

# St Patrick's Bulletin

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

## Diary Dates

Friday 19th September  
Last Day of Term



Monday 6th October  
Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 7th October  
**Students Return - Summer Uniform**

Wednesday 8th October  
Primary Blue Students Return

Friday 10th October  
Stage 3C Green Parish Mass  
Stage 3 Touch Gala Day

Sunday 12th October  
First Eucharist 10.00am

Monday 13th October  
Assembly Prayer

Friday 17th October  
Stage 3A Orange Parish Mass

## Notes Sent Home

- ACARA

## From the Principal

### Dear Parents, Staff and Students

We are very fortunate here at St Patrick's to have a wonderful community who care for the school. I would like to thank all those who attended our Working Bee on Saturday under the great leadership of Mrs Carol Hawkes with Miss Nathalie Casten keeping everyone's stomachs full supplying catering. Thank you for your dedication in giving up your valuable time on the weekend. The place looks fantastic! Spring has well and truly sprung in our beautiful gardens.

Tomorrow we say a sad farewell to Mr Jacob Melham, who begins his well-earned retirement. Jacob has given St Patrick's 17 years of dedicated service. During this time he has touched the hearts of many students, teachers and parents in his role as a Special Education Teacher. Jacob has also held leadership positions of Coordinator and Acting Assistant Principal where he has been part of a team managing and steering the school. While he will be sadly missed, we wish him happiness in his busy life ahead during retirement.

Last Friday also saw the community come together to celebrate the important role that fathers fulfil in their family life. I'm told it was a wonderful event with a great breakfast, fun games and a beautiful liturgy. Thanks go to Mrs Maria Marks and all her team. What a great job!

The last two weeks have also seen the swimming program up and running. Thank you for sending your children so well prepared for lessons. I'm sure that there will be a future Ian Thorpe or Stephanie Rice among our swimmers here at St Patrick's.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work over the term and wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable holiday.

*Miss Deb Sheridan*  
*Acting Principal*

**Last Day of Term 3**  
**Friday, 19th September**  
**Happy & Safe Holiday!**

# Faith Community

Hard to believe its week 10! The term has disappeared very quickly and been very busy. We had a terrific celebration last week for Father's Day. It was wonderful to see so many dads, grandfathers and special carers at our breakfast, playing soccer and at our liturgy. All who were present were treated to a gourmet breakfast prepared and cooked by our teachers. A big thanks to all our staff who contributed to the morning to make it a successful and enjoyable event. The liturgy was very special, the MPA being lined with special tributes from the children to their dads, grandfathers and carers.

Thank you dads, grandfathers and carers for coming along and being part of our celebration.

We would also like to thank our wonderful parents who gave up their time to help with the Fathers' Day Stall. Your help is very much appreciated!

This week will see us continue our focus on our Mercy traditions. Today we had a mufti day, to raise money for Mercy works and the children in East Timor.

We completed the day with a special celebration honouring Our Lady of Mercy and reflecting on our Mercy traditions.

Please keep all the children preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time in your prayers. They will celebrate this in October.

Have a great holiday and a well-earned rest.

Remember, a smile is a prayer-so keep smiling!

Maria Marks

Acting Religious Education Coordinator



# Teaching & Learning

## Staff Profile

I have had the privilege of being a teacher for almost forty one years.

My philosophy on life is very simple. Be true to yourself, your family and others. Adopt a positive attitude and be respectful to one and all.

I am married to the most beautiful woman in the world and am the proud father of the most beautiful daughter in the world.

I enjoy playing lawn bowls, gardening, doing odd jobs, problem solving, going to cafes and spending time with family and friends. I am grateful for everything that life offers and it has been a privilege to teach at St Patrick's for so long.

The staff, parents and students have been a delight and I thank them for making my time here so enjoyable.

## Quality Catholic Schools (QCS) Survey 2014

In March this year every Catholic school in the Diocese of Parramatta participated in the Quality Catholic Schools Survey. All staff members, 70 parents, 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, provided information about:

- cultural behaviour
- relationships
- learning community

The cultural behaviour data indicates that parents value their child's involvement in a local Catholic parish. Parents believe there are many opportunities for expressions of faith provided by the school. The Catholic culture of our school is strong and we communicate this effectively in our practices and behaviour.

Parents feel their children have positive relationships with other students and are developing effective social skills. Their children want to be at school and are motivated by the teaching and learning provided by school.

Parents believe that the educational programs address the learning needs of their children. Parents indicated that the Homework supports student learning and teaches organisational skills.



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 known by the 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 3 Excursion

On Friday the 29th of August Year 3 went on an excursion. We split up into 3 groups. We went to different rooms and then Jacqui told us about the rats. I dressed up like a convict and put the chains on my legs. We slept on the beds that were hammocks. Faanuu



On the 29th August Year 3 went to Hyde Park Barracks that is in the city. There was a museum that had all about the convicts.

I saw fossils about the rats. Our guide took us upstairs. There were hammocks that were on the right side. We saw the ships of the First Fleet. Ethanael



My favourite thing on our excursion was when our guide told us only a blacksmith could lock and unlock the chain on the convict's legs. It's very tricky to walk with the chains on your legs. I don't want to be a convict because they ate disgusting food like meat stew. It would have been very yucky because the whole place was covered in rats but they're all gone now. Alexander

Our guide Jacqui told us that the worst punishment was Solitary Confinement. It is a dark room with no lights, no windows and possibly no beds. She also taught us that the good convicts got a note that said "You are no longer a convict. You are a free man." The other punishments were the cat'o'nine tails and leg irons. It was really fun. Joshua S  
More Photos are on our website.

### Spring Working Bee 2014

I was a bit concerned when it started raining near Blacktown. I was so happy when I arrived at school and the rain had stopped. We had a great day for gardening.

Nandinas and Bird of Paradises were planted near the Year 4 classrooms. Three Rosemary plants were planted near our flagpole, which is where we celebrate Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. The petunias planted in front of the staff room should look very colourful throughout Spring.



The English Daisies and white daisies planted in clumps will brighten up the entrance to our school.

The parents, children and teachers did a great job transporting and digging into the gardens the humongous mound of cow manure.

The huge pile of bark slowly disappeared as it was placed on the gardens.

The parents who worked on the gardens in front of the office did an amazing job pruning and shaping the grasses. The windows in front of Year 4, Year 3 and the library are gleaming.

Thank you Miss Casten for providing morning tea for the gardeners.

St Patrick's School really does appreciate the hard work contributed by our dedicated parents, students, siblings and teachers who gave up their Saturday morning to improve our school grounds. Thank you to everyone who came and worked so hard at the working bee. Carol Hawkes

## Voice of Youth

This term Stage 3 participated in the diocesan wide public speaking program "Voice of Youth".

On 20th August, three students were selected to represent St Patrick's at our cluster final held at St Bernadette's Primary at Lalor Park.

Those three students;- Hannah Willoughby, Jessica Hanna and Shaquania Dennis, performed brilliantly on the day and were a credit to our school.



Jessica Hanna was awarded both the Social Justice Award and Runner up finalist for the cluster with her inspiring speech on "Children in Poverty". Congratulations Jessica and well done to all the participants!

## Sport News

### Jump Rope For Heart Update

Last term, St Patrick's participated in the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program to help encourage children to lead healthy lifestyles and to raise money for research to help in the fight against heart disease and stroke.

A great effort from all students means we were able to fundraise over \$3600!

Well done St Patrick's!

A special mention to our Year 1 student, Skylar Briggs, who was our biggest fundraiser raising \$545 for the Heart Foundation! Skylar was awarded a special appreciation award from Jump Rope for Heart at our assembly last Friday.



Jump Rope for Heart has also donated back to the school a rebate of \$390 which will go towards the purchase of some new playground equipment.

Thank you to everyone who participated and assisted with the Jump Rope program and a special thank you to our Stage 3 Jump Rope Leaders for their time and dedication running jump rope groups throughout the term and assisting on the Jump Off Day. Carmel Shields

## Partnership

### PRC September

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

Jeremy Espina (Kindergarten)  
Skylar Briggs (Year 1)  
Vince Bacani (Year 5)

The Premier's Reading Challenge is now over for 2014. Certificates for students who completed the challenge will be arriving towards the end of Term 4.

Joanne Beamish

### CARES Open Day

Where: Auto Place x Peter Brock Drive, Prospect

When: 24th September 2014

Time: 10am - 3pm

- Bring your own helmet & bike.
- Road Safety Information
- Safety Checks & Skills Course
- NSW Push Bike Squad
- Cake Stall & Sausage Sizzle
- Face Painting
- Participant Show Bag

Enquiries: [caresprospect@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:caresprospect@police.nsw.gov.au)

### Rollercoaster

#### A Curriculum for Children

FOR KIDS WHOSE FAMILIES ARE CHANGING

Group activities for children age 6-11 who are experiencing & struggling with Family separation | Parents' divorce | Family changes

Six Tuesdays 21st October to 25th November, 2014

Time: 3.30pm - 4.45 pm. After school

Venue: CatholicCare 51 -59 St Patrick's Allawah Street Blacktown

Bookings: Phone 9933 0222 to reserve a place

Cost: \$5 per session (concessions available)

#### Topics Covered

Week 1: Everything is different

Week 2: Is it my fault?

Week 3: I wish everything was back to normal

Week 4: I am so mad!

Week 5: How can I manage?

Week 6: What I have learned?