

Dear Parent and Caregivers,

On Monday we celebrate 'The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. This day recognises the unique position of Mary being a superlative human person, who was taken body and soul to heaven.

As well as being our Mother, Mary is also seen as a sign of hope and comfort to all Australians. As our patron Saint she offers calmness when we are tested by our own personal limitations and the circumstances that life presents to each of us. Mary, through her example, shows us how hope can overcome anguish, inner peace can overcome anxiety and a life lived in a positive manner can overcome many of our daily challenges.

Just like all Mothers, Mary showed concern for and guidance of Jesus, all through his life. The bible is full of stories where Mary displayed to us her humanness and connected with Mothers all over the world.

Recently I read an interesting article written by Dr Justin Coulson which outlined the value of helping our children understand the importance of doing good - loving thy neighbour. Like Mary, who guided a young Jesus, we too need to influence our children through age-appropriate opportunities.

The article mentioned the following five ways for this to be achieved:

1. **Role model helpfulness and kindness.** Children and teenagers learn to be helpful and kind by copying the significant adults in their lives.
2. **Encourage your children to perform small acts of kindness.** Being kind, giving a compliment, helping to tidy up- these small acts are just as powerful and effective as larger tasks such as mowing the lawn for a neighbour.
3. **Make 'helping' a family project.** Get your kids involved when you take a meal to a family who have just had a new baby, or visit a sick friend in the hospital.
4. **Be a good neighbour.** Help your kids learn to keep an eye on others, whether it is a neighbour, or a boy on their sports team. Teaching your kids to notice what's going on in the lives of people in their community promotes awareness and empathy.
5. **Be grateful.** Expressing gratitude is one of the best ways to do good. In fact, nothing can improve your life (and the life of others) like gratitude. (Helping kids feel good by doing good, by Dr Justin Coulson, 2019)

Loving thy neighbour and being people of compassion and forgiveness is what we are called to do. May we listen to this calling as we spend time with Mary on Monday.

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy. Alleluia!
(Alleluia Verse Assumption Mass)

God Bless, Mrs Leanda Standing

Grandparents Day

Thank you to Christopher Sahyoun, Principal of Belle Property for donating the Grand Parents Morning Tea. Christopher is father of Jimmy Sahyoun 4G and Joshua Sahyoun 1S.

The morning tea would not have been possible without your generosity and contribution of the food, coffee and drinks for all those that attended.

Thank you to All 4 You Grazing Ashleigh Sayhoun and Mary Sahyoun for the food set up and display.



Chris Sahyoun | 0403 362 352

Principal | Belle Property Parramatta

belleproperty.com/parramatta



[All 4 You Grazing](http://All4YouGrazing.com)

Email: all4yougrazing@outlook.com

Grandparents Banner - Organised by Nicole Sahyoun

Vases of flowers - Organised by Natalie Boulos

Prayer cards and Chocolates - Organised by Nazha Wehbe and Theresa Alphonse

Thank you to all the Year 1 Parent Committee Members for your help in setting up, cleaning and helping with the organisation of the morning tea.

Natalie Boulos

Leila Wehbe

Theresa Alphonse

Nicole Sahyoun

Sophia Wehbe

Christine Kahwaji

Deanna Perram

Suzanne Risk

Cleo Sunwar



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate over the next week. We hope you have a great birthday - **Marie Rahme, Marcus Wijesuriya, Allen Elias, Theodore Stonham, Miami Calumpiano, Daniel Jurisic, Olivia Moussa, Joshua Manago, Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat**

GRANDPARENTS DAY MASS

Dear Grandpa, Grandma, Nonna, Poppy, Nanni, Jidou, Teta, Lola, Yaya, Bumisan, Gramps and the list goes on and on....

A big St Pat's welcome to you, the chief guests of today's mass and celebration of Grandparents day. This year, today is special for my husband and I, too.

Last month, I joined your 'Exclusive Grandparents' Club with the birth of our 1st grandson, Alfie Walter Rodricks and cannot describe the joy I feel at the tiny new life in our family or the sadness at leaving him behind in London.

Lucky for us, we can watch him grow every day with photographs and videos, and thank God for the blessing of a new generation in our family.

I can now understand the love and caring you feel for your grandchildren in school and have no doubt that they love you in return and are grateful for your daily acts of kindness in all you do to help them grow strong in body and mind. I know this because the children speak with a different voice while talking about their grandparents. It is called the love voice.

May St Anne and St Joachim, the beloved grandparents of our Lord Jesus, continue to hold you in their care and intercede for all you wish for; most importantly good health and happiness always.

The children of St Patrick's Primary, and all of us, teachers and staff, thank you for your loving care and hope to see you at every opportunity. God Bless.

Mrs Venitia Rodricks

Jimmy Sahyoun

My grandparents are special because they are kind and caring, they give me lots of hugs and kisses, they play with me, they give me whatever I want, they are always there for every football game to watch me play, they have a special bedroom for me so I can always sleep over. My grandparents and I always have fun together and they always have the best food at their house. They love me very much. My grandfather is extra special because I'm named after him. My grandparents have a very special place in my heart. I love them very much. Thank you God for the best grandparents.

Joshua Sahyoun

I love my grandparents because they always look after me, they pick me up from school, they play with me, they buy me whatever I want, they take me to special places, they let me eat whatever I want and they always come to my football and soccer games to watch me play. My grandparents love me so much. My grandparents hold a very special place in my heart. I have the best grandparents ever. Thank you God for the best Grandparents.

GRANDPARENTS DAY MASS

GOOD MORNING

“Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children”

This is a beautiful quote about Grandparents that resonated with me by the African /American writer Alex Haley.

Thank you for the chance to speak at today’s mass about what being a grandparent to my 3 grandchildren means to me.

Our relationships as grandparents that we share with grandchildren , crosses all ages, cultural backgrounds, family traditions and geographic locations.

For those of you who might not know, I am the teacher/ librarian at St Pats and am blessed to be the mother of 3 daughters and Grandmother to 3 grandchildren – Luella (5), Colette (4) and Victor (almost 3). I am known as DiDi to them and my husband Gra Gra.

My heart swoops a little, full of joy, love and anticipation as the front doorbell (that has only managed to be reached) rings..... which marks the arrival of Luella and Coco’s visit. Two noisy laughing little ones bound in, brandishing their most highly prized, most recent favourite toy for me to admire! Happily, my next few hours become theirs.

The visit usually starts something like this, “I’m hungry DIDI” as they proceed and help themselves to the well-stocked pantry for a Bickie and Apple Juice.

Then it’s usually racing upstairs to their private playing spaces, singing confidently “Find me if you can!!!!.” I give them the prescribed time to stake out a new hidey hole that they think is Di Di resistant. (Little do they know that I know every dark crevice of my home) and they squeal with joy when they are found.

This process can go on for hours.

Being a Grandparent means feeling full of love and joy, never feeling lonely, feeling needed, and maybe feeling happy to get a green card to behave just a bit silly.

I know that the Grandparents here today will also have shared these feelings as well. Nothing matches it. Because my granddaughters live close by, I see them often.

But my Grandson Victor lives in Berlin so thanks to the digital era we can speak with ease. So, it is a loving Zoom relationship with him -always only 2 minutes away. As a 2-and-a-half-year-old and on a recent trip back home I got to learn some German from Victor- especially the word “NEIN” which he used regularly and with a stern look and serious wag of a finger!

Being a Grandparent means being part of sharing exciting firsts **again** and being **amazed** at the sense of wonder we see in their eyes as they grow and learn. **Nothing matches it!**

The.....

- First smile
- First words
- First steps
- First Birthdays
- First Christmas..... Grandparents’ hearts are full of pride and unconditional love no matter when or how our precious little ones achieve these milestones.

Favourite activities that we enjoy together range from very sensible learning conversations to general silliness....

When Coco and Luella were young it was....

- Peek – a -boo
- Hide and seek
- Sharing stories
- Dancing like you don't care
- Sharing stories over video calls

And as they have gotten older its....

- Sharing old photos and family stories (yes of the unedited print kind)
- Talent shows and
- Regular sleepovers

For us, one of the more challenging jobs as grandparents that we have been tasked with of late. happened last year when we were asked to make a 3rd birthday cake “ for Coco in the form of “Claris the chicest mouse in Paris” style.

This was a **first time** for us as grandparents to be birthday cake makers and the cake was definitely not perfect but it was **such fun**. Little ones don't notice imperfection.

This year's 4th birthday cake request is for a Unicorn Cake. Again, there were no instructions other than it had to **be pretty**. My husband is on the research and design at the moment.....

What family tradition have we started?

It has been a pleasure today to share with you some insight into what it is like for me to be in the blessed ,privileged position of being a grandparent.

AS the grandparents here today will agree **Nothing matches it!!!**

Being a grandparent is all about the Love, fun, kindness, wisdom, strength, and the information and guidance we give our children's children.

It is my hope to keep building a loving, strong and lasting relationship with my grandchildren and be a trusted adviser when needed.

I hope that my husband and I can , in the words of Alex Haley continue to **sprinkle just a little stardust over them** for many years to come.

Mrs Debra O'Dwyer

Feast of the Assumption

Years 3-6 will be attending Mass at 12:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

15th August is a special day – the feast of the Assumption – when we remember how at the end of her life Mary was taken up to heaven to be with God. Because she was so special she was taken up body and soul to be with Jesus in heaven – this is what 'Assumption' means. Mary is very special because she was chosen by God to be the mother of God's son, Jesus. And Mary says yes to all that God asks of her. What qualities of Mary would we like to grow in our lives?"Hail Mary – Gentle Woman" YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RERoQ1biLdE>

This year an extra Staff Development Day has been provided for primary school to focus on the new NSW K-2 and 3-6 English and Mathematics curriculum. The date is listed below.

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

Additional Staff Development Day Monday 10th October (1st day of Term 4)

Day 5 Monday 19th December 2022

Day 6 Tuesday 20th December 2022

Extended Leave Applications

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for **five days or more** you must fill out an application for extended leave which is available from the school office. It is important for you to know that, depending on circumstances, this leave is not automatically granted. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress.

These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and I know you will understand the reasoning behind them.



BOOK WEEK 2022

“ Dreaming with eyes open...”

We are looking forward to celebrating Book Week this term in Week 6. Lots of great activities are in the process of being organised for our students.

Please take a look at the information you will need below.

CBCB BOOKWEEK - DREAMING WITH EYES OPEN...

[PRESS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

The theme for CBCA Book Week 2022 is **Dreaming with eyes open...** This theme can be interpreted as, when one reads it is like dreaming with one's eyes open. People who love reading will often refer to being lost in the story - like dreaming. Stories that are well written can help the reader to visualise with great clarity what is happening in the story which stimulates their imagination, connections and can lead them to develop ideas of their own.

BOOK WEEK PARADE - Glasses and/or Hat Parade

Date: **Monday 22nd August 9.30am Parents welcome. (Parents are invited to join the parade by dressing up in their pyjamas and glasses and/or hat also - Join in the fun!)**

Clothing: **Pyjamas and joggers**

Dress Up Theme: **Hat or Glasses**

Decorate a pair of glasses or a hat with your dream character.

- Who is your dream character?
- Imagine yourself as a book character.
- Who are you?
- What do you look like?
- Where are you?

NB: Children are asked to bring a book with their dream character to share with others on the day.

Glasses can be made of cardboard - there are many cutouts and templates on the internet or cheap ones made of plastic. Children need to embellish them in any way they like representing their dream character.

[LINK TO GLASSES TEMPLATES](#)

[LINK TO GLASSES TEMPLATES](#)

OR/AND

Hats Children can create a hat or headdress representing their dream character. It could look like their imagination escaping from their mind. Let your imagination fly! Dare to Dream

[LINK TO HAT IDEAS](#)

1 BOOK WEEK PARADE - Glasses and/or Hat Parade

Monday 22nd August 9.30am

2. AUTHOR VISITS FOR OLDER READERS

Tuesday 23rd August: [Sue Whiting](#)

3. ILLUSTRATOR VISIT FOR YOUNGER READERS

Wednesday 24th August: [Nathaniel Eckstrom](#)

St Patrick's Award

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

KA	Mary-Kate Karam	James Singh
KM	Angelina Zhang	Kyrie Dibia
1C	Antoun Abboud	Joseph Kalouch
1S	Lara Alphonse	Clara Badr
2M	George Kazzaz	Mitchell Daher
2Y	Emily Lin	Louis Wehbe



Honour Award

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

KA	Angelique Assaf	Jesse Jaitani
KM	Mary-Jo Bounassif	Terence Yang
1C	Angelina Moujalli	Nicholas Nassif
1S	Anyce Ibrahim	Anthony Youssef
2M	Mahalia Jackson	Sophia-Rose Remaili
2Y	Alessia Agostino	Jared Cauan



St Patrick's Award

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

3L	Scarlett Eid	Esperanza Thompson
3T	Sandra Nehme	Samson Sayegh
4B	Joshua Day	Olivia Zhang
4G	Caroline Yousef	Milka Liu
5C	Daniel Semaan	Sara Lorenzo
5T	Olivia Fayad	Rose Rizk
6P	Liam Stojkovski	Richard Do
6W	Steven Abraham	Marie Rahme



Honour Award

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

3L	Isla-Rose Eid	Serena Semaan
3T	Sophia Khoury	Joanna Angela Khoury
4B	Olivier Touche	Mia Golossian
4G	Elaine Xue	Araminta Jackson
5C	Levi Jaitani	Raymond Wehbe
5T	Hunter morson	Callum Donaldson
6P	Jazmyne Drosos	Abbey Matta
6W	Sophie Salloum	Stephanie Jabbour





Term 3 Week 4 Spotlight - Year 2

Jamie Chia:

Who is your favourite superhero and why?

Thor is my favourite superhero because he is very powerful, strong and is a great and likeable superhero.

What is your favourite thing to do in your spare time and why?

I love to **play soccer** in my free time because it's very fun, it makes you active and there isn't too much physical contact - so you won't get hurt or injured.

If you could eat anything for dinner, what would you choose to eat and why?

I would love to eat **medium-rare steak with mushroom sauce, broccoli, and asparagus** because it's super yummy and it's really healthy.

If you were given money to buy one thing, what would you choose to buy and why?

I would buy the **Paris Saint Germain soccer jersey** because I love soccer and I support PSG. Soccer is my favourite sport.

Where is one place you would like to go for a holiday and why?

I would like to go to **Lebanon** because I have my grandma and grandpa there and Lebanon is a really fascinating place with cool attractions.

Evie Grohs:

What is your favourite food to eat? Why?

My favourite food is **sticky date pudding** because my mum buys it for me when I'm not feeling well and I think it's sweet and delicious.

Who is your favourite character in a movie or book and why?

My favourite character is **Harry Potter** because he's a little bit funny and the movies are really exciting and full of adventure and magic.

Where has been the best place you have traveled to or visited in the holidays or on a weekend?

The best place I've been to on a holiday was **Terrigal** because we had never been there before and it was great to get out of the house. It was also really fun.

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

I would want a **chicken** because they give you eggs to make food and the chicks are really cute.

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

I would like to meet my **grandfather** because I haven't seen him in a long time because he lives near the beach.

Rebecca Black:

What is your least favourite food to eat? Why?

My least favourite food is **broccoli** because it doesn't taste right.

Who is your favourite character in a movie or book and why?

My favourite movie character is **Matilda** because she is kind, never gives up, and tries to get away from the principal.

Where has been the best place you have travelled to or visited in the holidays or on a weekend?

My favourite place that I've travelled to is **Scotland** because my family lives there so I enjoy visiting them and it's really fun. There are many beautiful places to see.

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

I would choose a **sausage dog** because they are cute and I think a dog would be really fun to play with. They are great company.

What is the most special thing in your life and why?

The most special thing in my life is **my family** because I love them and if I didn't have them I don't know what I would do.

George Bazouni:

Who is your favourite superhero and why?

My favourite superhero is **Spiderman** because he can run really fast, climb exceptionally large buildings and can shoot webs out of his hand. I also like him because his story is surprising and a bit confusing as he got bitten by a spider and slowly turned into Spiderman.

What is your favourite sport to play and why?

I love **soccer** and **rugby league (NRL)** because they both are very active and fun. My idols from soccer and NRL are Cristiano Ronaldo and Clint Gutherson (Parramatta Eels) - they are HUGE inspirations to me.

If you could eat anything for dinner, what would you choose to eat and why?

I would LOVE to eat **Nutella Pizza** because it's very sweet and yummy.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I would love to be an **engineer** because it includes mathematics and science which I love and hard work, which I would aim to do and do my best.

What is your favourite subject at school and why?

My favourite subject is **Mathematics** because it is an easy subject for me but yet also challenges your brain and makes you more intelligent.

TIPS FOR Writing

Resource: [How Parents Can Help with Writing at Home \(PETAA\)](#)



JUICY WORD JOURNAL

In my classroom, we call out of the ordinary words “juicy words.” This could be a descriptive adjective, a new word that they found in a chapter book or a very scientific vocabulary word they learned during science class! Simply have kids record the word and its meaning in a journal and before long they will have a dictionary of new words that they not only love but will actually use in their own writing.

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

These tips 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.

[App checklist for parents](#)

Check the permissions and other settings – read the community guidelines and ask yourself these questions:

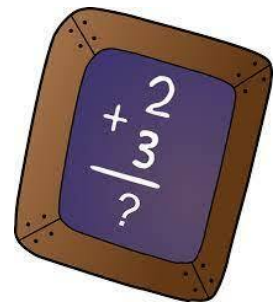
- What permissions does the app request?
- What information the app collect?
- Does the app need microphone and/or video camera access to perform its functions?
- What are the default settings? • Do you need to change default settings, initially and after each update?
- Does the app allow in-app purchases?

eSafety tip: See the eSafety Parents page Taming the technology for advice on using parental control and safe browsing tools.

Helping your child feel good about Maths

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers>

Maths expert and parent, Associate Professor Janette Bobis from the University of Sydney, gives her top tips on how young kids can become confident in maths.



Talk to your child about maths in everyday life

'We go about our everyday lives totally unaware of the maths we're using for so many tasks,' Janette says. Talking to children about how maths is important in their everyday life makes it relevant and real. Some ideas are:

- cooking in the kitchen (measurement)
- operating a microwave oven (numbers and counting backwards)
- stacking containers in the cupboard (shapes)
- finding a certain house number down the street (counting by twos).



“Find happiness in making others happy”

Mary MacKillop

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.

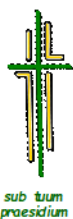
<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>

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 McGrath will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

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

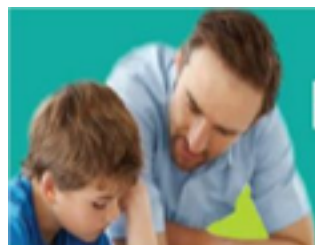
Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

TBA

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm



Parents Representative Council

SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Help your boys become respectful men



Our guest speaker for the PRC parent engagement event is:

Dr Andrew Fuller

Andrew is a clinical psychologist and family therapist, who works to create resilience in families, communities and schools. He specialises in how children learn and how their educational outcomes can be improved. He is the author of many parenting and Wellbeing books.

Register here to attend



Andrew will be discussing:

Andrew will talk about how we create an awareness in boys of their power to become wonderful young men who can create a difference in the world through building healthy relationships, having a sense of meaning and purpose and creating a great life for themselves.

Our Presentation Partners



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE
'Domineus Lux Mea' The Lord Is My Light




CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Monday, 15th August 2022

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (apx 2 hours)
(PRC General Meeting- will be held prior to guest speaker)

St Dominic's, 54-94 Gascoigne St, Kingswood, NSW 2747

Check out our Facebook site  @prcparra

Light supper and refreshments will be provided,
and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!



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