

# St Patrick's Bulletin

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

## Diary Dates



*Christ Is Risen*

### Monday 8th May

All Students to be in Winter Uniform

### Tuesday 9th May

Years 3 and 5 National Testing  
- Writing

### Wednesday 10th May

Years 3 and 5 National Testing  
- Reading

### Thursday 11th May

Years 3 and 5 National Testing  
- Numeracy

### Friday 12th May

Years 3 and 5 National Testing  
- Catch up  
10.00am Mothers Day Mass and Morning Tea

### Wednesday 17th May

9.15am P&F Meeting

### Thursday 18th May

Stage 3 Camp

### Friday 19th May

Stage 3 Camp

## From the Principal

Learning for Life at St Patrick's; a school in the Mercy tradition where we welcome, love & forgive everyone

We commenced Term 2 last week full of the joy and hope of the Resurrection. Easter is that beautiful time of the year when we look forward to the coolness of autumn. The colder mornings and evenings with warm sunny days are an inspiration to delight in the joy and hope of the risen Christ.

As Easter people, we continue our journey confident of God's loving presence with us and with a sense of great hope. The challenges of life: sorrow, hardship, illness and distress remain with us, but through the despair, we seek comfort in the Easter message of hope.

On Sunday 14th May, we celebrate Mothers' Day. It is a day to give thanks for the gift of motherhood. It is a time to count our blessings and cherish all our mothering experiences. As Mothers' Day is celebrated in May, the month we devote to Mary, the Mother of God, we have a wonderful role model for all women. Mary experienced all the emotions of mothering: joy and happiness, anguish and despair.

As we celebrate Mothers' Day let us remember those mothers who find mothering challenging, mothers who are unwell, have suffered the loss of a child or are experiencing hardship and our mothers who are no longer with us.

*God Bless  
Mrs Anne Marrins  
Principal*

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

# Faith Community

Christ has risen! Alleluia!

On our return last Wednesday, our School leaders led us in a beautiful reflection on the Resurrection. They asked us to place ourselves in front of the empty tomb and ponder on how we would have felt to find Jesus gone. Would we have believed the angel who told them 'He has been raised; he is not here'? Would you?

As followers of Christ the first Christians sacrificed much- family, friendships and even their right to worship in the temple, however, they remained faithful to the Messiah who taught them to love God and their neighbour. They saw and believed. We have not seen but believe that Our Lord died and rose for our salvation.

In the following weeks of this Easter Season the gospels tell us of Jesus appearing to his Apostles in their closed room and to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He meets them on the beach and cooks breakfast. He reassures them that they will never be alone. Even in our loneliest times, all we need do is put our lives, troubles and fears in his hands and he will walk with us as he did with his followers just after the Resurrection. In this Easter Season, we focus on the resurrected life of Christ as well as our own. Like the early Christians, let us be fruitful evangelists to all whom we encounter. Let us be people of faith, hope and love.

Silvana Murphy  
Religious Education  
Coordinator

## Teaching & Learning

### Library Borrowing

Library borrowing days for Term 2 are as follows:

Monday: Primary Blue  
Tuesday: Kindergarten & Year 1  
Wednesday: Year 4 & Stage 3  
Thursday: Year 3 & Year 2

There are still quite a number of students not using a library bag or thick plastic bag for their library books. It is important to organise this asap and get into a routine of using it as later in the year it will be compulsory to have a library bag for borrowing.

### Read Aloud More in May Challenge

May is Scholastic National Family Reading Month! To help encourage families reading together, Scholastic is holding a challenge to read aloud every day in May. Reading logs were sent home but entries are submitted online at <http://www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm>.

### National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday 24 May, we will be participating in the Australian Literacy Educators Association event by sharing *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon* written by Tony Wilson and illustrated by Laura Wood. In 2016 this book was awarded Honours by Children's Book Council Association. It

addresses themes and key learning areas of the K-6 National Curriculum.

### Book Club

Please submit your orders online by Monday 15th May 2017. This can be done via LOOP <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/>. Catalogues were sent home, but can also be found online <http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/catalogue.asp>.

### Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have already completed the Premiers Reading Challenge and submitted their entries online at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. Certificates will be presented during Term 4.

Abbie Singh (Kindergarten)  
Agamdeep Chhatwal (Year 2)  
Jayant Ghartimagar (Year 2)  
Cailyn Paras (Year 2)  
Matilda Rowe (Year 3)  
Aj Sabid (Year 3)  
Hardik Verma (Year 6)

### Coding Club

Since the start of the year, Coding Club has been offered to Stage 3. Students gather to create and play their games with peers every Wednesday and Thursday during lunchtime. One popular site we use is <https://scratch.mit.edu/>.

Mrs Coghlan  
Teacher Librarian

### Staff

We welcome Mrs Brenda Christie-David to St Patrick's in the role of Learning Support Teacher (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). Mrs Christie-David is an experienced primary classroom teacher and specialist intervention teacher across Kindergarten to Year 12. She will focus on supporting Years 1 and 2, facilitating the Kitchen Garden Program and providing intervention for individual students in Stage 3. We wish Mrs Christie-David a successful & rewarding journey at St Patrick's.

## Partnership

### Mothers' Day

Mothers and grandmothers of St Patrick's are invited to a celebration of motherhood on Friday 12th May with Mass at 10:00am, followed by a morning tea.

May all women who mother enjoy a day of  
love, peace and contentment.  
Mary, Mother of God and spiritual Mother of  
us all,  
May all mothers who seek your help,  
Experience your unfailing protection.  
Lead all mothers and their children to Your  
Son, Jesus. Amen.

*HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY for  
Sunday 14th May*

## ANZAC Day

On Tuesday 25 April, across the country, Australians gathered in capital cities, suburbs or rural towns to remember the sacrifice of the first Anzacs who landed on the beaches of Gallipoli over one hundred years ago during World War One.

At St Patrick's on Friday morning we attended a beautiful ANZAC Liturgy prepared and led by Stage 3. It was a fitting tribute to our history and spirit as a nation. Our students are to be commended on their reverent and respectful participation. It was a wonderful privilege to have special guest, Danny Russell, who played The Last Post and Rouse

## Arrival and Dismissal

### Arrival

All students need to be at school prior to the morning bell at 8:55am to commence learning at 9:00am. **The school gates are closed at 9:05am** as teachers have marked the class roll by this time.

**Late arrivals need to enter through the school office and are recorded as a partial absence.** It is important that parents enable their children to be on time and to attend consistently as every day counts in student learning.

### Dismissal

In the afternoons the **gates are opened at 3:12pm**. Prior to parent entry students leaving through the back gate, attending COOSHC, or going home by bus are dismissed. Parents are then able to collect their children from their class seats without waiting for an announcement.

**Your feedback on the dismissal changes is welcomed.**

## Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden is now up and running! Term One's weather made it almost impossible to garden due to all the rain and storms!

My name is Brenda Christie-David (also known as Mrs CD) and I am fortunate to have been given guardianship of our beautiful Kitchen Garden!

This week, we have worked hard to clean, add new soil and plant seedling into the garden beds. Mrs Floody, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Pono worked alongside us to assist in this effort and will continue to help us each week. After we finished all our hard work clearing and planting, we were so blessed to have our mandarin tree provide fruit for us to eat!

We now have the following planted for harvesting in late June, early July:

- Spinach

- Snow Peas
- Peas
- Garlic
- Purple Carrots
- Asian Greens
- Thyme
- Rosemary

If you would like to contribute any seeds, seedlings or tools to the Kitchen Garden programme, please bring them into the school office on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. All contributions to the programme are welcomed and most appreciated!



## New Staff Profile

### Brenda Christie-David

My name is Brenda Christie-David and I am new to St Patrick's. I have been teaching for over 20 years across many schools in the Parramatta Diocese within a variety of capacities including leadership, delivery of professional learning and mentoring of beginning teachers. I have completed a Bachelor of Education from ACU and am half way through my Masters of Inclusive Education.



I spent the last two years working within the Catholic Education Office as a Specialist Intervention Teacher where I was able to further refine my skills to establish individual adjustments for students with specific needs. This was a wonderful professional opportunity however, I am excited to be back within a school community.

I am a happily married mother of two beautiful girls and two sausage dogs! I love gardening and hence have taken over the school's Kitchen Garden.

I believe in social justice and that all children can be successful if given the right tools to achieve. I look forward to my years to come at St Patrick's and hope to meet you all as I carry out my teaching and caretaking.

## Office

### 2018 Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 2018 Kindergarten enrolments are now being accepted. If your child is turning five before July 31st 2018 please collect an enrolment application from our [www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au)

## Student Attendance

At St Patrick's we are interested in your child's

- **Well being and happiness**
- **Engagement with learning for life**
- **Social and emotional well being**

The single most important thing you can do to support these areas is make sure your child attends school every day.

Below are some useful tips that can help you achieve this outcome.

### 1. Set The Expectation

Good attendance starts with making school a priority. Absences add up quickly.

***2 Days per month = 4 weeks per year = missing more than 1 year of learning in 12 years***

### 2. Start early

Set good attendance patterns from Kindergarten. However it's never too late to start improving attendance.

### 3. Communicate with school about every absence

The attendance roll is a legal document. We are required to keep a record that your child is present or the reason they are absent every school day.

### 4. Expect challenges

It is not unusual for children to resist coming to school at times. Recognise the problem and address it early. Be firm.

### 5. We need to work in partnership

When problems arise, let the school know. We all want your child to be happy, engaged, and to reach their full potential as a learner.

Best Wishes  
Tom Crowley  
Assistant Principal

## School Fee Statements

School Fee statements were sent to families on 11th April. Term 2 payments are due on Tuesday 30th May. Please contact Mrs Browne in the office to make payment arrangements if you have not already done so.

	Tuesday 9th May 2017	Wednesday 10th May 2017	Thursday 11th May 2017
<b>Year 3</b>	Language conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
<b>Year 5</b>	Language conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes