

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

November is such a special month, I believe, because we have 2 very special days of commemoration and mourning; All Soul's Day on November 2nd and Remembrance Day, today, November 11th. On both days we have the opportunity to stop for a moment and to think about our loved ones who have died and also for those who have died for their country.

In his homily at the Holy Mass in Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed this year, Pope Francis reminds us that our lives are but a journey; a journey that finishes with our very last step. He urges us to stop and be attentive to what is going on around us; to notice and to discern how our every step can bring about change. He exhorts us to create peace in our world; peace within our families and amongst our friends, in our own minds and in our hearts. Peace requires us to demonstrate patience and a seeking to understand the other. It requires us to have a willingness to enter into true dialogue with those that have a different point of view from us or a different way of life.

As already expressed in a previous newsletter, our current pandemic is far from bringing us peace and I have heard many comments on the lack of peace in people's lives, due to a feeling of change, disconnect and suffering. How can we bring about peace in these times?

Pope Francis goes on to link this journey of peace to that of the thousands of men and women who lost their lives.

I took note of the way our Holy Father focuses on the sadness of what happens when good people are used by greedy leaders. He states:

*"These people — good people — who died in the war, they died because they were called to defend their homeland, to defend values, to defend ideals and, many other times, to defend sad and lamentable political situations. And they are the victims, the victims of war, that eats the children of the homeland."*

As we soon await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us take up Pope Francis' challenge:

*"I leave you with these two thoughts. "You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step": may they be in peace, in peace of the heart, all in peace. The second thought: these graves that speak, cry out, they cry out of themselves, they cry out, "Peace!"*

*May the Lord help us to sow and keep these two thoughts in our hearts."*

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri  
Principal

HOLY MASS IN COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

*French Military Cemetery in Rome*

*Tuesday, 2 November 2021*

**[[Multimedia](#) link]**

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A writing on the entrance door of a small cemetery which is up North comes to mind: "You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step".

You who are walking. Life is a journey, all of us are on a journey. All of us, if we wish to do something in life, are on a journey. It is not a stroll, nor is it a labyrinth, no, it is a journey. On the way, we pass in front of many historical events, in front of many difficult situations. And also in front of cemeteries. The advice of this cemetery is: "You who are passing by, halt your step and think, and of your steps, think about the final step". We will all have a final step. Some may say to me, "Father, don't be so mournful, don't be so tragic". But it is the truth. The important thing is that that final step finds us on a journey, not strolling around; in the journey of life and not in an endless labyrinth. To be on a journey so that the last step finds us walking. This is the first thought that I would like to say and that comes from my heart.

The second thought, is the graves. These people — good people — who died in the war, they died because they were called to defend their homeland, to defend values, to defend ideals and, many other times, to defend sad and lamentable political situations. And they are the victims, the victims of war, that eats the children of the homeland. And I think of Anzio, of Redipuglia; I think of the Piave River in 1914 — so many were left there —; I think of Normandy beach: forty thousand, in that landing! But it doesn't matter, they fell....

I stopped in front of a tomb: "Inconnu. Mort pour la France 1944" [Unknown. Died for France 1944]. Not even the name. In God's heart is the name of all of us, but this is the tragedy of war. I am sure that all these who went in good will, called by their homeland to defend it, are with the Lord. But do we, who are on the journey, fight sufficiently so that there will be no wars? So that the economies of countries are not fortified by the arms industry? Today the sermon should be to look at the tombs: "Died for France"; some have names, some others do not. But these graves are a message of peace: "Stop, brothers and sisters, stop! Stop, arms manufacturers, stop!".

I leave you with these two thoughts. "You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step": may they be in peace, in peace of the heart, all in peace. The second thought: these graves that speak, cry out, they cry out of themselves, they cry out, "Peace!".

May the Lord help us to sow and keep these two thoughts in our hearts.

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[L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly Edition in English, 5 November 2021](#)

## **COVID SAFE REMINDERS**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our sincere gratitude for your continued support and cooperation.

Just a few reminders to continue to keep the children and staff safe whilst at school.

- Please do not send children to school if they are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms. They must stay home and get tested immediately.
- The purpose of the staggered finish at 2.40pm is to avoid the overcrowding on the footpath outside the school grounds. If possible can you please keep to your scheduled time and if not possible remember to physically distance from other parents.

Car Pick Up Time	Alphabetical
2:40 - 2:45	A - D
2:45 - 2:50	E - K
2:50 - 2:55	L - R
2:55 - 3:00	S - Z
3:00 - 3:30	Normal Procedure

- Thank you for your cooperation by not entering the school grounds
- NSW Health highly recommends that primary aged students wear masks when at school.

*Masks are required indoors for all staff, visitors and students in Year 7 or above, and strongly recommended indoors for primary students.*

*(Catholic Schools NSW, CSNSW)*

### **Sacraments of Initiation Information Evening - Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

Unfortunately, due to the most recent COVID lockdown, the regular schedule for the sacramental program at St Patrick's Cathedral had to be postponed but we are pleased to inform everyone that a new calendar has now been formulated and the next program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for children already baptised will commence in Term 1, 2022.

In preparation for this, there will be an **INFORMATION EVENING on Tuesday 07 December at 7:30pm in the Cathedral hall** for parents who are interested in registering their child/ren for the upcoming program and would like to learn more about the process. Please note that children must be 7 years of age or older to be eligible for the program. For more information regarding the upcoming program for Reconciliation and Eucharist or any other enquires about the Sacraments of Initiation at St Patrick's Cathedral please contact Meg Gale: [sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au)

# St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta

## 2021 Voice of Youth

The Year 6 teachers and St Patrick's staff would like to congratulate all of the Year 6 students for presenting meaningful and interesting speeches for our school Voice of Youth competition. Being in lockdown and presenting their speech online via Zoom brought different challenges than in previous years, however the students persevered and presented speeches with the same quality as if they were at school.



Thank you Year 6 for your effort and perseverance to achieve expectations and present a speech that showed your thorough research, writing and speaking skills as well as your passion for a range of interesting topics.

It was an extremely hard decision for the teachers to select the final 8 students from a total of 61 for the Final. After much deliberation the decision was made. Congratulations to the final 8 students:

**Fidelle Youssef:**

**'Why Marvel is better than DC'**

**Ysabel Daelo:**

**'The Voice of Reason'**

**Olivia Saab:**

**'Rare Cancer Awareness'**

**Tony Thomas**

**'Animal Protection'**

**Clio Encarnacao**

**'Refugee Centres'**

**Amariah Tamaro**

**'Life with a Toddler in the House'**

**Amyllia Maneze**

**'The Environment's Future'**

**Jubran Sayegh**

**'Eating a Balanced Diet'**

These 8 speakers presented their speech in front of their Year 6 peers, their class teachers and judges. All speakers displayed exceptional speaking qualities that we hope they will pursue in future years.

A huge thank you to Mrs Standring, Mrs O'Dwyer and Mrs Pope for judging the 2021 Voice of Youth. This was an extremely hard role as all finalists displayed various qualities that made them all stand out as individuals, effective speakers with topics that were meaningful to the audience and connected to the purpose of the Voice of Youth. Thank you again judges for your time, experience and valuable feedback. Your support was greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Mrs Cadman for ensuring photos and videos were taken of all finalist speakers. Your help was greatly appreciated on the day, as it always is.

After analysing their feedback and hours of deep discussion, the judges made a decision.



**Congratulations to our St Patrick's  
Parramatta 2021 Voice of Youth winner....**

**'Ysabel Daelo'**

**and our 2 Runner's Up.....**

**Olivia Saab  
&  
Amariah Tamaro**



## YEAR 6 CELEBRATIONS WEEK 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The school is very conscious that over the last few years families have been unable to celebrate Christmas with their family in the usual ways. This has been largely due to restrictions in place by NSW health and possible isolation requirements because of exposure to positive cases of COVID 19.

With this utmost in our minds all graduation and farewell events will be held on or before December 10th.

In order to make the end of year as special as possible for the Year 6 students the following events will take place in Week 10.

As always I appreciate that you know that all decisions made in the school are driven by the importance the school places on the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

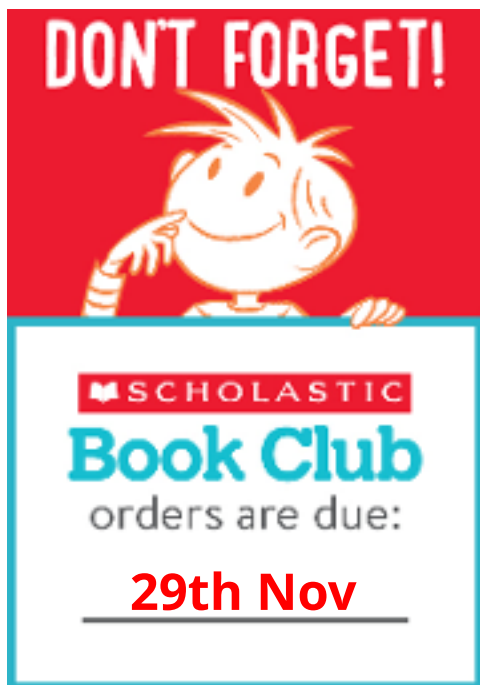
If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

Thank you so much for your continued support and cooperation.

Bernadette Fabri

Monday 6th December:	Year 6 Reflection Day (onsite - MUFTI for Year 6 students)
Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th December:	(Year 6 events: To Be Confirmed)
Friday 10th December:	<p>The events below will all be taking place <b>on Friday 10th December</b>.</p> <p><u>GRADUATION MASS</u>, will be held outside in the school COLA for Year 6 students. Father Robert will be presiding. Certificates and candles to be presented.</p> <p><b>NB: By this date, the school will be able to invite one fully vaccinated Year 6 family member or friend onsite to participate in the Graduation Mass. Registration will be compulsory. Schools are required to see the Vaccination status of all visitors. Details to come.</b></p> <p><b>The school is committed to support all families by making accommodations for unvaccinated parents by live streaming the event if possible.</b></p> <p><u>YEAR 6 PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO THE SCHOOL</u> will be held in front of Kindergarten to Year 5 students. Students in K-5 will be seated in their cohorts and socially distanced according to guidelines provided by NSW Health and CSNSW.</p> <p><u>FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR YEAR 6</u>, including the final bell and traditional throwing of school hats, will take place at the end of the presentation of the gift, in front of the whole school and parent visitors. This will <b>replace</b> the last day of school celebrations (15th December) to minimize risk for all families.</p> <p>Dismissal as usual with no visitors on site will take place on December 15th.</p> <p>Students and their siblings will be permitted to leave to continue their celebrations in a hospitality venue of their choice. (This is optional as school is opened)</p>





## Last Bookclub for the Year

We have one last bookclub for the year,  
Issue 8 !!!

Please click on the link below to view the Issue 8 catalogue. If you wish for the order to be collected in the office as it is a gift do not forget to click on the "gift" option when ordering.

### [Book Club Issue 8](#)



## Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

Please following the link for Terms & Conditions

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



## 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.



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

Ellen Nikolakopoulos, Benjamin Kalouche, Faith Daniel, Louie Dauwalder, Clara Badr, George Dardas, Vittorio Lo Surdo

### 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**

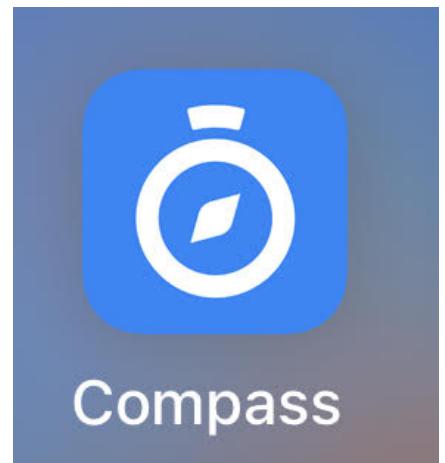
**3,4 Recess 10.00 am Lunch 12.20 pm**

**5,6 Recess 10.35 am Lunch 12.55 pm**

#### 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 [stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au).



**A reminder that 2021 Semester reports will be sent out via the Compass App.**

#### **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 Stranding (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address [stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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>**

### 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

<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	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>				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 	   
<b>NOTE PLEASE: On-Site Kindergarten Orientation is to be held on Monday 22nd November, Tuesday 23rd November and Wednesday 1st December. Children will only be required to attend one Orientation session and one Maths session.</b>  <b>Please refer to email sent 11/11/2021 for Kindergarten Orientation. More information will be communicated for Individual Maths Assessments at a later time.</b>					



## NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

### Where to go for good content

Parents and carers have an important role to play in shaping what their children watch and do online. Sometimes it's quality not quantity that matters most.

Did you know that many online streaming services use viewing algorithms that respond to the choices and interactions children make by serving them more of the content they like?



#### 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.

# Timeline for Student Leader Process

Date	Day	Process
17 Nov	Wed	Ms Fabri & Mrs Standring 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 &
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.

"A Christian who doesn't safeguard creation, who doesn't make it flourish, is a Christian who isn't concerned with God's work, that work born of God's love for us."

*Pope Francis*



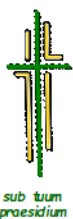
#### SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

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.

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