



St Patrick's Newsletter

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

Bulletin 20 19th December 2018

Diary Dates

Tuesday 29th January

Staff returns to school

Wednesday 30th January

MAI Years 1-6

Best Start – Kindergarten



Thursday 31st January

Years 1-6 Return to school

Best Start – Kindergarten

Friday 1st February

Kindergarten commences

9:15am Tea & Tissues Morning Tea

Monday 4th February

Swimming Carnival – Years 3-6

Water Fun Day K-2

Monday 11th February

Gymnastics - Years 3-6

Thursday 14th February

Zone Swimming Carnival

*God, our Father,
We ask the Spirit to,
clothe us with compassion, humility,
meekness and patience and to let the
peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
so that we,
God's chosen ones will give true
witness to the message of Christ.
Amen*

From the Principal

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

I am writing my last editorial with a heavy heart as I say my final goodbye to a community that has nurtured me as a teacher and a leader. It has been a privilege to serve St Patrick's, Blacktown, as Principal for nearly seven years.

I have become a member of St Patrick's community with its Mercy and Irish traditions and its inclusion of so many other cultures. I will leave with sadness but also gratitude for the gifts the community has given me.

I am proud of our multi-cultural and multi-faith community of inclusion and welcome. Blacktown, the most multicultural city in Australia, where St Patrick's reflects its wider community with many cultures and faiths represented – we are a Catholic school for all.

May God bless each of you and the community of St Patrick's.

'I thank my God each time I think of you! And when I pray for you, I pray with joy' (St Paul, Philippians).

Advent and Christmas are seasons of pilgrimage, reminders of God's invitation to leave our places of familiar comfort and journey to a deeper faith.

As we prepare for Christmas let us ponder a while on three human beings like ourselves: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We try to imagine how they reacted to the extraordinary events in their lives. In a vulnerable, fragile and beautiful new-born baby God's gift of love was made known to us.

The baby Jesus challenges us to live with the tenderness he stirs in our hearts. As Christians, we are a community that should be known for its compassion, care and love without discrimination. Christ came for all people but especially the disadvantaged; we need to be bearers of his attitude to the people who come in and out of our lives.

May the Christ Child bless whatever we bring to him, and may we carry that blessing with us to all the people that we meet in the year ahead.

*May God bless you
Anne Marrins
Principal*

Faith Community

As the Season of Advent reaches its close this Sunday with the Angel's candle of peace, I too reach the close of 45 years of teaching. My last four years have been a blessing, working with the beautiful children of St. Patrick's and sharing their journey in partnership with you, their parents. It has been a privilege to complete my career here at St. Patrick's.

I thank you for your support over these four years as we have shared & celebrated many Liturgies and Masses. Most of all I thank you for your continued generosity in filling those baskets twice a year for those less fortunate than ourselves. Your generosity has shown the true Mercy Value of Justice.

As we bring the Christ Child into our homes this Christmas Day, may you and your families feel the true meaning of Emmanuel, (God is with us). I wish you every blessing for a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Thank you for all your best wishes, you will always be kept in my prayers.

Silvana Murphy
Religious Education Coordinator

Teaching & Learning From the Assistant Principal

Congratulations to the following students who received awards on Monday at our End of Year Awards Ceremony

Christian Living

K Nia'lani Mokoia	K Tracey Naaba
1 Asofou Tapa	1 Kaajal Sutharshan
2 Aleeha Brar	2 Brianna Bhattarai
3 Jiya Pandey	3 Ijeoma Oghor
4 Jordan Bindley	4 Joshua Tolentino
S3K Maanya Manchanda	
S3B Louise Sergio	
S3W Elisa Da Silva	

Sporting Excellence

PB Travis Leslie

Academic Achievement

K Iyana Hamid	K Jeremiah Pelayo
1 Edna Saju	1 Liam Reveley
2 Ethan Borg	2 Eashan Ahuja
3 Leon Anic	3 Mary Abulail
4 Max Zhao	4 Anav Gujral

S3K Antony Mikhael	S3B Marko Anic
S3W Priyesh Chand	PB John Neskes

Most Improved

K Ryden Tata	K Maxxine Pernez
1 Johnny Yac	1 Joshua Cook
2 Nicholas Constable	2 Ernest Jesson Gerado
3 Junxin Yan	3 Mercy Almani
4 AJ Sabid	4 Logan Weatherby
S3K Aguak Deng	S3B Zaran Mortimer
S3W Erika Sabhawal	PB Connor Worsman

School Spirit

K Stella Borg	K George Hontas
1 Josh Reyes	1 Aker Shol
2 Carmen Gonzalez	2 Caitlyn Arellano
3 AngelaTako	3 Monique Cook
4 Anabella Anic	4 Ravya Aryal
S3K Awal Shol	S3B Esther Peter
S3W Sophie Sharma	PB Yazman Simpson

Creative Excellence

K Rey Merrick Gerado	K Jasroop Kaur
1 Alisi Aho	1 Jayla Saliba
2 Jeremiah Hafoka	2 Gelove Dela Pena
3 Gianne Go	3 Adeena Mokoia
4 Aaron Joseph	4 Jabez Loteria
S3K Robbie Stewart	S3B Isabella Ghimire
S3W John Mathew	PB Rook Scanlon

Tom Crowley
Assistant Principal
Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the students who were awarded certificates for completing the Premier's Reading Challenge this year. Special congratulations to the following students who received Platinum and Gold awards.

Platinum Certificate (7 years in the PRC)
Priyesh Chand

Gold Certificate (4 years in the PRC)
Amir Alsaadi
Anamika Alsaadi
Jayant Ghartimagar

Krish Gupta
Ravya Aryal
Sahil Bhat
Sherie Singh
Sophie Sharma

Summer Reading

It is vital that students continue reading during the school holidays, even if it is just for 10-15 minutes a day. Research shows that children who do not read regularly over this long break, can lose gains they've made in their reading levels and fluency over the year. This is known as the *Summer Slide*. By keeping up the routines and reading momentum going, it will also give them a better start to the new school year! Enjoy your books and have a wonderful Summer holiday!

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

It is fantastic that so many of our students have already entered this Summer Reading Challenge! One book equals one entry. For a greater chance of winning a school prize, enter as many times as you can before the competition closes at **5 pm on 4th February 2019**. Enter via

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>

Summer borrowing & eBooks

Although borrowing has finished at school, Blacktown Library is a wonderful local library for students to visit. Please remember students can also access eBooks via

<http://classm8.parra.catholic.edu.au/>. Student guides to access our eBooks was recently shared on our school Facebook page.

Natalie Coghlan
Teacher Librarian

Partnership

FAREWELL TO STAFF

The following staff will be leaving St Patrick's at the end of this year:

Mrs Silvana Murphy, Religious Education Coordinator, has given 45 years of service to Catholic education and has been a valued member of our school community for four years. She will be greatly missed for her knowledge and expertise in Religious Education and for giving witness to her faith.

Mrs Eugenia Vrontas, Coordinator of Learning, Learning Support Teacher, has been appointed Leader of Learning to the Maronite College of the Holy Family, Harris Park. She has been a Learning Support Teacher and Literacy Leader for the past four years at St Patrick's. During her 30 years in Catholic education Mrs Vrontas provided quality learning to students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and as a Teacher Librarian. At St Patrick's she has given witness to her faith and Mercy values and has demonstrated excellent teaching and a capacity for leading teacher learning in Literacy.

Mrs Karen Knowles, Stage 3 Teacher, has been appointed to Corpus Christi Primary School Cranebrook, after 13 years at St Patrick's. Mrs Knowles commenced her teaching career at St

Patrick's and has taught students from Year 2 to Year 6. She will be remembered for her passion for student-centred learning and enabling student voice.

Mrs Jeanne Appleton, School Counsellor, has been St Patrick's student counsellor for 13 years and has been appointed by Catholic Education to another Diocesan school. Mrs Appleton is well known and respected by staff, students and parents. We are grateful to Mrs Appleton for the support and insights she has provided and the difference she has made for many of our students to their well-being and learning.

Mrs Stephanie Attard, currently on Maternity Leave, has announced her resignation from her full time position at St Patrick's. Mrs Attard will commence a part time position at Chisholm Primary School, Bligh Park. Mrs Attard began her teaching career at St Patrick's in 2014 and provided a solid foundation in learning for her Kindergarten students during that time.

Mr Lionel Cruz, IT Trainee, Catholic Education appointed to St Patrick's for 2017- 2018. He has completed his two-year apprenticeship and we wish him well as he furthers his career.

Mrs Chelsea Dunn, Kindergarten Teacher 2018, will commence Maternity Leave on 11th February 2019. Mrs Dunn will take on a Learning Support role for the first two weeks of the new year.

We extend our best wishes to staff continuing their work in other schools, workplaces and retirement and to Mrs Dunn as she prepares for the birth of her first child.

WELCOME TO STAFF for 2019

Mrs Monica Fitzalan, Principal, is an outstanding educator with a deep understanding of how to challenge students with their learning. Mrs Fitzalan is a leader who sets high expectations for students and understands the importance of innovation and curiosity in the learning process.

Mrs Natalie Coghlan, Religious Education Coordinator, will bring to this important leadership role in a Catholic school; her deep faith, passion for Catholic education and her knowledge of the Religious Education syllabus and our Catholic faith.

Mrs Charmain Floody, currently Learning Support Teacher, has been appointed **Coordinator of Literacy Learning** for 2019. Mrs Floody has extensive experience in leadership roles; Coordinator and Religious Education Coordinator. She will bring a capacity for quality teaching practice and leading literacy learning to her role.

Miss Faith Jessel, Learning Support Teacher, is an experienced educator. She is known for her commitment to her faith and for her expertise in Reading and Numeracy intervention programs.

Miss Hayley Anschau, Year 2 Teacher, brings her commitment to Catholic education, previous teaching experience and her skills in a range of sports.

Miss Mary Fenech, Year 3 Teacher, is an experienced class teacher who is committed to her faith, parish involvement and Catholic education.

<i>Teaching Staff 2019</i>		
Kindergarten	Miss Cecilienne Matienzo	Miss Mehret Tadesse
Year 1	Miss Liana Krha-Blazevic	Ms Margaret Wade / Deidre Ewer
Year 2	Mrs Katherine Parame	Miss Hayley Anschau
Year 3	Miss Nathalie Casten	Miss Mary Fenech
Year 4	Mrs Justyna Lupa	Mr Grant Johnson
Stage 3 Years 5/6	Mr Justin Browne Mrs Natalie Coghlan /Mrs Allison Gudaitis Mrs Michelle Jarrett/ Mrs Victoria Matterson	

<i>Leadership Team 2019</i>	
Principal	Mrs Monica Fitzalan
Assistant Principal	Mr Thomas Crowley
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Natalie Coghlan
Coordinator	Mrs Charmain Floody
Instructional Leader Years K-2	Mrs Mary-Anne Stenning

<i>Specialist Teachers 2019</i>	
Learning Support Teachers	Mrs Charmain Floody Ms Faith Jessel
Reading Recovery Teacher	Ms Faith Jessel
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Specialist Intervention Teachers	Mr Thomas Crowley Ms Margaret Wade Ms Faith Jessel

Intervention Teachers	Mrs Robyn Hardie Mrs Estelle Kroutz Mrs Annette Borg
Creative Arts – Music, Dance and Drama	Mrs Karen Thoms Mrs Deirdre Ewer
Physical Education	Mrs Jaye Harkin
School Counsellor	Mr Brian Melocco
Teacher Assistants	Mrs Carol McDonald Mrs Susan Pono Mrs Lara Jarratt Mrs Giuseppina Davino
IT Trainee	Mr Marcos Schlack
Office Staff	Mrs Shannan Browne Ms Therese Golledge
Maintenance/Groundsman	Mr Patrick Hey

Student Leaders 2019

We extend congratulations to our 2019 Student Leadership Team. Our 2018 School Captains, Ester Peter and Pryesh Chand handed over the school candle to our incoming 2019 School Captains at the Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass on Monday 17th December 2018.

The 2019 Student Leadership Team will be commissioned and presented with their badges at the Opening School Mass at 10:00am on Thursday 21st February 2019.

School Captains

Ryah Mokoiha
Arjun Pillay

Mission Leaders

Lana Barameda
Ethan Quinn

Media Leaders

Aguek Deng
Caleb Quintos

Sport Leaders

Zoe Thompson
Zaran Mortimer

