



St Patrick's Bulletin

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We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we learn & worship.

Diary Dates

Sunday 19th June

First Eucharist

Monday 20th June

9.15am Parent Literacy Workshop

Friday 24th June

9.15am Parent Coffee Morning

Sunday 26th June

First Eucharist

Monday 27th June

Reports sent home

8am - 8.45am Parent/ Teacher interviews

Tuesday 28th June

3.30pm - 5.30pm Parent/Teacher interviews

Wednesday 29th June

3.30pm - 7.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thursday 30th June

School Athletics Carnival
Charlie Bali Reserve

Friday 1st July

8am - 8.30am Parent /Teacher Interviews

LAST DAY OF TERM TWO

From the Principal

Unlocking Potential at Patrick's; as a place of Mercy where we welcome, love and forgive everyone'

Each Saturday evening or Sunday, we join in the celebration of the Eucharist as the essence of our faith. The Eucharist or the Mass is an act of solidarity with Jesus and with each other.

Some years ago when Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru, he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped up to the microphone. As the huge crowd went quiet, they began to speak to the Pope: "Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life. And we hunger for bread."

Before the hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish: "You tell me you hunger for bread. You tell me you hunger for God. I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied." The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there and said very bluntly: "I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back! Give it back; it belongs to the poor!"

This weekend, 18th and 19th June, and the following weekend, 26th and 26th June, we pray for the children of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, who will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

The highlight of the Pope's visit to any country is always the celebration of an open-air Mass. Of the celebration of the Eucharist, the Pope John Paul II wrote:

"In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have His sacrifice, we have His resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit and His love of the Father. In the humble signs of bread and wine changed into His Body and Blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and enables us to become witnesses of hope."

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

Faith Community

This faith community will be two fold. First and foremost I wish to thank all the St Patrick's community: parents, carers, teachers and students for your enormous generosity towards our less fortunate brothers and sisters on the streets. Together, we have overfilled thirteen baskets which I am certain will help the Vinnies Van to support the needy. My thanks also goes to the Mini Vinnies team who have written encouraging notes to go with each pack to be distributed. Well done everyone, you have truly shown the hand of Mercy. May God bless each and every one of you.

Secondly, I would like to share with you the background for The Glory Be. This prayer is most familiar from the Rosary, where it is recited at the end of each decade of the Hail Mary. It goes back many centuries and is known also by its Latin name and version as the Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father). It is also referred to in some older prayer books and scholarly writings as a doxology (which is a fancy name for a short expression of praise for God).

The tradition for the doxology comes from the Jewish synagogues. St. Paul often used doxologies similar to the Glory Be in his letters. For example: he referred to "the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be honour forever and ever. Amen." in the conclusion of his letter to the Romans (Rom 16:27).

Today like the Sign of the Cross it is also looked upon as a Trinitarian prayer of praise. It calls on the Trinity (Father, Son and Spirit) to be praised for all time.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

School Goals 2016

At the end of each year the teachers and leaders analyse student data to inform the development of our **Action Plans** for the following year. In 2016, as we unlock the potential of our students, our **School Goals** in **Religious Education, English** and **Mathematics** are:

- **To build student understanding of our faith through prayers that are linked to tradition and scripture**
- **To improve student learning in writing, with a focus on purpose and audience**
- **For all students to improve their learning in Mathematics in the domains of Addition & Subtraction and Multiplication & Division.**

Each term our Action Plans are reviewed with colleagues from two other schools. The Term 2 Action Plan Review was on Wednesday 15th June with a focus on

Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Our colleagues commended the teachers for empowering St Patrick's students to know what they are learning, how to self-assess against the Success Criteria and to co-construct goals with their teacher for their next learning.

Primary School Days Writers Workshop

On Thursday 19th May, ten lucky students from Stage 3 went to the Joan Sutherland Creative Arts Centre at Penrith to interact with a variety of talented Authors. They were involved in activities to develop their writing skills with a connection to illustrations. All Authors read to the students from their books and allowed them 'sneak peeks' of their books.

The Authors were Jon Klassen, author and illustrator of **I Want My Hat Back**, Liz Pichon, author of **Withering-by-Sea** and Toby Riddle, author of the **Great Gatsby-A visual book of Grammar**.

The students had the opportunity to get their books and papers signed by Jon Klassen. One of his autographs can be found in our school library. Each student expanded their knowledge throughout the day and they give a special thank you to Mrs Knowles and Mrs Vrontas for supervising the students and making this day possible. by Ashlee, Tanisha and Marissa

From the Assistant Principal Nutrition for children in primary school

Maintaining a balanced diet and regular exercise is important for all individuals, especially school-aged children (6-12 years). Children are required to eat a variety of foods from each food group to ensure optimal intake of all vitamins and minerals. At the same time, they may face new challenges regarding food choices and habits. Decisions about what to eat are partly determined by what is provided at home, the influences from friends at school, and the media, especially television.

Poor nutrition compromises both the quality of life of school-aged children but also their potential to benefit from education. Attaining optimal nutrition involves eating three meals a day and two nutritious snacks, as well as limiting the intake of high sugar and high fat foods. Consuming generous amounts of fruits, vegetables, lean meats and low fat dairy products, including three servings of milk, cheese or yoghurt each day can also prevent many medical problems. These include becoming overweight, developing weak bones, and developing diabetes.

Adequate nutrition of school aged children will also ensure they grow to their full potential, and provide the stepping-stones to a healthy life.



Using Backpacks Wisely

To help children prevent injury when wearing a back- back here are some helpful hints that could assist you.

- Lighten the load. No matter how well-designed the backpack, doctors and physical therapists recommend that kids carry packs of no more than 10% to 15% of their body weight — but less is always better.
- Use and pick up the backpack properly. Make sure kids use both shoulder straps. Bags that are slung over the shoulder or across the chest — or that only have one strap — aren't as effective at distributing the weight as bags with two wide shoulder straps, and therefore may strain muscles.

Mr Crowley's Problem for the Newsletter

Mr Crowley's Problem for the Newsletter

This newsletter's problem is

There are 12 people on a boat. There are two more men than women. How many women are there?

Last newsletter's problem was

What is the value of $4321 + 3214 + 2143 + 1432 =$

The answer to last newsletter's problem was 11 110.

Good luck Mathematicians

Tom Crowley

Assistant Principal



Personal Growth

Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have already completed the PRC and uploaded their information online. This competition closes on 19 August 2016. Certificates will be issued in Term 4, for all students who complete the challenge and upload their reading log online at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. No late entries can be accepted.

Blake Brown (K)	Reesha Dmello (K)
Mya Refalo (K)	Gelove DelaPena (K)
Amir Alsaadi (Yr 1)	Jayant Ghartimagar (Yr 1)
Lydia Brown (Yr 2)	Mark Gao (Yr 2)
Matilda Rowe (Yr 2)	Max Zhao (Yr 2)
Anamika Alsaadi (Yr 3)	Salam Altai (Yr 3)
Priyesh Chand (Yr 4)	Erika Sabharwal (Yr 4)
Alyssa Brown (Yr 5)	

Partnership

Quality Catholic Schools (QCS) Survey 2016

In March this year every Catholic school in the Diocese of Parramatta participated in a Quality Catholic Schools Survey. All staff members, 60 parents who were selected randomly, and all students in Year 5 and Year 6 were invited to complete the survey. An external survey consultant, Insight SRC, facilitated the collection and analysis of the data. The responses from parent, staff and student surveys provide information about:

- Catholic culture
- relationships
- learning community

The Catholic cultural data indicates that parents value the opportunity for the school community to participate in prayers and liturgies. Parents believe that the school teaches about compassion and that there are opportunities for their children to engage in social justice activities.

Parents feel that they are encouraged to participate in the life of the school and that their views and concerns are taken seriously by the school. They indicated that their children are developing valuable social skills and are connected to their school. Parents believe that the teachers at St Patrick's are committed to providing quality learning, that the learning is stimulating and their children are highly motivated to learn.

Parents would like to see a greater emphasis on individualised learning to meet their child's needs and student wellbeing programs that support a safe environment for all students.

This survey is a valuable initiative enabling St Patrick's to focus on improving the learning outcomes for every student. The information obtained from the survey is helping us to build on our successes and to identify ways in which we can continue to improve.

P & F News

A very big thank you to the following people for their help making the doughnut and flavoured milk day a great success.

Rima Mourad	Aaditi Ranade
Lara Quinn	Trish Cartledge
Savita Khan	Gen Bargas
Monica Thorp	Kathie O'Brien
Kaleb Thorp	Dylan Jones
Leanne Potts	

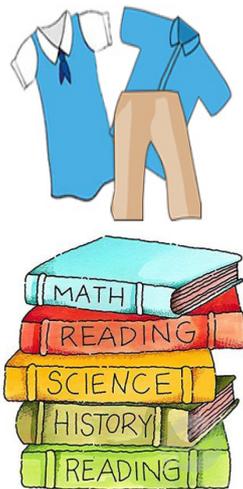
Regards

Donna Sheehan

P & F Association

Donations for South Sudan

St Patrick's is helping to fill a shipping container that is heading to South Sudan. We are asking families who may have any school items they are willing to donate to send them into school with their child. We are particularly hoping for donations of school uniforms and reading books that are in good condition.



Patrician Brothers College Blessing and Opening of the flexible learning centres

It was a privilege for us to represent St Patrick's at Patrician Brothers College on Friday 10th June 2016 for the Blessing and Opening of their flexible learning centres. We met Principals and leaders from other primary schools. As we entered the impressive school hall where the blessing took place we received a token of appreciation. We listened to one of the best songs performed by three of the students. Everyone (including us) sang wonderful hymns including: Heart of Jesus, Heart of Mercy and Christus Regnat (Christ Reigns), their school song. We heard a very good quote from Muhamad Ali encouraging us to achieve our best: "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given, than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing. Agam Gujral and Zac Cooper

Office

2017 Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 2017 Kindergarten Enrolments are being accepted. If your child is turning five (5) before 31st July 2017 please collect an Enrolment Pack from the office or alternatively download an application form from our website:- www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au All applications need to be returned as soon as possible as we are commencing enrolment interviews this Saturday 18th June

Catholic Out of School Hours Centre

Vacation Care is coming up soon and we will be heading over to St Michael's Blacktown for the school holidays as St Patrick's will be closed during this time.
- Enrolments for 2017 have commenced please see COSH supervisor for enrolment package



A word from Sr Grace...



A few weeks ago I watched the movie "The Young Messiah". It was interesting to see a story which so many of us ponder – what was Jesus' life as a young boy and what was his life like with his family? The truth is that the Bible does not tell us anything specific and we can refer only to the Gospel narratives: the Birth of Jesus, Offering of Jesus in the Temple and finding Him in Jerusalem where He went with His parents for the celebration of Passover. Although the movie is fiction, it makes Jesus very real. His divine and human nature is shown in the context of life struggles. Mary and Joseph are refugees. They are parents of a challenging child. They have difficulties talking to Him about His beginning and future destiny. They fight doubts and help each other to move forward in faith.

Sound a little bit like your family? To receive Jesus into our families is to be real – it is to allow the Holy One to enter our human life struggles and difficulties, but it is also to enjoy life in all its beautiful moments. Why not try and ask Him to act in our life to make it happen.

Sr Grace Roclawska csfn **Sacramental Coordinator**

Many families from our primary schools and High Schools are receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in coming weeks. Let us pray for them as they come to know Jesus more in their lives.

Please contact us in the parish office for the information about the sacraments for adults and children all ages: mqofblacktown.com.au or 9622 1125.