

St Patrick's Bulletin

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

Diary Dates

Friday 17th October

Stage 3A Orange Parish Mass

Sunday 19th October

Eucharist 10.00am

Friday 24th October

Stage 3B Purple Parish Mass

Sunday 26th October

- Mission Sunday
- First Eucharist 10.00am

Friday 31st October

- Assembly Prayer - All Saints
- Year 4 Parish Mass
- World Teachers Day

Tuesday 4th November

Kindergarten 2015 Parent Meeting 7.00pm

Wednesday 5th November

Kindergarten Orientation Day
Group 1 9.30am - 11.00am

Thursday 6th November

Spider Drink Day

Friday 7th November

Professional Learning Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome back to another term! I'm sure you enjoyed the opportunity to be with your children and had a great time with them. They looked refreshed and ready for another great term of learning

This term promises to be a very busy term. We have the students from Stage 3 and 2 at Touch Football Gala Days, Sacramental Program for First Communion, 2015 Kindergarten Orientation, Staff Development Day for Faith Formation, Year 5 Leadership Day, Year 6 Graduation and a Christmas concert. We look forward to a great term.

Last Sunday, I had the pleasure of attending the Sacrament of First Communion at St Patrick's Church. It was a privilege to see so many of our students on the weekend and in the coming weeks take the opportunity to become initiated members of our church.

All these young people looked superb on the day and were an absolute credit to their families. Mums and dads looked so proud as photos were taken, congratulations given and plans to celebrate were made. It is wonderful that each person has such fabulous support from their families as they make the commitment to be followers of Christ, receiving Jesus, who will always be with them as they go through life.

It was very fitting that the Gospel of the day was the parable of the invitation to the wedding banquet. Many were asked and few took up the invitation. Jesus told this story so that people would realise that God invites us all to join with Him to create the Kingdom of God. Our students have taken up their invitation and begin their journey of faith, as members of our Church.

*Miss Deb Sheridan
Acting Principal*

**Professional Learning Day
Friday, 7th November
No School for Students**

Faith Community

Welcome back to term 4! We had a great finish up to term 3 with our Mercy Works Mufti Day and Liturgy. We raised \$600 for Mercy works in East Timor. A great Effort! Year 4 were outstanding with \$ 157.00 collected!!! Congratulations to everyone for your generosity. Sister Ailsa was very happy with our donation.

October is the month of the Rosary. The word Rosary means " Crown of Roses". Our Lady has revealed to some people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. It is a very powerful prayer, one we can all say together. Our Lady will always grant our request.

We began our term with a special prayer celebration to Our Lady of the Rosary asking her to bless our world and pray for peace. This month our focus will be praying the Rosary in parts and remembering all the countries in the world who are suffering from war and turmoil. Each child has been given a set of Rosary Beads to enable them to practise saying the rosary with their class and at home.

I would ask everyone to pray the rosary for internal peace, peace in our own lives and world peace.

Please remember all the children who are receiving The Eucharist for the first time from our school.

They are:

12th October: Abiatara Peter, Abigail Caraig and Jack Stewart

19th October: Montgomery Cartledge, Aleisha- Renee Macaraeg, Rily Scicluna, Lauren Sebastian.

26th October: Jennifer Ilencik, Julian Perez, Audrey Ruiz, Angela Thompson, Denzel Veloso.

We congratulate them on this very special occasion for them and their families.

Keep smiling!

Maria Marks

Acting Religious Education Coordinator



Teaching & Learning

Staff Profile

My name is Robyn Hardie and I began my teaching career at St Patrick's in 1981. During my 33 years here, I have worked both full-time and part-time as classroom teacher, co-ordinator, executive release teacher and RFF teacher. I am currently teaching Year 3 for the 6th year. I get great satisfaction in working with children and experiencing their growth throughout each year.



Outside of school, I have been married to Greg for almost 25 years. We have 3 children – Mitchell, Damien and Danielle. I have a love for sports and play competition tennis twice a week. I missed the netball season this year due to my back injury but hope to resume next year. I also follow basketball – go the Kings!

My other love is for the outdoors. I go camping every Christmas and each long weekend. Last year we travelled to Cape York and experienced some spectacular sights, lots of bumpy roads and red dust. When I retire I hope to visit more remote parts of Australia.

A Visit from Bishop Michael

Bishop Michael from Sudan, is visiting Blacktown during the month of October. He last visited our shores for World Youth Day. During his stay he will celebrate mass and spend time with the community.

Last Friday St Patrick's School was blessed to receive a visit from him. He went into the classrooms and spent time with our students asking them lots of questions. He was particularly interested in discovering the towns and cities that some of our Sudanese population originate from. The children were very excited to have such an honoured guest here at Blacktown. It was a welcomed interruption to our normal day and we are privileged that Bishop Michael gave so freely of his time to talk and be with us.





Office

School Fee Statements

All families would have received their school fee statements sent out from the Parramatta CEO. A reminder that all fees are due to be paid by **Tuesday, 11th November**. Please contact the school office if you wish to discuss your statement with Mrs Shannan Browne.

School Office hours are 8.30am – 3.30pm with Wednesday mornings opening at 8.55am. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. Payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3.30pm.

2015 Kindergarten Information Night

A reminder that the 2015 Kindergarten Information Night for parents is on this Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00pm.

Kindergarten Orientation Morning

The Kindergarten Orientation Mornings are **Group 1** Wednesday, 5th & Wednesday, 12th November and **Group 2** Thursday, 6th November & Thursday, 13th November from 9.30am to 11.00am. You should have received your letter confirming which day your child needs to attend. **Parents are invited to attend an information session from 9.30am to 11.00am on their respective day.**

Kindergarten commences school in 2015 with full day attendance on Monday, 2nd February.

School Starters

The Kindergarten 2015 School Starters Program will be run every Thursday from 20th November until the 4th December. The program runs from 9:15am till approximately 10.40am and is held in the Library. Parents are asked to help tidy up after each session.

Professional Learning Day

Friday, 7th November will be our Professional Learning Day. We will be focusing on our Spiritual Formation. **A reminder that there is No School for Students on this day.**

Spider Drink Day

Our Year 6 Fundraiser for the Graduation Dinner will be a Spider Drink Day on Thursday, 6th November.

Cost \$2 (\$1 Refill) Sold at Lunchtime.

Sport News

On Friday of week 1, the stage 3 boys and girls team finally competed against the other schools in our area in touch football. This event had been rescheduled many times due to wet weather and the students were very excited to finally be playing. It was a successful day to both teams, both wins and losses. Thank you to Mr. Shaw for coaching the stage 3 touch football team and attending on this day.

This Friday, Stage 2 will be participating in the Touch Football Gala Day at the Kingsway Playing Fields in St Mary's. Parents are welcome to come and support their child. Thanks to Rebecca Whebe and Shaquania Dennis whom have assisted in coaching this team. Greg Tyszkiewicz
Sports Coordinator

Congratulations Stephanie

St Patrick's is thrilled with the news that we received today. Stephanie Nwosu will be representing NSWPSA at Penguin, Tasmania in November. Stephanie came first in the 200 metre event at the Mackillop Championships. We look forward to seeing her compete and represent St Patrick's. Stephanie is a rising Star in the making!

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 is not a safe practice 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. Anne Marrins

Students arriving late to School

Any student who is late to school after 9.15am 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. Anne Marrins

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 the parents will be phoned the first time that your child hasn't been picked up. At 3.35pm all 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. Anne Marrins

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.

Partnership

Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting

All parents are warmly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting for the Parent & Friends Association.

This meeting will be held in November and we will keep you informed of a date and time.

Pink Ribbon Day

Throughout the Month of October we are supporting Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Awareness.

Available at the office are:

Wrist Bands \$4	Enamel Pin \$5
Pens \$6	Bracelet \$7
Diamande Brooch \$10	

President P & F Association Canteen

The Canteen is opened on a voluntary basis on Monday and Friday at Break 2 (Lunch) to provide children with Zooper Dooper water ice blocks & Cordial.

Fruit and Popcorn will be sold occasionally.

Zooper Dooper 50 cents Cup of Cordial 50 cents
No other food will be sold. If you could spare some time and help please leave your details at the office.

Rollercoasters Children's Program

Our next Rollercoasters program for children aged between 6–11yrs of age whose families are experiencing change through separation or divorce begins on the 21st of October 2014 at St Patrick's Church Offices 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown

We meet after school from 3.30pm till 4.45pm for six Tuesdays, ending on 25th November. There is a nominal charge of \$5 per child per session. Fees can be negotiated. A light snack is provided.

Using information, activities and games we explore areas such as:

- * CHANGES that have resulted from the parent's separation
- * FEELINGS and the grief children experience around the parent's separation
- * ANGER and ways children can express it constructively
- * PROBLEMS and situations children can and cannot change

The program allows children to explore, understand their experiences, and to express their feelings and concerns in a safe environment with other children experiencing similar issues.

If you feel that your child could benefit from attending the course, please phone Allan Mackey at CatholicCare Social Services on 9933 0222.