



# St Patrick's Newsletter

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

**Bulletin 19**      **7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

## Diary Dates



### **Monday 10th December**

7:00pm Christmas Concert with Michael Mangan in St Patrick's Church

### **Tuesday 11th December**

1:30pm Farewell Mass for Mrs Marrins

### **Wednesday 12th December**

Student Transition to 2019 classes

### **Thursday 13th December**

7:00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass and supper

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

9:00am Advent Prayer - Year 3  
Mission Awards Assembly  
Reports sent home

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

10:00am End of Year Mass  
11:00am Morning Tea  
11:45am Awards Presentation

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

9:30am-11:00am Infants Disco  
12:00pm – 1:30pm Primary Disco

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Last day of school for students  
2:30pm Christmas Raffle  
2:45pm Year 6 Farewell and Guard of Honour

## *From the Principal*

*Believe, learn and achieve at Patrick's in 2018; a place of Mercy where we welcome, love and forgive everyone*

Advertising in the media and across shop and community displays are now reminding us that the season of Christmas and the shopping frenzy is fast approaching. How well do we prepare our children for a season of giving rather than receiving, of showing thankfulness for what they have and of generosity towards others since "there is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35).

It is normal and natural for young children to believe everyone in the world exists exclusively for their benefit. Thankfulness is just not part of their job description. Part of our role as parents and teachers, is to lead our children out of their internal gazing and continually prompt them into a "concern for others" attitude towards the people around them.

Modelling thankfulness to our children is an important way to have them learn about living with and for others. We might need to project an attitude of thankfulness with our possessions, our clothes and appearance. Do we see the bigger world of need around us or is our focus simply on ourselves?

Real joy comes from community, not from the promotion of today's individualistic and consumerist culture. Happiness and joy in life depend on how we care for one another. The old Irish proverb captures this well: 'We live in the shelter of each other.' What a difference it would make to our world if we could adopt the African philosophy: 'I am because we are'! Life is about us, and not just about me. So during this season of Advent the challenge is to balance preparing for the delights of Christmas with preparing for celebrating the birth of Jesus and encouraging our children to focus on the needs of others.

*May God bless you  
Anne Marrins  
Principal*

## Faith Community

As the Season of Advent begins our school community has once again shown their generosity in giving to our Christmas Appeal. St. Vincent de Paul collected boxes, baskets and large bags overflowing with food and drink.

St. Vincent de Paul Society perform an admirable service answering God's call, by caring for and assisting those less fortunate than ourselves in our Mary, Queen of the Family Community.

We thank you for your generosity. Over the next few weeks, as we prepare for Christmas, God asks us to be people of hope, faith, joy and peace ready for the Christ Child to enter our hearts and homes.

The Advent Wreath's four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The first purple candle symbolizes **hope** and is called the Prophet's candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. The second purple candle symbolizes **faith** and is known as the Bethlehem candle reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third pink candle symbolizes **joy** and is called the Shepherd's candle reminding us of the joy that the birth of Jesus will bring to the world. The fourth purple candle symbolizes **peace** and is called the Angel's candle reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

This Advent I wish you all the peace and joy that God brings to your families.

**Silvana Murphy**  
**Religious Education Coordinator**

## Teaching & Learning

### From the Assistant Principal Stage 3 Mercy Leadership Day

On Thursday 29th November our Stage 3 students attended their Mercy Leadership Day. Father Peter Confeggi, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Priest, concelebrated Mass and talked with the students about their mission and leadership.

This day was an opportunity for our Year 6 students to reflect on their leadership journey in 2018 and their preparations for high school and for our Year 5 students to look at the qualities that make a great leader.

The students were highly engaged and participated in a variety of activities aimed at developing and reflecting on their leadership skills. During the day, Mr Deng Athum, our Sudanese Liaison Officer, spoke to the children about his journey from Sudan to Australia to follow his dream. As well Year 12 school leaders from Patrician Brothers College and Nagle College spoke to the students about leadership, high school and the expectations and differences to primary school. One of their key messages was never give up and keep persevering. Here are some of our current Year 5 student's reflections about what leadership is:

Ryah- Leadership is when you work as a team and be a team player. It is listening to each other's opinion and making tough decisions.

Sia- Leadership is showing respect to others and being a role model for the younger children.

Salvatore- Leadership is the action of leading a group or organisation and the ability to do something.

Caleb- Leadership is someone that sets a positive example to the younger students and is compassionate to others



**Tom Crowley**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Library Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge has begun and we are encouraging all our students from K – 6 to participate. There is no minimum number of books that students need to read; so one book qualifies for an entry. The more books read, the more entries allowed and the greater the chance to win one of four iPad minis! For each book/entry, students need to state in 50 words or less why they enjoyed it. For further details and to submit your entry, visit <https://buff.ly/2BGnG6L>.

All students who enter the competition will receive a participation certificate from Greg Whitby! In addition to the prizes offered by CEDP, our school will also be awarding prizes to some lucky students. The more books read, the more chance of winning a school prize too! Certificates and prizes will be handed out once the competition finishes in Term 1, 2019.

## Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge also recently opened on 1 December 2018. This challenge is quick and easy to enter online and all participants have an equal chance to win one of 30 prize packs! For more information, book recommendations and free resources for parents, visit [scholastic.com.au/summer](http://scholastic.com.au/summer).

Scholastic has also given us a promotional code 'SUMMER' so you can take 50% OFF ALL BOOKS on The Scholastic Store these holidays. This offer is only available between 13 December 2018 and 28 January 2019.

**Natalie Coghlan**  
Teacher Librarian

## Partnership

### Mary, Queen of the Family Parish News

**Father Peter Confeggi**, Parish Priest for 10 years, recently announced his retirement. Father Peter has been an advocate, supporter and spiritual leader for St Patrick's celebrating our Eucharistic celebrations and as a frequent visitor to our school. We extend our gratitude to him for his ministry and wish him well in his retirement. **Fr. Luis Herrera** has been Assistant Priest in our parish for four years. For 2019 he has been appointed to St Paul, the Apostle, Winston Hills. He will return to Columbia to visit his family before

commencing at Winston Hills. A farewell Mass for Fr Peter and Fr Luis will be held in St. Patrick's Church on Friday 7th December at 7:30pm, celebrated by Bishop Vincent. Please keep them in your prayers.

Bishop Vincent has appointed a team of priests to serve our parish including **Fr. Regie Lavilla MSP** as moderator, **Fr. John Paul Escarlan** and the recently ordained **Fr Jack Green**. Fr. Regie will arrive on December 8th for handover and will start his ministry at the end of January 2019. Let us pray for Fr. Regie, Fr John Paul and Fr Jack as they prepare to join our community.

### Staff News

I extend our congratulations to **Mrs Karen Knowles**, Stage 3 Teacher, on her appointment to Corpus Christi Primary School, Cranebrook, 2019. Mrs Knowles has served St Patrick's school community for 13 years as a teacher and drama club leader. She is passionate about implementing quality learning and allowing student voice. There will be an opportunity to thank Mrs Knowles for her significant contributions to St Patrick's on Monday 17th December at our Thanksgiving and Farewell Mass.

**Thanksgiving and Farewell Mass  
for Mrs Vrontas, Mrs Knowles,  
Father Peter and Father Luis  
on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
at 10:00am in St Patrick's Church  
followed by  
11:00am Morning Tea  
11:45am Awards Presentation**

### End of Year Dates

Monday 10th December

7:00pm Christmas Concert with Michael Mangan in St Patrick's Church

Tuesday 11th December

1:30pm Farewell Mass for Mrs Marrins

Wednesday 12th December

Student Transition to 2019 classes

Thursday 13th December

7:00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday 14th December

9:00am Mission Awards Presentation

10:30am Mission Awards recipients

Morning Tea with Mrs Marrins

Monday 17th December

10:00am End of Year Thanksgiving & Farewell Mass



11:00am Thank You Morning Tea  
11:45am Kindergarten - Year 2 Awards  
Presentation  
12:30pm Years 3- 6 Awards Presentation  
Tuesday 18th December  
9:30am – 11:00am Kindergarten – Year 2  
Disco  
12:00pm – 1:30pm Years 3-6 Disco  
Wednesday 19th December  
Last day of school for students  
2:45pm Year 6 Farewell Guard of Honour

## Parents and Friends Association

The Annual General Meeting of the P&F took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> November and a new committee was elected.

President – Rima Mourad

Vice President – Lara Quinn

Secretary – Aditi Ranade

Treasurer – Diana Hajje

Fundraising – Rima Mourad

## Administration

### 2019 Kindergarten Enrolments

Enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2019 are being finalised. If your child is turning five (5) before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 please collect an Enrolment Pack from the office or alternatively download an application form from our website: [www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au)

### Office

Due to our end of year finance procedures the final day for receipting of money at school is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. No payments can be accepted through our office after this day.

### School Fees

Fees for the year were to be finalised by the end of August. Please contact the school office if you wish to discuss your fees in confidence.

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, 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.

### Moving schools

If your child/children is/are changing schools and will no longer be attending St Patrick's, Catholic Education requires 10 weeks written notice.

In this notice you are required to indicate the school your child will be attending.

### Kids on Keyboards

Kids on Keyboard is a program run at the school on a weekly basis throughout each term for students from Years 2 to 6. It offers students the opportunity to play as well as learn about and read music in a fun, class setting. Class runs in first break on Wednesdays. Places are now available. Bookings can be made or further information obtained by contacting Christine Dieckmann on 0409-247-424.

