

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In a recent documentary I learned about a children's camp designed to wean children off devices. Children between the ages of 12 to 14 who are addicted to technology spent 9 days developing new and healthier habits rather than spending time either in their bedrooms or with the family but totally focussed on their phones, laptops, ipads or computers.

This is not an unusual phenomenon and a topic of conversation I have heard many concerned adults speak about. It is often reported that children's socialising is reduced to online friends and the world of virtual experiences. Whilst the use of devices has enormous benefits it is becoming increasingly concerning when I hear children spending all their spare time only focussed on video games.

The safe use of devices and the internet is such an important issue in today's society that the Australian Government has set up the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner. This office is "committed to helping Australians to have safe, positive experiences online." Every week in the newsletter you will find some helpful tips for controlling online use and managing online issues. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-the-office/role-of-the-office>

One of the most useful features of this website is the section on games, apps and social networking. This can be found under the eSafety Information tab. In this section parents can find very valuable information on a number of games and apps. An example of this information is regarding a very popular game named 'Fortnite Battle Royale'. This is a very popular game amongst the older children who have reported to their teachers that they love playing this game at home.

This is very important information for when children ask parents to purchase or give permission to play certain video games. It is very important to be informed

I also recently had a very interesting conversation with one of our parents who introduced me to Italian saint Blessed Carlo Acutis

"Carlo Acutis, a Catholic Italian teenager who died in 2006, was beatified Oct. 10 2020 in Assisi. Acutis, a gamer and computer programmer who loved soccer and the Eucharist, has been the subject of interest around the world. Pope Francis referred to Carlo as a model of holiness in a digital age. Carlo's life should teach today's young people how to properly use and enjoy technology, including the internet and social media.

For those who are concerned about anyone with a gaming addiction perhaps praying to Blessed Carlo Acutis may give inspiration on the way forward. We also have a free counselling service at the school. Please contact the school office if we can be of any assistance.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

STOP: Please Read - SAFETY MESSAGE FOR THOSE USING CAR PICK UP



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Since returning to Term 2 the staff have noticed a number of concerning safety issues involving drivers when picking up children on Drive Thru. The safety of our children is paramount at all times especially when cars are involved.

Can I ask you to seriously consider and follow the pointers below:

- Please ensure that all children are safely strapped up with their seat belts before driving off.
- Please be mindful that children sometimes misinterpret the correct time to enter the car and may be holding on to the door when moving forward. Whilst there is always a lineup there is no need to rush as safety is more important.
- No U - Turns are permitted
- Reinforce with the children that they must not walk too close to the kerb as they may be injured.
- For safety reasons, if the doors of your car cannot be easily opened by the children please park and pick up by walk.
- When picking up children by walk please use the designated crossings. I know that this may take a few more minutes however it not only models to the children the correct and safe way to cross the road but more importantly can avoid a serious accident - God forbid!
- A reminder please follow all traffic signs and parking restrictions, in particular on Grose St.

These messages will be reinforced by the teachers next week.

I thank you for your cooperation and support.

Bernadette Fabri

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 Monday 19th December 2022

Day 6 Tuesday 20th December 2022

School Photos – Wednesday 1st June

School photography day will be on **Wednesday 1st June 2022**. Please follow the link for instructions on how to order [Instructions](#). However, if you are unable to order online and would like an ordering envelope, please ask your child to collect from the school office.



SIBLING PHOTOS

This year the sibling photos will be taken before school starts from 8:00am to 9:00pm in the school hall. If you are wanting to have a whole family school photo taken please ensure your child is at school by 8:45am. It's ok if you are unable to have your children at school by this time, their sibling photos will be taken during lunch time.

UNIFORM- Students are to wear full winter school uniform. **(NO SPORTS UNIFORMS)**

Please complete payment 24hrs prior to photo day.

If you have any questions about the photos please phone the school office. Thank you.

Kind regards
Mrs Fiona Mitterer

Exploring Our Cultural Heritage

Dear Parents,

Today, Australia is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. There is a multitude of cultures, experiences, beliefs, and traditions. Most of us have heritage that come from overseas acknowledging that the indigenous Australians have lived for thousands of years before any of us. Sharing our cultural heritage is part of celebrating what it means to be Australian and helping everyone to feel included in our society.

Knowing and understanding the diverse cultures in our community and beyond is essential to our school community in which everyone is welcomed, feels safe and is supported to participate. At St Patrick's we can learn and understanding to strengthen multicultural inclusion by providing an environment where acceptance of diversity, knowledge of other cultures and an understanding of global and local issues can be developed.

We will celebrate Multicultural Day on June 3 where students can experience and share from about their own or another cultural heritage that may interest them. As part of the celebration students can dress, make a hat or wear colours of a cultural heritage of their choice and a small aspect of Australian culture as we are all Australians. There will a multicultural afternoon where students can participate in a cultural activity.

Students will be part of a parade where music from various cultures will be played. To ensure that all cultures will be included:

Please complete the google form.

<https://forms.gle/LQp7NfLhA6Vkv9Th9>

Regards
Mrs Bonserio



St Patrick's Award



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

KA	James Malkoun	Luke Shaw
KM	Mahli Khouri	Cristiano Missak
1C	Caterina Boulos	Nicholas Nassif
1S	Matilda Miranda	Charles Nasr
2M	Charlie Chua	Mila Moses
2Y	Evie Grohs	Julian Badr



Honour Award

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

KA	Evania Dcosta	Vivienne Yuen
KM	Jonah Khoury	Elodie Haddad
1C	Flynn Davis	Albie Soh
1S	Charbel Elia	Pierre El Bayeh
2M	Maroun Abraham	Elijah Missak
2Y	Cienna Joachim	Daniel Lawrence



St Patrick's Award



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

3L	Isla- Rose Eid	James Younis
3T	Tony Karam	Sandra Nehme
4B	Olivier Touche	Daniel Jurisic
4G	Logan Munro	Andrew Khalil
5C	Beth Roumanus	Daniel Semaan
5T	Alessandra De Guzman	Angelina Bounassif
6P	Jazmyne Drosos	Alicia Remaili
6W	Zavier Moujalli	Germain Toledo



Honour Award

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

3L	Scarlett Eid	Ian Mason
3T	Chanel Wakim	Benjamin Chu
4B	Dominic Rahme	Jazmine Rizk
4G	Michael Sunwar	Mika Liu
5C	Hannah Scanlon	Ray J Wehbe
5T	Erick Granados-Gavito	Michel Kazzaz
6P	Anthony Sassen	Tiffany McCloskey
6W	Sophie Salloum	Isaiah Johnston



WALK TO SCHOOL SAFELY DAY - 20TH MAY



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JHhhzCVwgg>

[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 4 - Choose games and other apps carefully Use eSafety's App checklist for parents to think about the positives and negatives when your child asks to download a new game or other app. The checklist covers things like age ratings, managing privacy settings and reporting abuse in-app. You can also use The eSafety guide to check and set up safety features with your child.

TIPS FOR Writing

What parents and carers can do (writing)

PETAA

- Draw children's attention to how writing is presented, for example, on brochures, billboards, books, and electronic media – these are models of writing for real purposes.



CHANGE OF SPORTS DAYS YRS 5/6 WEEK 5 to 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please note the change in sports days for the rest of the term, due to some school events.

Year 6 - Wear sports uniform on:

Tuesday (Cricket activities with Cricket Australia)

Friday (swapped PE lesson)

Year 5 - Wear sports uniform on:

Tuesday (Cricket activities with Cricket Australia)

Wednesday (as normal)

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,
Leanda Standing
(Assistant Principal)



2022 Athletics Carnival



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year's Athletics Carnival will be held on **Wednesday 8th June, 2022** at Barton Park, Parramatta. This will be a whole school event. It is an enjoyable day for the children where they have the opportunity to experience teamwork, good sportsmanship and physical activities. The carnival will commence at 9:30am and conclude at approximately 2:15 pm. The children will be catching a bus to and from the carnival unless parents are taking them home from Barton Park *at the conclusion of the carnival*.

Wear: School Sport Uniform or clothing in house colour (e.g. children in Waratah may like to wear red. Please do not feel like you have to go out and buy anything. Children can wear their house colour if they have clothing available or simply wear their sport uniform), hat, sport/running shoes (**spikes** are permitted for the **200m and 100m events only**) Children may like to wear their sport tracksuit with shorts underneath if it is cool in the morning until they begin their activities.

Bring: Recess & lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, any medication e.g. puffers, epipens etc. (There will be NO canteen service) Please ensure that your child's clothing and any belongings are clearly labelled with their name and class. Children may bring a small backpack rather than their school bag if they wish.

Cost: There is **no cost** for the carnival.

Field Events: There will be no official field events run at our School Athletics Carnival. Students must 'qualify' for selection in field events for Zone/Diocesan levels by providing evidence of their experience from their '**Little Athletics Record Book**' indicating their 'personal best' distances/records. If your child wishes to be considered for our Zone team in field events (long jump, high jump, shot put, discus) they will need to collect a form from the office. The entries will be evaluated and compared and children informed if they have made the School Zone team

We look forward to seeing as many parents at the carnival on the day. All parents are invited to attend the carnival, however we ask that you please remain in the spectator area during all races and activities. We will need some parents to assist with student supervision on the day.

Please complete the google form below by Friday 27th May. Any child wishing to compete in the 800m must nominate themselves before the carnival by indicating this on the google form. This event is the first of the day so students competing need to be punctual.

If your child wishes to nominate for the Zone Athletics carnival in field events please collect a nomination form from the office and return by Friday 27th May, 2022.

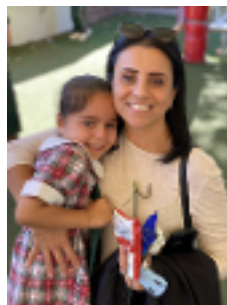
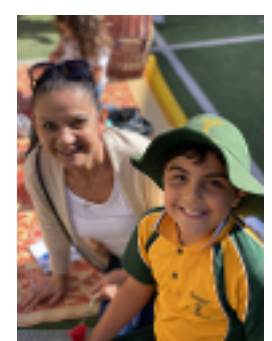
NB - only children turning 8 years or above this year are eligible.

<https://forms.gle/QY4GQnTeV9TZZq6C6>

The Athletics Carnival Team

MOTHERS' DAY MASS/PICNIC

Thank you to all the visitors who were able to join us at the Mother's Day Picnic last Friday after mass. All one has to do it to look at the gorgeous photos; lots of smiles, hugs and glorious sunshine. Thank you God!



Good Morning Parents & Caregivers,

With the colder weather approaching some children have coughs/colds that sometimes require medication. We have noticed an increase in children bringing in Ventolin with no action plan or documentation/permission from parents. We take the medical needs and safety of our children very seriously and would like to remind you of some requirements that we need to follow:-

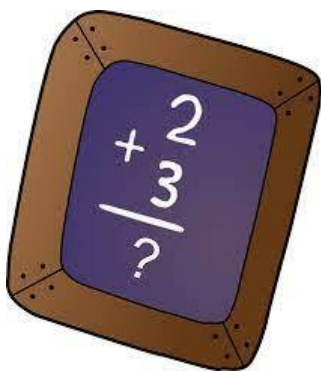


- At **NO** stage is a child to have medication in their bags for self administering.
- If medication is required, an email or signed note from the parent indicating what needs to be administered and the reason needs to be sent before any medication is administered. Alternatively please collect a form from the school office.
- Sometimes children are prescribed Ventolin when required, due to a seasonal or isolated condition however if children require ventolin during the day a letter/email from the doctor/parent stating how much should be given and the time needs to be sent. **NB - in an emergency children will always be administered Ventolin if required.**
- Action plans for Anaphylaxis and Asthma should be reviewed every 12 months.
- Medications are required to be current and expiry dates recorded in the office.

If you need to discuss the medical needs of your child at any time please email the school or phone the office.

Regards

Mrs Jones



Helping your Year 1 and Year 2 child at home with Mathematics

This guide can help you support your Year 1 and Year 2 children at home with the learning area of mathematics.

Number and algebra

Representing whole numbers

Representing whole numbers focuses on:

- understanding place value and two-digit and three-digit numbers
- representing numbers to 1000 and partitioning (splitting) numbers to record quantities.

You can help your Year 1 and Year 2 child at home by:

- counting the odd and even numbers on houses as you walk around your neighbourhood. Walk in the opposite direction and count them backwards
- counting numbers by ones up to 120 while skipping rope or throwing a ball to each other. Change the starting point of counting, for example beginning to count from 93
- counting backwards by ones from different starting numbers
- practising partitioning (or splitting) two-digit and three-digit numbers into smaller units. For example, *396 can be broken into 3 hundreds, 9 tens and 6 ones* using a hundreds chart to practise counting on and off the decade. For example, *10, 20, 30, 40, 50 ..., 3, 13, 23, 33, 43, 53 ...*

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2022



Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Jesus' Great Commandment is to love God and love our neighbour. The Catholic faith invites us to respect and love all people. Jesus teaches us to **value the dignity of each human person, especially the vulnerable and those in need. As Christians we are called to contribute to the common good in our community.**

This year, at St Patrick's, we will be putting our faith in action to help the vulnerable members of our local community. Our aim is to support the Vinnies Winter Appeal and provide emergency relief to people/families at risk and experiencing homelessness. Our donations will help the Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives and help those in need get through the cold winter season and ensure their basic needs are met.

During Winter especially, material donations such as food, warm clothing and blankets are distributed by the Vinnies Homelessness Services and Conferences to vulnerable people struggling to keep warm. This year they are also asking for our help in donating personal hygiene products especially due to the increase in women and children experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence. We will be supporting the **Harris Park Vinnies Support Centre** by asking our school community to donate the following items. We will collect the donations from **Tuesday 17th May (Week 4) to Thursday 9th June (Week 7)**. This allows 3 weeks for donations to come in. To ensure a range of needed materials are donated we will be asking each Stage group to bring in specific donations in a shopping bag as this will be the easiest to transport items at various locations.

Students will be learning about homelessness and looking out for the needs of others as part of their Religious Education program with a particular focus on **respecting the dignity for the human person, understanding why Jesus teaches about preferential option for the poor, having a responsibility and contributing to the common good in our community.**

Early Stage 1/Stage 1:

Non-Perishable and over 6 months in date food items such as:

Dry pasta	Rice	Tea
Pasta sauce	Chicken noodles	Milo
Cooking oil	Beef noodles	Juice
Tinned soup	Kraft Cheese blocks	Vegemite
Tinned vegetables	Long life milk	Assorted biscuits
Tinned fruit	Sugar	Jatz/Sao Biscuits
Tinned tuna	Coffee	Nut-free muesli bars

Students will be learning about homelessness and looking out for the needs of others as part of their Religious Education program with a particular focus on **respecting the dignity for the human person, understanding why Jesus teaches about preferential option for the poor, having a responsibility and contributing to the common good in our community.**

Stage 2: New Winter Woollies (NOT pre-owned or used)

Blankets	Winter hats/beanies
Mittens	Fuzzy slippers
Earmuffs	Handkerchiefs

Stage 3:

Toiletry and Personal Hygiene Products

Shampoo	Toothbrush	Shaving cream
Conditioner	Deodorant	Hand sanitiser
Soap/body wash	Feminine hygiene products	Lip balm
Toothpaste		Razors

The Faith In Action Team is very grateful for your support,

Mrs Anne Fardell, Mrs Desiree Macaraeg, Mrs Franca Bonserio



Term 2 Week 3 Spotlight

Stephanie Jabbour:

What is your ideal job?

My ideal job would be a **firefighter** to help save people, animals and their properties and Australia suffers from a lot of bushfires. I would love a job where I can help people.

What is your favourite movie?

My favourite movie is **The Quiet Place** because it has important themes to help teach us how to live our life.

What is your least favourite meal?

My least favourite meal is **brussel sprouts** because I hate the smell, taste and texture of them. Grose!

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would you like to meet and why?

I would really like to meet my **cousins that live in Melbourne** as I have not seen them since I was about 5 years old.

If you could have any pet, what would you choose and why?

I would choose to have a **puppy** because they are small, cute and fluffy as well as great playful companions.

Paul Khouri:

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is **birds** because when I was in Hawaii a big bird chased me around and I started crying, so now I dislike all birds.

What is your favourite meal?

My favourite meal is **Macaroni and Cheese** from the Outback Steakhouse restaurant. I love cheese and this meal is very cheesy.

What are you most looking forward to in High School?

I am most looking forward to meeting **new friends** as well as seeing some of my older family friends. I also can't wait to do **more sports**.

If you could spend \$1 000 000 what would you spend it on?

I would **spend it on cancer research** to help decrease the amount of people that die from different cancers. I would help scientists and doctors find a cure.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to play **video games** with my friends and go **bike riding** with Phillip Ayoub.

Lara Samar:

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is **spiders** because they are big, hairy and can crawl anywhere.

What is your favourite meal?

My favourite meal is **spaghetti bolognaise**. YUUUUMMMMM. I love to eat a big bowl for dinner.

What are you most looking forward to in High School?

I am most looking forward to the variety of subjects and meeting new people.

If you could spend \$1 000 000 what would you spend it on?

I would spend it on clothes (designer labels) and travel around the world in first class and stay in fancy hotels.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, paint and draw because I love art.

Joshua Manago:

What is your ideal job?

My ideal job is to be a **pilot** because I am very interested in aviation.

What is your favourite movie?

My favourite movie is **Spider Man: No Way Home** because it included actors/characters from previous movies in the series.

What is your least favourite meal?

My least favourite meal is **oysters** because I don't like that they look wet and slimy.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go and why?

I would love to travel to **New York City** because I would love to explore the tall buildings and landmarks such as the 9/11 memorial.

Who would you like to meet and why?

I would like to meet **Mitchell Moses from the Parramatta Eels** because he is my favourite NRL player.



Term 2 Week 4 Spotlight

Kevin Zheng:

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is **the dark** because I can't see what's approaching me.

What is your favourite meal?

My favourite food to eat is **chilli ramen noodles**.

What is your favourite animal and why?

My favourite animal is a tiger because I was born in the year of the tiger.

If you could spend \$1 000 000 what would you spend it on?

I would spend it on a **bigger house for my family** as mum mum always says she wishes for a bigger house so I would like to help her.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read or play games on my ipad

Anabelle Tudberry:

What is your favourite subject at school?

My favourite subject at school is **Writing** because I get to use my imagination and I enjoy creating stories.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go and why?

I would **travel to Italy** because I want to learn about the culture as my mum is Italian and I would like to learn traditional Italian customs and also learn how to cook their delicious meals as I love to cook.

What is your least favourite food?

My least favourite foods are **cucumber and yoghurt** because cucumbers have a squishy and watery texture and yoghurt has a sour taste.

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would you like to meet and why?

I would love to **meet Donna Hay** as I love cooking and admire her as a female chef. I would ask her about special tips to help me improve my cooking skills.

What is your favourite animal and why?

My favourite animal would be a **Red Panda** because they are very cute and cuddly



Congratulations to the Abboud Family (Audrey 1C) on the birth of their beautiful twins, Saul and Eve.

Two little blessings sent from above, twice the smiles, twice the love.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Jacob Assaf, Mia Golossian, Sofia Bousimon, Marcus Moses, Adrian Jreij, Joshua Sahyoun





So let us all think about this: the Father has given us life; Jesus has given us salvation, he accompanies us, he leads us, he supports us, he teaches us; and the Holy Spirit? What does he give us? He loves us! He gives us love. Let us think of God in this way and ask Our Lady, Our Lady our Mother, who always hurries to our aid, to teach us to understand properly what God is like: what the Father is like, what the Son is like, and what the Holy Spirit is like. So be it.

[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

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm