



St Patrick's Bulletin

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

Diary Dates



Tuesday 9th February

2.10 Shrove Tuesday Liturgy

Wednesday 10th February

Ash Wednesday

12pm Mass Yrs 3-6

12.30pm Liturgy Yrs K-2

Friday 12th February

Parent Coffee Morning

Sunday 14th February

1st Sunday Lent

Wednesday 17th February

Parent Information Sessions

Yrs 1-6 3.30-4.30pm

6.30-7.30pm

Thursday 18th February

Zone Swimming Carnival

Parent Information Session

Kindergarten

3.30-4.30pm

Friday 19th February

9.15am P&F Meeting

From the Principal

'Unlocking Potential at St Patrick's in 2016'

Welcome to the New School Year!

I would like to welcome each of you to the 2016 school year, especially those families who are joining our community this year. I wish you many rewarding and fulfilling experiences at St Patrick's.

The beginning of the school year is a wonderful opportunity to begin anew and for students, teachers and parents to set goals for the year that will enable growth in learning.

Each year we develop a mantra to inspire our learning journey. This year our mantra is Unlocking Potential at Patrick's in 2016.

As Pope Francis has declared 2016 as a Year of Mercy our mission is to work together to build 'St Patrick's as a place of Mercy where we welcome, love and forgive everyone'.

Your child's values and learning can be greatly enhanced by your expectations at home, in particular, but also through involvement in school activities.

It is a parent's enthusiasm, support and modelling that will inspire their children to do their best. Children frequently adopt attitudes and opinions held by the adults they look up to; and showing mercy to others and enthusiasm for learning, are no exception. If children sense that parents consider being a person of faith, a good citizen and a learner to be a high priority, they are likely to view these values in a more positive manner themselves.

I welcome your involvement in a partnership of home, school and parish in our shared mission as we 'unlock the potential' for each student in this Year of Mercy.

God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal

Faith Community

Welcome to 2016 and to this special Jubilee Year of Mercy. For the St. Patrick's community this year reiterates what we are all about as a Mercy School. The Sisters of Mercy have left us a legacy of mercy values by which we try to live.

Catherine McAuley chose certain Gospel Values that were important to her to help her make decisions and live her life. She also asked her Sisters of Mercy to use these values to help them make decisions. This is why we call them Mercy Values: excellence, compassion, respect, service, hospitality & social justice.

We see these values throughout the Bible. Pope Francis tells us that through "Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible.... The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us." (2015, Misericordiae Vultus)

Pope Francis asks us to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works ask us: "to feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead and heal the sick." The spiritual works of mercy call on us "to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill and pray for the living and the dead." (2015, Misericordiae Vultus)

How will we fair this year? Will we live out the Mercy values? Some of these works we are already involved in doing, others will challenge us. Our Mercy theme for this year is that "St. Patrick's is a place of mercy, where we welcome, love and forgive everyone."

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coor

Teaching & Learning

Welcome back to 2016. I look forward to working with you and your children in unlocking the potential of all members in the St. Patricks Community.

Mathematical Assessment Interviews

A big thanks to all parents and children who came for the Mathematical Assessment Interviews on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. The children, who were unable to make these Interviews, will be assessed by their teacher over the next couple of weeks. These Mathematical Assessments are important as they give each teacher an opportunity

to get to know the students and gives the teacher an understanding of where each child is at in Mathematics.

2016 School Action Plan and Goals

Every school in the Parramatta diocese develops an Action Plan in the Areas of Religious Education, English and Mathematics to set goals in these areas to achieve by the end of the Academic school year. These goals are developed by all members of staff and based on the needs of the school. Our goals in 2016 are

Religious Education:

To build student understanding of our faith through prayers that are linked to tradition and Scripture.

English:

For all students to improve their writing with a focus on purpose and audience.

Mathematics:

For all students to improve their mental and written strategies in addition and subtraction.

Kind regards

Tom Crowley

Assistant Principal

Kindergarten

The first week of Kindergarten has been a fun filled learning experience for our newest St Patrick's students. The children have been busy learning about our school, making new friends and becoming familiar with daily routines. They have enjoyed spending time with their Stage 3 buddies and meeting all of our friendly students on the playground. It has been a magnificent start to their seven years at St Patrick's Primary School.



WELCOME TO STAFF for 2016

Mrs Margaret Wade, Stage 3 Teacher, is an experienced educator. She is known for her commitment to her faith, excellent teaching and expertise as a Numeracy Intervention Teacher with the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Program.

Miss Katherine Fodra, Year 1 Teacher, has a Bachelor of Primary Education from the University of Notre Dame. She brings her commitment to her faith and experience in teaching students in the early years of learning.

Mrs Divine Breen, has experience teaching from Kindergarten to Year 6 and is currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate of Theology. She is known for her commitment to her faith and involvement in her parish with St Vincent de Paul and as a Youth Leader.

Mr Grant Johnson, Year 2 Teacher, was educated at Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown and has a Bachelor of Education from the Australian Catholic University. Mr Johnson is passionate about teaching, Catholic education and upholding Catholic values. We welcome our new teachers to our community and wish them a rewarding and successful journey at St Patrick's.

Teaching Staff

Kindergarten	Mrs Stephanie Attard	Mrs Estelle Kroutz
Year 1	Miss Natalie Casten	Miss Katherine Fodra
Year 2	Mrs Jodie Jefferson/ Mrs Robyn Hardie (Wed,Thur)	Mr Grant Johnson
Year 3	Mr Justine Brown	Mrs Victoria Matterson
Year 4	Mrs Divine Breen	Mrs Silvana Murphy/ Mrs Natalie Coghlan (Thur, Fri)
Stage 3 Years 5/6	Mrs Karen Knowles Mrs Fiona Battaglia (Mon,Tues)	Mrs Margaret Wade Mrs Alison Gudaitis (Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Leadership Team 2016

Principal	Mrs Anne Marrins	Stage Coordinator
Assistant Principal	Mr Thomas Crowley	Stage 3 (Years 5&6)
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Silvana Murphy	Stage 2 (Years 3&4)
Coordinator	Mrs Jodie Jefferson	Stage 1 (Years 1&2)
Coordinator	Mrs Eugenia Vrontas	Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Specialist Teachers

Learning Support Teachers	Mrs Maria Marks, Mrs Charmain Floody, Mrs Eugenia Vrontas
Reading Recovery	Mrs Charmain Floody, Miss Nathalie Casten, Mrs Annette Borg
Numeracy Specialist Intervention Teacher	Mr Thomas Crowley
Music	Mrs Karen Thoms, Mrs Deirdre Ewer
Sport	Mrs Jaye Harkin, Mrs Robyn Hardie
Teacher Librarian Library Assistant	Mrs Natalie Coghlan Mrs Sue Pono

Support Staff

Mrs Shannan Brown	Financial Secretary
Mrs Therese Carroll	Office Administrator
Mrs Carol McDonald Mrs Sue Pono	Teacher Assistants
Mr Joe Longo	Grounds and Maintenance
Mrs Jeanne Appleton	School Counsellor
Mr Deng Athum	Community Liaison

Student Leaders

Our 2016 Student Leadership team will be commissioned and presented with their badges at the Opening School Mass at 10am on Thursday 25th February 2016

School Captains	Ashlee Sebastian Nathaniel Noval
Mission Leaders	Marissa Hellouie Audrey Ruiz Tanisha Prasad
Media Leaders	Kelicia Ilencik Montgomery Cartledge
Sport Leaders	Angela Thompson Zachary Cooper

Restorative Practices

This is the third year that the Restorative Practices approach will be a focus at St Patrick's. Restorative Practices establishes a learning environment where students feel safe and are respectful, engaged and proactive learners. It has enabled our students to build, maintain and restore relationships. They have a greater capacity to self-regulate behaviour and therefore improve their learning. Restorative Circles enable student voice and foster respect and self-worth. These are conducted by teachers with small groups or the whole class when praying, resolving an issue or introducing a new learning concept. Through Restorative Practices the dignity of each person and a sense of personal responsibility are promoted. We are committed to integrity and justice and to developing a happy and safe learning environment.

Restorative Questions

Years K-2

- 1.What happened?
- 2.Who has been hurt?
- 3.What do you need to do to fix it?

Years 3-6

- 1.What happened?
- 2.What were you thinking
- 3.Who has been hurt?
- 4.What do you need to do to fix it?
5. What are you thinking now?

School Uniform

Congratulations to our students for their outstanding presentation in their school uniform to commence the 2016 school year.

The wearing of St Patrick's school uniform gives our students a sense of identity and pride in their school. Children in primary school need their parents to assist them to follow the guidelines:

- Hair styles should be ones which do not attract attention. They should be neat, tidy and of natural colour. Rat's tails and shaved indents, for example, are not permitted. Long hair is to be tied back or plaited and blue hair accessories should be worn. Fringes should be cut above the eyebrow.
- Shoes need to be black leather and regularly cleaned and polished.
- Sports shoes should be predominately white and should have white shoe laces. White sport socks are to be worn with the sports uniform.
- Jewellery is not to be worn, except for small gold or silver studs or sleepers, one in each ear, for pierced ears.

Your continued support of school policies enables St Patrick's to be an exemplary school community.

Community

Anaphylaxis - (life threatening allergic reaction)

Our school has students who have been assessed as being at risk of Anaphylaxis. This is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite). Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Common allergens are foods such as nuts, shellfish, milk or egg, insect bites, medications or latex. Students who are highly allergic to any of these allergens are at risk if exposed. All staff are trained in identifying the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and the procedure for administering the Epi-Pen.

Our responsibility as a community is to provide a healthy and safe environment for all students. Parent permission is sought for activities involving food (e.g. class cooking)

The following are not permitted:

- Peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, whole nuts, nut pieces or nut products
- Students sharing food
- Cakes or food to celebrate birthdays (birthdays are acknowledged in other significant ways)