

Newsletter 5 Term 4
14th December 2017

St Patrick's School NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of the 2017 school year, I would like to sincerely thank all the members of the community who have contributed to a very successful year at St. Patrick's. I would like to formally acknowledge Fr. Peter, Sr. Helen, Mr Lee, the Leadership Team, the dedicated teachers, the secretaries and the support staff who have worked consistently throughout the year to ensure a quality catholic education to your children.

We farewell the following staff and thank them for their valued contributions to St. Patrick's.

Mr Stephen Lee - moving after 7 years as A.P. at St Pats.

Mrs Sandra Rechichi - retiring after 16 years at St Pats.

Mrs Christine Holloway - taking leave after 9 years at St Pats and 21 years in Catholic Education.

Sr Lucy Vo – moving to be REC at St Terese's Denistone

Miss Deanna Russo - teaching at Holy Cross College in Perth

Mrs Kim Otazu - teaching at St Johns Vianney's Doonside

Miss Emily Colassi - teaching at John XX111 at Stanhope Gardens

Mrs Ashleah Walker and Mrs Kim Cefai have extended their Maternity Leave for 2018.

Thank you to all the parents for your strong support during the year and to the Parent Group who have arranged some tremendous events for the school. To the wonderful parents who volunteered in the classrooms throughout the year. Finally a big thank you to the wonderful students of St. Patrick's who make it a pleasure to come to school each day.

Hopefully you enjoyed our Christmas Carols Evening last week. All the children were amazing and shared their talents to have a great night. Thanks to the teachers for the organising of the Carols.

Just a reminder that the children start school on Wednesday 31st January for Years 1 to 6. Please book your child in for their Maths Assessment (MAI) for either Monday 29th or Tuesday 30th January through the online booking system . These appointments are 1/2 hour time slots.

If you have a child starting Kindergarten, please book them an appointment with any of the Kindergarten teachers.

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Enter the code epn95 then press GO

Kindergarten commences on Thursday 1st February 2018.

I wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas and a relaxing holiday.

Yours Sincerely
Philip Mahony
Principal



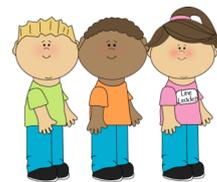
ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2018

School Captains: Chanel Finianos & Brandan Barakat

Vice Captains: Chanelle Azzi & Daniel Lwin

SRC Leader: Yenuli Peiris

Leaders: Lea Zeydan, Victoria Hasham, Anthony Alam, John Antoun



OPAL BUS PASSES

Opal have now made some improvements to their system which now means that students who are progressing to year 3 and year 7 do not need to reapply if they meet the following three conditions:

- are continuing at the same school
- are residing at the same address
- have not been sent an expiry notification from Transport for NSW.

The system has automatically validated a student's ongoing eligibility if they're at the same school and progressing to year 3 and year 7. Where a student met the new eligibility the system has updated their entitlement and card. If they didn't meet the new eligibility, they would have been sent an expiry notification. If you have already reapplied the application will be processed as before.

If students need to update any information or reapply, parents should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>.

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2017 to ensure students' entitlements are updated and their current card is not cancelled. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2017, the system will automatically cancel their card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for an SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out during the 3rd week of January 2018.

FROM THE LIBRARY

It has been quite an upheaval for the library in the past few weeks with the move to the hall now completed. I would like to thank all the parents, students and staff who helped out with the move. There is still more to be done and a partial stocktake is being completed before the end of the school year.

Many thanks to Mr Mike Jacobson (father of Dean and David) who has consistently helped us in the library for many years, it will be very difficult to replace him.

Thanks to those who have returned their library books, however the move has meant that I have not been able to follow up on the many overdue books still outstanding, we will be issuing overdue book notices in the new year.

If you are in Year 6 or leaving the school this year, please ensure you have returned your books to the library.

Thank you all for your patience and cooperation, have a Happy Christmas and a restful break.

Mrs Sandra Fogarty, Library Aide

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

ADVENT

This week we lit the second purple candle on the Advent Wreath, the candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.



When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. In our world today and the current events all around the world, we pray for the peace of the Lord to be in all our hearts and break through temptation and darkness.

MASSES

Please refer to the Parish mass and confession times.

FEAST DAYS

13th December - St Lucy

14th December - St John of the Cross

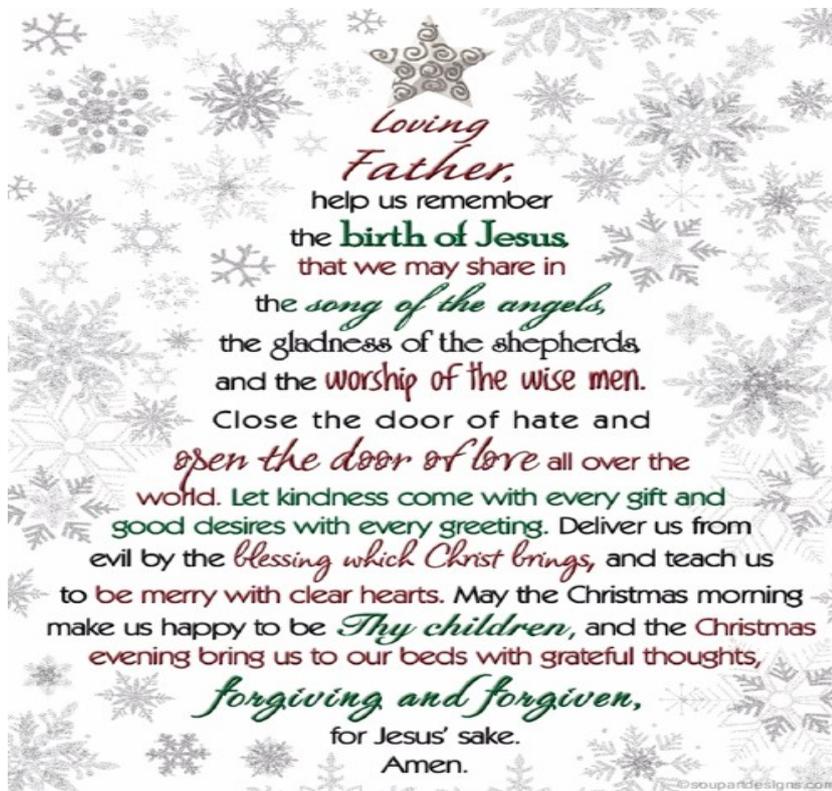
25th December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)- ***Holy day of Obligation***

26th December - St Stephen

27th December - St John

28th December - The Holy Innocents

31st December - The Holy Family of Jesus



Wishing you all a safe Christmas and New Year Break!

God Bless,

Mrs Wardeh Khoury

A Special Message from Sr Lucy

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message to you, as my final words before I leave St Patrick's community. Firstly, thank you Fr Peter for your spiritual guidance and support and for being an outstanding pastor to the school community. You have inspired the teachers, parents and students in many ways through your insightful sermons. Your presence amongst the school community is most valued.

Secondly, thank you Mr Mahony and the staff of St Pat's for your friendship, love and collegiality over the years. I have learnt much from this professional teaching team and I hope the great work you do for the students will continue to grow and flourish.

To the beautiful children at St Pat's, each of you bring a special identity to this school. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to teach some of you and see you grow as learners. Thank you for your smiles, your warm embrace when you see me on the playground and for sharing your life with me. I hope that you continue to enrich your lives by seeking knowledge, be open minded and most importantly, see the face of God in everyone you meet.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you, an extra measure of comfort, peace, joy and hope this coming Christmas. May the new year bring great success and contentment. God bless you all.

With love and prayers,
Sr Lucy Vo CMR.

FENCE ACROSS THE VACANT LOT

A fence has been erected primarily for safety reasons. As it was not a designated car park it was not suitable for the number of cars using it mainly in the mornings and afternoons by school parents. This use encouraged rubbish to be left on the ground (including used nappies), a panel from the back fence was removed, the water meter run over by a car causing a leak and parents with children walking across to the school without using the pedestrian crossings. Neighbours also made friendly but firm remarks about disturbances to them. While I acknowledge that parking in the immediate area of the church and school is limited, there was no choice but to erect the fence. ~

Fr. Peter Blayney

THE MANNING FOUNDATION

The Members of the Manning foundation wish to extend a sincere thank you to the whole school community staff, parents, children and parishioners for the generosity shown on the Carols night. We received 1005.00 in donations, a truly remarkable gift from you all. This money will be used to buy food and Woolworths food vouchers which will be distributed to the needy in our parish. We wish you all a very joyful Christmas and many blessings during 2018.

FROM THE SPORTS COORDINATOR

On Monday, 3-6 attended the annual swimming carnival at Merrylands Pools. Firstly, thank you to the Merrylands Pool staff for providing us with such wonderful facilities to use on the day. Thank you to the parents who came to cheer on the students in their races and also the students who were well behaved and listened to the announcement throughout the morning. This meant we were able to finish earlier than expected and get out of the heat of the day. Congratulations to all the students who competed in the various events and received points for their house colour.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our End of Year Assembly this week.

2017 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

Junior

Boys

1st Ethan Schembri
2nd Joshua Homairi
3rd Nicholas McGregor

Girls

1st Kristy Mouawad
2nd Yenuli Peiris
3rd Maddison Loulach

11 Years

Boys

1st Daniel Lwin
2nd Jacob Vasilj
3rd Nicholas Serhan

Girls

1st Clara ElBayssari
2nd Victoria Hasham
3rd Tayla Saba

Senior

Boys

1st Dominic McGregor 1st _
2nd Nathan Kady 2nd _
3rd Nicholas Hasham 3rd _

School Champions

Boy

Dominic McGregor

Girl

Clara ElBayssari

Winning House Mark

Mark 188
Matthew 167
John 96
Luke 75

Notes will go out to students early next year that have made it to the next level and represent St Patrick's at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival held on 13th February 2018 at Mt Druitt Swimming Pool.

Thank you for all the support parents have given during the year to the sporting events at St Patrick's. Without the parent support these carnivals would not be able to be held.



ST PATRICK'S GUILDORD STAFF LIST

CLASS	TEACHER
Principal	Phil Mahony
AP	Tracy Hoey
KSF	Rebecca Simai/Linda Fredricks
KE	Stephanie Eid
KF	Amy Frangi
1A	Annie Barry
1CF	Samantha Cassar /Jane Frazer
1B	Cassie Bruschino
2F	Dalia Fadel
2A	Jamal Al-Chalouhi
2M	Lisa Miller
3M	Monica Mansour
3F	Geralyn Fernandes
3SB	Rebecca Shen / Marica Bosen
4KM	Wardeh Khoury / Mary McKenzie
4D	Shelley D'Souza
4M	Alex Meoli
5S	Sarah Sassine
5D	Christina Dawood
5W	Lisa Walsh
6C	Phoebe Conners
6MC	Jackie Moshtaghi / Jasmine Chamoun
6A	Patty Apokis
Learning Support	Jenny Chatten Ken Bladwell Virginia Sharland Amanda Makdessi Marica Bosen Jeannette Carey Jenie Gabriel
Literacy Reading Recovery EMU	Pat Tenido Kim Lendvai Katy Pedini Trish Green Sara Issa Terese Croan Dalia Fadel
Library	Sandra Fogarty Jo Gladwell

Exec Release	Sara Issa
RFF	Amanda Makdessi Marica Bosen
Music PDH Art	Kathryn Criss (Tues, Thurs, Fri) Leeanne Barber (Tues, Thurs, Fri) Clancy Hoyle (Tues, Thurs, Fri)
Secretaries	Cathy Hartsuyker Jenny Titterton Ann Thompson
Maintenance	George Burke



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

the
children's
hospital at Westmead

ProACTIVE Anxiety Management Group

Parents and students at St Patrick's Guildford have been invited to participate in an anxiety management group, to be conducted as part of a research study through The Department of Psychological Medicine at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, in partnership with Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP).

The group will run at school for one hour per week for approximately ten weeks in Term 1 and/or Term 2, and will be facilitated by the school counsellor and another counsellor from CEDP. The content of the sessions will consist of education about anxiety, mindfulness and acceptance based activities as well as supported exposure to feared situations to teach the students various skills to learn how to deal with their anxiety.

For students to participate in the group, parents will initially be required to complete some screening questionnaires and participate in a short interview (by phone) with one of the researchers to answer questions about their child's anxiety. Once the group commences, parents are also strongly encouraged to access one or two parent information sessions which may be delivered through a webinar option or face to face. After the group concludes, parents and students will again be required to complete questionnaires and another brief phone interview. Parents will later receive feedback by email in regards to their child's progress as indicated from the pre-group assessment data and the post-group data collected.

If you feel you and your child would benefit from learning how to manage your child's anxiety and are interested in participating in this study, we encourage you to take up this fantastic opportunity by letting your child's class teacher or the school counsellor know. There is no fee associated with your participation and all students and parents will also receive a workbook free of charge.

School Terms	2017	2018
Term 1		Wednesday 31st January to Friday, 13 April
Term 2		Monday, 30 April to Friday, 6 July
Term 3		Monday, 23 July to Friday, 28 September
Term 4	Monday, 09 October to Friday, 15 December	Monday, 15 October to Friday, 21 December

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, GUILDFORD

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - 2017

Christmas Eve - Sunday, 24 December

6:00pm Children's Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - Monday, 25 December

8:00am and 10:00am

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR
CHRISTMAS 2017**

Tuesday 19 December
6:15pm-7:15pm

Friday 22 December
10:00am-12 Noon

**NO WEEKDAY MASS/CONFESSIONS BETWEEN
TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2017**