Dear Parents

Building a strong partnership between parents and the school is vital to the success of a child’s learning. One way we do this is through our Parent-Teacher interviews at the end of this term.

Parent-Teacher interviews provide opportunities for parents to meet with teachers to discuss their child’s Semester 1 Report and to discuss ways that parents can work with the teachers to support their child’s learning and development at school and at home.

We know when teachers and parents work in partnership, and in particular when parents are engaged in their child’s learning, children do better at school and experience higher levels of well-being.

What can you do to make your Parent-Teacher interview a productive meeting for you and your child?

- Think about questions to ask, such as: Is my child achieving at the appropriate level? What do you see as his or her strengths? How could he or she improve?
- Acknowledge that the teacher has many students that they are responsible for. Let the teacher know that you appreciate the opportunity to meet with you about your child.
- Ask to see examples of your child’s work. Ask how the work is assessed/graded.
- Be sure to share your thoughts and feelings about your child. Share with the teacher what you think your child needs help with.
- Ask what you can do at home to help your child.
- Ask how the teacher will both challenge your child and provide support when needed.
- Talk to your child about the meeting. Share what you have learned and show your child what you will do to help with learning at home. Write down an action plan and stick to it!

I hope you will all take this opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher and I trust that you will find it a valuable experience. I welcome any feedback.

God bless

Jenny Webb
Principal
ARE YOU GOING OVERSEAS OR ON AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY?
Parents are reminded that they must make an appointment with the Principal for an Exemption Certificate if they intend to remove their child from school for any period of time. This is a legal process.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Some parents have reported that they are having problems accessing the Premier’s Reading Challenge site. Ms Salkeld is aware of the problem and will address it as soon as possible.

PARENT GROUP MEETING
Thank you to the parents who were able to come along to the Maths presentation at our recent Parent Group meeting. This was a great opportunity to see the changes that are happening in the new Maths curriculum and how important it is for children to use a variety of mathematical equipment to enhance their understanding of concepts. A special thank you to Mrs Croan for organising this presentation.

OHS CONCERN
Parents have been seen bringing mugs of hot coffee onto the playground in the morning. This is a safety concern for the children. We ask that no hot drinks be brought onto the school grounds at any time. Thank you.

SYMPATHY
We would like to extend our sympathy to the Bazouni family (Adrian 6B) on the passing of their grandfather, George Bazouni.

FROM THE OFFICE
Term 2 school fees are now due and payable. Please call the Cathy at the office if you have any queries regarding the fees.

PARRAMATTA ALL SCHOOLS KNOCKOUT
On Thursday 22 May, St Patrick’s were represented at the Parramatta all Schools Knockout by over 80 children. The school entered teams from Under 8’s to Open divisions. While none of our teams were able to go through to the next phase of the competition, our Under 9’s made it to the final where they had a draw, only to lose on the first try rule.

A special mention for our Opens team which consisted of 18 Year 6 boys, many of whom had never played before, however, they wanted the opportunity to represent St Patrick’s with their friends. The team made it through to the semi-finals. A big thanks to all the parents who coached or managed a side on the day and also those parents who come along and supported our school in the spirit of participation.

Stephen Lee
Assistant Principal

SOCCER GALA DAY
On the 27th of May, I had the pleasure of taking some Year 5 and Year 6 boys to a soccer gala day. The boys truly showed what being a team is all about. The boys were undefeated; not a single team managed to score a goal against them! We won four out of the six games and drew nil all for two games. In our pool, we came second only by two points. We would like to thank the boys who played their best and worked well as a team. Great effort boys! You should be very proud! The school would like to thank the parents for supporting the children on the day.

Miss Kim Stephenson
**SACRAMENTAL DATES**

**First Penance**
The students in Year 2 will be receiving this sacrament on the following days during school time.
- 2B - 12th June
- 2HB - 26th June
- 2F - 24th June

**First Holy Communion**
Thank you to the Parents who attended the Parent Meeting last night. It is important that Parents and Carers prepare themselves before assisting children in understanding the Sacraments which are outward signs of God’s grace and presence among us and within each of us.

There were many questions raised in regard to the organisation of First Holy Communion. However, it is important to understand that the School assists the Parish in the formation and preparation of the children for the Sacraments that are received in the Parish community.

Our Parish follows the guidelines set out by the Diocese, which are in line with Catholic tradition and teaching. Therefore decisions that are made regarding the celebration of First Holy Communion are in keeping with our Catholic ethos.

Over the years many students and parents have been involved in the Sacramental programs. Feedback that has come as a result of parent participation in these programs has informed and shaped the program for the following year.

Although we welcome Parents questioning things such as dress, Mass times, seating and general organisation, we need to make decisions for the entire group. The rationale for decisions that are made are centred around the purpose of the Sacrament, which is for the children to be prepared and ready to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. Then the logistical organisation of such a large group is considered. It is understandable that some people may prefer other alternatives, however, we need to remember the spirit and purpose of the celebration and the real reason for the decisions that are made.

Also important, for those receiving Holy Communion, are a spirit of recollection and prayer, observance of the fast prescribed by the Church, and an appropriate disposition of body (gestures and dress) as a sign of respect for Jesus.

We must not lose sight of what a great treasure Holy Communion is by being obsessed with material things, what we have, what we buy, what we wear and our ambitions.

Let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare our children to receive Jesus for the very first time in Holy Communion.

**MASSES**
Parents and friends are always welcome to celebrate Mass with the children and the parish.

**Week 9**

- 9am Friday 27th June
  - Whole School Mass
  - Sacred Heart of Jesus

**FEASTS**

- 13th June – St Anthon of Padua
- 15th June – Trinity Sunday
- 21st June - St Aloysius Gonzaga
- 22nd June - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- 24th June – The Nativity of John the Baptist

God Bless

Mrs Wardeh Khoury
FROM THE SPORT COORDINATOR

**Athletics Carnival**

Thank you also to the wonderful support from the Parent Group in providing the canteen in order for students and parents to purchase healthy choices on the day.

Thank you to Mr Yagki who provided the truck to transport all the equipment to the oval and back to school at the end of day. Without that support the students would not have been able to participate in the many activities that were planned for the day. Thank you also, Mr Ashkar (St Patrick's Guildford Raiders) who also provided the shade for the recorders and students who required medical assistance during the day.

A special thankyou to Mr Graham Bonwick and Guildford Leagues Club for generously allowing us the use of their fields for many of our sporting events. We are always very grateful for their support of our school.

Thank you to the parent helpers who volunteered on the day through place getting, rope holding and tabloid activity helpers. Without your support, days like these could not go ahead. It is greatly appreciated how generous parent helpers give of their time in our school to benefit all students.

Finally thank you so much to our parents for supporting the coloured t-shirts this year for our annual Athletics Carnival. Many parents and teachers commented on how much team spirit was present on the day due to the fact they could cheer on their team members. It was a sea of colour on the field and great to see everyone getting involved on the day.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded trophies and medals on the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Boys (aged 8,9,10)</th>
<th>Junior Girls (aged 8,9,10)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ethan Elcham</td>
<td>1. Gabriella Amoah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Jonah Halabi</td>
<td>2. Alicia Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Samuela Fainu</td>
<td>3. Eliza Tannous</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11 Years Boys</th>
<th>11 Years Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ben McGregor</td>
<td>1. Chloe Issa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Frank Virzi</td>
<td>2. Elana Nasr &amp; Chanelle Bechara</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Boys (12,13 Years)</th>
<th>Senior Girls (12,13 Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jacob Yagki</td>
<td>1. Sarsha Yacoub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Anthony Elbazi &amp; Johnny Estephan</td>
<td>2. Isabella Geha &amp; Ana Fainu</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Boy Champion</th>
<th>School Girl Champion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Yagki</td>
<td>Chloe Issa</td>
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The Zone Athletics Carnival will take place Tuesday 5th August at Blacktown. The team and notes will be announced and sent home closer to the event.

*Save the Date: Netball Gala Day 22nd July at Kellyville.*
FROM THE PARENTS’ GROUP COMMITTEE
Wow! The Term 2 Parents’ Group meeting on May 23 was attended by about 50 parents – one of the biggest turn-outs in living memory!
Whether it was because the meeting was held in the afternoon before dismissal (instead of the usual evening time), the maths workshop, or a combination of both, the experiment was an outstanding success.
Special thanks to Mrs Croan for taking the time and effort to make the maths workshop so informative and entertaining. The fathers especially enjoyed racing the cars!
Our final event this term, the canteen at the Sports Carnival, was also fun as well as beneficial for the school. The sliced fruit and bottled water were very popular with the children and parents, and $450.00 was raised towards the purchase of new maths resources.
Thanks to everyone who helped on the day, and to Guildford Leagues Club for providing the facilities, ice and tubs.

MIKE JACOBSON
Secretary

A message from Dolly Chahin, St Patrick’s Parents’ Group President:
A great concern in our school is the amount of people not using the crossing in the morning and the afternoons to cross their children.
This is only a tragedy waiting to happen. We all watch and listen to the news every day. In just one week in Sydney there were 4 children hit by a car. This is for the safety of the children, especially when they are on excursions they will know that they have to cross at the crossing, not run across the road.
Please take the time to walk to the crossing and cross your child/children there. NO MATTER WHAT TIME IT IS!! Because not only will your family be distraught so will the driver’s family if there was to be an accident.
In addition to this is the traffic in the morning and afternoons. In the morning in front of the school and church it is a drop off zone only. This means that you stop your car and let the child/children get out and you drive off. It does not mean that you park your car, watch them walk in, do your child’s hair, chat with other parents, etc.
There are others waiting in their car to be able to drop off their child/children to get to work, take others to high school or they just want to drop their child/children off before the bell rings and not be waiting for 5 to 10 minutes down Calliope St.
Please let us work together to have this run smoothly. In the afternoons let the traffic flow. Park your car up the road and walk with your child/children to the car. Do not worry about being there by 2.45pm. The children are adequately supervised until you collect them.

Year 6 Cupcake Stall and Jersey Day.
On the 5th of June, 2014 Year 6 had two fundraisers, Jersey Day and a Cupcake Stall. We were able to raise $1,400.00, which is a phenomenal amount. Everybody looked great in their jerseys and team colours. A big thank you to all the members of the St Patrick’s community who contributed to our fundraisers. The money raised will go towards Mission and Year 6 Graduation. A special thank you to all the Year 6 parents who made cupcakes. The day wouldn’t have been a success without your contributions and efforts.

Miss Buedo and Year 6