



Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week the school has been preparing for the celebration of Mother's Day this Sunday. As usual we have had many generous volunteers organising gifts for the stall; wrapping and setting up. Thank you for purchasing gift vouchers through the QKR app or by phone. The children are always so very excited to visit the stall and we notice their eyes lighting up when they see all the beautiful gifts. We look forward to sharing our Eucharistic Celebration with you tomorrow and spending some time with a picnic on the playground afterwards. All welcome!

A few years ago I had the opportunity to see a Facebook post from a young man in his 30s speaking about his birth mother. It was a post that I will never forget. The man spoke about the fact that every Mother's Day he thinks about the woman that gave birth to him and although he was given up for adoption he feels a deep sense of gratitude to her for giving him life. He speaks about his happiness and about the happiness of his adoptive parents to have been able to have a son. When listening to him I could not help feeling enormous admiration for this person whom I don't even know. He passed no judgement on his birth mother but rather just acknowledged her sacrifice and courage for making the choice which enabled him to have had a better life than she felt she could provide under her circumstances - whatever they may have been.

*I think sometimes it is easy for us to take for granted how lucky we are that our mothers had the **courage to be mothers**. I recently met a new mum and asked her if it was as she imagined motherhood to be. She did not hesitate to reply, 'definitely not!; so much harder!' She did not have to explain any further however because as she spoke about her little one and reached for her phone to show me photos her eyes lit up with such pride, joy and most of unconditional love. It was contagious! I am always in awe of these special women - mothers - and I am blessed to witness on a daily basis the enormous capacity for love and sacrifice shown by the mothers in our St Patrick's Parramatta community. Some say it is only when one has their own children that they fully understand the love and sacrifice a parent feels and shows. I am sure that this is true. The fact that our society has chosen to dedicate a day to remember mothers is an indicator that people all around the world share the same respect for the vocation of motherhood.*

The simple fact, in my opinion, is that mothers do not have to earn our respect by doing anything special. The gift of life that a mother provides her children is reason enough. It is that simple.

This Sunday let us rejoice and pray with gratitude for the gift of life given to us by our mothers wherever they may be.

God bless you and your family - especially mothers and mother figures

Bernadette Fabri



Prayer for our Mother's

God our Creator, we pray:

For new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibilities

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who are tired, stressed or depressed;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers looking after their children in war torn countries

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who have had to leave their home because of turmoil in their home country.

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who raise children on their own;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who have lost a child;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers who care for the children of others;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose children have left home;

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

For mothers, who for various reasons, have not been able to fulfil their role as mothers.

Loving God, bless them and give them strength.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

I would like to say an HUGE thank you to our many mothers who have spent the last week with me organising the wrapping of gifts and helping the children pick out their gifts today. We are forever grateful.

Mrs Jones



Honour Award

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



KA	Theodore Stonham	Cedric Calumpiano
KM	Aerith Jeffries	Sarkis Youssef
1C	Elizabeth Atkins	Elsa Shaw
1S	Olivia Sahyoun	Leah Wijesekara Jayawardena
2M	Vittorio Lo Surdo	Jayden Bounassif
2Y	Xavier Abu-Ali	Gabriella Semaan



st patrick's award

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

KA	Jesse Jaitani	Isabelle Kazzi
KM	Kyrie Dibia	Joseph Wehbe
1C	Zoe Aguilera	Aidan Murphy
1S	Natalia Kahwaji	Riley Ramon
2M	Makayla Abdou	Leonardo Mahoney-Echeandia
2Y	Trey St John Tannous	Jared Cauan





Honour Award

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

3L	Ava Takchi	Mary Roumanus
3T	Erika Talbot	Zachary Tannous
4B	Sara Jabbour	Benji Kalouche
4G	Caroline Youssef	Michael El-Khoury
5C	Mateo Barroso	Juliette Khoury
5T	Kaylani Elphinstone	Joshua Jaitani
6P	Anabelle Tudberry	Phillip Boutros
6W	Marie Rahme	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	Miami Calumpiano	Edward McCloskey
3T	Gabriella Norman	Hugh Perrett
4B	Olivia Zheng	John Bardetta
4G	Zachariah McPherson	Grace Talbot
5C	Christian Karam	Gwyna Palmos
5T	Nathan Nguyen	Lawson Li
6P	Ava Lao	Shavene Perera
6W	Angelica Beame	Sienna Khattar



Have you noticed our beautiful Easter Cross in our garden? This cross is a reminder of Jesus the risen Lord at Easter.

The season of Easter is when we literally *live in the mystery* of our initiation into Christ's Body. The Eastertide Scriptures show us how to rejoice and relish:

the meaning of our baptism, the richness of the community, our mission to the world

Eastertide is when we live in the renewed energy of Christ risen and present in this world. These flowers remind us to rejoice and delight in the risen Jesus. Our faith is a gift of hope in the world?

How do you live in hope in the world?



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DANCE

Thank you to all the boys and girls who contributed to an exciting day on Friday as we celebrated International Day of Dance. The staff and I were delighted to see so many children keen to show us their moves and were very surprised to see even the most shy children become stars once on stage. Well done!! Lots of fun were had by all. Keep a look out on our FACEBOOK page for more highlights.

MOTHERS' DAY MASS

A special invitation is sent to all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures to join us on Friday 6th May at 9.30am at St Patricks Cathedral, as we celebrate the beautiful gift of mothers. It is a wonderful opportunity for our community to praise and thank our God for these special women whose nurturing, motherly love shows us a glimpse of the great love God has for us all. It is also a beautiful way to acknowledge all the things our mothers do for our school community. We look forward to celebrating with you.

MOTHERS' DAY PICNIC

Please join your children on the playground for a picnic morning tea. It will be immediately following the Mother's Day Mass. You can bring a picnic blanket or fold up chairs and some morning tea to share with your child.

CHECKING CLOTHING FOR NAMES

As the weather turns colder in the mornings children often take jackets/jumpers off during the day, to ensure the return of your child's clothing it is recommended to label all items of clothing with your child's name and class.

Please spend some time to check any items of clothing as we have had a few reports of lost items, especially from Kindergarten students. Any items with incorrect labelling can be sent to the school office and we will ensure they are returned to their rightful owners.

NB: If you are seeking a spare piece of uniform and are happy with a second hand item please **email the office**, as the school has a surplus of spare uniforms donated for use in case of emergencies. Especially jackets/jumpers.

Thanks for your help with this

Winter Uniform Changeover

The children will be changing to winter uniform
Monday 16th May, (Week 4)

Winter Uniform	
GIRLS	BOYS
Tartan Pinafore White Long Sleeve Blouse (Peter Pan collar) Tartan School Tie Green above ankle Socks or Tights Black Shoes Green School Jumper Green Jacket with Emblem Green School Hat	Grey Long Trousers Grey Long Sleeve Shirt Green Tie Grey above ankle Socks Black Shoes Grey School Jumper Green Jacket with Emblem Green School Hat

Sports Uniform	
GIRLS	BOYS
Green Shorts Sport Shirt with School Emblem White above ankle Socks White Sports Shoes Track Suit with School Emblem	Green Sports Shorts Sports Shirt with School Emblem White above ankle Socks White Sports Shoes Track Suit with School Emblem

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.***

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>

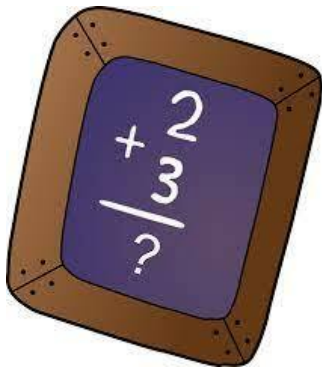
St Patrick's Primary School NAPLAN Schedule:

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				



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



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.

Non-spatial measures

Non-spatial measures focuses on:

- describing and comparing the masses of objects
- sequencing events and reading the hour time on clocks.

You can help your Kindergarten child at home by:

- comparing masses of objects around the house by hefting one in each hand (hefting means to hold or lift something to estimate its weight)
- naming the days of the week and months of the year. Contextualise times of the year using special celebrations such as birthdays or cultural events
- looking at the phases of the moon and the position of the sun
- involving them with weekly routines for school and home life. For example, Library day at school is Thursday, it's PE uniform day on Monday and our family goes to Nanna's house for lunch every Sunday
- referring to an analog wall clock in your house for hour time events. For example: The long hand is on the 12 and the short hand is on the 5. It must be five o'clock: time to watch our favourite show on TV.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate over the next week. We hope you have a great birthday -

Panayioti Yannakis, Marylyn Lahoud



Congratulations to the Patena Family (Phoenix KA) on the birth of their precious baby boy, Zylar.

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.

5 tips to keep your family safe online

Week 2 - Create a family technology agreement Creating a Family Technology Agreement can help you and your kids decide together when and how digital technology will be used at home. As a family, brainstorm easy-to-follow rules and display them where everyone will see them. Your agreement could cover things like: time limits, apps your kids are allowed to use and online behaviour. Families with younger children can download a template to guide the conversation

TIPS FOR Writing

What parents and carers can do (writing)

PETAA

- **Encourage children to write, write, write! Provide many opportunities such as writing the shopping list, sending letters and cards to friends and relations, writing emails, keeping a diary, publishing personal stories, labelling photos in the family album, and leaving notes. Locating writing apps such as Book Creator. Writing should be relevant and meaningful rather than writing for the sake of writing.**



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 Friday 10th June - Writing (Before the long weekend)

Day 4 Friday 23rd September - Formation (Last day of TM 3)

Day 5 TBC

Day 6 Tuesday 20th December 2022

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



Let us think of this grace of Our Lady, this grace that she gives us: of being close to us, but without making us wait for her. Always! She — lets us trust in this — she lives to help us. Our Lady who always hastens, for our sake.

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 Standring (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