



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Next Sunday, 25th April, is ANZAC Day. It is a national holiday and one that is much valued and commemorated by people all over the world, especially in Australia.

On this day I often think how terrible it would be if our country was at war. I cannot imagine our beautiful youth, still at school or starting careers at the age of 16+ leaving home to serve their country under the conditions the brave men and women did during the First World War and battles after that time. How very courageous they were and the only reference I can acquire for this time are through movies which try to show the terror, hardship and valor of confrontation or through recalling some stories that my parents used to tell us about the impact of the Second World War on their youth. They spoke of the sirens and sounds of bombing, the rations and the closure of schools. They spoke of the displacement of the family due to the dangers from air bombers and of relatives that served in the armed forces.

ANZAC Day is a time to remember the men and women and even animals that served in either battles or for peacekeeping operations over the years. We also remember the First World War 1914 - 1916, Second World War 1939 - 45, Korean War 1950 - 53, Malayan Emergency 1950 - 60, Vietnam War 1962 - 75, Indonesian Confrontation 1963 - 66, Gulf War 1990 - 91, Afghanistan 2001 - present, Iraq 2003 - 2009 and 2014 - present and many peacekeeping operations from 1947.

In 2019 I went to Belgium to study at KU Leuven, a research university in the Dutch-speaking city of Leuven in Flanders, Belgium. I had the opportunity to participate in a very special moment of reflection at the Memorial of the Fifth Australian Division at Polygon Wood Cemetery. We listened to poems and songs of remembrance and prayed for all who were killed there. We undertook a tour of Hill 60, went to the 'In Flanders Field Museum' and stood for the Last Post at Menenport Ypres. All actions and symbols on this day spoke of pride and a passion for decency and freedom.

We are called at this time to remember why these brave soldiers went to war - and that was to preserve our right to have peace and freedom. We Will Remember Them!

This weekend I invite you and your family to reflect on and acknowledge the bravery of all these men and women and all those who have lost their lives in pursuit of peace and safety for others. Let us also pray for the thousands of service men and women and their families currently serving in the Australian Defence Force. *We pray for all who serve in the defence force of this land.*

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

A prayer for the Australian Defence Force

*God of love and liberty,
we thank you for the peace and security we enjoy.
It was won for us through the courage
and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.
We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,
but that their spirit may live on in us
and in generations to come.*

*Eternal God, the only source of peace,
We pray for all who serve in the defence force of this land.
Give them courage and comfort in danger,
Patience in waiting, and discipline in the just use of force.
Help us to seek for all people
The freedom to serve you and each other in compassion
and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2 of the school year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday break and that you were able to share the special season of Easter with your loved ones.

Looking forward to another terrific term of learning with your children.

Ms Fabri

Term Dates

Term 2 - Monday 19th April - Friday 25th June Term 3 - Monday 12th July - 17th September

Term 4 - Tuesday 5th Oct - Friday 17th Dec

** Please note: Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. These can be used for the gathering of essential data on students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Children do not attend school on these days.

Term 2 - 11th June, 2021

Term 3 - 17th September, 2021

Term 4 - 16th & 17th December, 2021



Congratulations to the Bayssari Family (Xavier 2M) on the birth of their baby boy, John-Paul.

Sports Days for Term 2

Children will be required to wear their sports on the following days for Term 3:-

Wednesday - KM, 1C, 2M & Year 5

Thursday - 1S, Year 3 & Year 4

Friday - KA, 2Y & Year 6

Happy Birthday to all the children who have celebrated their birthday over the past week or will celebrate their birthday next week: Maroun Mourad, John-Luke Rahme, April Soh, Sebastian Malek, Ava Khouri, Troy Daniel, Tara DiChio, Marcella Abboud, Charlie Chua, Takeshi Liu, Frank Malkoun, Alexandra Nasr, Michael Agostino, Albie Soh, Fleur Perrett



NAPLAN

This year students in Year 3, 5 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN online. The following pdf outlines important information regarding NAPLAN. More information can be found at the NAPLAN Parent support page - [Parent Support Page](#)

NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2021

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Federal, state and territory education ministers agreed that all schools will gradually transition from the current paper-based NAPLAN to NAPLAN Online in order to provide a better and more precise assessment that is more engaging for students.

State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online. The current plan is for all schools to transition to NAPLAN Online by 2022.

One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, in which the test presents questions of higher or lower complexity depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the tests online or on paper. Results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale.

To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au

What can I do to support my child?

On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for and students are not expected to do so.

You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply do their best.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs is a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills. There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

See the types of questions and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should discuss the use of any adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

NAPLAN Online timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is nine days instead of the three days provided for the paper test. This is to give schools flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 11 May and finishes on Friday 21 May 2021.

The online test scheduling requirements are detailed in the table below.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test (on day 1 only) Year 5 must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only) Years 7 and 9 must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 42 min. Year 7: 42 min. Year 9: 42 min.	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Years 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2 as the writing test takes priority over any rescheduled reading tests from day 1 To be completed before the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 55 min. Year 9: 55 min.	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	This test assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 55 min. Year 9: 55 min.	This test assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Set up devices safely and ensure they are only used in communal areas

Children need to be protected from exposure to content that is not age appropriate. The best way to do this is to use parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and online accounts they use. See our advice on how to set up devices safely later on. However, parental controls and filters are not failsafe. Ensure your child only uses devices in communal areas of your home, where their activities can be supervised.

INFORMATION FROM TRAFFIC SURVEY From TERM 1 2021**How we Travel to School survey – your feedback**

In our March transport survey, many of you said that better bus services would help a lot, with 14 people from St. Patricks writing about buses in the comments section. Across the two schools we heard that key ways to help people use buses were:

- More frequent public transport (263, 43%)
- Bus route to my neighbourhood (226, 37%)
- Improved waiting area at school (shade/weather protection) (167, 27%)

We are going to be talking to council and Transport for NSW about options for helping us improve bus services. If you have specific bus issues, please use this form on the TfNSW website.

**Understanding School
Talk ???****Student Learning Goals:**

Achievable goals set by the student, either independently or with teacher guidance, that help the child progress in their learning.



In the Spotlight

Audrey Perram - KM

What is your favourite sport?

My favourite sport is gymnastics.

What would you do with one million dollars?

I would buy an airplane for barbie dolls and a baking truck.

What would you be famous for?

I would be famous for my beautiful looks and my nice clothes from mummy.

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subjects are reading and writing.

What is your favourite movie?

My favourite movie is the lion king.

Marcus Wijesuriya - KM

What is your favorite sport?

My favourite sport is soccer

What would you do with a million dollars?

Pirate ship because you can go on the water

What would you be famous for?

I would be famous for my hair

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subjects are art and sport

What is your favourite Movie?

My favourite movie is Peter rabbit because it is very funny and humorous.

Danny Fayad - KA

What hobbies do you have?

I like to play footy and do art with my buddy.
Also I like to play on my iPad

What is your dream job?

I want to be a football coach and a builder.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to play footy because it is fun and you get too tackle.

If you found an island, what would you name it?

I would name it pirate because it is funny and pirates go on islands to search for treasure.

If you were an animal would it be?

I would be a panda because it's my favorite animal and it is cute.

Elena Sunwar - KA

What hobbies do you have?

I like to do painting, planting flowers in the garden and playing basketball.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a teacher, because I want to teach people new things.

What is your favorite subject?

MY favourite subject is science because i like to experiment with cool things

If you could change your name what would it be?

I would change my name to sprinkles because it is a cool name

If you could travel to an country where would would you travel?

I would travel to England because I have never been there before and i just want to go there.



Honour Award

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

KA	Danny Fayad	Natalie Kahwaji	KM	Mario Kancijanac	Matilda Miranda
1C	George Dardas	George Nassif	1S	Jamie Chiha	Rebecca Black
2M	Olivia Pijaca	Mariette Wakim	2Y	Elias Kazzaz	Michael Remaili



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

KA	Jeremiah Khoudeir	Marylyn Lahoud	KM	Scarlett Lagerlow	Gabriel Higoy
1C	Mahalia Jackson	Lucy Reyes-Mangabat	1S	Evie Grohs	Abel Moses
2M	Sandra Nehme	Ava Takchi	2Y	Melissa Black	Mary Roumanus





Honour Award

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

3L	Grace Talbot	Molly Moses	3T	Anton Bayssari	Mia Daher
4B	Joshua Jaitani	Annabella Remaili	4G	Isaac Wehbe	Eva Jakopovic
5C	Roselle Ghostine	Clare Camenzuli	5T	Isabelle Tannous	Elio Layoun
6P	Jake Doueihy	Oscar Morgan	6W	Amelia Coles	Danielle Tannous



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

3L	Joshua Day	Zachariah McPherson	3T	John Bardetta	Nour Kahwaji
4B	Kenzie Murphy	Bailey Grohs	4G	Alessandra DeGuzman	Zachary Aguilera
5C	Julia Vytingco	Joseph Maroon	5T	Joel Lahoud	Abbey Matta
6P	Emma Barrientos-Salazar	Zara Diuco	6W	Maria Khoury	Adrian Sicurella



Building Child Safe Communities - Volunteer Undertaking

Dear Parents/Carers ,

As we start to allow more parental involvement within our school community it is a timely reminder that all parents need to complete the *Building Child Safe Communities* form and online training module.

In Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP), we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. Parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in our schools in many important ways such as supporting classroom learning, being part of advisory groups, mentoring programs, coaching sporting teams and supporting other extra-curricular activities, canteen support and other kinds of help.

A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and form part of our strategy to build child safe communities.

The purpose of this training is to inform you of the standards of behaviour and other requirements that must be adhered to when volunteering for CEDP.

The undertaking should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and the training module approximately 10 minutes. Once the form and training modules are submitted, an automated email will be sent to you within two business days to confirm the status of your submission.

The undertaking form will expire within two years or when your Working With Children Check expires (if applicable), whichever is sooner. At that time you will need to complete the undertaking form and training module again. You will receive an automatic reminder email when this occurs.

Further information on the new online form and training module can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au and clicking on *about us/building child safe communities*. Within the form you will also find help sheets and a video tutorial to assist you.

Thank you in advance for your support.



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Tocher Family (Matthew 6W) on the passing of his grandfather.

Please keep the family in your prayers.



*"The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who
tire of asking for forgiveness."*

Pope Francis

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 stpatsricksparra@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>

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.



Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –

Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all

Experience belonging.

Opportunity for all

MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA

Weekend Masses

Saturday 8.00am, 6.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am (Family), 11.00am (Solemn), 6.00pm, 7.15pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses

Mon to Fri 6.30am, 12.30pm Public Hol 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale