stage.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - TOMORROW

Friday 27th November 2020

Due to lockdown earlier this year the school had to postpone the scheduled Staff Development Day. This has now been rescheduled for Friday 27th November.

Children do not come to school on this day.

INFORMATION ON STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Last week the Student Leadership Program commenced in Year 5. This program guides the Year 5 students through the process of selecting student representatives that will hold the positions of School Captain (SRC leaders), Vice Captains (Religious Education Team Leader) and the leaders of the other portfolios of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), ARTS (Language and Visual Arts) PE.H.PD. (Physical Education, Health and Personal Development)

The program will continue over the upcoming weeks with the 2021 leaders being announced in week 9. The timeline for the program can be seen below:

18 Nov	Wed	Current Student Leaders to talk to Year 5
23 - 24 Nov	Mon / Tues	School Captain Nominations to be lodged at the office.
26 Nov	Thurs	4 top nominees announced
27 Nov	Fri	Staff Development Day
1 Dec	Tues	4 Nominees present speeches to Yrs 4 & 5 in Library
		Yr 5 & teachers vote. (only teachers who know the children will vote)
2-3		Nominations for Portfolios of Arts, STEM & PDHPE
4 Dec	Fri	Top 6 (3 boys & 3 girls) for each portfolio are announced and voted for by Yr 5 students & teachers
7 Dec	Mon	School Leaders for 2021 announced.

Water Bottles

Just a reminder to check every morning that your child has their water bottle. We still have a lot of children forgetting their water bottle. They are supplied with a plastic cup but as you can imagine this is only a small cup that they need to keep refilling. With the hot weather coming up and the children not being able to use the bubblers, we do not want to see children dehydrated.



Last day of school for 2020 is Wednesday 16th December

St Patrick's Parramatta RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021 DATES						
Week One 2021	Tuesday 26th January, 2021	Wednesday 27th January, 2021	Thursday 28th January, 2021	Friday 29th January, 2021	Monday 1st February, 2021	Tuesday 2nd February, 2021
	Public Holiday - Australia Day	Staff Development Day - Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Staff Development Day - Yrs K-6 Individual Maths Assessments	Years 1 to Year 6 Commence School Kindy Individual Maths Assessments	Kindy Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten 2021 to commence school (full day)
		Kindergarten - 6 - Parents will be asked to book their children into one session with their child's class teacher.				

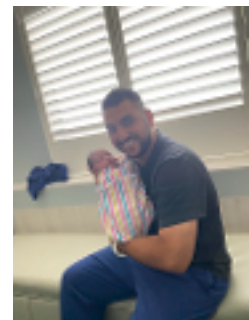


Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the next week:-

Ethan Xue,
Taran Dinesh Kumar,
Ray Chen, Sophie Abraham,
Edan-Grace El-Chaar, Jessica Lim,
Evie Grohs, Roselle Ghostine



**Congratulations to Mr
Younis and his wife
Emily on the birth of
their little
boy,
Emmanuel.**



Celebration of Learning-

Christmas Concert

We will be having a **Celebration of Learning-Christmas Concert in week 9** (Tuesday 8 December). Students will come to school dressed in the **theme of Christmas**. Teachers will record this celebration and share with all parents.



Thank you for your enthusiasm during this festive season as we lead into Advent.



From the Learning Pit ..

At St Patrick's Primary School we believe it is vitally important for all students to see themselves as learners. Learners who confidently talk about 'Where they are in their learning', 'Where they are going' and 'How they will get there'. Throughout the year all students engage in learning conversations and goal setting with their teachers that help them understand how they can keep developing and deepening their learning.

As the students develop in their understanding of how to be learners they also deepen their ability to display traits that help them become lifelong learners. Our school reports focus on the following learning traits:

- Demonstrates Safe and Appropriate behaviour
- Works cooperatively and collaboratively
- Works independently
- Completes set work on time
- Communicates ideas clearly and effectively
- Asks questions to deepen their learning
-

Teachers will indicate if the student displays these traits, consistently, usually, sometimes or rarely. It is important to remember that although the traits remain the same from K-6 the level of achievement will be based on the age of the student.

CATHOLIC MISSION - ICE BLOCKS - REMINDER



Due to the staff development day tomorrow ice-blocks were sold today, however ice-blocks will continue to be sold for the next 2 weeks on **Friday** at \$1 each. The money raised will be used to donate to the families in need through **Catholic Mission**. The students were very giving and enjoyed being part of this great contribution last week. Thank you for your generosity. Together we can make a difference.

We raised \$300 last week, that's alot of ice-blocks !!!

Understanding School Talk ???

Public Speaking and Communication

Advocate For Themselves

In my experience as a k-8 teacher, the biggest piece of advice I have for parents is to have your children advocate for themselves and express their needs early on. So often, as parents, we speak for our children, instead of encouraging them to do so. My oldest (who is kindergarten) and I often practise this at home. So, for instance, if he comes home and tells me he lost his book and needs another one, instead of emailing the teacher myself, he and I practice how he can talk to his teacher. I model how to ask questions and we discuss examples of good times that he can ask. When he has trouble remembering (like most five-year-olds do!), I facilitate this discussion in person. "Connor, did you want to ask Mrs. M. something?" Teaching kids this skill early on, allows them to develop the courage and know-how to use their own voice, so that they can be successful later on.

Celebration of Learning Year 6 Term 4 Week 7

This week, Year 6 would like to share our Retreat experiences with you.

Year 6 students and teachers (Mrs Carroll, Mrs Fardell, Mrs Tuetue and Mrs Rodricks) ventured off to Stay KCC Katoomba for an overnight retreat on Thursday 19th November. We were all so excited to be spending time with our friends. We had so much fun experiencing new activities such as archery, catapult building, bushwalking, shelter building and orienteering. Year 6 were put into four groups and participated in the activities with their designated group.

When we arrived on Thursday, we ate delicious muffins for morning tea then set off on our first activity. At each of our activities we were accompanied by a guide/leader and a teacher. After activity one we ate sandwiches for lunch then headed out for the second activity. Following activity two we enjoyed yummy, freshly baked finger buns for afternoon tea.

Now with full tummies, it was time to settle down and begin some of our reflection activities, prepared by Mrs Tuetue. Mrs Rodricks read us the Dr Seuss book 'Places We Go' and we reflected on the meaning, themes and messages in the book. We then formed into groups and each received a balloon where we wrote a feeling/emotion we were experiencing about going on to high school next year. We blew up our balloon (some popped as they blew them up way too big haha) then one person stood in the middle of the circle and tried to juggle all of the emotions on their own. This was very hard. When friends joined in to help, juggling our problems and emotions became much easier. We learnt that we are never alone. God is always with us and that we need to turn to him and our family and friends for support when we feel we are struggling to juggle things on our own.

We then went into our rooms and unpacked before joining together for a delicious dinner. We had pasta bolognese, wedges and garlic bread, then pavlova for dessert, yum. We all had fun at the dinner table with our friends. After this we got to go to a campfire. This was so much fun. We sang songs and roasted marshmallows and played games. By now it was 9pm and before heading off to bed we got to eat giant cookies. We walked back to our lodges, showered, then had fun hanging out with our friends. Some played games, played the piano, gave facials to each other, pigged out on snacks (yes believe it or not some were still eating after a food filled day) or just enjoyed chatting the night away.

Getting up at 6am was hard for some as we didn't get much sleep from the excitement of staying up with our friends. For breakfast we had a range of cereals, yoghurt, fruit and toast then scrumptious cheese and bacon toasties. We put on lots of sunscreen and filled our water bottles then headed out for activity three. For morning tea we ate chocolate, caramel slices and fruit before heading out for our last activity.

Father Chris, Ms Fabri and Mrs Standring then joined us to celebrate our liturgy. The liturgy was beautiful and Father Chris' homily was very touching and meaningful. He gave us advice on high school and friendship. At the liturgy there was a heart made of rocks on the floor. One by one all the kids went up to the heart and replaced them with candles. We all kept the rock and the meaning behind it was for when we feel lonely the pebble helps us to remember our primary school friends and our camp we went on all together and the happy memories we shared.

After the liturgy there was more food. We had chicken caesar rolls for lunch. Sadly it was then time to head home. We packed the bus and headed for Parramatta, where our parents were eagerly waiting for us.

We had an amazing time during the two days. ***Our favourite activities included***

- Running around the bush looking for clues in ***orienteering***. We had to focus, read a map and work together as a team to find the clues and crack codes
- ***Archery***-aiming our arrow and shooting at the target.
- Being active
- Thinking how to use resources in the bush to ***build a shelter***
- Competing against another team to ***build a catapult*** then launch a ball and a toy chicken.

Some funny moments were:

- some boys waking Mrs Fardell up at 1am and 1:30am because they heard noises.
- the girls giving Mrs Carroll and Mrs Rodricks facials.
- Olivia G and her cockroach experience.
- Christine being the first in her group to actually shoot the balloon on the target with her bow and arrow after missing every shot beforehand.
- Malcolm 'attempting to play' the piano for an hour to entertain the boys, Mrs Fardell and Mrs Tuetue.
- Sophia P getting stuck in the bed and all the girls running into the room to help. It was very funny
- When one of the groups Malcolm, Olivia T, Michael AY, Christian, Elisa and Ava made a castle out of sticks and when we were almost done the castle broke.

But most of all this experience was the highlight of our Primary school journey because we had friends to help us along the way. We learnt about and strengthened our skills in teamwork, collaboration and communication and we had so much fun with each other by trying new things and laughing together. Through activities, prayer and reflection we learnt that nothing is too scary or too big if we have faith in God and rely on our family and friends to guide us and support us.

Written by Olivia Takchi and Michael Ayoub

Dear Parents/Caregivers of Year 6,

On Monday 30th November, Year 6 will be participating in a full day of TRI-SKILLS (gymnastics skills). We are allowing the students to wear mufti clothes as a reward and so that they can be comfortable. Please ensure that your child is wearing sneakers, comfortable stretchy tights/pants or shorts and a t-shirt/singlet top to allow them full range of movement. They are encouraged to bring a spare t-shirt in case they get hot and sweaty, to allow them to change halfway through the day if needed.

Thank you

Year 6 teachers

**2021 PLANNING - IS YOUR CHILD RETURNING TO ST PATRICK'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL PARRAMATTA IN 2021?**

As we begin to make plans for 2021, we ask that if your child is not returning to St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta next year to please contact the school office. This does not apply to Year 6 students.

FINANCE

The last day for any Cash/EFT payments at the school office will be Tuesday 15th December 2020.



Honour Award

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

KA	Jared Cauan	Irene Tony	KM	Charlie Chua	Maroun Abraham
1C	Melissa Black	Mary Roumanus	1S	Isla-Rose Eid	Elias Kazzaz
2M	Mika Liu	Ashton Grohs	2Y	Patrick Semaan	Catherine Kwa



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Mitchell Daher	Fareeda Daher	KM	Emily Lin	Elijah Baysari
1C	Sandra Nehme	Esperanza Thompson	1S	Mariette Wakim	George Rizk
2M	Mia Gebrael	Elijah Vella	2Y	Scarlett Jaitani	Anton Bayssari

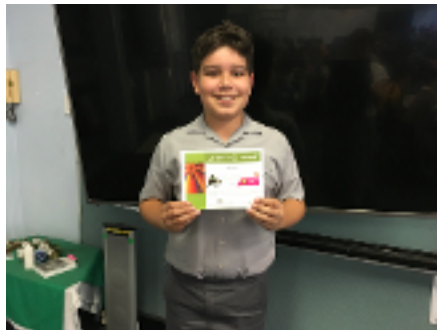




Honour Award

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3L	Panayioti Yannakis	Erick Granados-Gavito	3T	Karabo Khama	Isaac Wehbe
4B	Joshua Nasr	Sophie Salloum	4G	Germain Toledo	Lara Samar
5C	Ellen Nikolakopoulos	Takeshi Liu	5T	Alexandriya Izmestyeva	Olivia Saab
6P	Brian Chen	Ava Salloum	6W	Renee Kougellis	Olivia Takchi

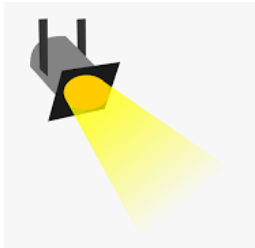


ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

3L	Angelique Saliba	Bailey Grohs	3T	Celine Joachim	Josephine Behan
4B	Zavier Moujalli	Abbey Matta	4G	Jacinta Azizi	Christian Jreij
5C	Alex El-Khoury	Aurora Broadbridge	5T	Louis Wehbe	Emmanuel Missak
6P	Isabella Chivers	Emily Johnson	6W	Sophia Paguia	Jake Buxton





Term 4 Week 7 Spotlights

This week our interviewed spotlights will be from
Infants Teachers at St Patrick's

Miss Stephenson:

What do you love most about being a teacher?

Getting to know my students and watching them grow so much in one year. Seeing their smiles everyday and watching them work so hard to do their best is the most rewarding thing.

If you could only save one thing what would it be?

My phone: That way I can call and communicate with people for help. Also everything is on my phone - memories, phone numbers and the internet so I could look up anything I need.

What are five words that describe you?

Kind, athletic, competitive, patient (except from when driving) and considerate.

If you could meet anyone, who would it be? Why?

Dead or Alive?

Dead: I would love to meet my Pop, I never got to meet him, it would be nice to get to know him and find out what he was like.

Alive: Tom Holland, because I am a massive Marvel Fan, especially Spider Man.

What is your biggest dream?

To travel back to Europe to see Ireland, England, Greece and Italy. I would love to go and see my heritage in Ireland and England and see where my Grandparents grew up.

Miss Mac:

What is your favourite movie and why?

My favourite movies are the ones that portray an important life lesson or a message. I love the Pixar film 'Inside Out' because it shows the power of emotions and memories and how they matter. I love that it provides the empowering message that we should learn how to understand, connect to and accept our memories and feelings.

What is your biggest fear?

Up until recently, I didn't have many fears. Recently, in our Kindergarten classroom, "Bob" the pigeon paid me a visit and decided to run a muck in here flying around till I squealed so loud the school could hear me! Now I just can't stand pigeons and I freak out whenever one even flies near me!

What do you like doing in your spare time?

No matter what time of the year it is, I have always loved going to the beach. Whether it's just for laying there listening to the waves crashing when it hits the shore or feeling the cool sea breeze on my skin.

What do you like more? Listening to music Or reading books? Why?

This is so tricky! I come from a very musical family where I was exposed to a large genre of music as a young child which is what led me to singing and piano lessons as a child. However I've always been a bookworm! I was encouraged to read as a young girl because it helped me build my vocabulary and fostered my love for reading!

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

If I could be any animal I would choose to be a giraffe. Because of their long necks, they are able to see great distances. I believe that even though life has its challenges, I always think optimistically and see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Mrs Youssef:

What is something nobody knows about you?

I love fishing and I enjoy going to the beach, but I hate cooking!

Who is your biggest inspiration?

My biggest inspiration is my mum because she is a strong woman and makes everything look easy. She is such a good role model.

What is your favorite book?

My favourite book is 'Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley' because it is a story of friendship and shows how two friends who are different in every way but can still be so close.

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

A bird so I can fly to different places.

What is something you love a lot?

I love singing.

Ms Kelly:

Do you like movies more or books? Why?

I like books more than movies because I love to use my imagination while I am reading and I like becoming immersed in the storyline.

If you were an animal what would you be and why?

If I was an animal, I would love to be a brumby because I would love to be able to be free and run.

If you had \$1000 to spend what would you buy?

If I had \$1000 I would buy all the Manoush and Sumboosik that I can because I love Lebanese food.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I like to be with family and my best friends. Eating and laughing together.

What are you most excited for currently?

I'm most excited to spend time with my family over the Christmas holidays after a busy year.

Mrs Warn:

If you were Prime Minister, how would you help your country?

If I were a Prime Minister I would try to make sure there would be no poverty in the country, and all children are treated fairly.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you want to live and why?

If I could live anywhere in the world I would still live in Australia as there are beautiful beaches, great places for holidays and very nice people.

Besides being a teacher, what would your ideal job be?

I would want to be a police officer because it is a challenging job and the job will be different everyday.

Who is your most inspirational person and why?

My dad is my biggest inspiration because he is a great role model and he has always pushed me to be a better person.

What is your dream pet?

My dream pet is a hippopotamus because I have always been fascinated with them since I was a little girl and they look cuddly.

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.

Pedestrian Safety

Tips for pedestrians before you cross the road:

- Look before you cross. Just because someone else decides to cross, doesn't mean it's safe for you.
- Never assume that an approaching vehicle can see you, or will stop for you- wait until all vehicles have stopped before you step off the kerb.
- Cross only at designated pedestrian crossings.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars or at the front or back of buses and large vehicles.
- Don't be distracted by your phone and remove headphones before crossing roads.
- Always look out before you step out.
- Plan ahead so you're not rushing to catch the bus/train/tram.
- Wear bright, light coloured clothing at night or in reduced visibility conditions.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
YARN UP**

Bringing the Yarn Up into the Catholic community allows for further opportunities to connect with traditional ways of sharing cultural knowledge, building relationships and understanding our role in the community. Executive Director Greg Whitby and Director Learning Maura Manning will be joining us for an open forum and discussion.

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Jarara Indigenous Education team invites you to share in this experience

WHERE

Holy Family Primary School Hall
252 Laxford Rd, Emerton

WHEN

Monday 7 December 2020

10:00am-12:00pm

We will have limited spaces due to COVID-19 and social distancing protocols will be in place. We will also provide a Zoom link if you wish to join us remotely.

Light refreshments will be available.

Please RSVP to Julie Waddell at jwaddell2@parra.catholic.edu.au or call 0428 504 157 to confirm your attendance **no later than Thursday 3 December 2020**