



St Patrick's Bulletin

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Diary Dates

Friday 21st February

Zone Swimming Carnival

Thursday 27th February

9.15-10.15am Parent/Principal

Coffee & Chat

Gymnastics Program Yrs 3-6

Friday 28th February

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Saturday 1st March

School Working Bee

Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6 March

Gymnastics Program Yrs 3-6

Sunday 9 March

1st Sunday of Lent

Tuesday 11 March

Catholic Schools Week

Open Classrooms 9.15am

Liturgy 10.30am

Thursday 13 March

Gymnastics Program Yrs 3-6

Welcome BBQ for Kindergarten

& new families to our

community 6pm.

Friday 14th March

Staff Development Day

(No school for students)

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

At St Patrick's we are called to provide sound, contemporary education with the highest educational goals in a Christ-centred faith community. Our school is about learning – student learning and teacher learning.

Thank you for your attendance at our Parent Information Sessions this week. It was an opportunity to share our 2013 learning successes, the 2014 learning focus and the revised approach to Student Pastoral Care. Some parents have indicated that the Stage Information and handouts gave them helpful insights into the learning expectations for their children in 2014. Thank you for your feedback.

It was wonderful that so many of you were able to attend our Mass for the Opening of the School Year. We joined together as a believing and worshipping community for the celebration of the Eucharist, which is central to our faith. The liturgy highlighted our theme: 'Everyone will shine at St Patrick's in 2014' and we were very proud of our students' respect of St Patrick's Church as a sacred space. We thank Mrs Maria Marks and her team for their preparation of an uplifting and prayerful experience.

We look forward to inviting you to Coffee and Chat Mornings, Open Classrooms and Liturgy for Catholic Schools Week and Parent Education Sessions throughout the year so that you can engage with your child's learning and school.

God Bless

*Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

Faith Community

St. Patrick's really did shine on Friday at the Opening School Mass. The choir sang beautifully and the students were all very respectful and contributed well to the liturgy. As Father Peter said, we need to keep polishing our shine to keep it sparkling!! After such an enthusiastic start I know St. Patrick's will continue to do so.

A special thank you to the many parents, grandparents and friends who attended our opening Liturgy helping to make it a special event. Thank you also to Father Peter and the many people who contributed to the Mass. A great teamwork approach ensured a happy and vibrant liturgy, creating a wonderful, sunny feel for 2014. Lots of smiles all round!

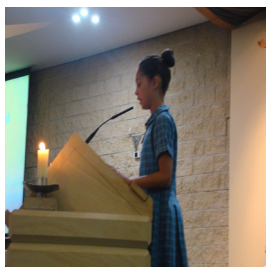
As we move into week 4 we begin our preparations for Ash Wednesday and Lent, a time when we reflect and think about our relationship with Jesus, His fasting in the desert and His suffering. We think about all the wonderful things he has done for us. A time of prayer.

A special reminder to anyone who may have a child/ children in Year 3 or older and are BAPTISED, who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion and Confirmation. You will need to register immediately. Contact the parish secretary (Claudette) on 96221125 between 9-4 weekdays for more information.

You can obtain a registration form from St. Patrick's Parish office or download the form from the website- www.stpatricksparish.org.au

Keep smiling!

Maria Marks
Acting Religious Education Co-Ordinator



Parent/Principal Coffee and Chat Mornings

This year we would like to offer a new opportunity to foster our parent and school partnership and communication. Our Partnership Belief Statement encourages 'parents, staff and parish to work in partnership to provide holistic educational growth for all students.'

You are warmly invited to the Parent/Principal Coffee and Chat Mornings this year. There will be two sessions a term on Thursday mornings from 9:19am – 10:15am. There is no set agenda as it is a time to talk with other parents and St Patrick's Leadership Team, to ask questions, to clarify information and to be informed about upcoming events. Our first Parent/Principal Coffee and Chat Morning is on Thursday 27th February at 9.15am.

Teaching & Learning

ICAS Competitions

The children of St Patrick's will be able to enter the ICAS competitions in 2014. These competitions provide an opportunity for parents to gain further insight into their child's progress in a number of areas. The competitions papers are for Years 3 to 6. This year the organisers are charging the school if less than 3 students enter a subject. Because of this, assessments may not be held. The competition dates and cost are shown below.

Subject	Date	Cost
Computer Skills Yr 3-6	Tuesday 20 May	\$8.00
Science Yr 3-6	Wednesday 4 June	\$8.00
Writing Yr 3-6	Monday 16 June	\$17.00
Spelling Yr 3-6	Tuesday 17 June	\$11.00
English Yr 3-6	Wednesday 29 July	\$8.00
Mathematics Yr 3-6	Tuesday 12 August	\$8.00

An entry form is available from the school office. Please complete the form, enclose the correct money and return it to the office by the 4th April.

Michael Curry

Sports Days

Kindergarten - Wednesday & Friday
Year 1 Tuesday & Friday
Year 2 Wednesday & Friday
Year 3 Tuesday & Thursday (Gymnastics)
Year 4 Wednesday & Thursday (Gymnastics)
Stage Stage 3 Tuesday & Thursday (Gymnastics)

Office

St Patrick's Web Page

To view all events, celebrations and current newsletters go to: <http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/stpatricks/>

School Fee Statements

All families have received their school fee statements from the Parramatta CEO. Accounts are due by the 7th March. Please contact Mrs Shannan Browne if you wish to discuss your statement.

Photocopying of Reports/Documents

A reminder that a photocopying fee of 50 cents per page will be charged for any copying of reports/documents/lost notes required by parents.

Office Hours

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.

Photos of Students

On occasions photos are taken of students during school times. These images of children may be used for publication at school or on our website. These pictures may also be used for Catholic Education Office publications or local papers. If you do not wish your child's photo to be used, please notify the school office in writing.

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 26th & Thursday 27th February there will be teachers from other Parramatta Diocesan schools attending professional learning sessions 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.

Please be mindful of surrounding cars as we have had reports of damage (e.g. scratches) to cars.

St Patrick's Combined Parish/School Working Bee.

The combined working bee will be held on Saturday 1st March from 8.30am-12.30pm. Come along - help keep our parish/school surrounding looking beautiful and spend some quality time with fellow parishioners and parents.



Partnership

Restorative Practices Program

Claim the Date: Thursday 20th March

2014

How do we build and maintain healthy relationships at St Patrick's?

The most profound learning occurs when there is a healthy relationship between teacher and student. In 2014 St Patrick's will participate in the Restorative

Practices Program which is designed to assist teachers, students and parents to build, maintain and restore relationships. Restorative Practices help build capacity to enable students to self-regulate behaviour and contribute to the improvement of learning outcomes. It establishes a learning environment where students feel safe and are respectful, engaged and proactive learners.

The program involves teacher training, student workshops and parent information sessions. The model recognises that consistency in response to behaviour has the potential to create a safe learning space.

When teachers, students and parents respond to wrong doing in the same way, that is, seeing aberrant behaviour as an opportunity for learning, then a passionate and peaceful learning environment is created.

You are invited to attend a Parent Restorative Practices Session on Thursday 20th March at either 9:15am or 7:00pm.

It is essential that each family has a representative at a Parent Session for this program to be successful. Therefore there are two session times to assist you to attend.

Canteen

The School Canteen is opened during term one and term four on a voluntary basis on a 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 20 cents

Popcorn 50 cents

Any time spared to help out in the canteen on either of the two days would be greatly appreciated. New volunteers are always welcome.

P & F Executive Team

Leadership Team

Principal	Mrs Anne Marrins	
Assistant Principal	Mr Michael Curry	Stage 3 (Years 5-6)
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Maria Marks	
Coordinator	Mrs Jodi Jefferson	Kindergarten
Coordinator	Mrs Charmain Floody	Stage 1 (Years 1-2)
Coordinator	Mr Jacob Melham	Stage 2 (Years 3-4)

Teacher/Parent Meetings

One of the research findings of Amanda Ripley, author of 'The Smartest Kids in the World – and how they got there', is that when parents and teachers are closely aligned together there is a significant impact on student learning. Teachers at St Patrick's are always willing to meet with you about your child's welfare and learning. If you wish to speak with a teacher please make an appointment through the school office. Teachers are not available for meetings during school hours, entering or exiting classrooms with their students or when they are on duty. If your concern is not addressed to your satisfaction at the teacher meeting you are invited to make an appointment with the Coordinator of your child's class as listed above. If you are still not satisfied with the outcome you may request a meeting with the Assistant Principal and/ or Principal.

Personal Growth

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. As a community we need to have procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of all students. Your support is requested by not supplying your children with peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, whole nuts and nut pieces or nut products.

School Assemblies

A brief morning assembly is held each Monday and Friday at 9:00am.

Monday	Friday
Greeting	Greeting
Acknowledgement of Country	Acknowledgement of Country
Prayer	Prayer
Focus of the Week	Birthdays/Awards
Messages	National Anthem

The students will showcase their learning and be presented with special awards at a Stage Assembly in the MPA each term. Term 1 as follows.

Friday 7th March	2.30pm	Stage 3
Friday 21st March	2.30pm	Stage 2
Friday 4th April	2.30pm	Stage 1/Kinder

Pastoral Care

This year we have developed a new Reward system and Student Management Procedure. The main focus for students is to be:

RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE
SAFE

Students have been given a booklet to record their "PAT ON THE BACK" awards. When a student has received the following awards they will qualify for the higher awards.

Pat on the back awards	
10	Bronze award
20	Silver Award
30	Gold Award

Mr Michael Curry
Assistant Principal