



St Patrick's Bulletin

51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown NSW 2148 Phone: 9621 4122 Fax: 9671 4903

Email: StPatsBlacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

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

Diary Dates



Sunday 20th March

Holy Week commences

Thursday 24th March

Holy Thursday

2.40pm Assembly - Year One

Friday 25th March

Good Friday - Holiday

Sunday 27th March

Easter Sunday

Monday 28th March

Easter Monday - Holiday

Thursday 31st March

2.40pm Assembly - Year Two

Friday 1st April

School Cross Country

Thursday 7th April

2.40pm Assembly - Kindergarten

From the Principal

Unlocking Potential at Patrick's; as a place of Mercy where we welcome, love and forgive everyone'

Next Sunday, known as Passion or Palm Sunday, marks the end of the season of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. Holy Week is holy precisely because it is time that is set apart for us to focus on how we are spiritually renewed. It is holy time to spend with Jesus, to unclutter our mind, lay down our burdens, and renew our faith in Jesus.

We see Jesus in all humility and obedience choosing to surrender himself for the good of all creation. In his journey to the Cross Jesus exemplifies God's greatest gift: absolute love and mercy. He shows us how to fall into the arms of God, trusting in God's absolute goodness.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis tells us 'to be renewed by God's mercy.' He offers practical advice to live well: 'Do not judge or condemn but forgive and give, avoid gossiping, envy and jealousy; have a heart open to the fringes of society and bring consolation, mercy and solidarity to people who live in precarious situations; take up acts of mercy with joy.'

Greg Boyle, an America Jesuit, who has worked for over 30 years with youth involved in gangs in Los Angeles wrote: 'God is compassionate, loving kindness. All we're asked to do is to be in the world who God is.' Let us pray that we can be the carriers of tenderness. Let us recognise those moments of grace, when our souls are moved by tenderness given and received.

During Holy Week are we willing to abandon ourselves into the loving arms of God with trust and hope of resurrection?

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

Faith Community

In the past week we have celebrated 'belonging', this has been a beautiful theme for us as a Mercy school. Our senior students have been busy behind the scenes, preparing groups of Kindergarten students to audition for the Talent Quest. They have shown compassion, respect and service to their junior colleagues.

Our Mini Vinnies have been busy making white butterfly lilies for the parish's Prayer Service for abused women and children in our world. What great values of social justice and service to Mary Queen of the Family community our students are showing. They are also preparing small bundles of Easter eggs with personal messages for the poor. These will be delivered by Vinnies on our behalf, to the homeless.

During Catholic Schools Week, students and teachers have displayed the values of excellence and hospitality in opening up the learning spaces to welcome all into lessons in Religious Education; Music; Gymnastics; Physical Education and Mathematics.

The theme of 'I belong, you belong and we belong', flowed into week eight as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Harmony Day. Once again our Mercy values were highlighted in the liturgies and activities of these two days. Our students are truly following in the footsteps of Christ.

How can you, like our students show: compassion; service; hospitality; respect; excellence or social justice in these last two weeks leading up to Easter?

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

Catholic Schools Week

'I belong, You belong, We belong'

Last week St Patrick's celebrated Catholic Schools Week with opportunities to acknowledge the privilege of belonging to a community of faith and learning. Parents and community members participated in learning experiences that unlock the potential of each student. The week commenced with a liturgy and classrooms opened to the Religious Education learning strategies of frozen statues, puppetry, 'hot seat' and Godly Play to name a few. Some parents were able to observe the Gymnastics, Music and Physical Education lessons during the week. On Thursday other parents were informed about how students develop as Mathematical thinkers and problem solvers at the Parent Numeracy workshop and open classrooms. Finally on Friday the week concluded with an informal Parent/Principal Coffee and Chat with much interest shown in the proposed uniform changes.

School Uniform Changes

The uniform representative from Lowes School Wear provided some samples for a sport short, sport polo shirt, track suit, boys summer shirt and shorts, boys winter shirt and tie and winter jumper. There was a very positive response at the viewing on Friday. The changes would be implemented in 2017 for the new Kindergarten class and for other students as current uniform stock is sold. The samples may be viewed in the school office.

Library E-books

Reading is an important and fundamental skill that enriches children's lives. It is therefore important that children engage in reading; which includes listening to stories and reading out loud.

E-Books are one of many mediums that children can use to access and explore literature. Students can use their Classm8 to login <http://classm8.parra.catholic.edu.au/> and are able to borrow 3 eBooks at a time. Since eBook week ran from March 6-12, it would be good if children could borrow at least one eBook throughout this month. Instructions on how to borrow and download eBooks have been shared on our school Facebook page.

Natalie Coghlan
Teacher Librarian

From the Assistant Principal ICAS Testing

Yesterday a letter went home for all children from Years 3 to 6 who are interested in participating in the ICAS assessments. The ICAS assessments take place annually and are organized by the University of New South Wales. These assessments are in the areas of Technology, Science, Writing, Spelling, English, and Mathematics. If you would like your child to participate in these assessments please fill in the note with the correct money and please return it by Friday 27th March.

Mathematics Tip for the week Making Patterns

Identify and making patterns are important maths skills for exploring numbers, shapes and symmetry. Identify and explain visual patterns on clothes, wrapping paper, cards and furniture. Encourage your child to draw, create and describe their own patterns.

Mr Crowley's Problem for the Week

This week's problem is
Add all the Prime Numbers up to 100.
What is the total amount.

Congratulations to Ashlee and Joshua Sebastian who answered last newsletters problem

The correct answer was 7.
Good luck Mathematicians
Tom Crowley
Assistant Principal



Partnership

Working Bee

On Saturday 5th March a wonderful group of students, parents and teachers contributed to a morning of hard work in warm sunshine to beautify the school gardens. We especially extend our thanks to Mrs Carol Hawkes who coordinated the Working Bee and worked very diligently on the day despite being on leave. We have enhanced our learning environment with weeding, pruning, mulching and a new garden outside the Primary Blue classroom. Mrs Hawkes was supported by Miss Casten, Miss Fodra and Mr Crowley. Thank you to the following families for your community service:

The Zhao Family - Max, Year 2
Refalo Family - Mya, Kindy
Eltom Family - Rashil, Year 5
Kody Family - Mary & Maryoma, Year 4
Borg Family - Xavier, Year 1
Li Family - Jesse, Year 1
Ghartimagar Family - Jayant, Year 1
Nwosu Family - Emma, Year 5 & Elizabeth, Year 2
Opoku Family - Mercy Year 5
Iskander Family - Patrick Year 5 & Lexi Year 2
Almani Family - Mercy Year 1
Koko Family - Venus Year 5 & Daniel Year 3
Nolan Family - Sydney Year 1
Gupta Family - Krish Year 1



Staff News

New Staff Profiles

Katherine Fodra Year One

"Tell me, I'll forget; Show me, I'll remember; Involve me, I'll understand" is a proverb that resonates with my teaching philosophy and what I believe teachers should always have in mind came into this profession because I love working with children and seeing the potential each one has with the guidance they need.



I graduated from the University of Notre Dame, Sydney in 2014, therefore only making this my second year teaching. My first year was in Schofields in a Kindergarten class. Currently I'm in Year 1 which has been so rewarding so far and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings. Outside of school I love to eat out at restaurants and cafés any chance I get! Of course this is balanced out with Oz Tag training and competitive games. I enjoy attending sports games, cheering on my favourite teams as well as going to concerts with family and friends. In my family I live with my Mum, Dad, and two brothers who have always been supportive of everything I do.

Divine Breen Year Four

My name is Divine Breen and it is my first year at St. Patrick's Primary School. I have been teaching for seven years, graduating from Newcastle University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Teaching/Arts. I am originally from the Hunter Valley and regularly visit my family in Maitland.



In my spare time I enjoy creative activities such as writing, playing the piano, guitar and also walking my two dogs. This year at St. Patrick's I am very fortunate to be one of the class teachers of Year Four. Students in my classroom are exposed to a print rich classroom environment with a variety of independent, small groups and whole class learning. It is my philosophy to cater for every child's need; intellectually, socially and spiritually.

I am looking forward to the school year and unlocking every student's potential. The St. Patrick's staff has been very welcoming and supportive and I am grateful to be part of this learning community.



Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown



www.mqofblacktown.org.au



9622 1125



admin@mqofblacktown.org.au



www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics



[@mqofblacktown](https://twitter.com/mqofblacktown)

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter in this Jubilee Year of Mercy

WEDNESDAY of HOLY WEEK: 23rd March



9.00am Mass (St Patrick's Church)

No Evening Mass

(St Michael's Church)

7.30pm Diocesan Chrism Mass

(Parramatta Cathedral)

HOLY THURSDAY: 24th March

No morning Mass

9.00am Morning Prayer

(St Patrick's Church)

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

(St Patrick's Church)

Followed by Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament

10.00pm Night Prayer



GOOD FRIDAY: 25th March

No Morning Mass

10.00am Stations of the Cross

(MQOF Youth—St Patrick's School Grounds)

3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

(St Patrick's Church)

3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

(St Michael's Church)



RECONCILIATION in HOLY WEEK

7.30pm Monday 21 March

(St Michael's Church)

11.00am-12noon Friday 25 March

(St Patrick's Church)

HOLY SATURDAY: Saturday 26th March

No Morning Mass

9.00am Morning Prayer

(St Patrick's Church)

7.30pm Easter Vigil

(St Patrick's Church)



EASTER SUNDAY: 27th March

7.00am (St Patrick's Church)

8.00am (St Michael's Church)

9.30am (St Michael's Church)

10.00am (St Patrick's Church)

5.30pm (St Patrick's Church)

6.00pm (St Michael's Church)



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
58 Orwell Street,
Blacktown 2148



For other liturgy times around the Diocese
www.parra.catholic.org.au



ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
51-59 Allawah Street,
Blacktown 2148

Stations of the Cross

Parents welcome to join their child's class for
this Holy Week Event

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9.10 - 10.00am	Stage 3 Mrs Wade		Year 3 Mrs Matterson	Stage 3 Mrs Gudatis
10.05- 11.00am	Stage 3 Mrs Knowles		Year 3 Mr Brown	
11.45 am- 12.40pm	Year 4 Mrs Murphy	Kinder Mrs Attard	Kinder Miss Maka	Year 2 Mr Johnson
12.45 - 1.40pm	Year 4 Mrs Breen	Year 1 Mrs Fodra	Year 1 Miss Casten	Year 2 Mrs Jefferson

Office

School Fees

All families have received their school fee statement from the Parramatta CEO. Accounts are now overdue.

Please contact Mrs Browne if you wish to discuss your statement.

School Office hours are

8.30am - 3.30pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

8.55am - 3.30pm Wed

Nagle College Information Evening

An Information Afternoon/Evening will be held for prospective Year 7 students at Nagle College on Wednesday 27th April 2016 from 4.00 pm until 7.00 pm.

Enrolment packages will be available on the afternoon and tours of the school will be conducted.

Applications will be available from early April 2016. If you would like to receive a prospectus, please go to our website nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

or contact the school office on 8887 4501.