



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Yesterday, Wednesday 2nd March, Years 3 to 6 gathered in the hall to celebrate Ash Wednesday. This is one of the first times the school has gathered together since the COVID restrictions and although we did not get to the cathedral due to the weather, it was a wonderful sign that things are beginning to reset to a new type of normal. Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 participated in an Ash Wednesday liturgy at 11.00am and I must say they also were so reverent and prayerful. You would have been proud of them mums and dads.

As many of you know, Ash Wednesday is marked by the distribution of ashes made from the burning of palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Unlike pre pandemic years when the priest used to make a sign of the cross on the foreheads of the congregation with the ashes, this year the priest followed the instructions of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments regarding the Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic.

For your interest the process is as follows:

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The Priest then takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

In thinking about Ash Wednesday this year I was particularly taken by Father Robert's reflection in last Sunday's bulletin. He urged us to, '...make a personal commitment to doing some serious reflection on our faith journey and pledge to make some progress on that journey by viewing others charitably and removing that plank from our eye which blinds us to the truth about ourselves and equally prevents us from seeing Christ in all whom we encounter.' Here, father was referring to last Sunday's Gospel. Father Robert then explained his thinking on the difference between judging others and judging the actions of others. Father explained this by saying that, 'we [do] need to judge actions otherwise the whole basis of our Christian ethical system would be undermined.' This makes much sense to me in light of current world events. Not judging the despicable happenings to the people of the Ukraine and to other parts of the world where violence is occurring is a serious flaw. Hearing about how hundreds of thousands of people are having to leave their homes and their much beloved country fills me with such sadness and I question, 'how has the world not learned from the horrors of previous wars and that surely leaders have the skills for a more peaceful approach?' Pope Francis also spoke of "great sorrow," "anguish and concern." He also urged all the parties involved to "refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute." Sadly this wisdom has gone unheeded.

Let us pray, this Lent, for the peoples of the Ukraine and Russia and for ourselves; *that we do not lose hope for a glimmer of conscience on the part of those who hold in their hands the fortunes of the world.* (L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly Edition 25 February 2022)

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal



Prayers for the people of the Ukraine and Russia

O Lord Jesus,

Servant and Master,

Bringer of Peace and Reconciliation,

with deep sorrow and concern,

we cry out to you for the beginnings of this war now occurring in Ukraine.

We long for you to arrest this violence and destruction,

to bring this war to a just end,

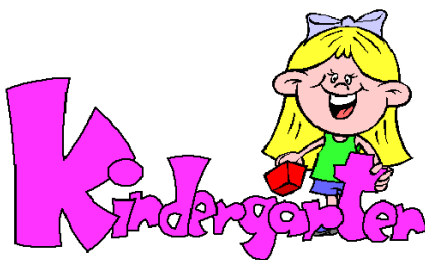
and for your protection for all innocent victims and everyone directly involved in military action, in Ukraine and in Russia.

Lord, in your mercy.

AMEN

Mark Labberton

President, Fuller Theological Seminary



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. **Please include your K2023 child's name and DOB**
- 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.stpatsparra.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.



Honour Award

The Honour Award is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding behaviour shown in the Student Charter

KA	Jordan Adaymy	Mary Kate Karam
KM	Cristiano Missak	Mahli Khouri
1C	Flynn Davis	Alexandra Nasr
1S	Anyce Ibrahim	Marylyn Lahoud
2M	Olivia Saab	Mahalia Jackson
2Y	Julian Badr	Jessica Izmestyeva



st patrick's award

The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

KA	Emily Tejada	Frank Hunter
KM	Ashane Silva	Mia Laous
1C	Mario Kancijanac	Angelina Moujalli
1S	Bianca Abdou	Oscar Do
2M	Sky Rizkallah	Lucas Karam
2Y	Noah Naudi	Emily Lin



SHROVE TUESDAY - THANK YOU

Thank you to the many parents who volunteered to prepare and distribute the pikelets and the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We could not have done it without the generous contribution of your time. The children just loved this special treat. It was lovely to welcome parent volunteers again.





Honour Award

The Honour Award is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding behaviour shown in the Student Charter

3L	Sofia Barroso	Michael Agostino
3T	Mariette Wakim	Charlie El Khoury
4B	Jasmine Rizk	Daniel Jurisic
4G	Jayden Blazek	Ashton Grohs
5C	Raymond Wehbe	Benjamin Aitkins
5T	Isaac Wehbe	Shaneli Pererra
6P	Tiffany McCloskey	Leon Sampaio
6W	Elio Layoun	Lachlan Moore



st patrick's award

The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

3L	Daniella Fayad	James Said
3T	Xavier Bayssari	Nina Kancijanac
4B	Frances Thomas	Patrick Saab
4G	Mia Gebrael	Sofia Bousimon
5C	Edan-Grace El-Chaar	Annabella Remaili
5T	Lawrence Wahbe	Panayioti Yannakis
6P	Christian Jreij	Roselle Ghostine
6W	Angelica Beame	Isaac Loulach



TIPS FOR HOME READING

- During home reading time, turn off electronic devices and give each child ten minutes of your undivided attention.
- 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.



https://www.petaa.edu.au/w/teaching_resources/parents_guide.aspx

Afternoon Pick Up

Currently students who are being picked up and walking home from school are exiting from the Villiers Street gate. This gate is open until 3:15pm. If you arrive at school after this time to pick up your child, they can be collected from the Ross Street gate. You do not need to return to your car and join the drive through as Mrs Barclay will be at the Ross Street gate from 3:15 to 3:30pm ready to call students being picked up.

Thank you parents for displaying your signs in your cars. The easiest way for Mrs Standring to see the sign is if they are hung from the passenger's sun visor. This allows her clear sight from the corner of the road. We understand it is easier to place it on the dashboard however due to the angle of the sign, this position makes it very difficult to read.

Mrs Jones has sent out a form via COMPASS asking parents to indicate how their child goes home and has been using this information to update all car signs. We encourage all parents to complete this form, so all updates can be completed in a timely manner.

NAPLAN NEWS

This year students in Year 3, 5 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN online. **Year 3** complete **Reading, Conventions of Language** and **Mathematics** online. Year 3 complete writing with pen and paper. **Year 5** complete **Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language** and **Mathematics** online. *All students are required to use headphones during the test so they can hear verbal instructions without disrupting other students. Please ensure you have sent a pair of headphones to the school before Week 9 as they will also need these during the practice test held on Thursday 24 March 2022.*

How can I help my child prepare for the NAPLAN test?

NAPLAN is not a test of content. It tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum and every day in the classroom. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

If your child appears anxious about NAPLAN, acknowledge their feelings, and ask them what specific worries they are experiencing. The [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#) is available for students and their parents to visit together. Exploring the look and feel of NAPLAN tests can help reduce anxiety. For tips on things you can do at home to help your child develop their literacy and numeracy skills, visit [Preparing for NAPLAN](#).

St Patrick's Day Celebrations

St Patrick's Day will be celebrated in Week 8.

Monday 14th March - Primary children will attend Kicks bowling Parramatta.

Tuesday 15th March - Infants children will attend Kicks bowling Parramatta. (Kindergarten attendance to be confirmed pending special arrangements)

Wednesday 16th March - TBC

Thursday 17th March - Whole school Mass for St Patrick's Day and Commissioning School Leaders Mass will be at 1:30 pm sharp at the Cathedral.

On Friday we will conclude celebrations with Green Mufti Day and fun St Patrick's activities.



[CONVERSATION STARTERS ABOUT CYBER SAFETY \(link\)](#)

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.

These tips will help you stay safe online

- Explore together — ask your mum, dad, carer or a trusted adult to play new games or apps with you at first.
- Stay close by — when you use a phone, tablet or computer by yourself, make sure your mum, dad or carer is nearby so you can get help if you need it.
- Bonus tip — don't use your device alone in your bedroom.
- Ask before you download, install or buy anything — check with your mum, dad or carer first.

SCHOOL FEES 2022

The school fee invoices have been sent to families in the mail last Friday 18th February 2022 to the household address that is on file for your child/children.

Payment for Term 1 is due by 16th March 2022. If you do not receive an invoice please email pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au and an invoice can be emailed to you.

Flexible Payment Plans are also an alternative payment option for families are available by Direct Debit or Bpay. Should you like to accept this offer please click on the link

[CEDP Flexible Payment Plans](#)

The suggested amounts for you to pay Monthly, Fortnightly or Weekly are on your invoice. This payment option must be put in place by 14th March 2022.

You may see on the invoice that your account is in credit, this is due to the school refunding part of the activity fee that was charged in 2021 as some activities being cancelled due to COVID-19.

If you have any questions about the invoice, please contact Fiona Mitterer on 8832 4600 or email pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

Blacktown and Cumberland Zone Swimming



Congratulations to the students that participated in our St Patrick's Zone Swimming Team at the carnival on Monday. It was great to see the team members participating with enthusiasm and supporting each other throughout the event.

The following students received placegetter ribbons in their heat:

Gabriella Volante - 3rd 50m freestyle, 4th 50m butterfly

Phillip Ayoud - 3rd 50m freestyle, 3rd 50m breaststroke

Sara Loader - 3rd Junior 50m backstroke

Sara Jabbour - 4th 50m breaststroke

Hannah Scalon - 2nd 50m freestyle

George Rizk - 3rd 50m freestyle



I would like to thank Yasmine Tabone for being our school's Team Manager at the carnival. She kept track of students all day and made sure that they were in the marshing area for their races at the allocated times.

Thank you also to the parents who supported us in this event by transporting their children to and from the pool.

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 all live under the same heaven and, in the name of God, we who are his creatures must acknowledge that we are brothers and sisters. As believers from different religious traditions, we have a role to play. What is that role? To help our brothers and sisters raise their eyes and their prayers to heaven. Let us raise our eyes to heaven, because whoever worships God with a sincere heart also loves his or her neighbour. Fraternity makes us open to the Father of all and enables us to see others as our brothers or sisters, to share life, to support one another and to love and come to know others. [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



OLMC OPEN DAY

Sunday, 6 March 2022

10.00am – 2.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us for Open Day 2022.

Bookings can be made by visiting the College website www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

Courageous Advocates. Limitless Possibilities.



YEAR 7, 2024
ENROLMENT
INFORMATION
EVENING
Tuesday, 29 March

MERCY

COMPASSION

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

EXCELLENCE

HOSPITALITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE



ENROLLING NOW

Gilroy Catholic College is a comprehensive, co-educational Catholic secondary school.

Learning and teaching at the College focuses on challenge and diversity in the classroom to ensure that all students are engaged in their learning and offered every opportunity to achieve.

Our aim is to empower our students to be people of faith who are confident, collaborative and creative.

Visit our website to apply or visit the college to collect an enrolment pack.

**APPLICATIONS
CLOSE
18TH MARCH**



Cerdon College



Aspire to Great Heights

ENROLLING NOW YEAR 7 2023

A Catholic secondary school education for girls with a consistent history of academic excellence.



For more information:
cerdonmerrylands.catholic.edu.au
8724 7300