

# ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

*Making a Difference*

Newsletter 3, Term1

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5th March 2015

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MARCH

Wed 11	Yr 5 Mass
Thur 12	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion
Fri 13	Open Classes Family Picnic at Lunch
Tue 17	St Patrick's Whole School Mass 9am
Wed 18	Yr 5 & 6 Assembly 5S Presenting.

#### WEEKLY VALUE

**TAKE PRIDE IN  
YOURSELF AND YOUR  
SCHOOL**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

This year, St Patricks Guildford, will join Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from 8-14 March.

The theme for CSW 2015 is "Education for Today and tomorrow". The theme ties in with the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on Christian Education, "Gravissimum Educationis". The document recognised the continuing need for the church to support parents in the education of their children.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests and members of our wider community—by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

We have a number of activities planned for Catholic Schools Week:

- \* **All week: students will start our school day with a presentation about Catholic schools at each morning assembly.**
- \* **Thursday: Year 5 students will travel to Bathurst to seek their fortune on the 'goldfields'.**
- \* **Friday: Open Classes (12.30 to 1.00pm).  
Family Picnic for lunch—1.05 1.45pm  
BYO Chairs or rug. Everyone welcome.**

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, P & F, clergy parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Patrick's School and I look forward to celebrating Catholic School Week with you on Friday 13th March.

I also encourage you to visit the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund's Website, [www.catholicsuper.com.au](http://www.catholicsuper.com.au). Australian Catholic superannuation are proud supporters of Catholic Schools Week 2015.

Kind regards

**Philip Mahony**  
Principal

### **FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERS**

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Cross Country yesterday. We wish good luck to the children who will represent St Patrick's in the Zone Cross Country.

During the Lenten Season you should pray daily and remember that Lent is a time when we should be thinking of God. As Father Peter mentioned in his homily on Ash Wednesday, there is no point giving up things e.g lollies if you don't try to become a better person during and after Lent. The whole point of the process is to cleanse your heart.

Kind regards

Charlie-Rose El Riachi, Julian Barakat  
Josephine Moujaes, Tony Ashkar,  
Madison Yagki, George Alam, Teresa Akkari,  
Isaac Halloun & Mikayla Issa

### **HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT FORMS**

Parents of children going into High School in 2016 may need Fr. Peter Blayney to sign their enrolment forms. He will be able to sign these forms after the following weekend Masses:  
**Saturday Vigil 6:00pm, Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am.**

Fr. Peter Blayney is not available during the week to sign enrolment forms.

**St Pauls Catholic College's Open Day**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
**11.30am – 2.30pm**  
"You're welcome here"

St Pauls Catholic College, Greystanes invites you to attend our Open Day and experience all that we offer young men during their secondary school years. We will have open classrooms and school tours so that you can see our facilities and meet with current students and teachers.

**St Pauls Catholic College, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes.** Parking available behind OLQP Church.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

On average, it costs around \$13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school. In most Catholic schools, school fees cover less than a quarter of this cost. The rest comes from taxpayers like you! This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs—to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

### **PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE (PRC)**

The challenge is on again. It started on Monday 2nd March and will finish on Friday 21st August. Students have 24 weeks to read the required amount of books. All students need to participate in this.

A note will be sent home with more information about the challenge. We require you to return the permission slip for your child to participate in the challenge. Please keep the top part of the note for your information.

K-2 need to read 30 books by 21st August. (Or an adult can read the book to them.)

3-6 need to read 20 books by 21st August.

The children are encouraged to borrow the PRC books from the Library in their borrowing time. Their class teachers will guide them to the allocated books for their grade.

K-2 have a red sticker on the book spine, 3&4 have a green sticker and 5&6 have a purple sticker.

Teachers may include some PRC books in their class work. They will notify you of the books they have read so that you can add them to your list. Local Libraries also take part in the Premier's Reading Challenge so you can locate books there as well.

At this stage, we would just like you to record the book title and the author's name on the written log we sent home with the PRC note. Later on we will issue your child with a Username and Password so that you can log onto the PRC website and submit your reading list.

You can view the booklists and other information about the Premier's Reading Challenge by going to <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc>

## FROM THE R/E COORDINATOR



Often during Lent we think of the things we need to give up. In recent years, there has been less emphasis on *giving up* and more emphasis on *taking in*. Some people will choose to go to church more often, or be more disciplined in prayer and meditation. Below are three thoughts to help us think about our Lenten journey.

First, **live attentively**. This can be called *mindfulness*. All it means is to be aware of life. Hear the silence of the night. Feel the cracks in the earth. Look into one another's eyes. Pay attention to every single moment and that moment alone. Feel it. Take it into your bones. Let it transform you.

Second, **learn to let go**. Start to simplify your life. Simplify your possessions, your thoughts, your desires and your expectations. When you can let go, your arms are open and ready to receive all the good things God longs to give you.

Third, **develop intimacy with God**. Gather in yourself a phrase or thought from scripture. Let the thought or phrase filter through your heart and mind throughout the day. Say it when you stand in the shopping line, when you eat your lunch, when you get into your car. Let it settle deeply in your heart so that it can work from within to bring you into closer intimacy with God.

Lent need not be a time to live in guilt and shame. Instead it may be a time when we find ourselves in the place where we pay attention to what is going on in our lives by following Jesus who shows us the way to our loving God.

Living attentively, learning to let go and developing intimacy with God will open up our hearts to the needs of others- the poor, the suffering, the lonely.... and all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

## MASSES

Parents and friends are welcome to celebrate the Mass with the parish and students on:

Week 7 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
9am Years 5 Mass  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent*

Week 8 – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
9am Whole School Mass  
*St Patrick's Day*



## FEAST DAYS

6<sup>th</sup> March: Autumn Ember Day  
(Special Day of Prayer and  
Penance)



7<sup>th</sup> March: Sts Perpetua and Felicity

9<sup>th</sup> March: St Francis of Rome

17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick

18<sup>th</sup> March: St Cyril of Jerusalem

19<sup>th</sup> March: St Joseph

## RELIGIOUS TRIVIA

- What is Jesus' New Commandment?
- How many commandments were given to Moses?
- What is the name of the order of nuns started by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop?
- True or False- St Patrick was sold as a slave as a young boy.



1. Love one another just as I have loved you.
  2. Ten
  3. The Sisters of St Joseph
  4. True
- Answers

Yours in Christ  
Wardeh Khoury

## A MESSAGE FROM HEALTH NSW

*There has been a recent increase of whooping cough (pertussis) amongst primary-school-aged children and a modest increase in high schools. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough caught at school can spread to any younger brothers and sisters at home. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.*

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children.

- Children with symptoms should see a GP.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it's a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines."

## **CANTEEN ROSTER - MARCH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Fri</b>
<b>2</b> Tae-Kyone Kim Samanta Keirouz	<b>4</b> Melisa Bousdan Roslie Narse	<b>6</b> Mary-Anne El -Khoury (lunch) Rita Jacobason (lunch)
<b>9</b> Odette Zaidan Samantha Keirouz	<b>11</b> Lisa Antoun Charolette Tannous	<b>13</b> Pascal Fares (lunch) Rita Kahila Joanne Ishac
<b>16</b> Tae-Kyong Kim Samantha Keirouz	<b>18</b> Sadie Ters Rania Antoun	<b>20</b> Sue Sleiman Rita Jacobson (lunch)
<b>23</b> Robyn Hallit (lunch) Samantha Keirouz	<b>25</b> Lisa Antoun Maria Uno Tina Laguzza	<b>27</b> Natalie Durbidge Maria Reynolds Natalie Fontana
<b>30</b> Tae-Kyong Kim Joanne Elias (lunch)	<b>1 APRIL</b> Melissa Bousdan Rosie Narse	<b>3</b> Samantha Khattar Mary Anne El Khoury (lunch) Rita Jacobson

## FROM THE CANTEEN

Thank you to the following parents, Mrs Chivers for your kind donation of Equipment for the canteen and Mrs Therese Anjoul for her help at lunch.

Any one who has not heard from me about helping in the Canteen. Please ring on the school phone: 96325468 on Mon. Wed or Fridays.

Please Note: Sausage Rolls \$3.50 not \$2.60 as on the Menu. For lent only, we have a Fish Burger with lettuce, tartare sauce or mayo \$3.80. Also salad boxes are available for \$4.00.

Thank you  
Margaret Bakhos

## **CERDON COLLEGE MERRYLANDS**

*Aspire to Great Heights*



**OPEN DAY**  
**Tuesday 10 March 2015**  
Come along anytime between  
**4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
Sherwood Road Merrylands  
Telephone: 8724 7300

### **Enrolments for Year 7 2016**

Cerdon College is currently receiving applications for Year 7 2016. An Enrolment Package may be obtained from the College. Packages will also be available at our Open Day on Tuesday 10 March.

Priority of enrolment is given to Catholic students from feeder schools and parishes.

All applications should be received at the College Office by **Friday 22 May**.

Applications received after this date may not be successful.

## FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR

### DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On the 27th February I was proud to be the Diocesan Team Manager and witness the level of sportsmanship and friendly competition between schools and zones. St Patrick's was fortunate to have 4 students make it to the Diocesan level and compete against students who train on a daily basis for hours on end.

Josephine Moujaes, Angus Wall, Jude Wall and Ben McGregor should be congratulated for their determination in the events they competed in. We wish Ben McGregor all the best in representing Parramatta Diocesan at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials on Friday 20th March. We look forward to hearing about how he goes at the next level.



This week St Patrick's was able to have a formal Cross Country for Years 2-6 at McCredie Oval. Weather was on our side again with an overcast day which made for better running conditions. All students ran their best and should be proud of their achievement in completing the course.

I would like to thank Guildford Leagues for their generosity and support in allowing us to use the facilities at McCredie Oval on the day.

We were lucky enough to have a huge amount of notes for parent helpers sent back and we would like to thank these parents who supported teachers on the day. Without this type of support carnivals cannot go ahead, so THANK YOU!

Tae-Kyong Kim Williams, Najat Kady, Therese Anjoul, Viviane Moujaes, Linda Ranieri, Tina Laguzza, Glades Ammari, Elena Budini, Anthony Massoud, Mike Jacobson and Julian Titon.



Whilst the 7 year olds are not able to go any further, it is good experience for future years. Special mention to the boys and girls who placed Maroun Nasrallah, Andre Elias, Ethan Schembri, Luke Bounassi, Teresa Maka, Gabrielle Ters, Mikayla Londy and Olivia Saba in the 7 years age group. Students aged 8-12 years were chosen based on the time taken in their event and the place given on the day.

The following students have made it through to the next level in Cross Country.

Ben McGregor, Jude Wall, Angus Wall, Cesar Perez, Tony Ashkar, Dion Lenden-Sleiman, Ethan Elcham, Matthew Portelli, Christopher El-Hosn, Andre Moussa, Liem Phan, Latu Fainu, Dominic McGregor, Sebastian Elcham, Nathan Kady, Elie Bishara, Ashwell Starr, Victor Mansour, Jimmy Moussa, Jacob Vasilj, Josephine Moujaes, Emily Contreras, Charlie Rose El Riachi, Christen Baltasar, Deanna Hanna, Alicia Potts, Rachele Elbazi, Leah Burchdan, Ashlee Dib, Tayla Saba.

Students will be given information about the Diocesan Cross Country day in the next few weeks. Training will start at recess or lunch towards the end of term in preparation for this event.

Jenny Chatten

*Next week is Catholic School's Week. During this week we celebrate the wonderful opportunities education in a Catholic School provides. We pray to the Lord for guidance and strength as we all contribute to the life of St Patrick's School.*

Dear Lord,

You are the greatest of all teachers.

During Catholic Schools week, we give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning

that takes place each day in St Patrick's School and in all Catholic schools.

We thank you for the wisdom and understanding of teachers...

the enthusiasm and energy of students...

the leadership of school Principals and Executive staff...

the support and partnership of parents, carers and local communities.

We pray that our learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth.

We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that we have been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask that we use what we have learnt to create a better world for all people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

