

# St Patrick's Bulletin

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

## Diary Dates

### Friday 8th August

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

### Tuesday 12th August

- ICAS Maths Competition
- Zone Athletics Carnival

### Friday 15th August

- Year 6 Fundraiser - Hot Dog & Drink Day Pre-orders only
- 12.00pm Assumption Mass

### Monday 18th August

10.00am Celebration Mass and Morning Tea for Mr Curry & Mr Melham

### Wednesday 20th August

10.00am Voice Of Youth Cluster Final

### Friday 22nd August

- 9.15am Infants Award Assembly
- 10.00am Parent Morning Coffee
- Diocesan Athletics Carnival

## From the Principal

### Dear Parents, Staff and Students

The month of August is when we remember two women of great faith, resilience and courage. As parents and teachers we want our children to be resilient and faith-filled so that they can experience a contented life and be able to make a difference in our world.

On the 8th August, the anniversary of her death, we celebrate the feast day of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross, Australia's first saint.

Mary MacKillop laid the foundations for Catholic schools as they exist in Australia today with the formation of her Sisters of St. Joseph. Mary's legacy continues to be lived out by her Sisters, who work with those in need, and by the lay staff in our Catholic schools who are inspired by her vision.

The feast of the Assumption of Mary on 15th August reminds us that Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother too, faced her challenges in life with humility and faith. Her willingness to say 'yes' to God is evidence of her enduring faith. Mary is a source of strength, as through her inspiration, we pray for a deeper trust in God's love and an enlivened faith so that we may be more resilient with our own struggles and be able to support others in their pain and suffering.

*God Bless  
Mrs Anne Marrins  
Principal*

**Yr 6 Fundraiser  
Hot Dog & Drink Meal Day  
Friday, 15th August  
Pre Orders Only**

# Faith Community

Over the next month there are a number of feasts and special days to celebrate.

Tomorrow is the feast of Mary of the Cross Mackillop. Australia's first Saint. We will honour her at morning assembly with a special prayer celebration. This will compliment what the students have studied during class time.

We also warmly invite all parents and friends to attend the feast of the Assumption Mass on Friday 15th August at 12 o'clock.

Fast approaching is the special feast of Our Lady of Mercy. This feast is actually during the holidays on the 24th September. The Mercy Sisters established our school and have had a strong presence here in Blacktown for a long time. We value strongly our Mercy traditions and links with Catherine McAuley. Catherine McAuley founded the sisters of Mercy in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland.

Catherine McAuley believed in:

- The empowerment of the individual
- The promotion of Christian Values
- The transformation of Society
- The building of community
- The value and empowerment of Education.



**MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

## Prayer for MIA

God of the immense universe,  
God of each human heart,  
We thank You and we praise You.  
We are people from many parts of the world-  
diverse of tongue, talent and place-  
who pray together as  
friends of mercy and  
friends for mercy.  
We are united by a spirit and a story  
born in a house in Dublin,  
now spread to the outer reaches of the earth  
and the inner recesses of the heart.  
As friends in mercy,  
united in that spirit and story,  
we commit ourselves to  
preserving the best of the past,  
fostering the best of the present,  
and shaping the best for the future.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
with the help of Our Lady of Mercy,  
and inspired by the life of Catherine McAuley.  
Amen.

© Mary Wickham RSM for Mercy International Association 2014

During the next month we will focus on a special prayer to celebrate twenty years of Mercy International- a uniting of Mercy ministries around the world. Below is a copy of the prayer we are all asked to pray from the 24th August until 23rd September. As we pray this prayer, wherever we are, let us be united in our concern for one another and for a world 'in need of God's compassion and mercy'. (MIA Vision Statement)

We also pray for the children who are making their First Reconciliation on Friday night. May we keep them in our prayers.

Keep Smiling

Maria Marks

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Teaching & Learning Staff Profile

I spent most of my childhood growing up in the Northern Beaches and in 2004 I completed my Bachelor of Education in Primary Education at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

I have three amazing children: Kayla, Montana and Cooper. They are the light of my life and provide me with non-stop entertainment. Kayla is 14, Montana is 8 and Cooper is an incredibly cute and cheeky 3 year old. With my gorgeous 'peeps' I never have a dull moment.



I love traveling and recently came back from a 3 week holiday in France. While my ability to speak French is lacking to say the least, I loved meeting the local people and experienced some amazing sites and delicious French food.

I've been teaching at St Patrick's since 2005 and have taken on many roles. I'm currently teaching Year 4 and I am enjoying running the very talented Creative Arts group that will represent St Patrick's later this month.

### Farewell to Staff

You are invited to a celebration of the faithful service to St Patrick's School community of Mr Michael Curry and Mr Jacob Melham.

Mr Curry has been Assistant Principal and Teacher for 20 years and Mr Melham, Coordinator and Learning Support Teacher for 17 years at St Patrick's. They will end their association with St Patrick's at the end of Term 3. They have both had a significant impact on the learning of hundreds of students over two generations. Many of their students have returned, confident that their happy learning experiences will be repeated for their own children.

On Monday 18th August there will be a special Mass at 10:00am in St Patrick's Church followed by a Morning Tea to acknowledge two outstanding educators. An invitation will be sent home tomorrow.

## Staff News

We would like to congratulate Mrs Ivanka Glavas and her husband, Luke on the birth of their third child Oliver. Both mum and bub are doing well.

## Kindergarten Excursion

Last Friday Kindergarten visited Calmsley Hill Farm for their excursion. The children were very excited about their bus trip to the farm, with everybody arriving at school right on time.

When we arrived at the farm we were introduced to our 3 guides for the day, Farmer Del, Farmer Alison and Farmer Stephanie. Our farmers took us on an exciting tour of the farm where we got to touch baby farm animals like rabbits and chicks. We also walked through the baby animal pen where we patted baby goats and sheep.

Later in the morning we met Annie, Calmsley Hill's dairy cow. We learnt how to squeeze the teats and squirt the milk into the bucket underneath. Even the teachers had a go! After we met Annie we got to go on a tractor ride through the farm. It was lots of fun and very bumpy!



We got to see farmer Greg crack the whip and shear the sheep. We even got to take some wool home with us. After the sheep show we met some more animals. We saw pigs, horses, cows, a donkey, a camel and even some alpacas!

After lunch we watched the dog show. We met Dot and Marley who are Calmsley Hill's sheep dogs. They showed us how the dogs round up the sheep and herd them into the paddock. Marley was a bit naughty. She just liked to run up and down really fast while Dot did all the work!

We had a really great time on our excursion. We are looking forward doing some exciting classroom learning about all the amazing things we saw on the farm.

## Creative Arts Expo

On Wednesday 27th August a group of students from Years 3 to 6 are excitedly looking forward to showcasing their dance and drama talents at the 2014 Creative Arts Expo. Our students have been rehearsing under the direction of Ms Jaye and Mr Shaw from the end of Term 1. St Patrick's students will perform an item called 'Moments in Time' along with the items from the four other schools in our cluster at the Evan Theatre, Panthers Club, Mulgoa Road, Penrith at 7:00pm. If your child is part of the performance three tickets were reserved for purchase for each family at a cost of \$15 per ticket from 14th July.

If you would like more than three tickets, or other families who wish to attend, the sale of tickets is now open to everyone.

1. Ticketek website: [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au) (booking fees will apply)
2. Ticketek call Centre: Phone bookings 132 849 (booking fees will apply)
3. Penrith Panthers: Reception Desk In person - 9am to 10pm daily - (no booking fees for cash or Eftpos transactions)

## National Literacy & Numeracy Week

National Literacy and Numeracy Week is being held from 25-31 August.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week is a celebration of literacy and numeracy- core skills that help students succeed at school and later in life. This dedicated week gives us an opportunity to highlight the importance of these skills and engage students in learning through fun activities.

At St. Patrick's, we will be focusing on Poetry in Literacy and Arrays in Numeracy. Keep your eyes peeled in the Week 6 Bulletin for our school activities. In addition, we will be holding our Book Week celebrations in the same week. More information regarding this initiative is available at [www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au)

## Year 1 Visits Featherdale!

On Wednesday 30th July, Year 1 went on an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. We have done lots of writing and drawing about the animals we saw there. Here are some examples of the Year 1 students' writing.



Featherdale was really, really fun! We got to see lots of Australian animals like wombats and some really big eagles. My favourite part was seeing a crocodile that looked like a statue but was actually alive! We had a lesson at the Learning Burrow and we got to pat the animals. We got to pat a Diamond Python, a Tawny Frog Mouth and a Shingleback Lizard. We had a great day at Featherdale Park. Dominik DLabaya

Year 1 had so much fun at Featherdale. I saw a kangaroo with a joey in her pouch. It was so cute! I also saw a Blue Tongue Lizard. We saw koalas in their trees and we even got to pat a koala called Cleo. We saw lots of different birds, like owls. We also saw bats hanging upside down near a heat light to keep them warm. There were also dingoes with their dingo puppies. It was a great day and I can't wait to go back again! Ryah Mokoia

## Pat on the Back Awards

We wish to acknowledge the names of the children who have already received their bronze St Pat on the Back Awards but were not recognised in the bulletin.

Shedrach Okoduwa	Dasha Danylevych
Dorian Bradley-Wilkinson	Tyreece Morgan
Savannah Pascoa	Arjun Pillay
Zaran Mortimer	Emmanuel Ona
Ethan Quinn	Jasmine Germino
Oscar Waring	Monyping Mogping
Beatriz Arellano	Martha Buitizon
Aleisha Macaraeg	Alex Kingsley
	Adam Jovanovic

Silver St Pat on the Back Award recipient:  
Jasmine Germino

## Sport News

Week 4 Highlights:

Touch football tryouts were held on Wednesday for all students in Stage 2. It's great to see a large number of students try out. Student teams will be announced in Week 5.

Registrations close this Friday for the St Patrick's Soccer World Cup. Any students still interested in participating please see Mr. T with your team.

Week 5 Highlights:

Tuesday week 5, St Patrick's will be competing at the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival. 38 students will be representing our school in their qualified events.

Thank you to Mark Laurance who has agreed to assist on the day as the Starter. Parents are welcome to attend the day to watch their child's event.

Week 6 Highlights:

Tuesday week 6, our junior and senior netball teams will be competing in the St Nicholas Netball Gala Day at the Jamison Park Netball Complex. Thank you to Kirsty Mooy and Jennifer Thompson who have agreed to assist in coaching teams on the day.

Also, thank you to the Michelle Jarrett, Robyn Hardie and Jaye Harkin who have given up their recess and lunch breaks to coaching their respective teams.

On Thursday, 4th September, Little Athletics Australia will be visiting our school to promote Little Athletics, Healthy Lifestyles and Fitness. It is a free event that all students will be attending.

## Office 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.

## Moving School

The Catholic Education Office has developed a Policy relating to the notice required from parents to terminate their children's enrolment in the schools of the Parramatta Diocese. In part this states that "A terms notice (10 weeks) in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be paid. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term. This means that unless the school receives a term's notice no pro rata adjustment will be given for part term tuition. Notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment. In this circumstance the requirement for 10 weeks notice will be waived.

## Partnership PRC August

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

Alexandra Iskander (Kindergarten)	
Lydia Brown (Kindergarten)	Cai Marshall (Kindergarten)
Callum Marshall (Kindergarten)	Max Zhao (Kindergarten)
Priyesh Chand (Year 2)	Rigel Rivamonte (Year 2)
Aadi Kumbhat (Year 2)	Patrick Iskander (Year 3)
Nicole Zhang (Year 3)	Chelsey Beltejar (Year 4)
Audrey Ruiz (Year 4)	Samuel Sadek (Year 4)
	Michael Carrick (Year 6)

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

Joanne Beamish