

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A few weeks ago, on the school's Facebook page, I was delighted to see photos of our Year 5 students celebrating their gifts and talents. These gifts and talents have had a good 'work out' during the lockdown period. How wonderful it was to see children demonstrating their skills of cooking and baking, trail bike riding, sketching, making dioramas, completing complicated jigsaw puzzles, making murals, or decorating boxes. Some even started their own little business as junior entrepreneurs by making slime. The gifts of painting and sculpture is well known for the benefits they have for a person's well-being as they are often a form of meditation. When you do something you enjoy, it lifts our spirits and helps us put our world in perspective.

This week can I encourage all children to look at doing something they really enjoy and to send in photos or videos of their gifts and talents or what they have been doing to keep themselves happy and distracted. Help us to share these marvellous gifts with others in our school community and to inspire them to find a hobby or fun activity.

God bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal



Gifts Need to Be Opened

The bottle sat uncorked for years. I had been given the champagne as a gift. Instead of opening it right away, I decided I would save it for some **big** occasion. **Big** meant getting engaged, buying a house, or starting a business. Some of those things happened in my life but others never did. Through it all, that bottle travelled with me, uncorked.

Years passed and I finally decided that the time was right to open the bottle. Instead of a sharp pop of the cork, there was a rather dull sound. When I poured out the contents, the once sparkling wine had turned flat and brown. It had a horrible smell and an even more dreadful taste. I never got the chance to savour the champagne or share it with those I loved.

It is like that with many gifts we are given. We hoard them away in boxes or on shelves waiting for the magical "someday" to arrive so we can use them. Some people go to their graves with gifts they've been given and never used, sometimes with the tags still on them.

This applies not only to material things, but also to God-given gifts. Every person is abundantly blessed with gifts meant to be discovered and put to use, not hidden away for some special occasion. Sadly many times the gifts are never opened, acknowledged or used. The saddest part is they were never shared with others.

The lesson I have learned is that whether the gift comes from God or a friend, I will not wait for the "right" time to open it. I will open it, use it and make a difference. It is why the gift was given in the first place.

AUTHOR AND SOURCE UNKNOWN

RUOK? DAY™
9 September 2021

really
Are they OK? Ask them today

RUOK?

[Please click on the link for a fantastic video for Primary Aged Students](#)

[R U OK?](#)

Staff Development Day

Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. Schools are required by the staff Enterprise Agreement to provide this Professional Learning.

The Staff Development Day scheduled for the 17th September will still be going ahead.

The decision to go ahead has been made in preference to postponing this day for next term when the children are scheduled to be on site as most of the children are learning from home at the moment. Children will not be expected to do any learning on this day but optional activities will be available.

As always school is opened on this day for those families where supervision is unavailable

Solidarity with Afghanistan: How you can help **Jesuit Refugee Services**

To support families seeking asylum and refugees; feel free to visit this website for more information.

<https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/solidarity-with-afghanistan-how-you-can-help/>

BOOK WEEK CONTINUES 2021

This year's Children's Book Week theme is

**"OLD WORLDS, NEW
WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS**

New and exciting activities and opportunities will be available through your Google Classroom.

JOIN IN THE FUN AND YOUR PHOTO MAY BE POSTED ON THE SCHOOL'S FACEBOOK PAGE.



Supporting your child with primary mathematics

Prof. Catherine Attard



Learning maths during lockdown

Maintaining your child's engagement and supporting their mathematics and numeracy learning during this extended period of lockdown can be a challenge. However, there are strategies that you can put in place to support them in completing their schoolwork and provide hands-on, fun mathematical experiences.

Many people openly claim they don't like maths or they're not good at it, unintentionally conveying the message that this is okay. Unfortunately, this can have a detrimental effect on the children who hear these messages. In [my research on student engagement](#), children whose parents made similar comments often used the same comments as mathematics became more challenging during the high school years. During lockdown, it's critical that mathematics learning time is enjoyable for everyone – including you!

As a parent, be conscious of displaying positive attitudes towards mathematics, even when it's challenging. Adopting a 'growth mindset' allows children (and parents) to acknowledge that mathematics is challenging, but not impossible. Rather than saying "I can't do it" or "it's too hard", encourage statements such as "I can't do it yet" or "let's work on this together". If you're struggling with the mathematics yourself, and finding it difficult to support your child, there are options such as free online courses like Jo Boaler's [YouCubed website](#), apps such as Khan Academy, or you can seek help from a professional.

How do I help my child with schoolwork?

When in doubt, ask!

Some of the strategies taught in contemporary classrooms are very different to those you might have learned at school. It's important to support the strategies that your child is learning rather than confuse them with yours, so make sure you seek assistance from your child's teacher.

What mathematics should my child be learning?

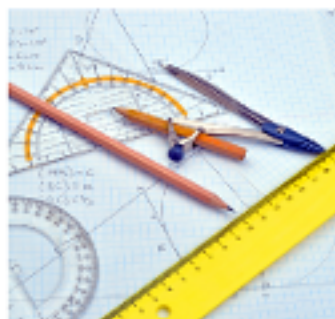
If you're unsure of the level of mathematics or need to understand the level of difficulty your child should be reaching, you can check the [curriculum](#). The syllabus is a useful document that articulates the fine detail of the mathematics taught at each level of schooling. This can help parents who may have unrealistic expectations of what their child should know and be able to do, and will also help them understand that mathematics is not just about numbers or learning the multiplication tables.

It's not just about content

The mathematics curriculum covers content and processes. All students need to know how to do the mathematics and how to apply the mathematics, and it's important to encourage your child to explore, investigate and problem solve whenever possible. Ask them questions like 'How do you know?', 'Can you solve this a different way?', or 'Can you explain how you worked it out?.'

Bring maths into daily conversations and activities with your child

After all, there's maths in everything we do. For example, if you're cooking you might ask your child to help you measure out ingredients. If you're shopping, you could have a little competition to see who can make the best estimation of the total grocery bill or perhaps ask your child to work out the amount of change (this may be challenging given that we use credit cards most of the time).



How do I keep my child interested during lockdown?

Games

If your child likes to play digital games, download some [maths apps](#) so they can use their screen time to learn while having fun at the same time. Alternatively, traditional games can provide opportunities to talk about maths and help your child. Games that use [dominoes](#) and playing cards are great for young children as are board games such as Snakes and Ladders, Monopoly or [Mabble](#). Even non-numerical games such as Guess Who? have benefits for mathematics because they promote problem solving and strategic thinking which are important mathematical skills.

Maths-based children's literature

There are many great picture books that promote mathematical ideas. Use these books to start conversations about mathematics with your child or to spark curiosity and perhaps some mathematical investigation. Here are some websites that list children's literature suitable for use in mathematics teaching and learning:

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/w/literature-list/>
<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Resc/Educ/mathkidslit.html>
<http://www.wire-bowl-childrens-books.org/math-for-kids.html>

Problem-solving activities

If you're looking for some interesting mathematical problems for your child to explore, the [NRICH](#) site has an excellent range of problems and investigations for students of all ages. Best of all, the site provides information for teachers (or parents) to support students. Although the site is based in the UK, the levels are very similar to the NSW curriculum.

Taking the maths outside

There are lots of activities that allow you and your child to get outside and do some maths. The following are some easy suggestions:

- Play a game of hopscotch, or any game that requires counting/scoring.
- Take an iPad or camera outside and go on a treasure hunt for numbers/shapes/objects/angles. Use the photos in combination with a screencasting app to annotate/label/explain what was found in the treasure hunt.
- Design a maths trail where your child poses and then solves mathematical questions/problems in your backyard, at the local playground or in your neighbourhood.

These are only a few suggestions of activities that can help support your child with mathematics. For more ideas, visit engagelgmaths.com

Limited on space inside? No problem!

Try these **BIG** activities for small indoor spaces - paper aeroplanes, cubby houses, balloon tennis, toss socks in laundry basket or create a cushion obstacle course!

What are you doing at home to keep the kids active and occupied?

For more fun ideas for the family to be active at home:

https://fb.watch/v/36D_Gh31T/

PS. Don't forget that physical activity can also help your child get a better night's sleep!



eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Safety tips Use bookmarks — set up bookmarks in the web browser your child uses. This may help minimise the risk of them coming across unsuitable websites and content.

Set up a folder — on shared devices, set up a folder of apps or programs that are suitable for your child to use.

Airplane mode — turn on airplane or flight mode on Apple and Android mobile devices to restrict access to some online services.

SCHOOL SPEAK

EYA

Early Years Assessments (EYA) are undertaken at the beginning, middle and end of year, for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students in various aspects of literacy. This is another example of tracking.



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Kalouche Family (Gabriel 5C, Christian 5C, Makayla 5T, Benjamin 3T & Joseph KA) on the passing of their Grandfather.

Please keep all Kalouche Families in your prayers.

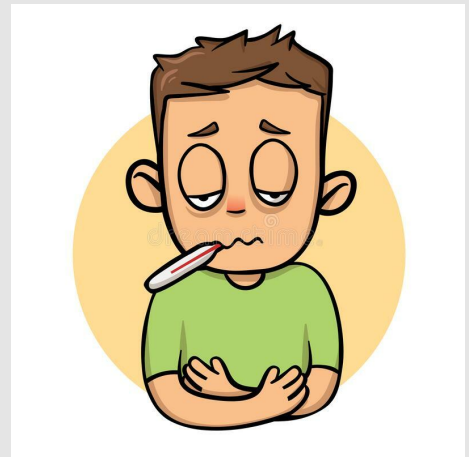
Is your child unwell ?

If you are learning from home and your child is too sick to participate in online learning please follow normal absence reporting procedures by sending in a skoolbag alert or email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au. This will allow the office staff to amend their attendance and notify their teachers they are unwell.

If your child has been attending school for supervision please follow the above guidelines for a child that is sick. A reminder that if your child is ill with any COVID 19 symptoms they are not to attend school, so as to keep our school community safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Jones



"The faith we proclaim tonight makes us see God present in all those situations where we think he is absent... He is present in the unwelcome visitor, often unrecognizable, who walks through our cities and our neighborhoods, who travels on our buses and knocks on our doors."

Pope Francis

Join the community in an online concert of hope (featuring Fr Rob Galea), live Q&A panel including those who have fled Afghanistan seeking protection and those who have worked there. Details are below:

COME *Together*
ONLINE TO

RAISE YOUR HANDS
FOR **AFGHANISTAN**



FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 7PM
A LIVE **Q&A** PANEL AND A CONCERT OF **HOPE**
WITH FR ROB GALEA





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

Ariana Bousimon, Nicholas Drosos, Xavier Abu-Ali, Jared Cauan, Noah Abu-Ali, Alisha Katafono, Sara Lorenzo, Elijah Vella, Mario Kancijanac, Emily Lin, Athena Valencia

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:

[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Further information and an update will be provided.

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.

NEW TESTING CLINIC



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

COVID-19 Drive-through Testing Clinic at

Bankwest Stadium

🕒 **Time: 8am - 6pm daily (9am start on 11 August)**

📅 **When: 7 days a week until further notice**

📍 **Where: Northern carpark, Enter at Gate 2
O'Connell Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150**

**Testing is FREE. All ages welcome.
No booking or GP referral required.**

**Check when you're eligible for COVID-19 vaccination using the
Australian Government Vaccine Eligibility Checker**



sub tunc
praesidium

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