Dear Parents

Last week I spoke to the children about resilience. I know I have addressed this very important quality before in the newsletter but it seems that this is the very quality that is lacking in today’s society. What may have begun as a small disagreement can quickly escalate into physical violence because someone feels that he/she has been insulted and feels entitled to hurt the other person.

Resilience is the ability to ‘bounce back’ after a disappointment or argument and not look for ways to attack back. It is at the very core of forgiveness.

Children will fight and argue – often over very silly things. It is best to let children sort out their own arguments but if this is not possible then parents need to help their children learn strategies to solve the problem. This may be as simple as ignoring the other person and walking away. It takes a lot of courage to do this, especially when emotions are running high. It also takes courage to find the strength to move forward after such an argument.

Children will face a lot of disappointments in life. As parents, we can’t shield our children from these. However, we can help them to cope with disappointment by teaching them to ‘bounce back’ (or be resilient) after a disappointment. This will strengthen their character and help them survive the mountain of issue they will need to deal with as adults.

We all know adults who are not resilient – these are the people who constantly complain: about life, school, work, other parents, police, neighbours, family etc. Their only solution to any problem is to find the negative, attack and then continue complaining. Sadly, they also encourage others to do the same. This is not the world we want our children to grow up in. There is far too much violence everywhere and it stems from not having the ability to accept that people are different and life is not perfect.

Teach your children to find one thing every day that was a positive experience for them. Share your own positive experience as well. Show them how to forgive and how to ‘bounce back’. What a wonderful gift you will give them!

With warm regards
Jenny Webb
Principal
SCHOOL CONCERT
Thank you to everyone who came along to the school concert last week. How proud you must have been to see you talented children performing and entertaining you in song and dance. Lots of very positive comments were shared.

A very big THANK YOU to Mrs Criss, Mrs Simai, Miss McCauley and Miss Gray for preparing the children and to all the teachers who helped to make the concert such a wonderful experience for the children.

BOOMERangs, BOOMERangs
Everywhere we look today we see colourful boomerangs! Children who were able to raise $40.00 for the Commonwealth Games ‘Athon had a fun time painting their boomerangs in the traditional Aboriginal art style.
Diocesan Works Fund
Appeal in Schools
In November, the final DWF Appeal for 2014 will run in schools and parishes and your generosity is once again called upon so that the good work can be continued. "Without the money, there can be no mission." When all of us give on a regular basis, the Church can plan for mission into the future and make a real difference.

A donation envelope is provided for any contributions you can make. Cheque, money order or credit card details are preferred. Tear the back slip off, fill it in and place it in the envelope provide. Return this to the school office for processing. Contributions of $2 or more are tax deductible.

Most Reverend Anthony Fisher - Bishop of Parramatta

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS DAY
On All Saints day we honour all holy men and women in glory with Christ: known or unknown, mighty or lowly, all whose lives were modelled on the Beatitudes and on the great commandment of love.

All Souls day expresses Christian faith in the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another in the Church, especially those souls in purgatory ‘who have been buried in their human imperfection.’

Both of these days remind us of the importance of living our faith and be models of good morals and values.

Let us pray that we continue to grow in faith and fellowship among our brothers and sisters in this life and the next

FROM THE R/E COORDINATOR

MASS
Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate the Mass with the parish and students next term:

Week 6 – Wednesday
12th November
Year 1 Mass
St Josaphat

FEAST DAYS
1st November – All Saints
2nd November – All Soul’s Day
4th November – St Charles Borromeo
10th November – St Leo the Great
11th November – St Martin of Tours
12th November – St Josaphat

RELIGIOUS TRIVIA

- What is the most important season of the liturgical year?
- What is a parable?
- In the Mass, what is the response to “The Gospel of the Lord”?
- In the first century, where did Jesus live?

Religious Trivia Answers

- Easter
- Palestine
- Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
- A story that always has a message. Jesus

Yours in Christ
Wardeh Khoury
FROM THE PARENTS' GROUP COMMITTEE

The regular Parents’ Group term meeting last Tuesday night featured a highly informative Cyber bullying presentation by Mr Lee. With our children spending more and more time online, ‘information superhighway’ safety is as important as road safety. Parents who were unable to attend the meeting can find out about the consequences of cyber bullying at www.cybersmart.gov.au.

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Another important topic raised at the meeting was the need for parents to use the proper procedures if they have concerns about anything at St Patrick’s. Recently a small number of parents failed to do this, which only risked unnecessary distress to the staff. The St Patrick’s Parent Handbook that’s given to all parents when their children first enrol at the school includes a section about raising such issues:

Appointments With Staff
Teachers always welcome communication with parents. Appointments to discuss a child’s progress or a classroom concern must first be made with the class teacher. If parents wish to speak with the Principal they can arrange an appointment with the School Secretary. Parents who don’t have a copy of the Handbook can download a copy at http://www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au/parent-handbook.

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Last night (Wednesday), a large group of present and past St Patrick’s parent helpers gathered at the Coolabah Hotel in Merrylands to show their appreciation to Mrs Webb for her long and outstanding contribution to St Patrick’s. No fewer than five Parent Group presidents attended the function, which showed the depth of support that Mrs Webb has engendered among the school community. The Parents’ Group wishes Mrs Webb every happiness in her impending retirement, and pledges to continue her quest to make St Patrick’s “not just a good school, but a great school”!
MIKE JACOBSON
Secretary

FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR

2015 Parramatta Diocesan Team
Sport Trials
Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2015 are invited to participate in the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Primary School team sports trials during Term Four in 2014 and Term One in 2015. Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Basketball (B&G), Cricket (B&G), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), Softball (B&G), Tennis (B&G), & Touch (B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the 2015 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport.

Please note that your online registration is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY and MUST be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. Please complete all fields and especially “Representative Experience”.

Your child’s school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Please contact Mrs Chatten (school sports coordinator) for any further information.
Year 6 Excursion to Canberra

Year 6 have been studying Government during Term 3 and 4 and were excited to travel to our National Capital City, Canberra to enhance their learning in this area.

The students were accompanied by Mr Stephen Lee, Ms Kathryn Salkeld, Mrs Kim Lendvai and Miss Marjorie Buedo. The Year 6 students represented St Patrick’s with great pride.

Whilst on their excursion, Year 6 participated in a variety of educational programmes that focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist with meeting the cost, the Australian Government contributed funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme towards travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their continued support of this programme.

Thank you to the Year 6 parents for supporting this rewarding excursion and a huge thank you to the Year 6 teachers and Mr Lee who attended. Without the parents and teachers this excursion would not be possible.

The excursion was a very rewarding and positive experience for everyone.

Miss Marjorie Buedo  
Year 6 Classroom Teacher
FROM THE P/E TEACHER
I would like to ask all parents to please send a water bottle for the children on their PE day.

WORLD TEACHER’S DAY - CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

World Teacher’s Day, celebrated this year on 31st October is an important acknowledgement of the professionalism of teachers and their invaluable contribution to the future of our society through their professionalism and teaching.

Communities around the world have been honouring their teachers on this day. It is the opportunity for the community to reflect on and acknowledge the vital and challenging work that teachers do and to support them in their work.

Congratulations to all the teachers at St Patricks for their tireless efforts to nurture and develop the mind and spirit of all the students in their care as modelled by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.