



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 23rd May

ICAS Digital Technologies

Wednesday 24th May

2.30pm Our Lady Help of
Christians Liturgy

Thursday 25th May

Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day

Saturday 27th May

Blacktown City Festival Parade

Monday 29th May

7.00pm PRC Seminar - Raising
Resilient Children

Tuesday 30th May

ICAS Science

Thursday 1st June

2:30pm Early Stage 1 Assembly

Wednesday 7th June

2.30pm Stage 3 Assembly

Thursday 8th June

2.30pm Stage 1 Assembly

Monday 12th June

Queens Birthday Holiday

From the Principal

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

At this time of the year in our Church calendar there are some wonderful occasions for renewing our faith. We have just experienced the joy and hope of Easter and then as Easter people we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Sunday 28th May, followed by Pentecost on Sunday 4th June.

At the 'Ascension' we are told that Jesus, "Lifting up his hands blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them" (Luke 24:50-51). The gesture of hands outstretched in blessing, expresses Jesus' continuing relationship to his disciples and to us.

The feast of the Ascension reminds us that we now carry on the work of Jesus – but are not alone: with his help! Therefore, as we commemorate the feast of the Ascension, we are motivated to go about our life with joy, Christian joy.

Pentecost is about those 'aha' moments in our lives when we accept a challenge, respond confidently to change or are filled with great joy. These moments are when our faith is fully alive. These are times when we too experience the powerful coming of the Holy Spirit. We are gifted by the Spirit, not just for ourselves, but for others, for the common good. 'That's the spirit' we say to affirm others and build morale.

Lord, help me in the circumstances of my life to show others the way to you.

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*



Faith Community

We ended last week with a celebration of motherhood. Our Mother's Day Mass was well attended by mothers and grandmothers. Fr. Luis spoke beautifully of the importance of mothers and how, as mothers, we take our lead from Mary. Our theme for the Mass was 'Mum: the light of our life.' This theme allowed the students to look at all the wonderful things mums do for them, from the sacrifices they make for their children to the light that shines in their face when their child achieves something.

Mothers have Mary as their role model. May is the month that the Church dedicates to Mary. As God's mother she holds a special place in the life of the Church. Many of our Australian Catholic churches and even cathedrals are named after her.

It is fitting then that Mothers' Day in Australia is celebrated during this month. Mary brought Jesus into this world. She gave us 'The Light of the world'. Mary had the privilege of sharing her life and her faith with her son, Jesus. Mothers in turn are privileged to share their lives and faith with their children.

Perhaps during this month you could pray the rosary with your family and offer up your prayers for all mothers around the world, asking Mary to guide and protect them.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning

Premier's Reading Challenge

We have even more students who have recently completed the challenge! Congratulations to the following participants:

Isla Cunningham (Kindergarten)
Liam Reveley (Kindergarten)
Aarav Vasandani (Kindergarten)
Dia Vasandani (Year 2)
Ravya Aryal (Year 3)
Max Zhao (Year 3)
Alexandra Iskander (Year 3)
Patrick Iskander (Year 6)

If you are having trouble logging on, please see Mrs Coghlan. She is available in the Library anytime on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you require assistance, don't forget to bring along your username, password and hard copy of the reading log.

Mini Vinnies



Last Friday 12th May, Miss Fodra and I were fortunate enough to take 10 Mini Vinnies representatives to the CYP Lifted Live Jnr Concert with Steve Angrisano at Emmaus Catholic College in Kemps Creek.

This was a great opportunity for young people to come together to experience their faith through prayer and music. The theme of the 90-minute concert was 'Go make a difference'. We played games, listened to Steve's stories, sang and danced to upbeat songs and even had a photo op with Steve himself. It was a great afternoon for the students to reflect on making a difference within their families, our school and the wider community. We are challenged by a loving God to make a difference in the world and to be witnesses of the faith that we profess.

The students were a credit to themselves as they represented our school with pride and enthusiasm. We hope we will get the opportunity again next year to participate in this great event!

Steve Angrisano is an American singer, songwriter and storyteller. He has featured at six World Youth Day catechesis events and diocesan youth events in the US, Canada and Australia. His passion for evangelization and gift for meeting young people where they are and bringing them to an encounter with Christ continues to make him one of the most sought after Catholic youth speakers.

Miss Casten
Mini Vinnies Lead Teacher

Learning in Year 4

In Year 4, we have been learning about using emotive language to improve our writing. Here is one excellent example of a piece of emotive writing inspired by a wartime picture.

In the war, a soldier felt so alone. He was 29 years old and he had no friends. No one except a black Labrador. His black Lab has been by his side since he was only 10 years old. He would take this dog anywhere. It is his only true family. He does not know where his real family is any more. The war changed everything.

The soldier went to Turkey to fight in the war because he loves his country and wants to protect his home. But now he felt he had no home.

During the war, the soldier tried his best and the war was ending. He thought he would be able to return home to find his family, but then he was shot in the shoulder.

Time passed. The soldier was in the hospital for a long time. Many other soldiers came in and went home, but the soldier stayed. And his dog stayed with him. Night after night the dog was by his side.

When the time came for the soldier to return home, the dog was very old. The dog passed away and the soldier was all alone again. He cried for a long time.

Then the soldier looked out of the hospital window and he saw a black Labrador sitting out in the field. The soldier went to the dog and felt he had a friend again.

Written by Caleb Quintos



Personal Growth

Blacktown City Festival

St Patrick's Primary will once again participate in the **Blacktown City Festival Street Parade**. This is a wonderful tradition where we demonstrate pride in our school to the community. Students in Years K to 6 are invited to participate, with students Years K to 2 to be accompanied by an adult.

The Blacktown City Festival is on **Saturday 27th May, 2017** with the parade starting at 11:00am. The parade covers a route of approximately 1.5 km along Main Street, Campbell Street and Flushcombe Road. The students involved will be required to assemble between **10:15am and 10:30am in the Warrick Lane Car Park** and will return there at the end of the parade. Parents will need to be at the Warrick Lane Car Park at the end of the parade to collect their children by 11:30am. All students are required to wear their **full winter uniform or the new sports uniform track suit only (previous sport uniform is not permitted)**. Our Year 6 students, as leaders of the school, are

expected to participate.

All students who participate will be acknowledged for their school spirit with a special lunch at school on Friday 2nd June.

Please complete the permission slip below and return to school by **19th May 2017**.

We look forward to many students, parents and teachers representing our school at the parade.

Mrs Susan Perry

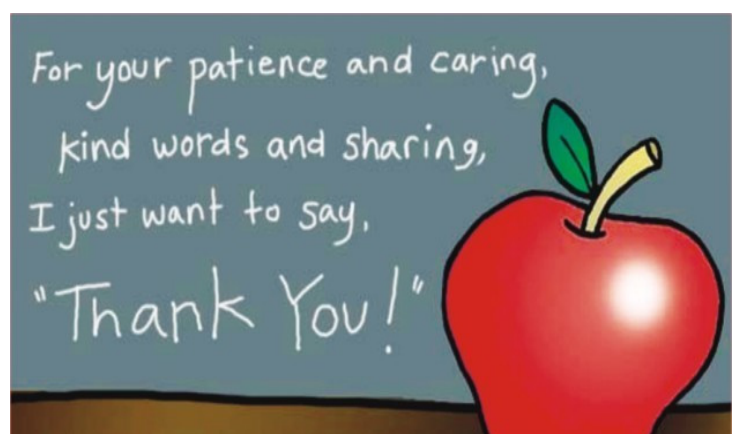
Parade Coordinator



Farewell Mrs Maria Marks

On **Thursday 15th June** we will acknowledge and thank Mrs Maria Marks for twenty years of loyal and faithful service to St Patrick's School Community. There will be a **Mass at 12:00pm** followed by a lunch in the Multi-Purpose Area. Mrs Marks has been a valued member of our school community as Learning Support Teacher (formerly English as a Second Language Teacher) and in 2014 as Acting Religious Education Coordinator. We have had the privilege of benefitting from her welcoming and considerate manner as she supported families new to our country and school and her expertise in collaborating with teachers to differentiate the learning. She will be greatly missed for her commitment to her faith and our mission as a Catholic school community.

Everyone is welcome to attend this community celebration



Term 2 Assemblies – 2:30pm

Thursday 1st June	Kindergarten
Wednesday 7th June	Stage 3
Thursday 8th June	Stage 1
Wednesday 13th June	Stage 2

Restorative Practices

St Patrick's we believe in building a collaborative community where the dignity of each person is respected and a sense of personal responsibility is promoted. Students are guided by teachers to reflect on how we respond to situations when things go wrong and how we rebuild relationships.

Here are some strategies that students use to help them when dealing with problems:

- **Stay Calm**
- **Get to the problem quickly**
- **Keep it small**
- **Know the difference between what is small and what is big.**
- **Ask the right questions**
- **Aim to make things right**
- **Can you do it, or do you need a teacher's help?**

Partnership

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 3:10pm - 3.15pm**. 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.

Sport Uniform Term 2

The Sport Uniform Days for each grade are as follows

- Kindergarten - Wednesday & Friday
- Year 1 - Wednesday & Friday
- Year 2 - Tuesday
- Year 3 - Tuesday
- Year 4 - Wednesday
- Stage 3 - Wednesday & Friday

Winter Uniform

All students are expected to be wearing their full winter uniform by Monday, 22nd May

- Girls – winter tunic, pale blue blouse with peter pan collar (NEW), tab tie, navy jumper with emblem (NEW), navy socks or tights and correct black school shoes.

- Boys - navy long pants, pale blue shirt with emblem (NEW), navy and pale blue tie (NEW), navy jumper with emblem (NEW), navy socks and correct black school shoes.

Students are permitted to wear navy gloves. We now have available vests (\$15), fleecy-lined jackets (\$35), scarves (\$8), gloves (\$5), school badges (\$5) and girls tab ties (\$7) from the office.

Parent Representative Council

On Monday 29th May 2017 the PRC are holding their Annual General Meeting followed by a free Parent/Carer seminar by Dr Justin Coulson on "Raising Resilient Children".

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start at Catholic Learning Communities of St John XXII - St Mark's College. Meeting will be held in the staffroom, entry via main school foyer, 160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens. Registrations are open at www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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.

Lost Property

Parents are asked to check their childrens uniform items to make sure it belongs to them. Children often pick up a jacket or hat thinking it belongs to them without checking to see if there is a name inside. If your child has any uniform with someone elses name in it please return it the school office.