



St Patrick's Newsletter

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

Bulletin 17 16th November 2018

Diary Dates

Sunday 11th November

Remembrance Day



Tuesday 13th November

2:00pm Sydney Kings Basketball visit

7:30pm First Reconciliation

Wednesday 14th November

9:15am P&F AGM

Thursday 15th November

Parish Mass – Year 4

9:30am Kindergarten 2019 Orientation

7:30pm First Reconciliation

Thursday 22nd November

Parish Mass - Year 3

9:30am Kindergarten 2019 Orientation

2:40pm Stage 1 Assembly

From the Principal

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

Last week we commenced the month of November and for our Catholic community it is the month of the 'Holy Souls'. The beginning of November is marked with two significant feasts: All Saints (1st) and All Souls (2nd).

We honour the saints, not for their good, but for our own. Reflecting on the lives of the saints encourages us to be active in the love and service of God and each other. Each of us can name a 'living saint' or a 'saint' who has died. These are the women and men, not canonised, and yet we remember a characteristic or a lived action of saintliness.

We know about the lives of St Mary of the Cross (Mackillop) and St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to name two. The saints are also connected to our history, culture and tradition; Catholics of Celtic heritage remember St Patrick with affection, those from Sudan continue their devotion to St Josephine Bakhita, while the first saint of the Philippines is St Lorenzo Ruiz.

During this month of November our focus is on the faithful departed and we think especially of those who have played a significant part in our lives. We say, 'eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord' and we can each replace the word 'them' with the name of a loved person.

We pray, not just for 'them' but also for ourselves as we remember in gratitude all they meant to us – givers of life, partners in life, comforters, friends, sharers of our thoughts. The death of a loved person is a huge loss and our grief is great.

It is God's gift to us in the death and resurrection of his Son that has given us the hope that we too, one day, might see God 'with our eyes'.

*May God bless you
Anne Marrins
Principal*

Faith Community

Religious Education News



Many of our classes prayed The Rosary during the month of October. October is dedicated as *the Month of the Rosary* because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7.

On the 1st of November each class held a special liturgy for *All Saints Day*. In Catholic tradition, All Saints Day honours all those who have passed on to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Perhaps, you were taught to think of saints as statues in a church building. But the Bible teaches something completely different. Who is a saint? *You are*. When Kindergarten attended the parish mass at 9am, Fr Luis reminded us in his homily that God calls a

"saint" anyone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation.

Sainthood isn't given by a group of religious leaders. It's granted by God Himself to any common, salt-of-the-earth person who simply trusts Christ ([1Corinthians 1:2](#)).

As a school community, we were led in prayer by 1M on *All Souls Day* (Friday, 2nd November). All Souls' Day is traditionally a time for the Christian community to remember deceased family members and friends.

Remembrance Day



This week, we acknowledge 100 years since Armistice Day 11/11/1918. 11am on this significant day marked the end of World War one after almost 1600 days of continuous warfare in France and Belgium. This morning we paused at our assembly for Remembrance Day, thank you to our stage 3 teachers, leaders and students .



Teaching & Learning

From the Assistant Principal

Why is my Child's Teacher out of Class? Like professionals in other fields, all teachers are required to keep up to date with current thinking on best practices in teaching and learning. From time to time teachers are required to attend professional development opportunities to learn about changes to curriculum, new methods of teaching and learning and other ways of integrating technology. These sessions sometimes occur during the day, after school or on school holidays. Teachers also have entitlements such as long service leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, maternity leave, jury leave etc. Consequently there will be times when your child's teacher is absent from the classroom. On these days the teacher's program and daybook is followed. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partner to liaise with the relief teacher so that good teaching and learning continues and routines are kept. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Stage 3 Personal Development Child/ Parent evening

Just a reminder to Stage 3 Parents that we have a Personal Development, Child/ Parent Evening which is going to be held at school on Wednesday 21st November commencing at 7:00pm.

This evening will be an opportunity to engage in a frank and open discussion on the subject of life changes with your child. It will open up the topic for greater discussion and understanding, enabling parents to discuss delicate issues with their child at home within a context of Christian values.

It is an expectation that all children in Stage 3 attend with one of their parents or carers.

Library News

Our library system is able to generate a variety of reports based on our school's data. We continually analyse this data to see the activities and trends in our school. Here are some results from recent reports.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kindergarten who have won a free ice block! They have been the most consistent grade in returning their library books each week and bringing their library bags to school. They currently hold the record for no overdue books.

Thank you to all of the parents who have ensured the library borrowing process can continue between home and school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Most popular books

Our top four borrowed picture books of 2018 (in no particular order):

- The Day the Crayons Quit – Drew Daywalt
- The Incredibles – Disney Enterprises
- The Cat Wants Custard – P. Crumble
- The Cow Tripped Over the Moon – Tony Wilson

Over the next few weeks, students will have the opportunity to guess which picture book was the most popular and why. If your child enjoyed these books, maybe they can borrow other books by the same author.

Our most borrowed fiction and non-fiction for 2018:

1. WeirDo series – Anh Do
2. Amazing Spot What – Nick Bryant
3. I Spy: Spooky Night – Walter Wick

4. 20 Games to Create with Scratch – Max Wainwright

5. Tracy Lacy – Tania Lacy

6. Everything You Need to Know About Animals – Nicola Davies

Find the kids top 51 books by Dymocks at <https://www.dymocks.com.au/Kids-Top-51>

Natalie Coghlan

Teacher Librarian

Personal Growth Kindergarten Orientation

Parents of our 2019 Kindergarten class were welcomed to St Patrick's on Wednesday 7th November. Father Peter Confeggi, Parish Priest of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown, welcomed everyone to our inclusive and multicultural community.

On Thursdays 15th and 22nd November, Kindergarten 2019 students will attend an orientation morning in the Kindergarten classrooms from 9:15am - 11:00am.

Parents are invited to attend an information session during this time on

Thursday 15th November only. A

“Welcome to St Patrick's School Pack” will be presented to parents. The pack contains resources to support parent and child beginning their school learning journey.



Partnership

Staff News

Principal

Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director, advised parents on Tuesday of the appointment of Mrs Monica Fitzalan as the new Principal of St Patrick's Primary, Blacktown, commencing in 2019. Mrs Fitzalan is currently the Assistant Principal of St Angela's Primary, Castle Hill, a role she has held since 2013. She 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. She is a relational person who builds strong partnerships with parents, the parish and the wider community. St Patrick's community congratulates Mrs Fitzalan as she prepares to take up her new appointment.

Religious Education Coordinator

I am pleased to advise you of the appointment of Mrs Natalie Coghlan as Religious Education Coordinator commencing 2019. Mrs Coghlan has been a full-time teacher and then a part-time teacher while caring for her family during the past 16 years at St Patrick's. More recently she is known to the community through her role as Teacher/Librarian. Mrs Coghlan has completed her Masters of Religious Education and is an active member of her parish. She 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, Catholic scripture, sacraments, doctrine and rituals. We extend congratulations to Mrs Coghlan and wish her God's blessing on her work.

Administration

2019 Kindergarten Enrolments

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

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 with Mrs Shannan Browne.

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 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.

Sydney Kings visit

Members of the Sydney Kings Basketball team are coming to visit our school on the 13th November. As a special offer to the St Patrick's community the Kings have given us a discount code for the following Sydney Kings game. The code is BROWNE when you go on Ticketek, tickets are \$15 each and the game is Sunday 18th of November.

