



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

Friday 15th May

- Yrs 3/5 NAPLAN - Catch Up
- Yr 6 Fundraiser - PIZZA DAY
\$1.50 per slice

Sunday 17th May

Ascension of the Lord

Thursday 21st May

3:00pm Parent Numeracy
Years K-6 Workshop (repeat from Term 1)

Friday 22nd May

- Assembly Prayer
- 9:15am Kindergarten Assembly
- 10:00am Parents & Friends 2nd Meeting and Morning Tea

Monday 25th May

- 9:00am Assembly Prayer - Our Lady Help of Christians (MPA)
- National Reconciliation Week

Friday, 29th May

9:00am Assembly Prayer
9:30am School Tour (for prospective parents)

Saturday 30th May

Blacktown City Festival Parade

Stage 3 Personal Development

Night will be held in Term 3 (TBA)

From the Principal

'Acknowledging Success at St Patrick's in 2015'

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 next Sunday, 17th May, followed by Pentecost on Sunday 24th May.

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. 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.

When the disciples, on the first Pentecost day, received the Holy Spirit into their lives, they were changed forever and they in turn changed the lives of thousands of other people. Likewise, our children, when they receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, will receive the potential for change. God is now with them, with the fullness of his presence, as they move ahead in their own individual lives. God will always be there, when perhaps we are not, with a patient and everlasting love.

We pray for the students from St Patrick's Parish and School who will affirm their faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation on 16th, 17th or 18th June.

Jesus,

*You come into our hearts this Pentecost,
give us the gift of your Spirit.*

Help us to be Your people in our world.

May Your Spirit "transform" us

and help us to become more like You. Amen.

*God Bless
Mrs Anne Marrins
Principal*

Tomorrow
Friday, 15th May
Year 6 Fundraiser
PIZZA DAY \$1.50
PER SLICE

Faith Community

May is the month dedicated to Mary. How fitting that we celebrate Mother's day in this month.

As a young teenager, Mary was chosen to be the Mother of our Lord. A great honour was bestowed upon her as well as a great burden. She brought Jesus into the world without the support of her mother and in a stable far from her home. This was to show that the Saviour of the world was an ordinary human being, not born of riches or surrounded by palaces.

Mary taught Jesus to talk, walk and most importantly how to pray. She watched him grow, nurtured him and nursed his wounds as he played and fell. Yes, he was the Messiah, yet like all good Jewish mothers she taught him his faith and to love God. This part of his early life Mary loved and cherished. Yet from the day of his presentation in the temple she knew that there were hardships to come. In the recount of "The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple," Luke 2:22-40 Simeon spoke to Mary saying, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

The Gospels tell us of times where Mary was present through Jesus' ministry. The most painful time in her life would have been the walk to Calvary. She suffered in silence watching her son walk and fall on his way to death, a cruel death for our sins.

Mothers, place yourself in her shoes and imagine her courage. This quiet pain she carried with her, yet could say nothing.

Truly, Mary is a mother to be admired and a true example for all mothers to follow. Let us in this month of May put ourselves in her shoes and see our children through her eyes.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Mother's Day Celebrations

Our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers were honoured with a special Mass and morning tea on Thursday, 7th May. During the Mass mothers and their children read the readings, presented the gifts and the Book of the Gospel. All mothers received a special blessing from Father Peter.

The students did an excellent job of singing and responding to the Mass, even though there were problems with the sound system. Students from the Primary classes made flowers for the mums and grandmothers. All children took a flower home for their mum.

Mass was followed by a wonderful gathering for morning tea. It was such a beautiful day and we were so glad that so many mothers and grandmothers could join us in celebrating the hard work they do every day.

The Mother's Day Committee



Teaching & Learning

Mathematics Professional Learning Day

Last Friday, 8th May, St. Patrick's staff participated in a professional learning day on Mathematics. This day looked at developing teacher learning and building teacher capacity in this area, which will assist your child's learning in the classroom.

One of the activities that teachers participated in was to reflect on a professional reading titled "The Mathematics of Hope." One of the key issues of this article for me as an educator was the importance of allowing students to make mistakes in Mathematics. We need to value student's mistakes as an opportunity for them to learn and grow from these. The article explained how we want students to make mistakes in Mathematics and not view these as learning failures but as learning achievements. Research has found that brain growth comes from the student's experiences of struggle. When they struggle with Mathematics their brains grow because they are outside of their comfort zone.

I encourage all parents and carers to continue encouraging your children to become risk-takers not only in Mathematics but also in all areas of school life.

ICAS Testing

Children will be taken out of class to complete the ICAS Science test next week.

Friendation Crowd

This term we have introduced the 'Friendation Crowd' to St Patrick's. This is a group space provided for children to access during our first break (11:10am-11:40am).



The Friendship Crowd provides a space for children who are looking for an alternative place to play to the playground. It is about making friends, keeping friends and respecting everyone in the crowd. Children are supervised by a teacher who facilitates games and activities promoting good social skills.

Many children have given the Friendation Crowd a try over the past few introductory weeks. Children have enjoyed playing handball, hopscotch, snakes and ladders, uno, concentration cards, drawing and duck duck goose.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties on the playground or with their peers please encourage them to talk to their teachers to attempt to solve problems and in turn, make an appointment time with class teachers to discuss these matters. Charmain Floody

Home Readers:

Years 3, 2 and 1 parents, if you have any home readers at home, particularly from holiday reading packs, please send them back to school ASAP. We are running very low on reading material we can send home.



Kindergarten Assembly

You are invited to attend Kindergarten's Award Assembly tomorrow, Friday, 22nd May, at 9.15am in the Multi-Purpose Area (MPA). The students will showcase their great learning and awards will be presented.

School Uniform

The wearing of our school uniform gives St Patrick's School its identity and our students are expected to wear it with pride. Congratulations to the many students who are wearing the correct winter uniform. All students were expected to be in their winter uniform by Week 3.

WINTER UNIFORM			
GIRLS		BOYS	
TUNIC & TIE OR SLACKS	Royal Blue Tunic with blue check tab tie	TROUSERS	Navy blue half elastic backed trousers
BLOUSE	School blue long sleeved shirt or blouse with Peter Pan collar	SHIRT & TIE	School blue long sleeve shirt with navy blue tie
ZIP JACKET	Navy blue with school crest	ZIP JACKET	Navy blue with school crest
TIGHTS SOCKS	Navy blue Navy blue	SCHOOL SOCKS	Short turn down navy blue socks

- 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.
- Jewellery is not to be worn, except for small gold or silver studs or sleepers, one in each ear, for pierced ears.
- Sports shoes should be predominately white and should have white shoe laces. White sport socks are to be worn with the sports uniform.
- Girls' ties are available at the school office for \$7
- Boys' ties are available for Lowes Menswear, Westpoint, Blacktown
- Uniform checks will take place next week and parents will be contacted if the correct uniform is not worn.

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

Health Promoting School

St Patrick's community values the health of students and aims to create an environment that supports healthy choices and behaviours. The Health Promoting Schools Framework provides a 'whole of school' approach to developing effective health strategies.

Positive nutrition and health related issues are primarily taught within the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Key Learning Area.

Good Nutrition for Children

- improves learning and attention span
- improves physical and psychological well being
- promotes growth and development
- reduces the risk of diet-related health problems such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, stroke, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, dental caries and obesity

Student Lunchbox

Two pieces of fruit, sandwich, a healthy snack (e.g. raw vegetable stick and dip) and water or juice are an ideal lunch for primary school students.

Confectionery – lollies, sweets and chocolates - are special occasion foods and should not be brought to school.

Eating before and after school on the playground is not permitted

Kitchen Garden

Last Monday, St. Patrick's Kitchen Garden students had the opportunity to be involved in a film about the Kitchen garden at our school. The film is being made by 'Catholic Earthcare' and is to celebrate the 'Year of Light and Soil.'

It is a three to four minute video about the role kitchen gardens play in connecting communities in the schoolyard and beyond. This online resource will be released on World Environment Day, June 5th, at a launch event and be available on the Catholic Earthcare Website. The key message of the film is to show how Kitchen gardens make us feel connected – we are all a community, the same light shines on all of us and the same soil nurtures us. 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' ...plants, food, friendship, language skills and a sense of connection.

It is hoped that it will inspire students and their families to take action and come together to create a kitchen garden – either at school, in their community or at home with their families.

Some of our students were asked questions about the garden and filmed working in the garden. A group of students cooked a stir fry made from fresh vegetables harvested from the garden that day.

It was a great experience and opportunity for the students to be involved in this exciting project.

Maria Marks
Learning Support Teacher

Partnership

Parents & Friends Term 2 Meeting

Friday, 22nd May 2015 at 10:00am after the Kindergarten Assembly. Morning Tea will be served. Everyone welcome. Look forward to meeting with you.

Trish Cartledge
President P & F Association

Thank You

A very big thank you to the following mums for their kind help at the mother's day stall. It was a great success and all the children enjoyed the opportunity to buy something for their Mum's and Grandmas. We hope you all had a lovely Mother's day. A big thank you to Donna Sheehan for all your time and effort with ordering all the gifts.

Donna Sheehan	Claudia Cianflone
Miriam Vrljic	Lara Quinn
Rima Maurad	Sauita Surendra
Trish Cartledge	

Butterfly Badges

On sale for \$2 at the office. All proceeds go to the Deafness Foundation for the Deaf and Hearing impaired Community.

Office

2016 Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 2016 Kindergarten Enrolments are being accepted. If your child is turning five (5) before 31st July 2016 please collect an Enrolment pack from the office or alternatively download an application form from our website:- www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

All applications need to be returned by the end of May 2015. Interviews will take place in June and July.

School Fee Statements

School Fee Statements were sent home to families on 27th April. Term 2 payments are due Monday, 25th June. Please contact Mrs Browne to make payment arrangements if you have not already done so.

Absent Note or Leave Application

When your child is absent from school it is a legal requirement for parents to provide a letter to the class teacher informing him/her of the reason.

Parents are required to apply in advance and in writing for exemption from school for holidays or extended leave in the school term of 10 days or more. It is important that children attend school for the whole day. Parents are asked to make any medical appointments out of school hours if possible. Extra activities should not interfere with the school day.

Carpark Safety

Please take care when driving into the school carpark and surrounding areas. Please use the Kiss & Drop in the morning or park in the marked parking bays only.

We all have a responsibility to protect all our children.

A reminder that parents need to walk their children by hand through the carpark to get to the school grounds. Please look out for them if you are driving and show some patience in waiting for them. Please do not be in a rush and give yourself plenty of time to drop your child off to school.

The speed limit in the carpark is 5 kilometres per hour. Slowing down can prevent any serious accidents!

Afternoon Pick Up

It has been noted that some students are at school after 3.30pm which is much later than our finishing time of 3.15pm. We remind parents that children will be brought to the office if not collected by 3.30pm. As there is no supervision in this area the parents will be phoned the first time that your child hasn't been picked up. At 3.35pm all children will be directed to COSHC where parents will need to collect their child. This is a fee-paying service for parents whose work hours prevent them from dropping off and collecting their children in school hours. COSHC may be contacted on 0404 835 838.