

Newsletter

10th February, 2022 Term 1 Week 3

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week the newest member of our school family joined us - Welcome Kindergarten! It was so wonderful again to meet our new families and established families with their children, many of whom expressed such gratitude and joyful anticipation at gaining entry into St Patrick's Parramatta.

Although on their second day the children were farewelled at the gate it was so satisfying and a little surprising to see how well they handled this expectation. Children always live up to what is required of them when the adults are confident and calm. Congratulations parents!

As part of their first experience at school the children were asked to write something about what they saw in the library as part of what we call a 'Writing Installation', which is simply a tool for generating curiosity and motivation in writing.

All I can say is, Who said Kindergarten children could not write on their first day? You will notice in some of the pieces below that these early learners were not only able to draw the flamingos but they could also work out the sounds that make up the word as well as combine these approximations with phrases that they already knew such as "I love you". The lesson here is we must continue to lift the ceiling of learning so that we can capture what learners can truly know and do, rather than mould them into what we think they can do.

Congratulations Kindergarten!

Please keep these children and their family in your prayers as they commence this very important educational journey with their little ones.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal



Whilst the quality of the scanning is not very good, these pictures are AMAZING for Kindy's 1st Day



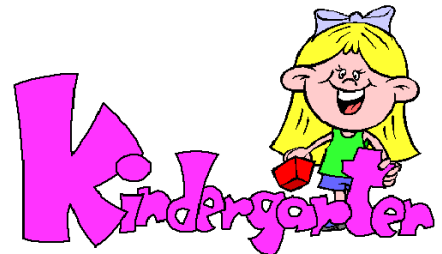
School Counsellor

Trudy Ricketts is our school-based counsellor available for students and their families on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. With a Masters and Post-Graduate Diploma in Educational Psychology, Trudy is a registered psychologist who specialises in collaborative and solution-focused approaches to help children and their families build on strengths to manage a range of difficulties. This is a confidential service and is part of our whole school pastoral care approach to assist the emotional wellbeing of students.

Trudy has been consulting in the Parramatta Diocese since 2006, and in other health/education settings prior to that, including the Diocese of Broken Bay, and the Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, NZ. She is married with two children (one in primary and one in high school), and her family includes a Labrador and two Guinea Pigs.

If you would like further information about student counselling, please contact Miss Fabri, Mrs Standing, or your classroom teacher.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2023 **KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN**



Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2023 are available as follows:

- Packs can be sent home with your eldest child. Please send an email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au with the subject line Kindergarten 2023 Enrolment.
- Enrolment forms are also available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.
- The enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.stpatparra.catholic.edu.au>

As we are still working under COVID restrictions you are able to email the application through to us at stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au , along with any supporting documents. Please retain the original application form as you will be required to submit that at a later date.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2021.

Term Dates

Term 1 - Friday 28th January to Friday 8th April

Term 2 - Tuesday 26th April - Friday 1st July

Term 3 - Monday 18th July - Friday 23rd September

Term 4 - Monday 10th October - Tuesday 20th December

** 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 DATES

Day 1 Friday 28th January 2022

Day 2 Monday 30th January 2022

Day 3 TBC

Day 4 TBC

Day 5 TBC

Day 6 Tuesday 20th December 2022

SDD's will be communicated to you as soon as possible when confirmed

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Lara Samar (6P) and her family on the passing of her beautiful mother, Margarita.



Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

~Amen~



'Fraternity is one of the fundamental and universal values that ought to undergird relationships between peoples, so that the suffering or disadvantaged do not feel excluded and forgotten, but accepted and supported as part of the one human family. We are brothers and sisters!'

Pope Francis

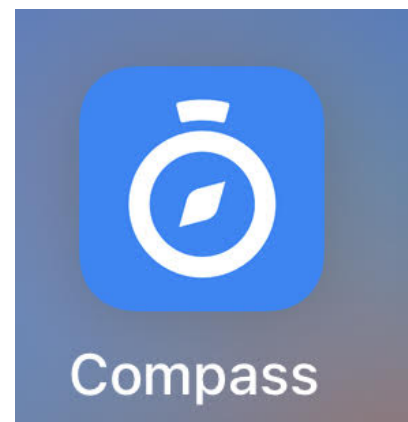
Compass Parent Portal

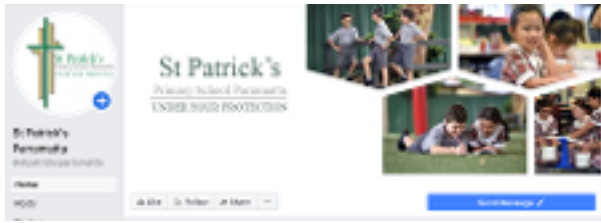
Have you had a chance to download our new Compass Parent Portal App?

Thank you to the many parents who have logged onto our new Compass Parent Portal. If you require your password to be resent or you need your username please email the school at stpatriksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Compass will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. 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





Facebook @stpatricksparramatta.

St Patrick's Primary School enjoys sharing the great things that happen at our school via our official School FACEBOOK page. A copy of the User Policy relating to our page, can be found

through this [link](#).

Our Facebook page is for promoting a sense of community and is used to provide families with information about past events and activities and positive achievements within our school. The page doesn't replace regular communication modes, rather, it will communicate through social media many of the interesting, exciting, fun and terrific learning of our students, giving you the chance to interact with "likes" and comments.

To find our page search for @stpatricksparramatta.

We look forward to sharing the great learning of our students this year.

CONVERSATION STARTERS ABOUT CYBER SAFETY

These questions are designed to be used in a family to start everyday conversations about online safety. The questions cover topics such as identifying online risks, using technology safely and reporting unsafe behaviour. Use them together with the information at eSafety kids, and empower kids to take control of their online experiences.

Do you ask permission before posting photos of others online?

Remember

Once you share something online it is very difficult to take it back. It could be shared or copied by someone else. Ask permission before you share!

If you are unsure, don't share it!

There are plenty of things you can share online, but you need to keep your personal information private. If you are unsure about sharing something, it is best not to share it.

eSafety Day

Parent Webinar - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

2022 dates (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Wednesday 23 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Follow the link register for the upcoming parent webinars. This term the webinar will offer tips about how to support children 5-12 while they socialise, learn and have fun on line.

 SCHOLASTIC

Book Club

Dear Parent,

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of books and the joy and benefits of independent reading for fun. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

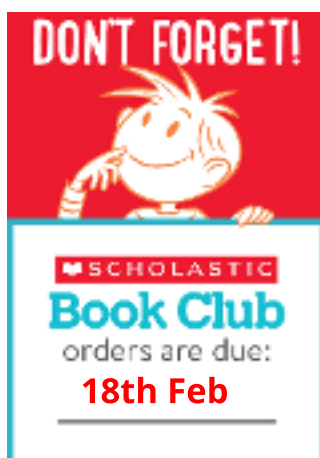
Our class is participating in **Scholastic Book Club** this year. Up to twice a term, during the school year, I will send home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$2).

It is easy to order. The **Book Club LOOP** platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or using the **LOOP** app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our classroom, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Sincerely,
Mrs Jones



We do not accept any cash and all orders must be placed through the LOOP platform. If you need help ordering books please come into the office and see Mrs Jones

ST PATRICK'S IS A NUT AWARE SCHOOL



St Patrick's Parramatta regards student safety to be of utmost importance. As our school has a number of students with severe food allergies, which can be life-threatening, we have adopted a 'Nut Aware School' approach.

Some strategies we adopt include:

- Student Action Plans displayed in the First Aid room and in the classrooms for easy identification if needed.
- Yearly training for all staff in the management of allergies and anaphylaxis
- Regular communication with staff regarding students at risk.
- EpiPens are readily accessible from the classroom/s and playground and excursions that staff know where they are located.
- Awareness raising of students about signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis and the importance of always telling a teacher if students notice that a classmate is unwell.
- Risk Assessment completed for all excursions and significant school activities
- Students are encouraged
 - to wash their hands before and after they eat or handle food
 - Not to share food
 - Not to bring nut products to school especially if they have a class member with a serious allergy.

Parents, you can support our endeavours by please avoiding sending foods that contain nuts to school. This includes peanut paste, nut spreads such as Nutella and fruit and nut bars. Some children are also allergic to sesame seeds.

We acknowledge that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Many food packaging labels include the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts'. These foods are acceptable.

If you are interested in discussing this topic with your child(ren) follow the [link](#) to a set of simple slides explaining Allergies and Anaphylaxis

Thank you for your understanding and support of our school policies and procedures.

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

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.

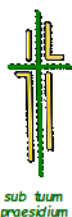
FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

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



**skip
the
queue
with
Qkr!**





Here at St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta we accept many ways to pay for school fees,

Pay in Person

EFTPOS

- School Fees
- Extra Curricular activities not charged on school fees.
- Fundraising

POST - billpay

- School Fees only

Pay Online

Qkr!*Download Qkr! On your android phone or iPhone at either the Apple App store, or Google Play. * Not to be used for school fees.

- Fundraising
- Yr 6 sport poles
- Donations

BPay

- School Fees only

BPoint

Flexible payment plans

- School Fees only

For more information contact us on (02) 8832 4600