

St Patrick's Bulletin

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

Diary Dates

Friday, 26th June

P & F Cake Stall (Break 2)

Prices starting from 50 cents

LAST DAY OF TERM 2



Monday, 13th July

School Returns

Tuesday, 14th July

Year 1 Excursion to The Museum of Fire in Penrith

Friday, 17th July

Assembly Prayer

Thursday, 23th July

10:00am Grandparents Mass and Morning Tea

Reconciliation

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins in Term 3 for those families who have already registered and attended Information evenings.

If you haven't received an email with the next steps for the process, please email sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or call the parish office on 9622 1125.

From the Principal

'Acknowledging Success at St Patrick's in 2015'

"Laudato si', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

These are the opening words of 'Laudato Si': On the care of our common home, the first Encyclical letter of the Pontificate of Pope Francis. In 'Laudato Si'', released last week, Pope Francis has challenged "every person living on this planet" to enter into a new dialogue toward building a better future.

Pope Francis believes that "Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians".

At St Patrick's our Kitchen Garden is an integral part of who we are as a Catholic community caring for and learning about the environment. All students have an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature to plant, water, weed and harvest, followed by cooking and eating the fresh produce.

For the International Year of Light and Soils, Catholic Earthcare Australia created the 'Connect, Care, Share: Our Common Home' video, which features our Kitchen Garden showing how it enables students to learn about the role gardens play in caring for the earth and each other through growing fresh produce.

I invite you to view the video on our website: www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you. Amen.

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

Parents & Friends Cake Stall
Tomorrow, Friday, 26th June
Prices starting from 50 cents

Faith Community

On Tuesday and Thursday last week some of our senior students received their last Sacrament of Initiation-Confirmation. This is the Sacrament where they, themselves chose to stand up and confirm their Baptism, to become full followers of Christ.

The Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist – lay the foundations of our Christian lives. “The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears certain likeness to the origin, development and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.” (CCC1212)

Confirmation completes Baptism. It is administered by laying-on of hands and anointing with chrism accompanied by prayer. The candidates take the name of a saint. They choose a sponsor who accompanies them and stands up for them as did their Godparents at Baptism.

In the Old Testament, the prophets proclaimed that the Anointed One was to come. Jesus was that Anointed One –the Messiah. At Confirmation, the bishop or priest confirm with the seal of the Holy Spirit and anoint the candidates filling them with the strength of the Spirit. Here they join Christ as messianic people, receiving the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did at Pentecost.

I would like to congratulate all our St. Patrick’s candidates for confirming their faith last week and I pray that their lives will always be filled with the Spirit.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

Maths Olympiad 2 Results

Congratulations to the following children Aleisha Macaraeg, Beatriz Arellano and Jerome Hernandez from our Maths Olympiad team who scored three out of five in the Maths Olympiad 2.

The team will complete Maths Olympiad three when we come back from Term two holidays.

Mr. Crowley’s Problem For Holidays

Congratulations to the following children Beatriz Arellano, Ashlee Sebastian, Martha Buitizon, Joshua Sebastian, Patrick Iskander, Hayden Laurence, Isabelle George and Aadi Kumbhat who correctly answered last newsletters mathematical problem.

The answer was 15. Each student will receive two St. Pat on the Back awards.

The problem for the holiday’s is

To take pictures of Mathematics used in everyday life and present this as a collage on a piece of A4 cardboard.
Good Luck Mathematicians.

Parent/ Teacher/ Student Meetings

A big thank you to all the parents and students for your response to the invitation to discuss your child’s learning with their teachers. The teachers value this opportunity to acknowledge your child’s successes and plan the next steps in their learning journey for semester two.

Tom Crowley
Assistant Principal

Restorative Practices

a framework for building, repairing and maintaining healthy relationships for learning and for life.

Restorative Practices reflects our Catholic values of justice, compassion and love. It is about building and maintaining relationships and recognises that mistakes are opportunities for learning. Good relationships are the basis for learning and anything that affects relationships (such as inappropriate behaviour) impact on learning. Challenging inappropriate behaviour needs to be experienced as an opportunity for learning. Consequences are an important part of Restorative Practices and are designed to assist children to learn from their mistakes.

You are encouraged to be a part of the Restorative Practice Program to support your children in their learning for life, to talk with them about their understanding of the Restorative Practices approach at St Patrick’s and to discuss the following questions:

What happened?
Who has been hurt or is sad?
What were you thinking?
What are you thinking now?
What do you need to do to fix it?

Quality Catholic Schools (QCS) Survey 2015

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 cultural behaviour
- relationships
- learning community

The Catholic cultural behaviour data indicates that parents value the opportunity to pray and celebrate liturgies. Parents believe that the school makes compassion

important to the children and that there are opportunities for them to engage in social justice issues. The Catholic culture of our school is strong and we communicate this effectively through the opportunities for children to learn about and reflect on the Catholic faith.

Parents feel that they are given the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in the life of the school and that their views and concerns are taken seriously by the school. Parents indicated that their children are developing valuable social skills and have good relationships with their peers.

Parents believe that the teachers at St Patrick's are dedicated and passionate about teaching and provide stimulating learning. This is reflected in the data about their children's motivation to learn and a connectedness to school.

Parents would like to see a greater focus on the range and quality of the extra-curricular activities provided by the school and student management 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 to date and to identify ways in which we can continue to improve.

Year 2

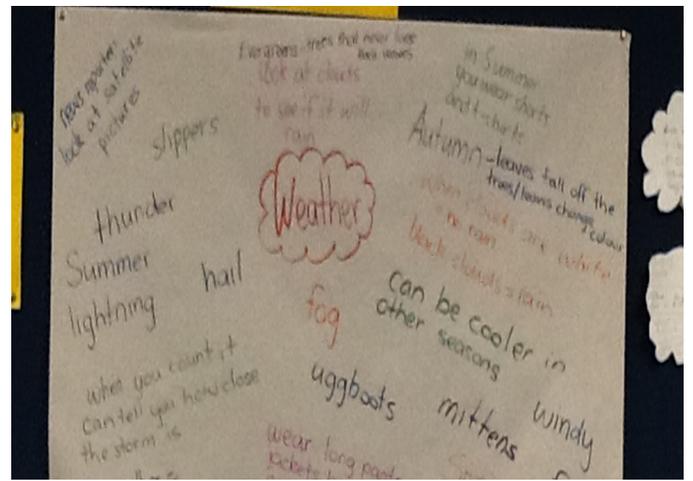
In Term 2, Year 2 has been learning about the weather. We started off the unit by exploring the different types of weather we have around the world and how various clouds are formed.

After that we researched activities/sports that we could do during hot, cold, warm and cool weathers. This led us into investigating clothes and the materials that the different clothes are made out of. We talked a lot about appropriate clothes we should wear during each of the four seasons.

We ended the unit by looking at the different types of shelters/houses that are found in various climates throughout the world. We discussed the materials that each of the houses are built out of and how these materials are suited to the climate found in that area.

We have enjoyed this unit, as we have been able to explore, research, investigate and experiment with different materials and technology. We have learnt so much about the weather.

We also painted some pictures to represent the different seasons we have in Australia.



As a Health Promoting School St Patrick's community values the health of students and aims to create an environment that supports healthy choices and behaviours. The Health Promoting Schools Framework is a 'whole of school' approach to developing effective health strategies.

Confectionery – lollies, sweets and chocolates - are special occasion foods and should not be brought to school.
Eating before and after school on the playground is not permitted
Chewing Gum and Bubble Gum are not permitted at school

Year 1 Excursion

Year One will be visiting The Museum of Fire in Penrith on Tuesday, 14th July 2015.

The cost of the excursion is included in your school fees.

The children are to wear their full sports uniform and will need to bring something to eat and drink for fruit break, recess and lunch in a clearly labelled plastic bag or backpack.

Please complete the permission note and return to school tomorrow, Friday, 26th June 2015.

Students arriving early to School

It has been noted that some students are arriving at school as early as 7:50am and are being dropped off at the entrance to the church to wait until the school gates are opened. This practice is unsafe as there is no supervision in this area and it is also open to the general public. Parents of students who arrive before 8:20am and are left unsupervised will be advised by letter that their child will be directed to COSHC (Catholic Out of School Hours Care). This is a fee-paying service for parents whose work hours prevent them from dropping off and collecting their children in school hours. School supervision commences at 8:30am and finishes at 3:30pm. COSHC may be contacted on 0404 835 838.

Students arriving late to School

Any student who is late to school after 9.00am must be signed in by a parent to the office and the students then make their way to the classroom by themselves.

When picking up a child earlier in the afternoon parents need to sign out the student at the office and the child will be called to the office. Due to child protection regulations parents are not permitted on school grounds during school hours unless signed in for a specific purpose.

Afternoon Pick Up

It has been noted that some students are at school after 3.30pm which is much later than our finishing time of 3.15pm. We remind parents that children will be brought to the office if not collected by 3.30pm. As there is no supervision in this area parents will be contacted the first time that their child is not picked up. On the second occasion at 3.35pm the children will be directed to COSHC where parents will need to collect their child. This is a fee-paying service for parents whose work hours prevent them from dropping off and collecting their children in school hours. COSHC may be contacted on 0404 835 838.

Partnership

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Ivana Siric in Year 4, she is the first person to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge for this year!

Any students who are having trouble accessing the website, please come and see me in the library at Break 2 and can solve the problem.

Also, don't forget to bring your completed reading log to the library when you are finished.

Joanne Beamish

P & F Cake Stall

Tomorrow, Friday 26th June our Parents & Friends will be holding a Cake Stall. Please support this day by sending in Cakes (sliced), Cup Cakes, Slices and Cookies Please NO NUTS.

Children may purchase cakes during 2nd Break at 1.40pm Cakes will be priced from 50c.

Cakes to be dropped off at the canteen on the morning of Friday, 26th June.

Clearly label any containers and lids with your child's name and class.

Office

School Fees

Term 2 School Fees should be now paid in full unless you have an arrangement in place. If you do not have an arrangement in place and are having any financial difficulties in paying your fees please contact the School Office on 9621 4122 to make an appointment with the Principal.

A due date for payment is on the Statement that you receive for your School Fees. If you are not on an arrangement and know that you will be late paying the fees after the due date please kindly contact Mrs Browne so that we can note your records.