

St Patrick's Bulletin

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

Diary Dates

National Literacy & Numeracy Week 25-31 July

Monday 28th July

Professional Learning Day -
Numeracy - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Tuesday 29th July

ICAS English Competition

Wednesday 30th July

Year 1 Excursion to Featherdale
Wildlife Park

Friday 1st August

- Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley City Farm
- Year 2 Parish Mass
- School Census Day

Wednesday 6th August

- 7.30pm P & F Meeting

Friday 8th August

- Year 1 Parish Mass
- Stage 2 Assembly
- 6.00pm & 7.30pm Reconciliation

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome to Term 3.

I hope you were able to enjoy precious time with family and friends and to appreciate the warm, sunny days of the holidays. On our return to school the cold mornings and evenings remind us that it is very much the season of winter.

This week we have been confronting the tragic news of a passenger plane brutally shot down over Ukraine. As the faces and stories of the innocent victims are revealed we become connected with the suffering of our human family. Their stories are not dissimilar to our own; excitedly returning home after visiting family in Europe or at the end of a holiday.

The reality is that irrespective of our background we have common aspirations about life. However, their story now becomes a tragedy of life as they became caught in the conflict of other peoples.

"Seeing life as sacred makes our differences far less frightening. More importantly, it makes sense of how like one another we are. We want to know that our lives are purposeful and sometimes gracious. We want to feel part of something greater than ourselves." (Seeking the Sacred, Stephanie Dowrick 2014)

As a Catholic community we are comforted by God's promise of resurrection to a new life. We pray that God will embrace those who died and their families left behind. We also pray for peace in our world so that all members of the human family may enjoy fully the wonder of our life.

St Paul in his inspiring letter to the people of Philippi encouraged them to, 'show an agreeable attitude to everyone'. He suggested how they might do this: 'All that is true, all that is worthy of reverence, all that is holy and good, all that is lovely to look at and beautiful to hear, all that has virtue and all that deserves praise, let that be the content of your thinking.' (Phil. 4:5, 8-9)

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

**Professional Learning Day
Monday, 28th July 2014
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Faith Community

Welcome back everyone to term 3. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday. This is always a great time, if you have the opportunity, to have a break in the normal routine. Even though it may be busy with children at home it's wonderful to catch up on some family time.

There are lots of exciting things happening this term on our Liturgy calendar. The first one being, the feast of Saints Anne and Joachim (26th July), the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus.

We celebrated this wonderful role of Grandparents on Thursday 24th July at a special Mass, followed by morning tea and a fantastic performance by our school choir in the teacher's courtyard, lead by Mrs. Karen Thoms, our music teacher.

It was terrific to see so many grandparents, parents, family and friends joining with us at St. Patrick's as we celebrate the special role grandparents play in all children's lives and family memories. Photos of our celebration will be on our School Website.

Pope Francis also acknowledges the special role grandparents play in all our lives.

"How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society! Children and the elderly build the future of people: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives."

"Grandparents are a treasure"- Pope Francis.

Looking forward to a great term!

Keep smiling!!

Maria Marks

Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator

Teaching & Learning

Staff

As Term 3 begins we welcome new staff and farewell staff moving to other schools or different ventures.

Farewell

At the end of Term 2 we farewelled and thanked Mr Ian Byrne for his leadership as Acting Assistant Principal and Stage 3 Teacher. Mr Byrne was committed to returning to his previous school, Good Shepherd, Plumpton. The students and staff appreciated Mr Byrne's teaching expertise and his professional and considerate manner.

Mr Jacob Melham has announced his retirement to commence from the beginning of Term 4. At the end of this term we will have the opportunity to acknowledge the service of two long- serving educators at St Patrick's, Mr Michael Curry and Mr Melham.

Mr Giovanni Gulli, Principal of Aspect Western Sydney School, has announced the transfer of Mr Phillip McNulty and Mrs Cathy Jones to St John Paul II College, formerly Terra Sancta College, Schofields. They are acknowledged for the outstanding education they have provided for the students in our Primary Blue (Autism Class), and in particular, Mr McNulty's service for the past eight years.

Welcome

Ms Danielle Fifield has been appointed as teacher to Primary Blue and we wish her a rewarding and successful journey at St Patrick's School. Ms Fifield joins the current Primary Blue staff of Mrs Lakshmi Iyer and Mrs Shirley Clark.

Mr Mark Baird has been appointed as Acting Assistant Principal and Stage 3 Teacher for Terms 3 and 4. Mr Baird continues the tradition of outstanding educators in this role at St Patrick's. Mr Baird has embraced our vision of building positive relationships and we look forward to working with him as we continue implementing Restorative Practices.

Staff Profile

My name is Mark Baird and I am part of the Stage 3 team at St Patrick's this year. For the remainder of 2014 I will be acting in the role of Assistant Principal. I have been teaching for 33 years in Catholic Schools, including 7 years at a Catholic Private School in Dural where I was the Director of Studies and Deputy Head of Primary. I graduated from the Australian Catholic University in 1981 and have a Bachelor of Education in Religious education.



My Master of Education was also completed in Religious Education.

St Patrick's Blacktown is my third St Patrick's school having taught at St Patrick's Guildford and, more recently, at Parramatta. This school is my tenth school, in my teaching career.

I enjoy gardening and completing projects around the house. We have a terrific kitchen at home from which I am banned, except for cleaning. (My wife is an excellent cook.) I play tennis on Monday nights with a great bunch of people who are very competitive and sledge mercilessly. I join in, I admit. It makes the evening a laugh a minute.

The smiling faces of the children, at St Patrick's Blacktown, and the welcome I have received from staff and parents, have been greatly appreciated. I hope that, over the next few months, I can get to know you all a lot better.

Restorative Practices

FAIR PROCESS

What is a child really meaning when they say, "That's not fair!"

We can be slightly cynical and say it is because he/she is not getting their own way. But if we take an honest look at the dynamic in operation here, we can see that the child is pointing out that some aspect of fair process is missing.

Justice and fairness provide the foundation upon which healthy relationships are built.

The central theme of fair process is that: 'individuals are most likely to trust and co-operate freely with systems - whether they themselves win or lose by those systems - when fair process is observed.'

The Three Elements of FAIR PROCESS

The best way to define Fair Process is to recall a time when you were treated unfairly; what was missing, what was it that people did not do? It is here that we discover the three elements of fair process:

1. LISTEN

Involving each person by asking for their input so they can tell their story.

2. SPEAK

Everyone involved and affected should be able to discuss why final decisions are made as they are.

3. UNDERSTAND

Once decisions are made, new rules are clearly stated, so that everyone understands what is expected.

ICAS Results

The results from the ICAS Computer Skills and Science competitions have arrived. The information, below, indicates those students who have achieved Merits, Credits and Distinctions. Congratulations and Well Done!

2014 Computer Skills

CREDIT - Monty Cartledge Year 4

CREDIT - Tanisha Prasad Year 4

MERIT - Martha Zofia Buitizon Year 5

CREDIT - Jerome Hernandez Year 5

DISTINCTION - Godwyn Gomez Year 5

2014 Science

DISTINCTION - Godwyn Gomez Year 5

These certificates will be handed to the students during the assembly on Friday.

Year 1 Excursion

Year One will be visiting Featherdale Wildlife Park at Doonside on **Wednesday, 30th July 2014**. The cost of the excursion is \$25.00.

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

Please complete the Permission Note attached and return to school with the Payment Envelope and the correct money by tomorrow Friday, 25th July 2014.

Kindergarten Excursion

Kindergarten will be travelling to Calmsley Hill City Farm at Abbotsbury on **Friday, 1st August**. The cost of the excursion is \$28.00. **Payment is now overdue.** If you have not returned the Permission Note and payment please do so as soon as possible.

The buses will leave school at 9.00am and will return by 3pm. The children are to wear their full Sports uniform and bring something to eat for recess and lunch plus drinks, in a clearly labelled plastic bag. No school bag needed.

Professional Learning Day

Monday, 28th July will be our Professional Learning Day. We will be focusing on Numeracy. **A reminder that there is No School for Students on this day.**

Student Foyer

The student foyer provides a safe place for students to access the office and to enter and leave school after and /or before the gates are locked /unlocked. As you enter the main foyer the student foyer is to the left of the school office. **This entrance is for student use only to comply with Child Protection guidelines.** Parents who have signed in at the office may then enter and exit the school through the side gates. Office staff will make this access available to parents when necessary. Your support in helping us to ensure student safety is appreciated.

Sport News

Welcome back to another busy term of sport for Semester 2. Currently we are running Netball tryouts for Stage 2 and Stage 3. These are being held during PE lessons and student teams will be released in weeks 2-3.

It has been an exciting time in the world over the past 4 weeks for soccer fans. The 2014 Football World Cup has just finished with Germany taking first place, playing and beating Argentina in the Grand Finals, 1-0.

Being such an exciting event for many of our students, we will be partaking in our own school version of the World Cup. Student teams will be formed and they will be representing a country in a series of matches throughout the term. Any students interested will need to see Mr T.

Congratulations to Jada Legge for his excellent efforts and skill in long distance running. He has made it to the All Schools Cross Country and competed last Friday.

Congratulations to Josh Acierda for passing his next grading in Karate.



Congratulations to Ray Brennan. He has been chosen to represent the NSW State Hockey Team as Goal Keeper.

Last term, our Swimming Age Champion Trophies were handed out.

Congratulations to the following students who were the Age Champions in their groups.



Sharli Ahmed
Kasey Mooy
Hallee Ward

Oskar Fergusson
Michael Carrick
James Solivet

Greg Tyszkiewicz
Sports Coordinator

Office

2015 Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 2015 Kindergarten Enrolments are now available. If your child is turning five (5) before 31st July 2015 please collect an application form from the office or alternatively download it from our website:- www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au **All applications need to be returned as soon as possible. Interviews are now taking place.**

School Fee Statements

All families would have received their school fee statements sent out from the Parramatta CEO. Term 3 payments are due Tuesday, 19th August 2014 and need to be paid as soon as possible or alternatively please contact Mrs Browne to make payment arrangements.

Notes

All notes issued to students will now be on our website for you to download. Please go to <http://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/notes-forms> or alternatively we can photocopy a copy of the note at a charge of 50 cents per page.

Partnership

PRC July

Congratulations to the following students for completing the Premier's Reading Challenge;

Mark Gao (Kindergarten)
Ibrat Gill (Kindergarten)
Lana Barrameda (Year 1)
John Mathew (Year 2)
Ivana Siric (Year 3)
Denzel Veloso (Year 4)
Farish Ahmed (Year 6)

Don't forget to bring your reading log to the library when you have completed the challenge.

Joanne Bearmish

Discover OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to attend the August Open Morning Tour in this special anniversary year when the College celebrates 125 years of Mercy Excellence.

Tour the College and discover contemporary learning and academic excellence in the Mercy tradition and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team. The College is now enrolling for 2015 and 2016.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Carpark

St Patrick's School community is very fortunate to have the use of a car park for dropping off and collecting students. However, the car park is a shared facility and on occasions it may be full when you arrive at school.

On Wednesday, 30th July you may not be able to use the car park. On this day there will be teachers and support staff from other Parramatta Diocesan schools attending Professional Learning in our MPA (also a shared facility).

If the car park is full please park on surrounding streets.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS OR AREAS THAT WILL BLOCK THE TRAFFIC FLOW