

Newsletter

4th November, 2021 Term 4 Week 5

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Monday, 1st November was the launch of the **Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge**. This competition highlights the importance for children to continue the momentum of reading throughout the school holidays and there is no better time to start than right now. The recent experience of lockdown may have derailed the nightly reading routine so this is a wonderful way to motivate reluctant readers to commence again. I also understand that for some children reading has been their constant during their time at home.

Reading is one of the most important skills a person can acquire. From my experience some students take to reading like a duck to water with no effort needed from the adults around them. They seem to have an intuition about what is needed to be a good reader and because they find reading easy they like it even more.

I have taught many children to read and one of the elements I noticed is that it is difficult for them to experience what it is like to become a phrased and fluent reader because they find the process of decoding so difficult and in turn never really understand what it is like to create a visual image in their mind whilst they're reading - like a movie. No wonder they do not like reading.

A good place to start however is to find stories that the children love listening to and reading these stories over and over again - like a good movie. Stories or real life information that they are interested in, is motivating for children to hear. Ultimately however we want them to read for themselves but they will not want to read unless they see a purpose for reading such as to gain information or to be entertained.

In their publication on [Parents' guide to helping children with reading and writing at home](#)

Kaye Lowe, from the Primary English Teaching Association of Australia (PETAA) suggests the following:

Some tips for home reading

- **Establish a home reading routine.** Read aloud with your children everyday. Ten minutes for each child around a book of his/her choice. If English is your second language, read in your home language. If you lack confidence in reading aloud, the fact that you are reading with your child is what matters. Talk about the illustrations and contribute where you can. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.
- **The reader holds the book!** There is a lot of power and control in the world of reading. The reader needs to have the power.
- During home reading time, **turn off electronic devices** and **give each child ten minutes of your undivided attention.**

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- Before you read a book, **set your child up for success**. Reading is not a test! Reading time is only ten minutes so do some of the following: Keep the introduction short – one minute is enough. Talk about the illustrations and the title. Read the blurb and talk about the author, talk about any unusual words, read a page here and there as your child flicks through the book, discuss the characters. This is a short introduction, not an interrogation. If the book is already a familiar one, then this step is unnecessary.
- **If reading time is stressful, move the reading to a new location**. Instead of sitting at the kitchen bench, move to the lounge room floor, or go outside and sit under a tree or take the books to the local coffee shop.
- **Find a reading time that works for your family**. Limit the time and set the timer if reading in the past has always been difficult. It is better to have an enjoyable 10 minutes than a laborious 30 minutes where everyone is left feeling frustrated.
- **At the end of the 10 minutes, ask questions that encourage discussion**, for example: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? What did you think about that setting? What do like/ dislike about this book? There is no need to interrogate the reader. Make it a conversation as you would in a book club.
- **Encourage your child to read independently**. A bedside light is one of the best enticements for your child to read before going to sleep. After the 10 minutes of reading with you, the child can elect to continue reading independently.
- **The less you interrupt** the 10 minutes of reading, the more you are supporting the readers independence, resilience and confidence. Zip your lips, monitor the miscues, and listen as your child reads.
- **Avoid judging your child's reading with words such as: 'good', 'excellent' or 'getting better'**. Instead say things about the strategies your child uses when reading such as: 'I like how you read on when you came to that difficult word.' 'I like how you changed your voice to be the voice of the character in the story'. 'I noticed that you reread the bit that did not make sense.'
- If your child is reading independently and **has reached the level of chapter books, it is not necessary for you to read aloud together any more**. Your job is done. That is not to say, you cannot continue to share reading time because it is what you love to do as a family or that you sit and read silently together or that you talk about the books your child is reading because you are interested in his reading choices. Readers read differently in their heads as compared to reading aloud.
- **Visit the local library** — make it a family ritual on a set day every week. Let your children select their books while you select books you are interested in reading. Not every book has to be read cover to cover. Your child might select books based on illustrations or factual information about a topic of interest.
- **Independent readers pick and choose what they read**. They are entitled to read some and reject others. They are entitled to not complete books because they are boring. Readers make choices.
- **Model what it means to be an enthusiastic reader**. Create a home of readers where everyone reads – It is just what we do in this house! Talk about what you have read. Read aloud what makes you laugh and share it with your child.

I hope you found some of these tips helpful.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
Summer
READING
Challenge

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!

Entry closes at 5:00pm on 25 February 2022.
Terms and Conditions apply.



Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

Please following the link for Terms & Conditions

[Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge](#)



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

Justin Mawad, Bella Younis, Isaiah Zaiter, Charles Nasr, Olivia Rizk, Daniel Saleh, Patrick Semaan, Michel Kazzaz, Eimear Mitchell

Medical Updates

As the children return to school it is very important that students with medical conditions such as Asthma and Anaphylaxis return with their medication.

Please check the expiry dates on your child's medication and ensure it is within the date. If your child requires Claratyne or Zyrtec as part of their anaphylaxis plan be aware the school does not stock this and you are responsible for including it in their bag.

It may be a timely reminder to also ensure their Asthma Plans and Anaphylaxis Plans have been updated in the previous 12 months.

Regards

Mrs Jones

Last Day of Term 4







**The last of Term 4 2021 will be Wednesday 15th
December, 2021**

RECESS TIMES FOR TERM 4

K,1,2 Fruit Break 10.10 am Recess 11.10 am Lunch 1.30pm

3,4 Recess 10.00 am Lunch 12.20 pm

5,6 Recess 10.35 am Lunch 12.55 pm

<u>2022</u>	<u>Monday</u> 24/1/22	<u>Tuesday</u> 25/1/22	<u>Wednesday</u> 26/1/22	<u>Thursday</u> 27/1/22	<u>Friday</u> 28/1/22	
Week 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments
	<u>Monday</u> 31/1/22	<u>Tuesday</u> 1/2/22	<u>Wednesday</u> 2/2/22	<u>Thursday</u> 3/2/22	<u>Friday</u> 4/2/22	
Week 2	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments Years 1 to Years 6 commence the 2022 school year	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten commence the 2022 school year 		
						

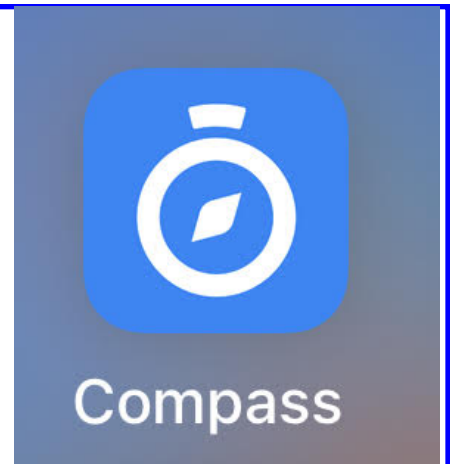
NOTE PLEASE: If On-Site Kindergarten Orientation is unable to be held this year due to restrictions, we will schedule them from Friday 28/1/22 to Wednesday 2/2/22. Children will only be required to attend one Orientation session and one Maths session.

More information will be communicated when the situation becomes clearer next term.

Compass Parent Portal

Have you had a chance to download our new Compass Parent Portal App?

Thank you to the many parents who have logged onto our new Compass Parent Portal. **For the parents who have not logged on yet an email was sent from St Patrick's Primary School on the 15th October with your username and password.** If you require this to be resent or you need your username please email the school at stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.



As of Monday 25th October if your child has been marked absent by their teacher you will receive an SMS alert stating your child is absent. Click on this link to explain their absence. It will automatically come through to me and will update on your child's profile. If you know your child will be absent on a certain day for example a doctors appointment you can enter the absence in advanced. It would be appreciated if all absences are now explained either through the sms link or the Compass Parent Portal.

Compass will become our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. **Skoolbag will be discontinued in 2022.** Using the Compass Parent Portal you will be able to:

- Be informed of important updates, events and reminders
- View your child's timetable
- Review your child's attendance
- Provide explanations for periods of absence
- Update your contact details
- Book Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Download Semester Reports

Regards

Mrs Jones

Heading back to school?

Don't take COVID-19 with you.

If your child is feeling unwell, keep them at home. It'll keep them and their classmates safe.

Get tested immediately and isolate until they get a negative result.



Timeline for Student Leader Process

Date	Day	Process
17 Nov	Wed	Ms Fabri & Mrs Standing to talk to Year 5
17 Nov	Wed	Current Student Leaders to talk to Year 5 According to COVID Safe practices this will occur outside with one Year 6 leader at a time speaking while socially distanced
22 - 23 Nov	Mon Tues	School Captain Nominations to be lodged at the office.
25 Nov	Thurs	4 top nominees announced (Ms Fabri to announce)
30 Nov	Tues	4 Nominees present speeches to 5 in COLA. Yr 4 will watch a recording of the speeches
		Yr 5 & teachers vote
1-2 Dec		Nominations for Portfolios of Arts, STEM & PDHPE
3 Dec	Fri	Top 6 (3 boys & 3 girls) for each portfolio are announced and voted for by Yr 5 students & teachers
6 Dec	Mon	School Leaders for 2021 announced.

The above timeline will be adhered to. If for any reason you are away on the nomination day or voting days you are encouraged to ring the school and place your nomination or vote over the phone on the day. No late nominations or votes can be accepted.

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Tips for managing screen time

You may be accustomed to 'tech tantrums', or your toddler or preschooler having a tantrum because their screen time is over. It is normal behaviour for children to not want to stop a fun activity, whether it is online or not.

- Use a timer — decide on the right amount of time and use a timer or a screen time monitor that blocks access. This is especially useful for very young children as they see it as the device 'turning off', not you imposing a rule.
- Talk about a set amount of screen time before your child starts to play or watch — this may help them stop when their time is up.
- Help them transition to another activity — in the last five minutes of your child's screen time, sit with them and engage with what they are doing. You could also suggest you draw or make a character from your child's favourite program or game together.
- Agree on device-free times — talk together as a family about when everyone should put their devices down. Depending on your routine, this may be during meals and at night.
- Turn off devices an hour before bedtime — research shows it is important to turn devices off at least an hour before bedtime to ensure your child has the best quality sleep.

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 Standing (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.

"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling."

Pope Francis



Saying goodbye to School Banking

Sadly, our School Banking program will not be returning to schools in 2022.

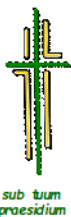
School Banking is closing nationally

We're sad to announce that the CommBank School Banking program will not be returning to schools in 2022.

For 90 years, our School Banking program has helped children learn about money, reinforced the importance of regular savings and provided structure for parents to support their children to save.

We've had strong support from thousands of schools, parents and teachers across the country who choose to run our program. We're disappointed with the position taken by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and subsequent decisions by some state and territory governments to take that choice away from individual schools and parents. Because of the ASIC review and these government decisions, we're unable to continue providing programs in schools, and we've had to make a difficult decision to close our School Banking program nationally for all schools, both government and non-government, across the country.

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:
[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)



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