

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Sunday, 14th November I presented the Principal's Report at the Annual General Meeting at St Patrick's Cathedral. It was a good opportunity to let the parish community know a little about what happens at the school and how the school is linked to the parish. I spoke a little about the school history, our experiences of Remote Learning and presented some general information about the school.

It was also good to see the interest that parishioners have in St Patrick's Primary School and many were keen to catch up afterwards to have a chat about the school. I even met an 87 year old lady who was an ex-student of St Patrick's Parramatta and she described what it was like back then and how the school and her involvement in the parish inspired her to become a Catholic herself. St Patrick's Cathedral parish is an old parish and I reunited with mums of other ex-students, all with families of their own. I was greeted by many smiling and welcoming faces. The full Annual School Report will be available on the school website when published at the end of this year. This report is available yearly.

At this meeting various representatives also gave their reports commencing with the Dean of the Cathedral, Father Robert Riedling who thanked the parish for the welcome bestowed on him when arriving at St Patrick's. Mrs Marjory Jackman (MC), Mrs Kerry Guimelli (Parish Pastoral Council) and representatives of the Finance Committee all presented some information about the parish. It is fair to say that St Patrick's Cathedral Parish has involvement from many parishioners in a number of subgroups; each contributing to the life of the community. May I encourage you all to attend the Cathedral for weekly mass and to find a way to contribute using your own special gifts.

It was also an opportunity for the parish to say farewell to Deacon Rod Pirotta, who has been serving the Cathedral parish for 3 years. Deacon Rod has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish at Mount Druitt.

You will find a reflection written by [Deacon Rod Pirotta](#) and other parish information in this [LINK](#).

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Principal

Upcoming Events -

Refer to our Compass Parent Portal - School Calendar for up to date events, sports days and special events.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 22nd November | - Kindy 2022 Orientation Day |
| | - Student Leadership process begins (Year 5) |
| | - Kindy 2022 Parent Information Night via Zoom 7pm |
| Tuesday 23rd November | - Kindy 2022 Orientation Day |
| Wednesday 1st December | - Kindy 2022 Orientation Day |
| Tuesday 7th December | - Christmas Dance Concert (Students only) |
| Friday 10th December | - Meet the Teacher Afternoon (K - Year 5) |

**** Please refer to later in this newsletter for events related to Year 6 only.**



Christmas Dance **Concert 2021**



Our Annual Christmas Concert for the year will be held in week 10, on Tuesday 7 December at 9am.

Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in Christmas colours.

A video will be shared with all parents, capturing this beautiful celebration.

Thank you for your support.

Religious Education Committee



Congratulations to Miss Onorato (Now Mrs Vernon) who was married to fiance Max Vernon, last Saturday 13th, November in a beautiful ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral Chapel. We wish them all the very best as they build their new lives together. May the years ahead bring them good health and much happiness.

St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta **2021 Voice of Youth**

Congratulations to Tony Thomas for making it to the Year 6 2021 Voice of Youth Grand Final.

Tony presented a powerful and passionate speech about animal protection which certainly left the audience thinking and wanting to make changes to protect the future of our beautiful animals.

Unfortunately Tony was unable to attend school on Monday 8th November when the final was held so he graciously and confidently presented his speech via zoom.

Thank you again Tony and congratulations. You did an amazing job.



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

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.

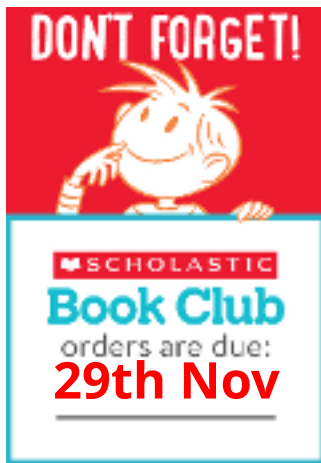
As always I appreciate that you know that all decisions made in the school are driven by the importance the school places on the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

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 December	Christmas Dance Concert
Wednesday 8th December	Year 6 Pizza Lunch
Thursday 9th December	Year 6 STEM Day
Friday 10th December:	<p>The events below will all be taking place on Friday 10th December.</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>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.</p> <p>The school is committed to support all families by making accommodations for unvaccinated parents by live streaming the event if possible.</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 replace 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](#)

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

Ethan Sivashanmugam, Daniella Fayad, Abbey Matta, Oscar Do, Xavier Moujalli, Gabrielle Vella



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.

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

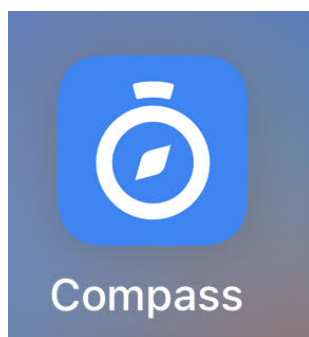
3,4 Recess 10.00 am Lunch 12.20 pm

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: 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.

Please refer to email sent 11/11/2021 for Kindergarten Orientation. More information will be communicated for Individual Maths Assessments at a later time.



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 17th November with your username and password.**

Downloading the Compass App

iOS

[For iPhone and iPad users](#)

Click on the "Download on the App Store, search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass app. Search for **St Patrick's Primary - Parramatta** and you're ready to go!



Android

[For Google Android users](#)

Click on the "Get it on Google play" button, or go to the Google Play Store, search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass app. Search for **St Patrick's Primary - Parramatta** and you're ready to go!



Dashboard

Now that you have configured your login, each time you open the app, and select a school, you will be presented with Your Dashboard view for that school

Any children you have at that school will be displayed across the top. Tap on each student to access their details.

Any [News Articles](#) distributed from the school will appear next. You can tap on any article to read the information.

At the bottom of the screen, you are able to submit an [Attendance Note](#) for your child.

At the very top left, there is an [Additional Menu](#) option (the 3 horizontal lines) allowing you access to additional features.

You can swipe Left and Right to access a few of the Additional Menu options: [Notifications](#), [Calendar](#), [Conferences](#).



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.

eSafetyparents



 eSafety Commissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

If your child spends a lot of time watching just one type of program or playing the same game, then it might be time to add a bit more variety. Encourage your child to make active choices and talk about what they watch and engage with online.

eSafety's parent guide to digital technologies and mental health



Join the eSafety Commissioner's expert education and training team for a FREE live webinar.

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with strategies to help young people and their mental health when they are online.

7.30 - 8.30pm Monday 22 November 2021

It will cover:

- what to do about accidental exposure to content about suicide, self-harm or eating disorders
- using games, apps and social media to support mental wellbeing
- the pros and cons of digital mental health platforms
- strategies for young people to support friends online.



Register now: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2827035028368125199>



eSafety Commissioner

ccsp.catholic.edu.au

esafety.gov.au



Are you a fan of the JUST! series by Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton? Why not try your hand at writing a similar short story!

JUST write! Writing Competition

Write a short story and win a BIG* prize.

For more details and to enter visit:
<https://parramatta.city/justwritecompetition>

*Prize is up to \$1000 for the winner



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA
LIBRARIES

RIVERSIDE



MERCY SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now open for Year 7, 2022 Mercy Scholarships for:

Academic Excellence
Music Excellence
OLMC Parramatta Alumnae

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

Currently
seeking
Year 7,
2022

"May the relationship between man and nature not be driven by greed, to manipulate and exploit, but may the divine harmony between beings and creation be conserved in the logic of respect and care."

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.

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>

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