

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Over recent weeks the staff and I have had an increasing number of children complaining about other children swearing. I believe that swearing, especially at school, is unacceptable and offensive and children who swear are undermining their characters and presenting themselves as being uneducated and lacking self discipline, even if they do not generally display these negatives.

It is no longer surprising to hear the 'f' word in songs and movies and when listening to teenagers or youth speak with each other. The use of swear words seems to be just like any other word. This is very concerning and off putting that a word with such a crude socially agreed meaning is so popular.

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, and one of Australia's leading parenting educators says that swearing 'shows [a] lack of respect for others, and also a lack of awareness for their surroundings.' In one of his articles, [What do you think when you hear kids swear](#), he describes that whilst standards in society may have changed the role of parents has not, that is, to teach children to use language that is appropriate.

Some of the key headings/topics addressed in his article include the following:

- **Socially smart kids alter their language**
- **They didn't hear that from me!**
- **When swearing becomes a habit**
- **Take a long, hard look at, er ... yourself!**
- **Things to remember when kids swear:**

There is often the case where parents do not even know their children are using swear words at school especially if the motivation is to 'show off' or 'to gain attention'. To assist parents to gain information about their children's language habits at school we will be sending home a note when or if your child is reported to have used a swear word. As you can imagine children do not swear in front of school staff so sometimes all we can go by is reports from other children. Notes will only be sent if the reporting is repeated over time as we cannot validate if this is accurate unless the child admits to it. If required, in order for you to assist your child/ren, please read the attached article which gives parents some ideas on helping them not to swear. Repeated swearing will result in a playground or classroom notice.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Honour Award

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



KA	Xavier Broadbridge	Chloe Zhang
KM	Joseph Karam	Mary-Jo Bounassif
1C	Maroun Mourad	Isabella Rizk
1S	Anthony Youssef	Chris Layoun
2M	George Kazzaz	Christian Jaitani
2Y	George El-Khoury	Amelia Sivashanmugam



st patrick's award

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

KA	Antonio Ty	Jean Gilchrist
KM	Tiago Barroso	Natasha Kalouche
1C	Doris Hanna	Oskar Tudberry
1S	Charles Nasr	Yves Rizkallah
2M	Angela Bracks	Michael Roumanus
2Y	William Gebrael	Cienna Joachim





Honour Award

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

3L	Alyssa Vella	Oliver Jakapovic
3T	Hugh Perrett	Benjamin Chu
4B	Isaiah Maroon	Christian Chivers
4G	Jimmy Sahyoun	Grace Talbot
5C	Beth Roumanus	Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat
5T	Erick Granados-Gavito	Callum Donaldson
6P	Sophia Semaan	Joseph Maroon
6W	April Soh	James Agostino



st patrick's award

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3L	Mary Roumanus	Isaiah Zaiter
3T	Deon Don	Sandra Nehme
4B	Catherine Kwa	Nour Kahwaji
4G	Johnnie Daher	Mariah Jreij
5C	Chloe Vella	Phillip Said
5T	Gabriella Sta Rosa	Olivia Moussa
6P	Lara Samar	Benjamin Maroon
6W	Marcelino El Halabi	Mary Thomas



THANK YOU - Vinnies FLOOD appeal

Thank you to all the parents for your generous donations for the St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal. As always the St Patrick's Community has rallied together and raised the amazing amount of **\$3016.00**. Wow this is just terrific and will be so helpful to all the families who are having to rebuild their homes due to the recent floods. Thank you so much!

Bernadette Fabri

CONTACTING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AND OTHER SCHOOL STAFF

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At **St Patrick's Primary School**, we value our strong relationship with families and welcome opportunities to communicate with parents and carers. We also recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to contact your child's teacher or other school staff.

Although staff will read their emails at various times throughout the school day, they are generally not expected to respond to emails outside of normal working hours. In the case of an emergency please contact the school office on **stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au** or phone **8832 4600**. Mrs Jones, Mrs Mitterer or Mrs Baaini will return your call or respond to your email as soon as possible.

If you wish to contact a staff member, please continue to send your emails to: **stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au** which will then be directed to your child's teacher or another relevant staff member. This helps us to have confidence that we are aware of any matters needing our attention as a team, and that you are connected to the person who can best help.

Thank you so much for your assistance and understanding.

If you have any questions about the above please contact **Miss Fabri** on **8832 4600**

Kind regards

Bernadette Fabri



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT LEADERS

ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO A LEARNING TOUR AND MEET AND GREET

WEDNESDAY 30th March

4.00 - 6.45pm

15min time slots

This will be an opportunity to say 'hello' to your child's class teacher and some support teachers and staff and for your child to take you on a learning tour of their class space. Due to the time limit and lack of privacy, interviews regarding your child's progress will need to be scheduled at a more suitable time. Teachers will need to be given the opportunity to be prepared and organised for interviews so please use this time to request a time devoted to feedback rather than hold them during this time. Focusing on what your child wishes to show you also allows them to feel a sense of pride and ownership of their learning which is a key trait of successful learners.

Guidelines

- Please do not attend if you or your child have any flu like symptoms
- Children to attend to take you on a learning tour. They do not need to wear school uniforms but may if it is more convenient.
- Please arrive on time and keep to your time slot to avoid overcrowding
- Please book an interview at a later date rather than try to hold one at this time.

Please book using conferences through our Compass Parent Portal.

Follow the link for instructions on how to book.

[Meet and Greet Instructions](#)

TIPS FOR HOME READING



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.

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.**

During NAPLAN testing students will be organised into smaller groups and tests will take place either in the classroom, hall or library space. The smaller groups allow for less stress on the wifi access points within the spaces. Teachers will be allocated to each group and protocols for each group will remain the same.

NAPLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will be tested?

- NAPLAN tests the important skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the Australian Curriculum.
- The Literacy tests are based on content in the English learning area, and the numeracy tests draw content from the mathematics learning area.

For more information on the types of skills and understandings that students are generally expected to demonstrate at their particular year of schooling, refer to the information provided for each domain in the NAPLAN section.

What types of questions are in the tests?

- Questions are multiple choice or require a short written response for all tests except the writing test. Students are expected to write a continuous text for the writing task.

For more information about the writing test, see the relevant FAQs at NAPLAN - writing test

The links below take you to demonstration tests for conventions of language (grammar, punctuation, and spelling), numeracy, reading and writing for each NAPLAN test year level: 3, 5, 7 and 9. As all Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper, there is no Year 3 demonstration test for writing.

<https://pages.assessform.edu.au/pages/year-3-demos>

<https://pages.assessform.edu.au/pages/year-5-demos>

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 school fees were due for payment on 16th March 2022. Thank you if you have paid Term 1 fees or set up a Flexible Payment Arrangement for 2022.

If you have not received an invoice and have not yet informed me, please email

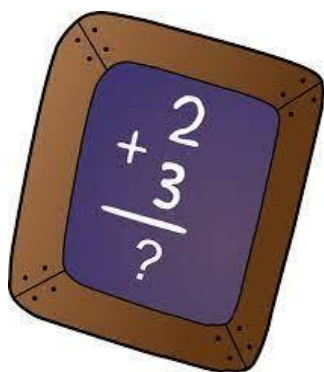
pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Kind Regards

Fiona Mitterer

NAPLAN CALENDAR

Week 1				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Monday 9/5	Tuesday 10/5	Wednesday 11/5	Thursday 12/5	Friday 13/5
No Testing Scheduled today	Writing (online - 42 mins)	Reading (online - 50 mins)	Language Conventions (online - 45 mins)	Numeracy (online - 50 mins)
No Testing Scheduled today	Writing (paper - 40 mins)	Reading (online - 45 mins)	Language Conventions (online - 45 mins)	Numeracy (online - 45 mins)
		Catch Up for Writing as needed		
Week 2				
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
Monday 16/5	Tuesday 17/5	Wednesday 18/5	Thursday 19/5	Friday 20/5
Catch up Sessions for Reading, Conventions and Mathematics as needed				
Catch up Sessions for Reading, Conventions and Mathematics as needed				



Helping your Kindergarten child at home with Mathematics

This guide from the new K-2 Mathematics syllabus can help you support your Kindergarten children at home.

Number and algebra

Forming groups

Forming groups focuses on:

- forming groups through sharing and counting objects
- making and continuing patterns which repeat.

You can help your Kindergarten child at home by:

- teaching them to share cutlery for each place when setting the table
- sharing a packet of lollies equally between siblings or family members by repeatedly giving each person one in the same order until the packet is empty. Discuss what it would be fair to do if there are leftover lollies
- identifying and discussing patterns in and around your home such as lounge or curtain material colours or shapes. For example, *blue square - yellow circle, blue square - yellow circle, blue square - yellow circle*
- singing songs, making dances and readings books with repeating, rhyming or rhythmic numbers
- making patterns from objects in nature. Start with a repeating pattern of 2, then 3 and then 4. For example, *leaf - rock - leaf - rock - leaf - rock* (repeating pattern of 2). Also, *flower - stick - rock - flower - stick - rock - flower - stick - rock* (repeating pattern of 3).

Lent for Families:

Lent should be a different time. There are things in all our lives that need to be changed. When we do that we will open ourselves to the always-present love of God. Jesus told his followers a story so they could understand the truth in this Gospel.

What did the gardener say to the owner of the garden who wanted to tear down the fig tree because it did not grow fruit? He told the owner that they should give it another year to bloom. The gardener would try hard to help it grow, and if it still did not grow after a year, they would cut it down.

The message here is that even when we fail time after time, God is a forgiving and patient God who will give us another chance and is ready to help us to 'bear fruit'.

But the gospel also tells us that unless we reform, we will not be saved. So we can't think that we can do whatever we please, even when it is wrong, and that God, our loving God, will accept that. We need to try very hard, and when we fail, try harder the next time.

So, how will we spend the rest of Lent? What can we do to be better Christians and move closer to Jesus?

Ask your children to think of one thing they can do or not do which will change them. Ask them to offer suggestions.

Ask the children to work on changing one thing for the rest of Lent.



Third Week of Lent (Week beginning Monday 21st March)

We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Janice, a Wagilak woman and traditional dancer who tells her family's stories through movements handed down over generations.

Like many remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Janice's faces a range of challenges – low employment and education, financial hardship, poorer health and lower life expectancy.

With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

Janice believes that Djilpin Arts' work is essential to create opportunities for young people to stay on-country, to share intergenerational knowledge between elders and the younger generation - to promote healing, and to keep culture alive.

Watch a short film about Janice's story [here](#).

The School is cashless so please support through these links. Please do not send money to school.

Please support Project Compassion: Please donate using this link or the QR code below:

<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/stpatricksprimaryschoolparramatta>

Photo: Richard Wainwright/
Caritas Australia



MOBILE PHONES

With the convenience of communication afforded to us by mobile phones and smart watches we understand the importance for some parents to issue their children these devices. From Term 2 children will be required to log their phones in the office, in the morning, and collect them in the afternoon.

If children wear Smart watches to school they must have the access to phonecalls during school hours. It is critical that the one point of communication to parents comes from the school only. If this is breached the child will not be permitted to wear smart watches at school.

If your child is bringing a mobile phone to school I strongly recommend that you have a conversation with them with regard to cyber safety and the appropriate use of these smartphones. If you have the facility perhaps you can regularly check, through the history, what your children are viewing. May I suggest that at these young ages there is no place for privacy when it comes to what sites your children are accessing. Children often share their viewing with other children and so there is an added responsibility for them to do the right thing.

If you feel that your child is not able to manage this responsibility perhaps they are not ready to have a phone yet. Good training is essential and the best way to do this is by having clear guidelines and good role modelling.

Happy to hear your feedback as always.

Regards
Bernadette Fabri

Absences from School

All absences from school are required to be explained within 7 days of the absence, as per CEDP guidelines.

The quickest and easiest way to do this is, is to reply to the text message sent to you at 9.45am via the Compass Parent Portal. If you are aware that you're child is going to be away you can enter it before 9.45 am by going into the Compass Parent Portal and add attendance. Alternatively an email to the school : stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au. or phoning 8832 4600 is acceptable.

When entering the reason for the absence if you can please detail their illness so that we can manage as a community any outbreaks of illnesses such as Gastro, Colds/Flu or Covid.

On occasions this form of communication may not make it to us. In this instance the office will send home with your child an unexplained absence letter, as the absence remains unexplained. It would be greatly appreciated if you receive this letter that it is returned immediately.

Should you need any assistance with the Compass Parent Portal please contact me on 8832 4600.

Regards
Mrs Jones

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate over the next week, we hope you have a great birthday - **Bailey Grohs, Isla-Rose Eid, Audrey El Bayeh, Timana Gutierrez Caceres, Phillip Boutros, Tia Bayssari, Anton Bayssari, Grace Wehbe, Hannah Wehbe, Phillip Ayoub, Charbel Elia, Jessica Izmestyeva, Logan Munro**

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.

What would you do if someone was being mean to your friend online?

What to do

1. Make sure cyberbullying stops with you — don't forward or share any mean messages, posts or images.
2. Reach out to the person being bullied — let them know you care about them.
3. Try not to send mean messages back — this could make things worse.
4. Speak to an adult you can trust — they can give you help and support.

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

School holiday announcement:

Next Level Sports Clinic is happy to announce that we have been approved to go ahead and we will be back in action this coming school holidays! To make a booking please email nextlevelsports@live.com.au or contact Mr Younis.

Holiday Clinic dates:

Clinic 1: 13th & 14th April.

Clinic 2: 20th, 21st & 22nd April.



More exciting news:

Spartans is back!

Sessions will recommence on the 3rd of May Term 2, every Tuesday of the school term from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. All existing Spartans and anyone new who would like to join our Tuesday afternoon class to please contact Mr Younis.

Thank you and welcome back!

Mr David Younis

nextlevelsports@live.com.au



YEAR 7, 2024

ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you and your family to attend our Year 7, 2024 Enrolment Information Evening. Hear from our College Principal, Ms Lucie Farrugia and other key members of the College Leadership Team and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Time: 6:00pm (Registration from 5:30pm)

Enquiries: Enrolments Office T (02) 8838 1222 E enrolments@olmc.nsw.edu.au

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au



St Patrick's Cross Country

After postponing our school Cross Country Carnival last week, we couldn't have chosen a better day to hold it on Monday; the weather was terrific, and the behaviour of students was outstanding. Congratulations to all students who participated in the event and gave their best effort.

Thank you also to our parent helpers, who assisted teachers to walk students to and from the park.

The following students have qualified for the Diocesan Cross Country on the 3rd May at Eastern Creek. More information about this event will be available over the next few weeks.

12/13 Boys	12/13 Girls	10 Boys	10 Girls
Zavier Moujalli Lachlan Moore Christian Jreij Joel Lahood Elio Layoun		Andrew Khalil Erick G-Gavido Elijah Vella Jimmy Sayoun Daniel Jurisic	Olivia Fayad Grace Talbot Marial Jreiji Lourdes Saleh Victoria Nassif
11 Boys	11 Girls	8/9 Boys	8/9 Girls
Rhyse Bautista Owen Abraham Philip Ayoub Daniel Semaan Tristian Jayawardena Paul Khouri	Sophia Semaan Madeline Talbot Beth Romanus Celine Joachim	George Rizk Jaidyn Shehadie Anton Baysari Oliver Jakapovic Jayden Bounassif Charlie El Khoury	Mika Liu Serena Semaan Ava Khouri Nina Kancijanac Mary Romanus Sophia Bousimon

Our school champions records for the cross country remain unchanged:

Name	Year	Event	Time
Alexander Markovic	2021	3km Cross Country	13.22
Alexandriya Ismetstyeva	2021	3km Cross Country	17.08
Rhys Bautista	2021	2km Cross Country	8.59
Grace Talbot	2021	2km Cross Country	10.05





We must dream of a society that “can preserve its distinctive cultural riches, where the beauty of our humanity shines forth in so many varied ways”

[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.

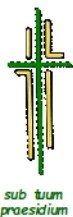
Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

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